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NOTTINGHAM CND

AUGUST BULLETIN 1989 20p



DIARY

N.C.N.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 26th October.

AUGUST

Tues 1st Bulletin Editorial Meeting. 8.00 pm
20 Waldeck Road, Sherwood.

Sat 5th Listergate Stall 11.00 - 2 pm
Fold a paper crane for peace.

Sun 6th Hiroshima & Nagasaki crane floating
ceremony. 8.30 pm
University Boating Lake,
University Boulevard.

Bruce Kent completes his sponsored
walk.

Tue 15th Bulletin Editorial Meeting. 8.00 pm
20 Waldeck Road, Sherwood.

Thu 17th Bulletin deadline.

Mon 21st NCND Officers & Executives Meeting.
NCND Office 33 Castlegate. 7.30 pm

OCTOBER

Sun 1st Rally for a Nuclear-free Future.
CND at Brighton. 12 noon
March and Rally.

Sun 22nd West Midlands CND Concert,
Birmingham Town Hall.
B.S.O. play Mozart. (Contact:
021 643 4617)

Thu 26th NCND AGM/Policy Making Meeting.
Venue still to be decided.

NOVEMBER

17 -19th CND National Conference
City University, London.

The Nottingham CND A.G.M. will take place on Thursday October 26th. The venue has yet to be decided (and the officers would welcome some feedback from members about the desirability, or otherwise, of meeting in a room above a pub.)

The major items on the agenda will be:-

*business carried over from the last policy-making meeting (e.g. a proposal to change the term of office of elected members),

*any new proposals, to be submitted by members and neighbourhood groups in time to be published in the September and October Bulletins,

*the ritual discussion of "the way ahead for NCND",

*reports on the last year's activities,

*elections for new officers.

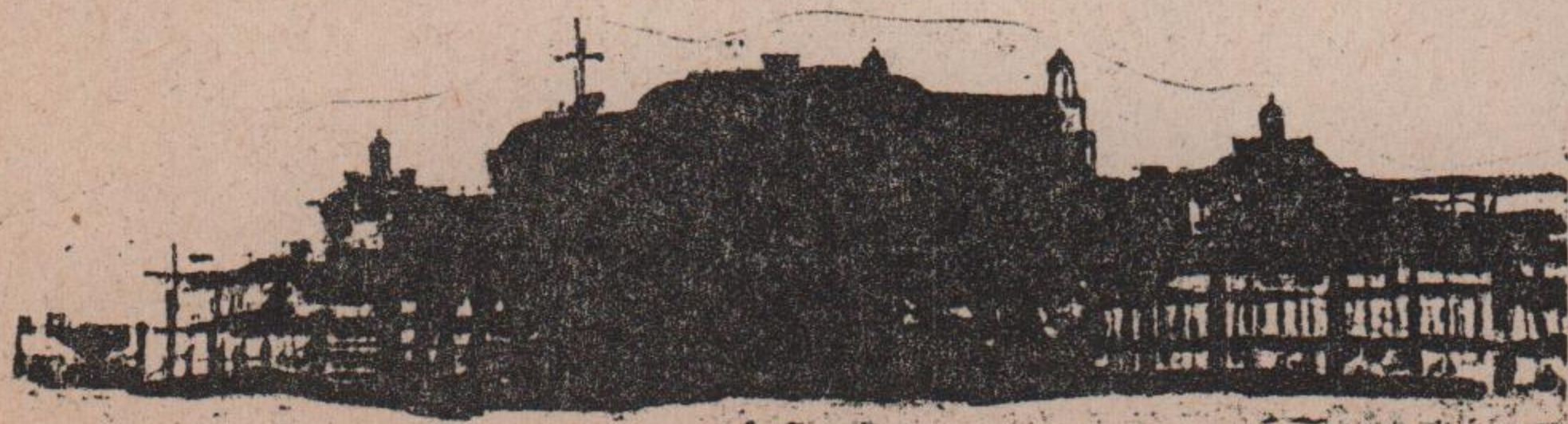
There are six elected officers; the Treasurer, Bulletin Co-ordinator and four others who cover such areas as: Stall, Office, Press, Campaigns, Fund-Raising and Membership.

If you would like to stand for election, all you have to do is send in your name and a short paragraph about yourself to the office by September 15th. If you would like to know more about what it involves to be an officer, phone Pete (625198) or Cath (620459) and they will be happy to answer any queries.

If you would like to make any proposals about the way NCND carries out its campaigning, or organises itself, then please submit a resolution, to be discussed at the AGM. The final deadline is September 15th, but if it is sent in soon, it can be published in the September Bulletin too and so allow greater debate amongst the membership.

