

A CHILDRENS'  
MUSICAL  
CELEBRATION  
FOR PEACE

# PEACE CHILD



AT

A VISION OF  
AMERICA AT PEACE

Tickets \$5  
\$4 on orders of 10 +  
call for Gala information  
486-0233

Saturday, July 14th - Gala Opening, 7:30 PM  
Sunday, July 15th - 1:30 Matinee  
Monday, July 16th - 8:00 PM  
Tuesday, July 17th - 11:00 AM  
Wednesday, July 18th - 1:30 PM

THE CONCOURSE, EIGHTH & BRANNAN ST., San Francisco  
For Reservation, send SASE to Peace Child, P.O. Box 9820  
Berkeley, CA 94709

Make checks payable to "Peace Child Foundation"  
(Tickets also available at the door)

# San Francisco



San Francisco 1984



Come experience the magic of

# PEACE CHILD





The End



more more



THE DREAM BEGINS

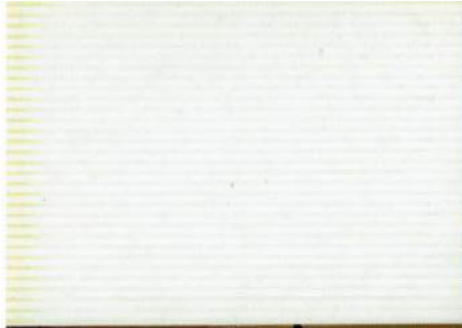




the beginning





















Reach for a star











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# BRAVO!



Funding for these performances of "PEACE CHILD" was raised by "Parents of Peace Child" under the inspiration and direction of LEE ROSS. They are presented by PEACE CHILD CALIFORNIA, a project of the Peace Child Foundation, an independent, non-profit, educational organization based in Washington, D.C.



## Performance!







*Mark Mendonca & Melissa Anderson*



*The Stage at the Democratic National Convention Center*



*The obligatory Peace Child Cake*



*?? and Lee Ross with Rosey and David*



*Hayley Ross*

*and*

*Emily Ross with Alexander*

*The Woollcombes were generously hosted by the Ross family at their lovely home in Kentfield, Marin County during the San Francisco production*



# South County

The Daily Review, Friday, July 13, 1984



Nick Lammers — staff photo

Juliette Tanner of Hayward, far left in front row, joins group in song.

## World peace realized — on stage

By Karen Welk  
Staff writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — While the core of the Democratic Party meets at Moscone Center next week to consider how to unite to defeat Ronald Reagan, 75 Bay Area children just six blocks away will urge them to ponder peace.

In "Peace Child," a musical production billed as a fantasy about world peace, the children — including San Leandro and Castro Valley residents — will portray a world without weapons.

"It's more of a fairy story, yet it is so very close to reality," said English writer/director David Woolcombe. "Every child recognizes that something like this should happen."

The story line is simple: our children's children gather to celebrate Peace Day, a worldwide holiday commemorating the day all the nations of the world gave up their arms and achieved lasting peace.

As part of the celebration, they recall the story of the American boy and Soviet girl who brought world leaders together for the ultimate disarmament.

The children talk of the 1980s as the

grown-ups back from the brink of nuclear war."

"I think it's true that we should stop nuclear war and have peace around here," said 11-year-old Beth Fowler of San Leandro, who sings in the chorus.

Members of the Peace and Environmental Convention Coalition recruited Woolcombe to produce his play during the Democratic Convention as part of the coalition's six-day "Vision of America at Peace," which begins Saturday.

"I think it's important that it be done in the context of such a very serious and significant event," he said.

Some of Woolcombe's cast members agree.

"I think they should know how we're trying to spread peace," Miss Fowler said of the Democrats.

"Since they're the leaders of this country, if we can get this message across to them, then that will be the best way for them to prevent nuclear war," said 11-year-old cast member Juliette Tanner of San Leandro.

To give Republican leaders an equal opportunity to absorb the "Vision," coalition coordinators plan to take the exhibit to the Republican Convention

The power of children as peace messengers is not lost on Woolcombe. "You get 100 kids on a stage singing, 'I want to live, give me a chance to live,' and it's a natural tear-jerker," he said.

