

The cause was complications of a stroke, said Paige Otwell, a friend.

For nearly 50 years, while at the Harvard School of Law and then the University of Georgia School of Law, Professor Sohn served on commissions and organized conferences around the world, championing disarmament, human rights and increased powers for the United Nations.

He called for the creation of a permanent United Nations peace force. He wanted nations with nuclear arsenals to hand them over to the United Nations and use their military budgets for relieving poverty. He campaigned to have the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights accepted as a legally binding document, rather than a statement of principles. In 1968, the General Assembly adopted that premise.

Those proposals and others were seized upon by American isolationists to attack the United Nations. Professor Sohn called them "the minimum requirements for peace, not a utopian scheme for a perfect world community."

Louis Bruno Sohn was born on March 1, 1914, in what was then Lwow, now Lviv, then part of Poland but now in Ukraine. He graduated from John Casimir University there and then earned a law degree in 1939.

Professor Sohn's parents, Isaak and Fredericka Sohn, were doctors. His father, taken to an internment camp after the invasion of Poland, barely survived World War II. His mother died of pneumonia that first winter.

Two weeks before the invasion, at the invitation of a Harvard law professor who read one of his legal treatises, Professor Sohn had boarded a ship to the United States to become a research fellow. In 1941, he married Betty Mayo, a Radcliffe student; she is his only survivor.

At Harvard, he became an assistant to Manley O. Hudson, a judge on the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, which was established by the League of Nations but suspended during the war. Judge Hudson was the Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard. Professor Sohn succeeded to the Bemis chair in 1961 and held it until 1981.

In the summer of 1945, Judge Hudson and his assistant traveled to San Francisco for the United Nations charter conference. There, they helped draft the statute establishing the International Court of Justice, or World Court, as the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

In an interview in 1977, Professor Sohn recalled how Harvard had asked him to teach a course on the United Nations after his return from the charter conference, "because nobody else would teach anything so crazy."

In 1958, Professor Sohn was a co-author, with Grenville Clark, of "World Peace Through World Law" (Harvard University Press), which examined proposals to transform the United Nations into a world government. The book envisioned a time when the United Nations budget, then \$55 million, would surpass \$35 billion, with \$25 billion set aside to mitigate "the worst economic disparities between nations."

The authors also called for the elimination of all armaments in 12 years and envisioned that the United Nations would then have a monopoly on military force and would maintain a peace force of 400,000 soldiers.

In 1967, Professor Sohn wrote a report for a committee of international law experts, urging the United Nations to study the threat to individual freedom posed by computers, eavesdropping devices and genetic engineering. The report, submitted to the United Nations as part of the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said the concept of national data banks "raises

the specter of a government which knows all."

"Arrangements have to be devised," it said, "to control the precious few who run the machines, and on whose wisdom and impartiality the fate of mankind may depend."

In 1977, Professor Sohn was a delegate to a United Nations-sponsored conference that drafted the Convention on the Law of the Sea, which the General Assembly adopted in 1982.

In 1981, after 35 years at Harvard, Professor Sohn accepted an invitation from Dean Rusk, who had been secretary of state under President John F. Kennedy, to join him in teaching international law at the University of Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO THOSE KILLED BY BOMB ATTACKS ON INDIAN COMMUTER TRAINS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the families of those who were killed in today's terrible bomb attacks on several Indian commuter trains. Reports indicate that these deadly attacks have claimed the lives of at least 135 people and injured more than 250 Indian citizens. My thoughts and prayers and those of many Americans are with the families of those affected. These attacks were perpetrated for an unknown reason but, of course, there can be no good reason or justification. I hope that United States officials will assist the Indian Government in tracking down those who are responsible.

It was just over a year ago that a deadly terrorist bombing shut down London's transportation system. In March of 2004, similar bombing attacks ripped apart the morning commute in Madrid, killing 192 innocent civilians. We have been fortunate in the United States not to experience similar terrorist attacks on our railways. We must not be lulled, however. It is long past time to take the steps necessary to keep the traveling public as safe as possible.

In this moment of grief, we must stand with our longtime friend and support her and all the Indian people.

WAR RESISTER NORMA BECKER FOUGHT FOR PEACE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding woman, Ms. Norma Becker. A teacher, civil rights activist, and promoter of peace, Norma touched the lives of everyone who came in contact with her. On June 17, 2006, at the age of 76, we lost Ms. Becker to lung cancer.

Norma Becker started out her tremendous career as a schoolteacher in New York City. However, she soon moved to the South to teach, after hearing about Birmingham, AL, Sheriff "Bull" Connor's use of dogs against civil rights protesters. During that time, Norma could not help but feel the growing anti-Viet-

nam war sentiment that surrounded her. But instead of idly watching others, Ms. Becker took some of the biggest steps a single person could. She helped to start the Peace Parade Committee, a peace protesting movement in New York City.

Norma's efforts did not die with the Vietnam war, but rather her energy and intensity rose. In 1977, she helped create the Mobilization for Survival, which helped to bridge the broad antiwar movement with the intensifying anti-nuclear power sentiment.

However, Norma's favorite endeavor was the War Resisters League, of which she served as chairwoman from 1977 to 1983. Staff members of the league have praised Ms. Becker for her outstanding leadership. Others commended her always present energy. She had an innate ability to work well with everyone.

Peace activists across the country are devastated by this loss. But Norma's spirit remains with us and encourages us to continue the fight for peace. I enter into the RECORD with pleasure a piece by the War Resisters League as a reminder of the tremendous impact Norma Becker has had on our country. It is critical that we keep her memory alive so that many generations to come will know who Ms. Becker was as well as all the great things she accomplished. She set an example that we should all be proud to mimic.

ANTIWAR LEADER NORMA BECKER DIES

Norma Becker, teacher, civil rights activist, and towering figure of the peace movement during the Vietnam War, died of lung cancer in her New York City home June 17. She was 76.

A founder of the Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee, which drew tens of thousands to protest the Vietnam War, and a founder of the Mobilization for Survival coalition, she was crucial to the antiwar movement. She served as chair of the pacifist War Resisters League from 1977 to 1983.

"One of the truly great has passed," said longtime War Resisters League staffer David McReynolds on hearing of her death. "As much as any, and more than most, she provided leadership in hard times and for the long and horrific years of [the Vietnam] conflict."

Becker was a New York City schoolteacher in 1963, when, as she said later, she was "recruited into the civil rights movement by Sheriff 'Bull' Connor of Birmingham [AL]." Appalled by media accounts of Connor's use of dogs to subdue civil rights demonstrators, Becker went South to teach in the summer Freedom Schools.

Over the next couple of years, Becker—and the burgeoning movement against the war in Vietnam—found that she was as gifted an organizer as she was a teacher. In 1965, she helped to start the Peace Parade Committee, which organized massive antiwar protests in New York City. Wendy Schwartz, a younger WRL activist who came to the antiwar movement during those years, adds, "It was Norma's energy, intelligence, and charm that helped make those demonstrations so large and so peaceful. She worked as well with the disparate peace movement factions as she did with the police."

In 1977, after the Vietnam War had ended, Becker helped create the Mobilization for Survival, which linked the emerging movement against nuclear power to opponents of nuclear weapons and the wider antiwar movement.

But whatever other organizations she worked with, Becker also remained involved with the War Resisters League. Only a week