Rally for a nuclear-free future CND AT BRIGHTON Sunday, October 1st

ASSEMBLE FOR MARCH 12 NOON
AT 'THE LEVEL', LEWES ROAD
RALLY 1PM BRIGHTON BEACH
OUTSIDE CONFERENCE CENTRE



Join CND at Brighton for the first day of the Labour Party conference.

Now, more than ever, Britain should be making a real contribution to disarmament. But Labour's policy review is not a plan for getting rid of nuclear weapons.

If the review becomes policy, Labour will take almost no independent steps. It won't remove US nuclear bases from Britain. It won't have a timetable for disarmament - so Labour could leave office without destroying any nuclear or conventional weapons and without spending a penny less on weapons than the Tories.

CND believes that a Labour government must:

- Cancel Trident
- Remove all Britain's nuclear weapons from service, and dismantle them.
- Cut Britain's defence spending - currently one of the highest in NATO - and spend the money on social services.
- Remove all US nuclear bases from Britain.
- Refuse to participate in NATO's nuclear 'modernisation' programme - especially plans to bring more nuclear weapons to Britain.
- Cut Britain's arms exports - now the second highest in the world.

CND has put nuclear disarmament on the agenda. The tide has turned our way. Be there on October 1st to keep the Labour Party on the right track.

NO NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The "No New Nuclear Weapons" petition was launched at the May 29th action held at Northwood NATO command centre to coincide with the NATO summit. Already the response has been magnificent, with requests for the petition forms flooding in from all over the country.

The current debate on short-range nuclear weapons planned for West Germany has provided an excellent opportunity for CND to step up its campaigning against new nuclear weapons. The challenge now is to extend the debate beyond short-range nuclear escalation. With an expensive building programme going ahead to key US bases within the UK, it is apparent that Britain is rapidly becoming the favoured "dumping ground" for a whole host of new nuclear nasties. Britain is a prime site for escalation both in the air and at sea, with NATO plans to circumvent the INF treaty and British plans to deploy Trident.

The petition is an ideal way to raise these issues on the street, at work and amongst friends. It is timed to be completed by CND conference in November - so get out there, get the signatures in and the issues debated.

Who to send the petition to

The aim is to have all petition forms sent to **local MPs** and not to collect them in **nationally**. Ask your MP to forward the petition to Mrs. Thatcher when you present it to him or her. In this way you will be able to maximise local publicity and, by lobbying MPs individually, we can have a much bigger impact than we could merely taking bundles to Downing Street.

