

# Nottingham CND Bulletin

MARCH 85 20P

**YOUR STAKE in MOLESWORTH**

**BUNCH OF RAINBOW RIBBONS**

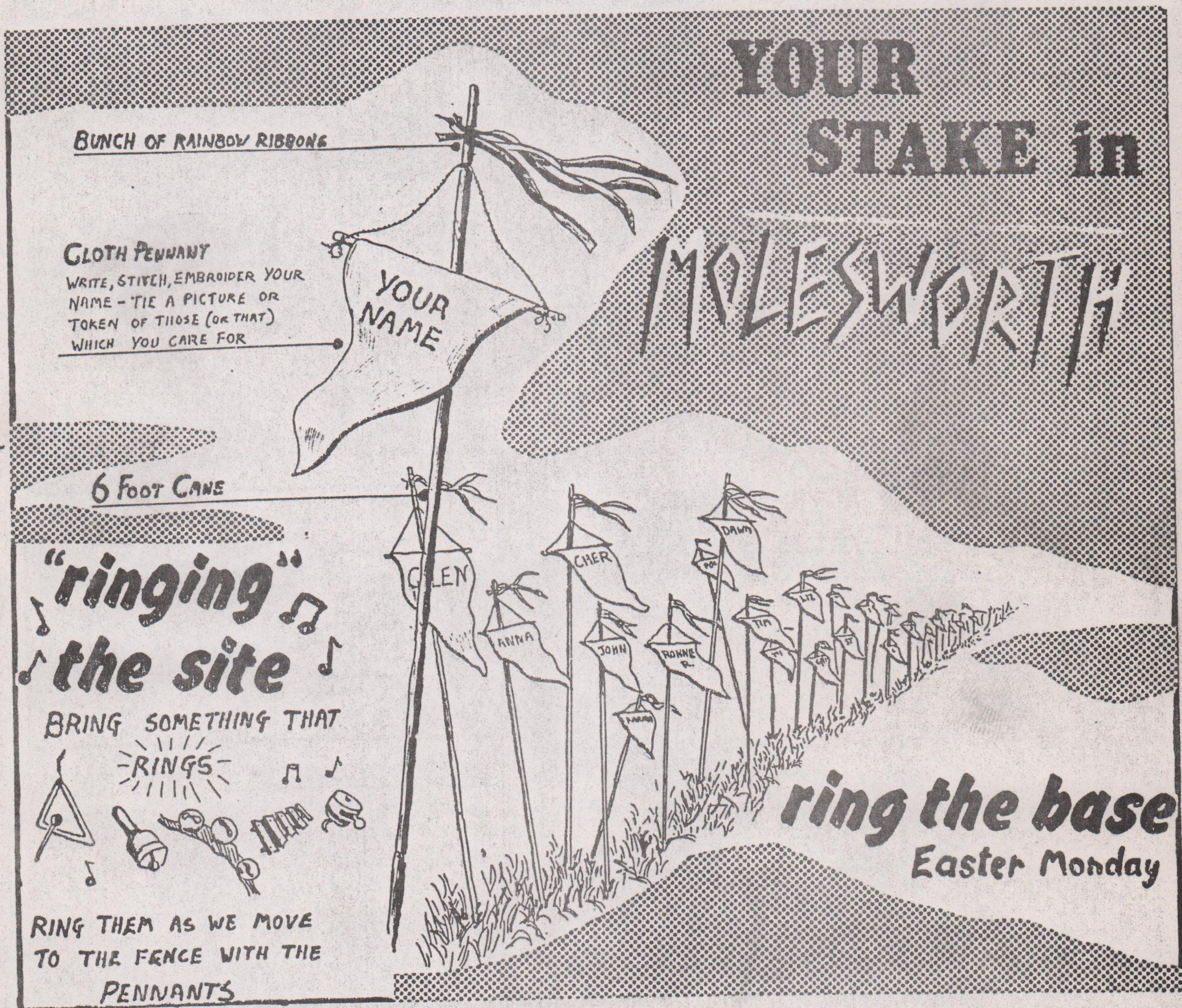
**CLOTH PENNANT**  
WRITE, STITCH, EMBROIDER YOUR NAME - TIE A PICTURE OR TOKEN OF THOSE (OR THAT) WHICH YOU CARE FOR

**6 FOOT CANE**

**"ringing" the site**  
BRING SOMETHING THAT RINGS

**ring the base**  
Easter Monday

**ring them as we move TO THE FENCE WITH THE PENNANTS**

A black and white illustration of a protest site. In the foreground, a large pennant on a tall pole is labeled 'YOUR NAME'. To its left, a smaller pennant is labeled 'CLEN'. A line of smaller flags follows a path into the distance, with labels like 'CHER', 'JOHN', 'RONNE', 'LIZ', and 'TIN'. To the left of the flags, there are drawings of musical instruments: a triangle, a bell, a xylophone, and a drum. The background shows rolling hills under a sky with a large, stylized sun or moon.