Anna Hess, 12, of Castro Valley likes being part of "Peace Child" because "it makes people listen to kids, and that's important." Too often, she said, "it's like 'Who cares what a kid thinks?'"

Beyond the play's impact on the audience, Woolcombe said, each time it is produced "it gives 70 to 100 children a very real exposure of the potential of peace."

While the show has played at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Royal Albert Hall in London, Bay Area audiences will be seeing a revised version, one Woolcombe hopes will win an official invitation for a performance in the Soviet Union.


"Peace Child" and Woolcombe's son Alexander are the same age — 3.

Performances are at 8:45 p.m. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. Tuesday and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Concourse, Eighth and Brannan streets.

Tickets are \$5 each. For reserva-



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FROM THE COAST TO THE BAY      VOL. 9, NO. 28, JULY 9-16, 1984      FREE PRESS

## Peace Child In Point Reyes

Ten-year-old Pauline Deixler of Point Reyes Station (also known as "Sweet Irene of the Jellybeans") is commuting daily to Berkeley for rehearsals on an international musical production of "Peace Child."

The musical is a fantasy about children and world peace which has received acclaim at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and the Royal Albert Hall in London.

"Peace Child" will premiere July 14, at the Concourse in San Francisco and will be part of a six day multimedia event called Visions of America at Peace which will welcome delegates to the Democratic National Convention.





# TIMES

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Corte Madera, Larkspur/Greenbrae & Kentfield, California    July 12, 1984 • Volume 23, No. 27 • 25c



# PacificSun

JULY 13-19, 1984

## Children of peace

Marin will be well represented at the Democratic Convention next week. Besides delegates and members of the media, 18 Marin County children will perform in a musical production called *Peace Child*, part of what is billed as a "six day multi-media peace extravaganza" at the Concourse, Eighth and Brannan Streets, San Francisco. Melissa Anderson of San Rafael has one of the leading roles and Steve Riffkin of Mill Valley is the musical director. Tickets are \$5. For schedule information, call 486-0233.

# Mill Valley Record

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1984

VOLUME 84/ISSUE 27

P.O. BOX 848, MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94942 388-3211

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## In the name of peace



Mill Valleyan Steve Riffkin, flanked by cast members Deborah Ann Spake and Nina Galin, is the musical director of "Peace Child," which will run July 14 through 18 at the Concourse at 8th and Brannan in San Francisco. The musical, which has been performed throughout the country, is part of the "Peace Image Festival" to run during the Democratic convention.



are We  
ready ?

# Independent Journal

Friday, July 13, 1984 • A Gannett newspaper serving Marin and Southern Sonoma counties, California • 25¢ ☆

## 13-year-old Melissa Anderson is Marin's 'Peace Child'

By Beth Ashley  
IJ senior feature writer

It's a performing summer for Melissa Anderson, 13, of Marinwood, the star of two shows.

One is "Bye Bye, Birdie" for the Ross Recreation Department summer program, in which she plays Kim McAfee, the Ann Margret role of a 15-year-old girl in love with rock star Conrad Birdie.

The other is "Peace Child," which its producers hope will raise a nation's consciousness about the possibilities for a world at peace.

Melissa plays Katya, a Russian girl who meets an American boy (Marc Mendonca of Oakland); their simple friendship sways their nations' leaders into meeting together and talking, human to human.

MORE THAN 100 Bay Area children are rehearsing the show at four Bay Area locations for presentation during the Democratic National Convention; it will be part of a giant San Francisco peace exposition called the Vision of America at Peace.

Being a star is old hat to Melissa, who played Dorothy in the Belrose Theater production of "Wizard of Oz" last summer, and has been a headliner in Belrose vaudeville productions since she was 4.

Steve Riffkin of Mill Valley, musical director of "Peace Child," sought her out for the Katya role after 130 other Bay Area girls had been auditioned. "He said 'Be at Marin Academy in half an hour with a resume and whatever song you've picked out.'"