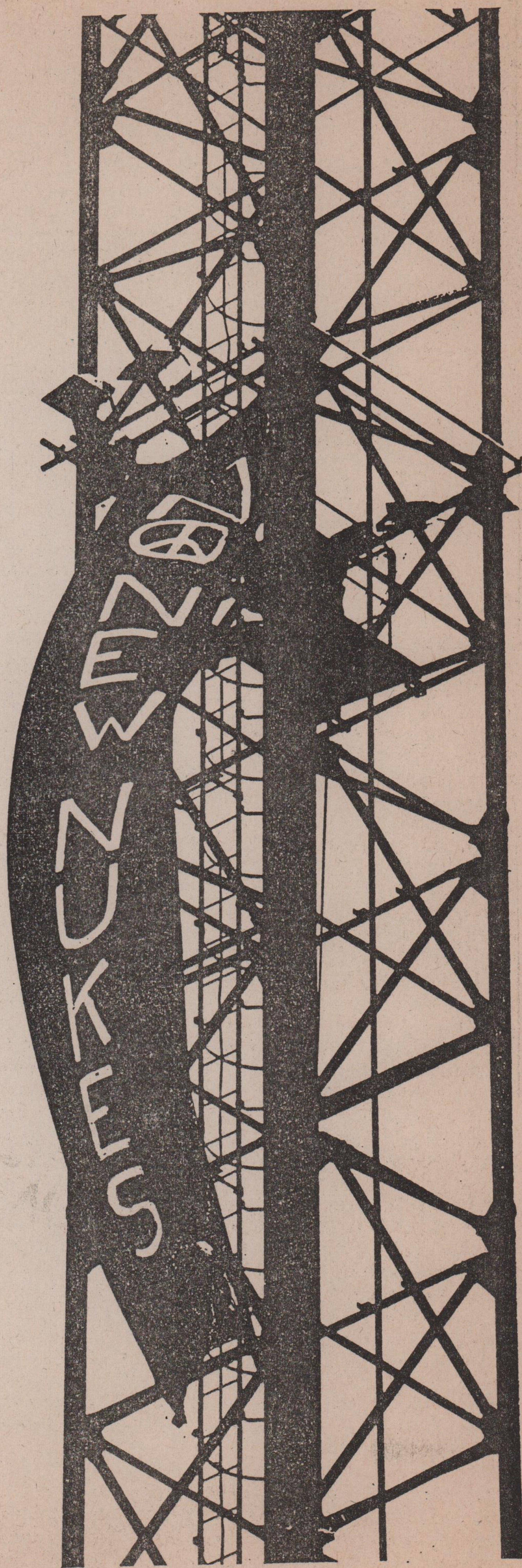
What you need to do

You need to decide a finishing date for your petitioning. This is entirely up to you, but please do it before national CND conference on November 18th-19th, so that the results can be announced there. There is a large space on the back of the petition form for you to fill in the name and address of your group contact and the date by which you would like the forms returned. You can then make arrangements for the presentation of the petition to your M.P.

How to use the petition forms

Petition forms can of course be used on just about any occasion you come into contact with other people, either personally or through mailings. How you use the forms is up to your group and will depend upon the time and energy you are able to devote to this activity. *Use pages 5 & 6 as your petition form!*

Saturday, October 21st, the start of United Nations Week, has been declared National Petition Day. All groups are asked to make a special effort to collect signatures on that day.



THE POWER GAME

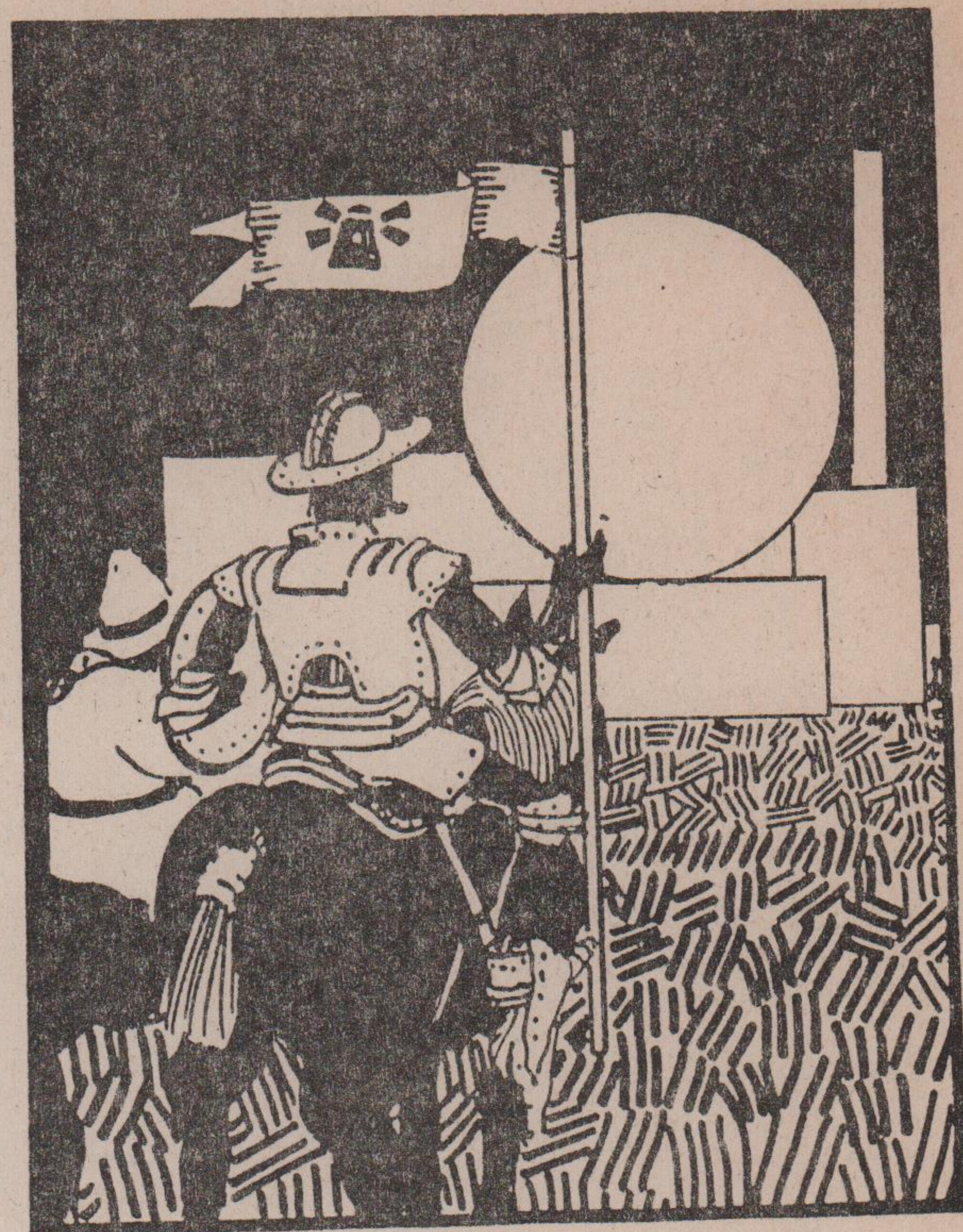
"Nuclear power has provided the materials for making bombs. Many, but not all, CND supporters are against nuclear power as well as nuclear weapons. CND has warned against the use of nuclear energy for making bombs."

