

Towards A Non-nuclear War!

Over the last three years CND has been responsible for staging the biggest demonstrations ever seen in this country. This year's will probably be just as big, just as moving to be involved in, just as satisfying for those who have organised it, just as morale boosting for the professional politicians speaking at the end and just as useless in terms of actually stopping nuclear weapons or another world war.

Surely it's time to assess how effective CND can ever be. At its last peak, in the 1960's, CND claims to have achieved a victory with the Test Ban Treaty which outlawed atmospheric tests. This 'victory' was probably one of the main reasons for the collapse of CND support - the few active members really thought they had achieved something and could relax. But, in reality, the Test Ban Treaty had no effect at all on the arms race - new methods of testing were soon invented. There is nothing technology likes better than a challenge! The nuclear arms limitation talks, SALT 1, put limits on the numbers of missiles each superpower could have - so they developed multiple warheads for each of their missiles which, in fact, increased the actual kill-power of both the USA and USSR. Warmongering is an integral part of capitalist states, and nuclear weapons are just the tip of the war machine iceberg.



CND is not in fact a peace group, but a loose coalition of people against nuclear weapons. Despite the current bleatings of some 'leading' CNDers, the immediate response of the CND National Council was not to oppose the Falkland's War, their only concern was that there be no nuclear weapons on the Task Force. If you support CND you are supporting non-nuclear war. But, some will say, nuclear weapons are so powerful and horrific compared to conventional weapons that no one will survive a nuclear war, whereas some will, and have, survived a conventional war - we have to start disarming somewhere. Even if we were to accept this, can CND get rid of nuclear weapons?

SOME POINTS WORTH CONSIDERING.

- * Given the warlike nature of modern society and the competition between states, how could an international monitoring body really guarantee that governments were not secretly maintaining nuclear arsenals or the ability to create new bombs from nuclear power stations - just like India and South Africa have done and soon Pakistan and Argentina will do.
- * CND has become so institutionalised and acceptable to the State that it is no longer a threat. Would 200,000 people be allowed to march through London if they were not being totally contained by CND stewards and the Police. You are allowed to do it, if it was

going to have any real effect this would not be so. And as an added bonus you gain a feeling of having done something.

* CND believes in change through Parliamentary means. Probably the majority of CNDers pin their hopes on the next Labour government. Who introduced Polaris despite being anti-nuclear when in opposition? A Labour government which included many of the same figures still prominent in the party today. Can politicians be trusted with anything - let alone issues as important as war or peace?

IS THERE AN ALTERNATIVE??

All this probably sounds very negative, what can be done instead? It must be realised that nuclear weapons form part of a wider problem facing humanity. What then about fighting militarism as a whole? Could those of us opposed to war not direct our energies more usefully against its causes. These lie in the competition between nation states for ever dwindling supplies of natural resources and sources of profit, and the need to engender national unity.

The struggle against war is far harder than CND admits. It could include actually confronting militarism and the military machine, e.g. anti-recruitment work, opposition to military displays, attempting to persuade armaments workers to refuse to produce means of destruction, transport workers to refuse to deliver the stuff and so on. It must include more class struggle. Like last year when during the civil servants strike, the NATO war machine was thrown into panic as a small group of dock-workers walked out. Like the strike wave in Poland in 1980 which paralysed the Warsaw Pact. We must abandon this false road of compromise with warmongers and murderers of workers, so blatantly advocated by CND. We must choose for a social revolution - for a world with no 'nations', no states, no 'bosses', no 'workers', no profits - a world where people matter and where things are produced because people need them, not to keep an idle few in luxury and power. Where the causes of war have been eradicated forever.