She sang "Far From the Home I Love" from "Fiddler On The Roof" for Riffkin and David Woolcombe, the Englishman who wrote and directed the show in London, at Kennedy Center in

Washington, D.C., and in 50 other cities in the United States.

THEY LATER SUMMONED her to an audition before Rosie Woolcombe, David's wife, who is co-producing the show with Lynn Gutstadt of Ross. The problem was how to interlace "Peace Child" rehearsals with rehearsals for "Bye, Bye, Birdie," to which Melissa was already committed.

She now works from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday on "Birdie," which opens July 25 at Ross School for a four-day run.

She works much of the rest of her time on "Peace Child," rehearsing in Berkeley, San Francisco, Kentfield and at Marin Academy in San Rafael. "Peace Child" will have its gala invitational opening at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14, and will be seen daily throughout the convention at the peace exposition in the Concourse, Eighth and Brannan Sts., San Francisco.

Melissa has been a performer since age 4, when she took her first singing lessons (her mother Jamie says "they're good for confidence"). Her instructor recommended her for a child's role in a Belrose vaudeville production: at 4½, she rode a tricycle onstage and sang "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head."

SINCE THEN SHE has been a regular performer ("Country Dumpings," "Oliver," "A Christmas Carol") and a student at Belrose, taking dance, acting and singing lessons after school and summers.

For Melissa, five foot one, with hazel eyes, dimples and shoulder-length brown hair, performing in "Peace Child" is an eye-opener. "I didn't think much about nuclear war," she says, "and now I'm

See Peace, page C2

realizing what it's all about."

The play is "really beautiful," she says. "I love the songs."

A number of other Marin children are in the chorus of the show.

Tickets for the show are \$5 each, with group rates available by calling 486-0233.