This comes from Frank Allaun's 1981 "Questions and Answers about Nuclear Weapons". It's as clear & direct as the rest of the book - but when one goes into the subject further, things are strangely uncertain. Trying to understand the relation between nuclear power stations and nuclear weapons obviously involves technology, politics, economics, history ... yet these issues seem harder to separate and grasp individually than they do when studying weapons alone. Nuclear power is made more important (and more complex) by concerns such as Britain's electricity sell-off ... Chernobyl findings on atmospheric pollution ... Third world policy ... US major space research potentially overtaking arms as the major trade-stimulating "drain".

Nuclear power's raw material, uranium, is mined in areas such as South Africa. About 0.7% of Uranium is a radioactive form, U235. The rest is non-radioactive U238. U235 is separated for use. The U238 metal left can be converted to further power generation material and is also used industrially in weights and flywheels, being two-thirds heavier than lead. It also turns up in anti-tank shells, a chance link with conventional arms. A civil nuclear reactor contains U235 rods arranged to react upon one another. Particles emitted cause further emission from nearby rods - a fission chain reaction. This is artificially "moderated" producing a steady heat output. Carried by a "coolant" gas or liquid, the heat raises steam for turbines which drive generators. Just like a coal-fired station, the nuclear station transforms heat to electricity, but uses fission to make that heat.

As the uranium reacts, it changes to another substance, plutonium. Older rods are a mixture of uranium and plutonium and start to hinder the production of heat. They are swapped for new ones and the old "reprocessed" - chemically separated into their parts (although the economics of this would seem to be upset by the current uranium glut, which is a question the industry should answer). By coincidence, plutonium is also the raw material for H-bombs. The first "atomic" power stations doubled as military plutonium works, and this is often quoted as final proof of the power-weapons link. In practice all present military plutonium comes from purpose-built military reactors, whose locations are officially secret. Power station-produced plutonium is not as pure as that used in warheads, since partly-spent rods have to be removed before they hinder power production (which has to compete with the cheaper coal). It can, though, be used in advanced power stations.

Against these points, civil grade plutonium can be and has been used for a bomb (an obscure fact disclosed by US witnesses in the 1970's Windscale enquiry). On balance it's unwise to concentrate nuclear power opposition on a weapons link, since a case is discredited if it's overstated.



Arguments should involve economics and health. For example, plutonium chemically resembles iron. It is present in much nuclear waste, but, being mainly insoluble in water, it doesn't obey normal rules of dilution and may end up as harmful doses for a few individuals (the "hot particle" theory). Its iron resemblance channels it into red blood cells and bone marrow. It emits alpha particles, the most harmful yet the least penetrating radiation - thus internal human plutonium contamination, even though it is a potent cancer producer, is undetectable.

The plutonium hazard is one of the things which make nuclear-free zones necessary, since transport risks leakage, whether from bombs, fuel or waste. This has been understated, allowing politicians and others to mock the idea, pretending to misunderstand by describing the zones as area where the dropping of bombs is prohibited!

Nuclear power raises many questions for scientists and politicians, but some of the important ones are not being asked and discussion is often shallow. One question is for everybody, including the peace and green movements.

Many see a Third World industrial revolution as inevitable. How should its energy needs be met, given that the climatic damage caused by its use of coal, oil, gas or felled forests could make Western fuel-saving insignificant?

Jeremy Jago

THE NINTH NOTTINGHAM PEACE FESTIVAL

Once again, the annual miracle opened on time at 12 noon on Sunday 9th July. Organised, on a shoestring, by the enthusiasm, devotion, determination and months of work of an heroic half dozen CND members, the Nottingham Peace Festival provided a good family day with an environmental and anti-nuclear flavour for a few thousand people. And, it broke more or less even, financially!