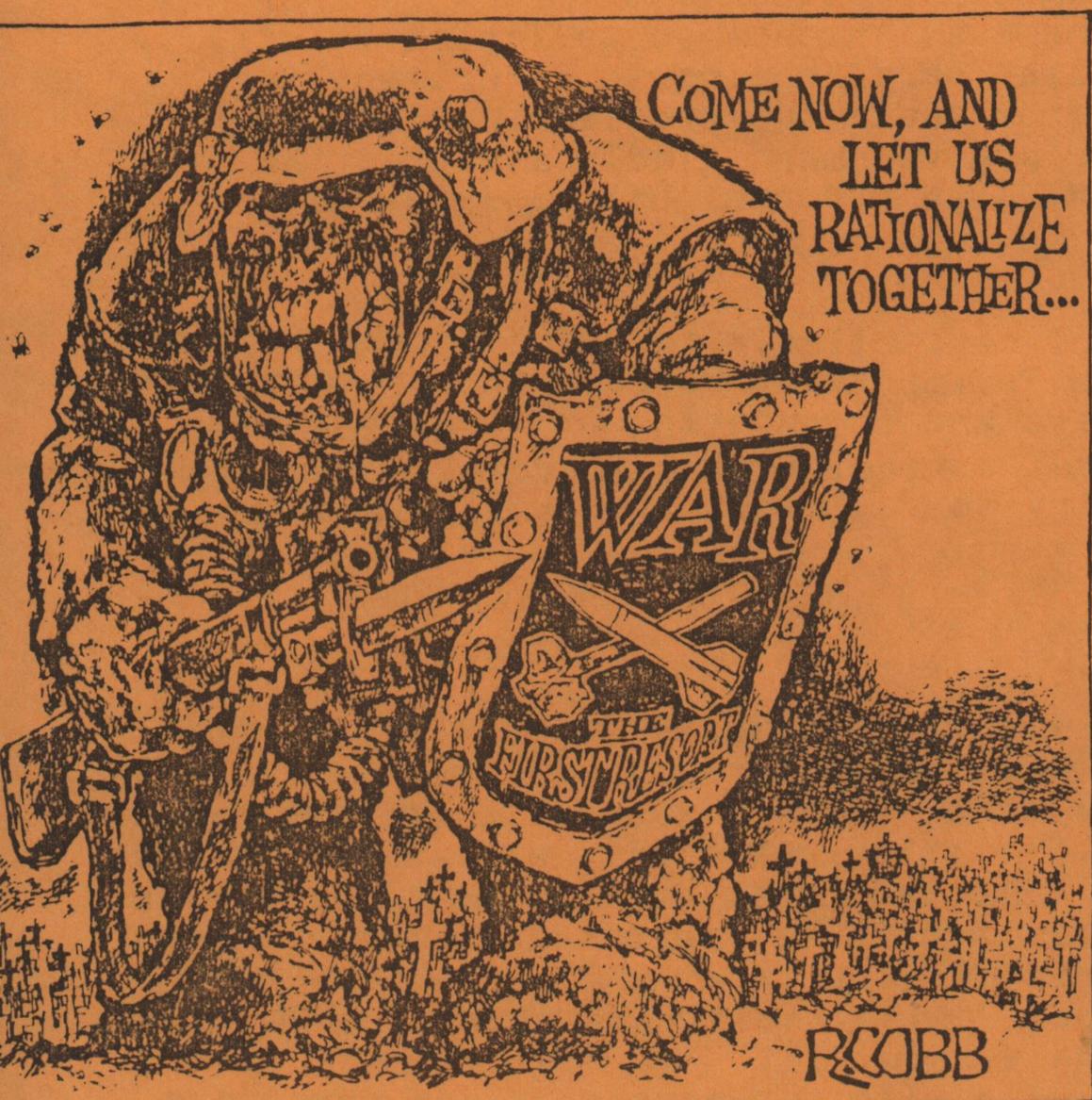


This leaflet has been produced by a group of libertarians living and working in the Potteries. If you would like to contact us, or be put in contact with libertarians in your area, write to us at the following address, in the following manner: R.Knight, c/o Students Union, The University, Keele, Staffs,

CND, LABOUR AND THE FALKLANDS

The crusade against nuclear weapons is so important, says CND, that we must all sink our political differences and work together. But the Falklands war and the reaction of the Labour party and CND leadership must surely raise serious questions about this approach.

Through marches, carnivals, demonstrations and petitions, CND has attempted to persuade MPs to vote against the Bomb in Parliament. Much work has been put into trying to gain the support of the Labour party, which is thought to be more sympathetic. CND hopes that a Labour party with Michael Foot as leader will behave differently to the victorious Labour government of 1964 (elected to abolish nuclear weapons - it started building Polaris submarines instead).



WHAT LABOUR SAID.....

But can the Labour party's response to the Falklands crisis give us any hope that they would not drag us into another world war? On April 3rd, in the House of Commons debate, with only one exception (Patrick Cormack) they supported Thatcher's decision to send the Fleet. Some now seem to believe that it could be sent and not used - such apparent Doublethink is preposterous. Michael Foot donned the garb, not of pacifist, but of war-monger. He said of the Falklanders, '...they have been betrayed (and)... the government must prove by deeds, because they will never be able to do it by words, that they are not responsible....' His deputy, Dennis Healey, interviewed on Panorama the following Monday, was even more

explicit. He stated that Britain must be prepared to sink Argentinian ships and re-invade the Falklands.

Against 'foul, brutal aggression' (Foot) by a 'tin-pot fascist junta' (Silkin), Labour is prepared to send thousands of young working class men to kill their Argentinian counterparts and die in the process. It is ironic that only a few weeks ago Argentinian sailors were training in Britain, that many Argentinian ships are made in Britain. So much did the Government, Tory or Labour, care about Fascism then.

AND CND????

And what of the CND leadership? Instead of denouncing the war, they supported it:

The Labour Party, Liberal/SDP Alliance, many Conservative MPs and military experts have spoken out against Trident. Quite rightly, it's hardly the best way to defend Britain. Just look at the Falkland Islands.

(CND advertisement, the Guardian, 10-4-82)

This clearly shows they think there is a best way to defend Britain and squares with their advocacy of strong conventional weapons. Quite simply CND is not opposed to war - it is in favour of conventional wars. Such wars have killed over 20 million people since 1945. This April the sum population of countries engaged in wars was about 701,600,000 (Sunday Times 21-3-82) - or one person in six. They embrace forces not far short of those taking part in the Second World War.

This war started because the Argentinian government, reeling from the effects of the world recession and 150% inflation, was faced with massive working class discontent in the form of strikes and demonstrations that threatened to finish it off. So it played the nationalist card, hoping to divert working people's attention away from their own problems. For very similar reasons, Thatcher's government gladly accepted the challenge. Like all wars, this one has nothing to do with working class interests.

War is an integral part of capitalism. Wars are fought for many reasons, including control of markets, sources of raw materials, securing national frontiers and engendering national unity. They are simply the natural extension of commercial competition. And all those who try to run capitalism must discover this fact.

CAN WE STOP WARS?

Against this war between capitalist states we must affirm that a nation divided cannot go to war. We must realise that we have more in common with Argentinian workers than with British capitalists and politicians. The answer to this, and all wars, must be more class struggle. Like last year during the civil servants strike, when the NATO war machine was thrown into panic at the threat to Britain's Polaris capability when a small group of dockyard workers walked out. Like the strike wave of 1980 in Poland which paralysed the Warsaw Pact. We must abandon this false road of compromise with war-mongers and murderers of workers, advocated so blatantly by CND. We must choose for a libertarian revolution, for a world with no nations, no states, no 'bosses', no 'workers', no 'profits, where people matter and where things are produced because people need them, not to keep an idle few in luxury and power. Where the causes of war have been eradicated forever.

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