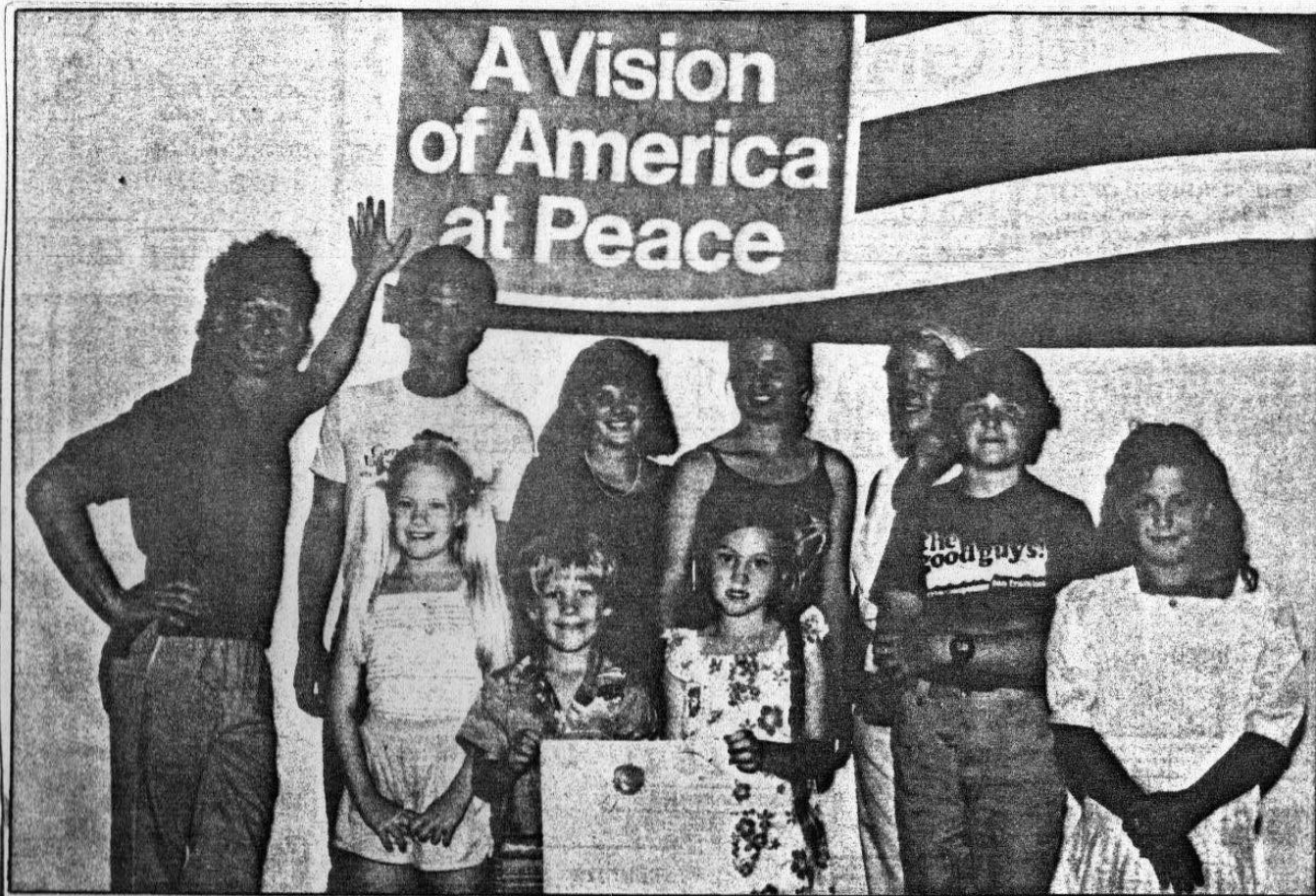
Melissa Anderson

IJ photo/Marian Little



# FUNFINDER

Independent Journal • Entertainment Guide • Sat., July 14, 1984



Marin members of San Francisco musical fantasy, 'PeaceChild,' appearing at The

TERRA LINDA SAN RAFAEL

# NEWS

## POINTER



Serving the San Rafael, Terra Linda, Lucas Valley and Marinwood communities

JULY 11-17, 1984

### Anderson stars in 2 shows

While some young girls head for the beach or to visit relatives when school is out, Melissa Anderson of Marinwood is busy with stage rehearsals all week long. The 13-year-old student at Miller Creek School was chosen from among hundreds of children who auditioned for the Bay Area production of "Peace Child." Melissa will play the lead in the international musical drama that will premiere in San Francisco this week-end.

A sell-out at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Royal Albert Hall in London, "Peace Child" is billed as a fantasy about children and world peace. The play, written and directed by David Woolcombe, is set in the future on "peace day," a holiday which celebrates the day when all nations of the world gave up their arms and achieved lasting peace.

The show will be held at the Concourse, Eighth and Brannan streets, which is five blocks from the Moscone Center. Woolcombe says he hopes the delegates from



Melissa R. Anderson

the Democratic National Convention will take time to see "Peace Child."

Melissa, who portrayed Dorothy last summer in the Belrose Theater production of "Wizard of Oz," is concurrently rehearsing for the lead role in the

Ross School Little Theatre production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. The summer musical runs July 25-28. Call 453-4550 for details.

For tickets and additional information on "Peace Child", which runs July 14-18, call 486-0233.

### Local youth in Peace play

While some young students are spending their summer at the beach or visiting relatives, several local youth are busy with stage rehearsals. Chosen from among hundreds of children who auditioned for the Bay Area production of *Peace Child*, they will perform in the international musical drama that will premiere in San Francisco this week-end.

A sell-out at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Royal Albert Hall in London, *Peace Child* is billed as a fantasy about children and world peace. The play, written and directed by David Woolcombe, is set in the future on "peace day," a holiday which celebrates the day when all nations of the world gave up their arms and achieved lasting peace.

The show will be held at the Concourse, Eighth and Brannan streets, which is five blocks from the Moscone Center. Woolcombe says he hopes the delegates from the Democratic National Convention will take time to see *Peace Child*.

For tickets and additional information on *Peace Child*, which runs July 14-18, call 486-0233.



Front Row: (l-r) Caitlyn Toropova (Corte Madera), Christin Hokenstad (Greenbrae). Twin Cities performer also appearing will be Andy Toropova. Back Row: Deborah Ann Spake (Mill Valley), Pauline Deixler (Point Reyes), J.P. Ross (Kentfield).