It was good to see the younger children so well provided for with the infants activity area, the goats, the enormous inflatable giant for seventy or eighty kids at a time "to scramble and bounce on and the colourful, spacious and mysterious chromoscope (the only event charged for).

There were nearly one hundred stalls run by charity groups, such as play groups and Oxfam; commercial concerns, e.g. Mushroom Books, Veggies and an investment company selling ethical investment, political parties and trade unions, including the Green Party, Labour Party, Communist Parties and the T.G.W.U.; and craft workers including some fascinating jewellery, batik pictures, pottery and general craft knick-knacks. I made a resolution to bring more money in future, as some of the craft offerings were really very attractive.

Although there were not quite so many food stalls as previously, those that participated were of good quality. Wollaton CND's cake stall was outstanding and did a roaring trade, as did the Veggiburger stall and the covered area with tables and chairs was a good idea. Alas, there were not so many CND neighbourhood group stalls as in previous years. Some stalls were easily identifiable by good, large, clear, colourful signs. Too many were quite the reverse - and our own Nottingham CND corner was not very clearly advertised. We need a big, bold banner with **JOIN CND HERE**.

This year the Exhibition Tent attracted much interest. It was organised by Friends of the Earth and had sections provided mainly by local environmental groups, including Notts. Wildlife Trust, Transport 2000, the Rainbow Centre, Nottingham Men of the Trees, Greenpeace, Nottingham Women's Information Centre, as well as Friends of the Earth itself. This is just as it should be. After all, CND is one part of the environmental movement and, let's face it, general environmental issues are, in 1989, regarded by the public at large as of greater urgency than the nuclear war question. There was, also, a well-attended and varied programme of videos including ones on Kampucheo (from Oxfam), Nicaragua, a Green Earth (World Wild Life Fund), Pedals and Ecology in Action (Greenpeace).

A praise-worthy effort was made to provide a varied programme of mainly musical entertainment from the stage in spite of some occasional amplification problems caused by bad luck. The programme included David and Sam, music played by the classical guitarist Dale Hodgkinson, folk songs

sung (and composed) by the highly talented Bronwen Westacott, items by Dale Karl Stark and family and part songs, including a fine rendering of the Internationale by the recently formed Clarion Singers. There was also some super, almost non-stop, accordion playing by Kathy Toy from London among the crowds surging around the stalls.

We owe a massive debt of gratitude to Bill and Vera Haynes, Jeremy Jago, Andy Wayne, Cath Wakeman and Dave Hewitt - the Stalwart Six who organised the festival - and to all those others who helped in so many ways. It enjoys the support of an increasingly broad spectrum of the population; it provides a shop window for the peace and environmental movements, it provides a venue to renew and strengthen friendship; it has great potential for drawing in young people to the noble struggle for the future of our earth and of humanity; it can provide so many families with an enjoyable and worthwhile day out.

In the light of the recent decline in C.N.D.'s fortunes, it is good to be able to record a genuine success, albeit a modest one. There is no reason why this success should not continue in future years, whatever progress C.N.D. is making at the time. It should encourage a wider circle of members and friends to commit both themselves and resources to helping develop the Nottingham Peace Festival into a major regional event by the year 2000.

Pat Robson.



LETTERS

THE FLY

To Editor of the Bulletin.

The Radcliffe-on-Trent Peace Group congratulate the Peace Festival Team on a splendid Festival.

The early morning mist and drizzle about 11 o'clock must have caused a good deal of anxiety especially after last year. However, the rain held off and, by 2 p.m., things started to buzz, by 3.30 p.m., there was a very good crowd.

The Festival is more than just a fund-raising effort; it is an opportunity for the meeting of friends and, with so few events and demo's this year, it was nice to check up on who is still around and see that the degree of commitment is still solid.

The Peace Festival provided opportunities for participation by a number of organisations to show their support and enhance the efforts of Nottingham C.N.D. to act as a focal point for all those who have Peace as some part of their programme.

It was good to see Political Parties represented, it would have been even better to see more Labour Parties; the Greens were well to the fore and good luck to their efforts.

Progressive organisations right across the spectrum were well represented; it was good to find so much goodwill on all sides. To our commercial friends and craft display units, many thanks; they added colour and vitality to the whole exercise. A special thanks to the Music groups.

Finally and probably the most important feature of all was that it gave members the opportunity to become involved and enjoy the commitment.

WELL DONE, EVERYBODY.

PEACE FESTIVAL THANKS

Wollaton group would like to thank all those people who helped make their stall such a success; those who donated food, those who helped on the day and, especially, Desmond who brought his tent!

THE FLY

I herewith enclose a poem I have written. With the terrifying thought of "nuclear weapons" in mind at the time, I never felt at rest. Hence the idea of the fly and its unease in a world of fear. The impending danger of insane humans' killing. The senselessness of harm.

I do hope you will be able to use it in some way or other. Please let me know if you can. Please feel free to, in your endeavours for world-peace. I am forever trying in my own way.

Yours with blessing,

Richard M. Gamble.

The fly is fly
He's awake when sleeping
And knows when sadistic hands are creeping.
To tower above
That weary head
If he doesn' move he'll soon be dead.
But just in time
He avoids the speed
Cos' his mind tells him our dreadful deed.

Our nature's vile
To injure such
Those beautiful creatures that avoid our touch.

For what seems good
We never care
We still use weapons in warfare.

One day we'll leave
A world to die
Perhaps as quick as that frightened fly.

Richard Melvin Gamble, 1984.

ANNE FRANK in the WORLD



A major international exhibition to be shown at the YMCA, Shakespeare Street
Nottingham

October 2—28 1989

CND NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

SAT./ SUN. 15/16TH. JULY

This makes my second visit to the Red Rose Club on the Seven Sisters Road. As representative for Nottinghamshire (East Midlands) region of National CND, I'm now beginning to feel less of a stranger to the quarterly gatherings and also making personal contact with the staff of Underwood Street, together with the officers and delegates from the other regions.

Business followed a similar pattern to that of April Council. Firstly, a political discussion including the inevitable Labour Party Policy Review due to be adopted, with possibly a few amendments, if allowed, at October's conference in Brighton. Also included under the same agenda heading was a briefing from the SLD's CND section (Yes! they do have one! Is this where the "old" Liberals made their way?) and also a short speech from a delegate of the Green Party.

I've noticed that Council includes a significant number of Labour Party activists who are mostly furious and somewhat embarrassed to be picked on at branch meetings, etc. as vote losers. Why does the Labour Party do this to itself, I wonder? - so full of idealists that instead of working together, any differences in ideology means factions and splits and animosity. If the Tories have differences of opinion, they always have the political sense to hold together, on a public face, at least.

However, the gist of the discussion was that Council felt that these activists should be encouraged in their uphill struggle to show that CND's policies are not the vote losers. It is media presentation that makes this seem to be so and Labour Party Branch meetings are the forum for getting this across.

The review policy itself makes little, if any, sense and it's hardly likely to help the Party's image when the Tories expose it for what it is. It's far too lengthy to discuss in detail here, but it's reported to be couched in peace movement language, i.e. "Common Security", "Nuclear free World by 2000"; "End of the Cold-war" ... ad nauseum.

Then there was a brief report from an SLD "green paper" titled "After the Cold War", produced by the East/West Working Party. I have tried hard to take this seriously, mainly because Meg Beresford (CND's General Secretary) was much involved in the working party - but I cannot. It mentions concepts of "minimum deterrence" (no mention of what minimum actually is), "multilateral and asymmetric" arms reductions. This document seems to be good in its opposition to the modernisation of proposed short range weapons, but fluffy on British and US "modernisation".

However, CND activists are working significantly within their respective political groups. London Region SLD have asked for CND to hold seminars and send publications, etc. on Nuclear Disarmament, so all is far from lost there!

As for the Green Party, they are 100% behind us and have requested help with such items as costing estimates, etc. from the experience of CND. Power to their green elbows!

Somewhere during the discussion, Greater Manchester YCND presented a proposal to expel from CND membership Kinnock and Labour M.P.s who support the policy review after the October conference, but I'm happy to report that this was withdrawn before a vote, when it was realised to be destructively divisive.

Treasurer's Report stated that things are looking well, though it's early in the year - membership is improving (Is this thanks to Labour Party policy review?) and the decline in Sanity subscriptions is less than expected.

Sanity itself is under pressure, although its poetry competition fundraiser is working well and this bodes well for its future. It was assumed that all Council representatives are subscribers and I'm a little embarrassed. I read it regularly, but through a neighbourhood affiliation scheme (two complimentary copies to each affiliated group) rather than a direct subscription. The message from the Sanity working group is: **publicise it, advertise it, get it out!!**

A more detailed report in Nottingham CND Office, as soon as possible.

Bruce Kent sets out on his short "Long March" on the day of writing this - this writer is hoping to be there, at Burghfield, at the finish, on Hiroshima Day 6th August.

ROD LANGFORD.
24th July 1989.