# San

# Francisco Chronicle

The Largest Daily Circulation in Northern California

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1984

777-1

## THEATER

BERNARD WEINER

## What's in Store for the Dems

The upcoming Democratic Convention July 16-20 will be a rather interesting theater piece, filled with drama, conflict, "deals," etc. But there are also some plays specifically planned for that extraordinary event.

In some cases, the shows are designed to lure Democratic delegates away from Moscone Convention Center; in other instances, the theaters are using the presence of the political conclave as the peg on which to hang their new shows.

Political satire will be available in two locations. The San Francisco Mime Troupe will present its new musical show, "1985," based on the "nightmare" of another Reagan victory. It will premiere at Mission Dolores Park at 2 p.m. next Saturday and Sunday; then will play at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 14, in the sunken meadow behind the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Golden Gate Park; at noon Friday, July 20 (during the convention), at Civic Center Plaza, at City Hall. It will continue at various Bay Area parks through August.



David Woolcombe: 'Peace Child' author aims for laughs

The Plutonium Players, who last year came up with the hilarious satire "Ladies Against Women: An Evening of Consciousness Lowering," are back with a sequel: "Bad Mothers: The New Adventures of Ladies Against Women." It will preview during the convention at 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, July 18-19, and open Friday, July 20, playing through August 5, at the People's Theater, Fort Mason.

Bay Area Artists for Nuclear Sanity will present a performance-art extravaganza at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 8, at Union Square. You may have seen the billboards and the ads on Muni and BART that, using black dots, illustrate the firepower that exists in the world's current nuclear stockpile. The idea for the July 8th event is to give a visual life to that chart by releasing 5300 black balloons, each one representing 200 Hiroshima-power bombs. There also will be music and dramatized readings.

And, opening July 14 and playing through July 18 at The Concourse, at 8th and Brannan Streets just a few blocks from Moscone Center, is "Peace Child," a play with music by British writer-director David Woolcombe. The play is part of the overall exhibition "A Vision of America at Peace," organized by a coalition of peace groups.

"Peace Child" has been performed before thousands at London's Royal Albert Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and various other locations. In this production, which uses about 100 Bay Area child actors chosen by audition, children playing kids from the Soviet Union and America drive home the message that it's not too late to get some peaceful dialogue going between the superpowers.

According to Woolcombe, "Peace Child" is not deadly serious agit-prop. "We're hoping the delegates, and others, might want to get away from heavy conventioning, and laugh while watching these kids entertain."

The best compliment paid the show, Woolcombe said, came during auditions. "Many of the best child actors came from the richest, often the most right-wing parents, who expected to hate the show. But many of them went away willing and eager to talk to their kids about the issues raised. That's encouraging."

The 33-year-old writer, who came to the peace movement from the BBC and the world of industry after he became a father, recently returned from a tour of the Soviet Union. "It's a sinister, scary sort of system," he said, "but that's not the point. The point is to co-exist and

## PEACE CHILD

The Story of how Soviet and American children get together and bring peace to the world.

Based on "THE PEACE BOOK" by Bernard Benson (published by Bantam) with 15 songs by DAVID GORDON, including the Cat Stevens hit, "Child for a Day."

*In a new International Edition,  
written and directed by  
DAVID WOOLLCOMBE*

*Musical Director  
STEVEN RIFFKIN*

*Choreographers  
MARYBETH TERESZKIEWICZ  
NAN BAKAMJIAN*

*Produced by  
LYNN GUTSTADT*

*Production Coordinator  
ROSEMARY SIMONDS*



Melissa Rain Anderson as the Soviet Girl



Mark Mendonca as the American Boy



Matthew Silberman as the Soviet Leader



Nina Gallen as the US President



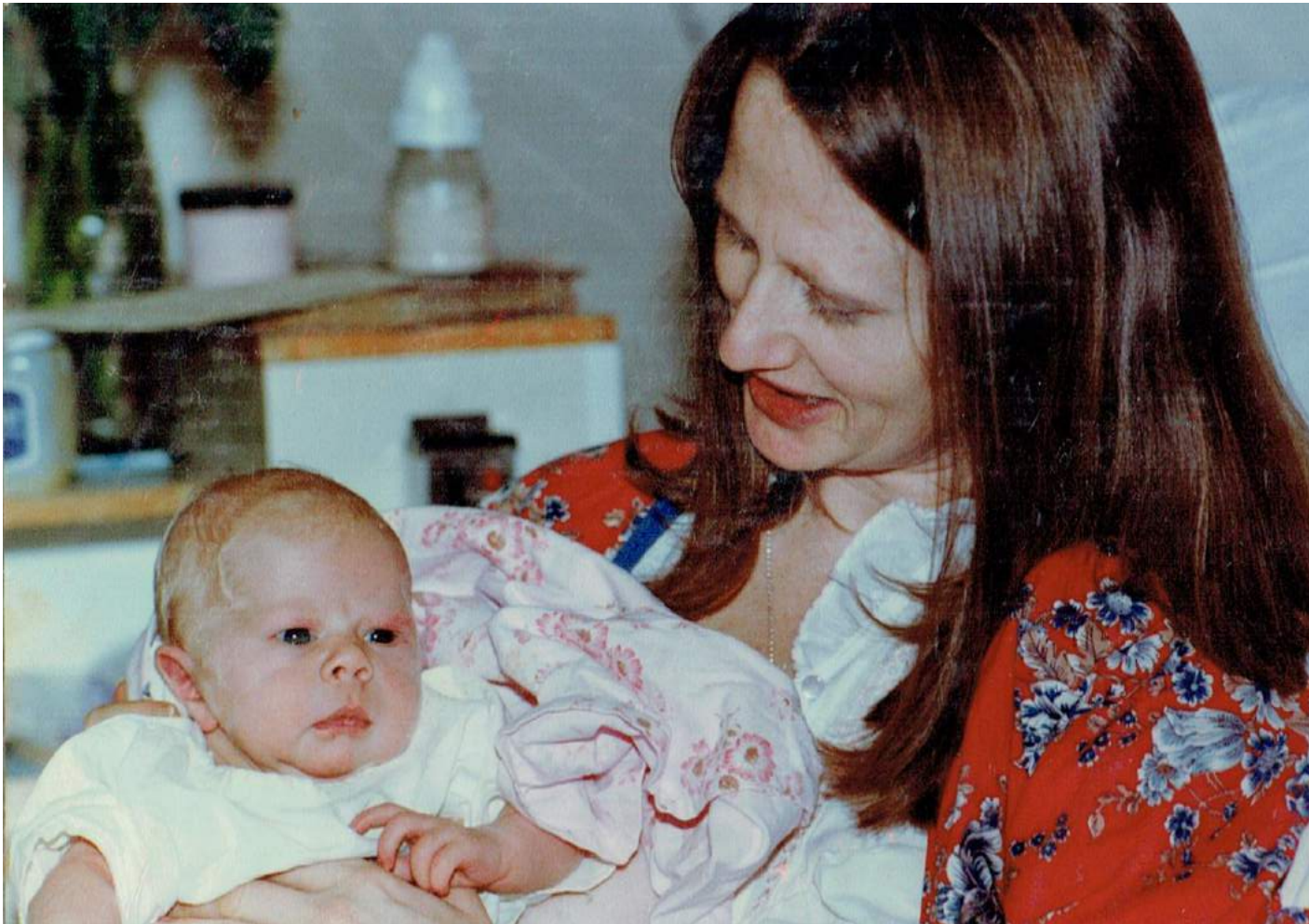


P.S. If you ever need additional copies of photographs for future publicity, I can get them for you in 4-5 days & would be delighted! (The children told me of more articles that they had, but they never arrived ☹, but if they do I'll fire them off to you.



3





*Natasha Rose Woollcombe*

*– perhaps the most important Peace Child to come out of San Francisco! –*

*Conceived in San Francisco, she was born in London at 16.00 GMT on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1985, which is 19.00 Moscow time*

*– the moment that Konstantin Chernenko died and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev came to power in the USSR*