CONTACTS

NCND OFFICE
 ASPLEY
 ARNOLD
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 BEESTON
 BINGHAM
 BULWELL/BES

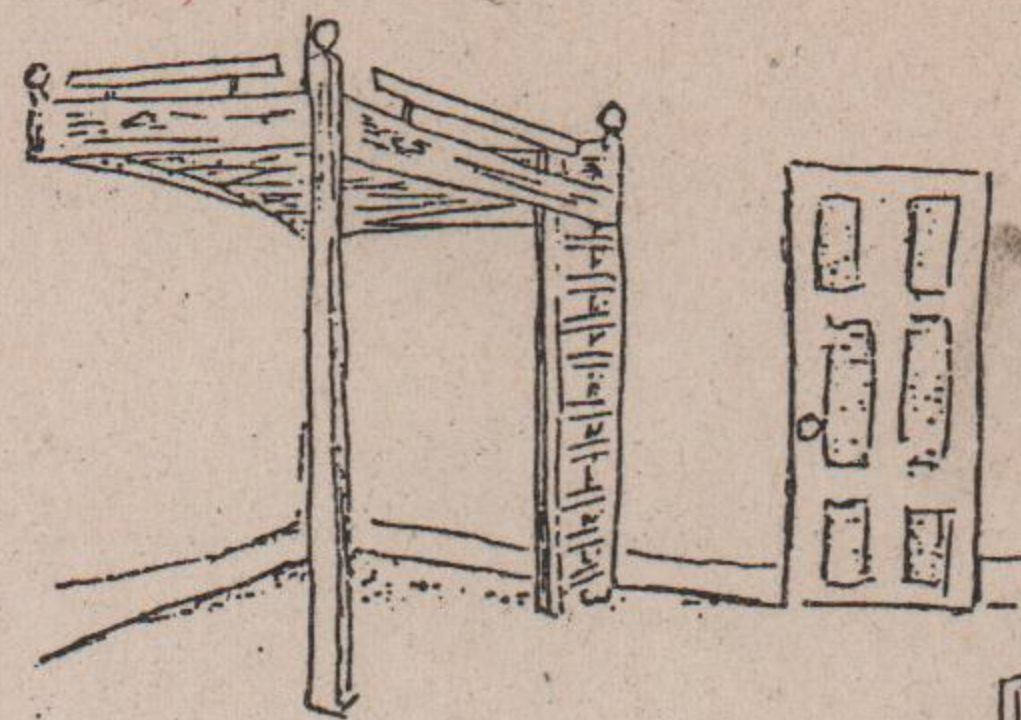
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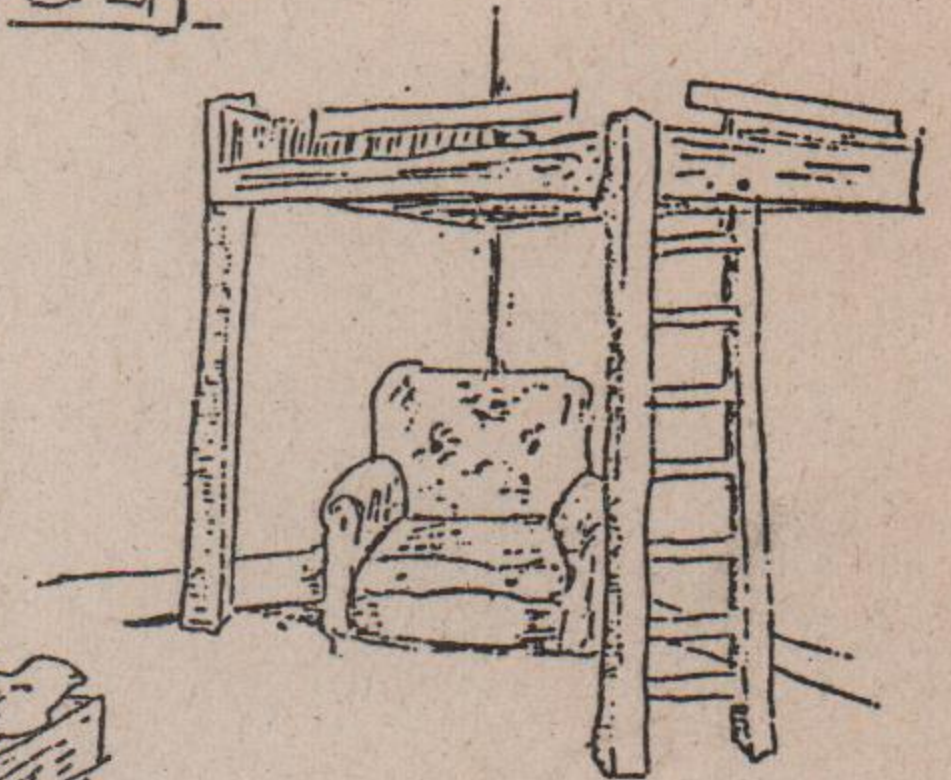
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BEDS IN THE AIR

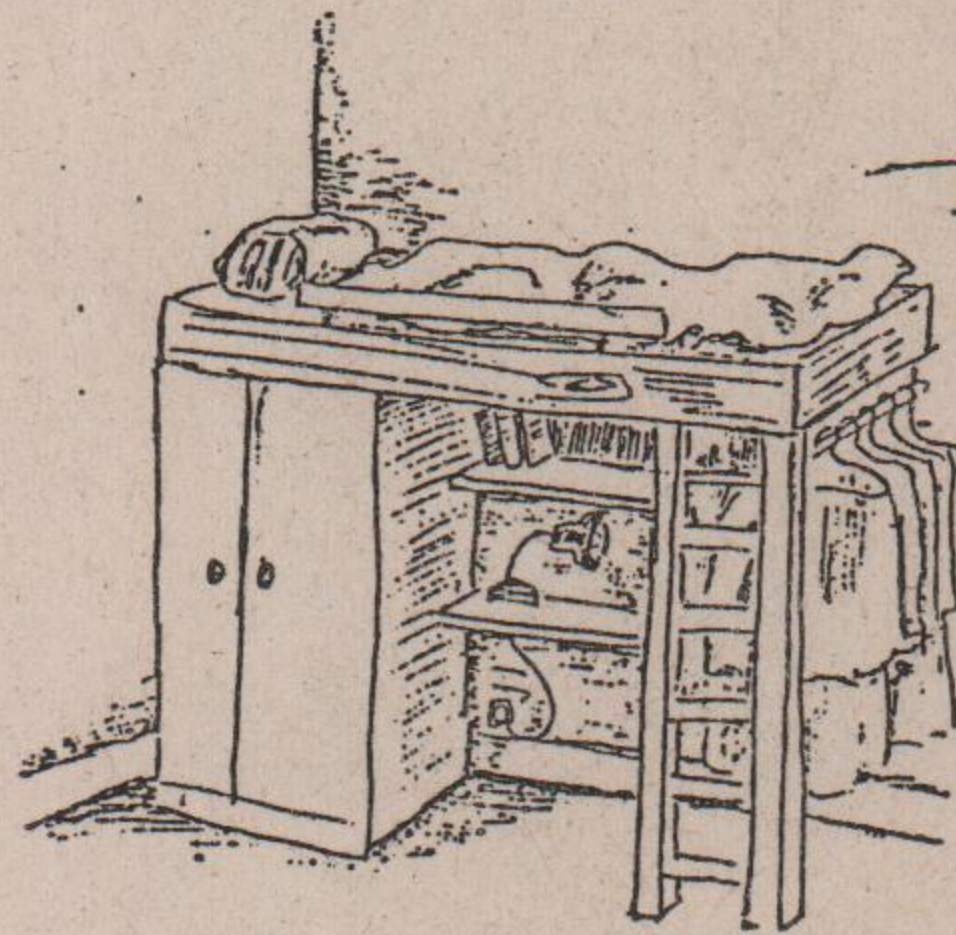


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Poems are invited for entry into a

POETRY COMPETITION

The competition will be judged by

John Sauven



BEN WEBB confesses to prosaic tastes. Now editor of SANITY, CND's flagship monthly magazine, he is a former foreign correspondent and radio reporter. His pastimes include writing short stories 'for the desk drawer'.

Marti Friedlander



FLEUR ADCOCK is one of the most accomplished and consistently popular poets working in Britain today. She has lived in England since 1963 but was born in New Zealand. When David Lange brought in anti-nuclear policies there, Fleur 'began calling myself a New Zealander again. What matters, after all, is our survival: we are all citizens of one planet'.

Julian Ewart



The veteran poet, GAVIN EWART, has been writing verse (published) since 1933. He has worked for the British Council, in publishing, as a salesman and as an advertising copywriter. He has been a freelance writer since 1971. His latest book, PENULTIMATE POEMS, was published in May by Century Hutchinson. Gavin Ewart believes that until nuclear weapons are completely abolished, we all run the risk of destroying this planet.

The competition is sponsored by SANITY, the monthly magazine of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). With a circulation of over 20,000, SANITY is one of the widest selling single-issue magazines in Britain. The winning entries will be published in the December 1989 issue.

SANITY is available now from your newsagent



For rules of acceptance, details of prizes and an entry form, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: SANITY Poetry Competition, 22-24 Underwood Street, London, N1 7JG, or phone 01-250-4010.