**& on the March**

FROM CHILWELL 3rd

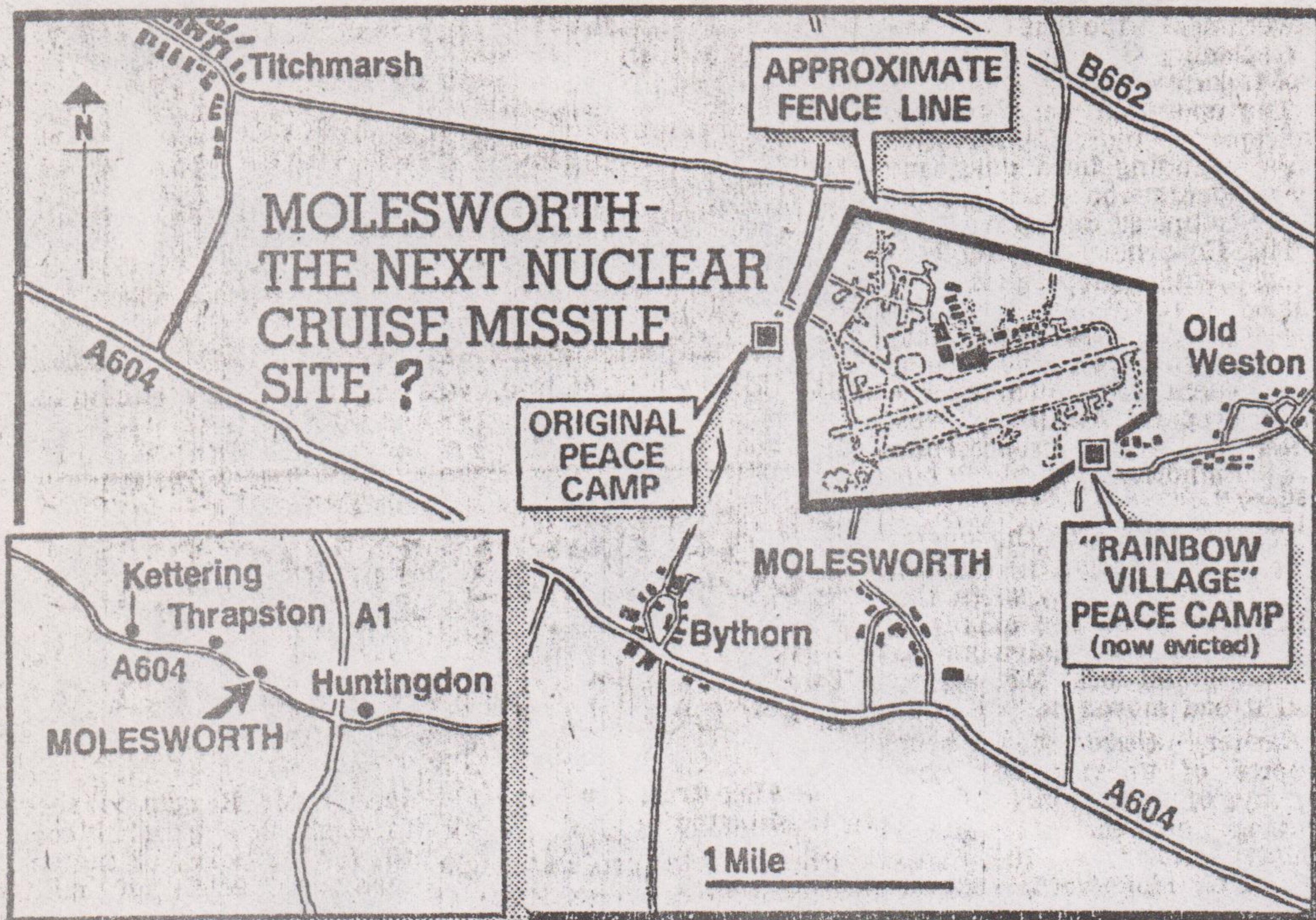
VIA LEICESTER 5th

TO MOLESWORTH 7th APRIL

(Details inside)



# MARCH TO MOLESWORTH



this  
EASTER

## CHILWELL to MOLESWORTH via LEICESTER

NCND is organizing an extra section to the National Easter Marches as follows:

WED. 3 APRIL. Chilwell 8.30 a.m.

County Hall 10.30 a.m.  
for CIVIC RECEPTION.

Overnight at Loughborough.

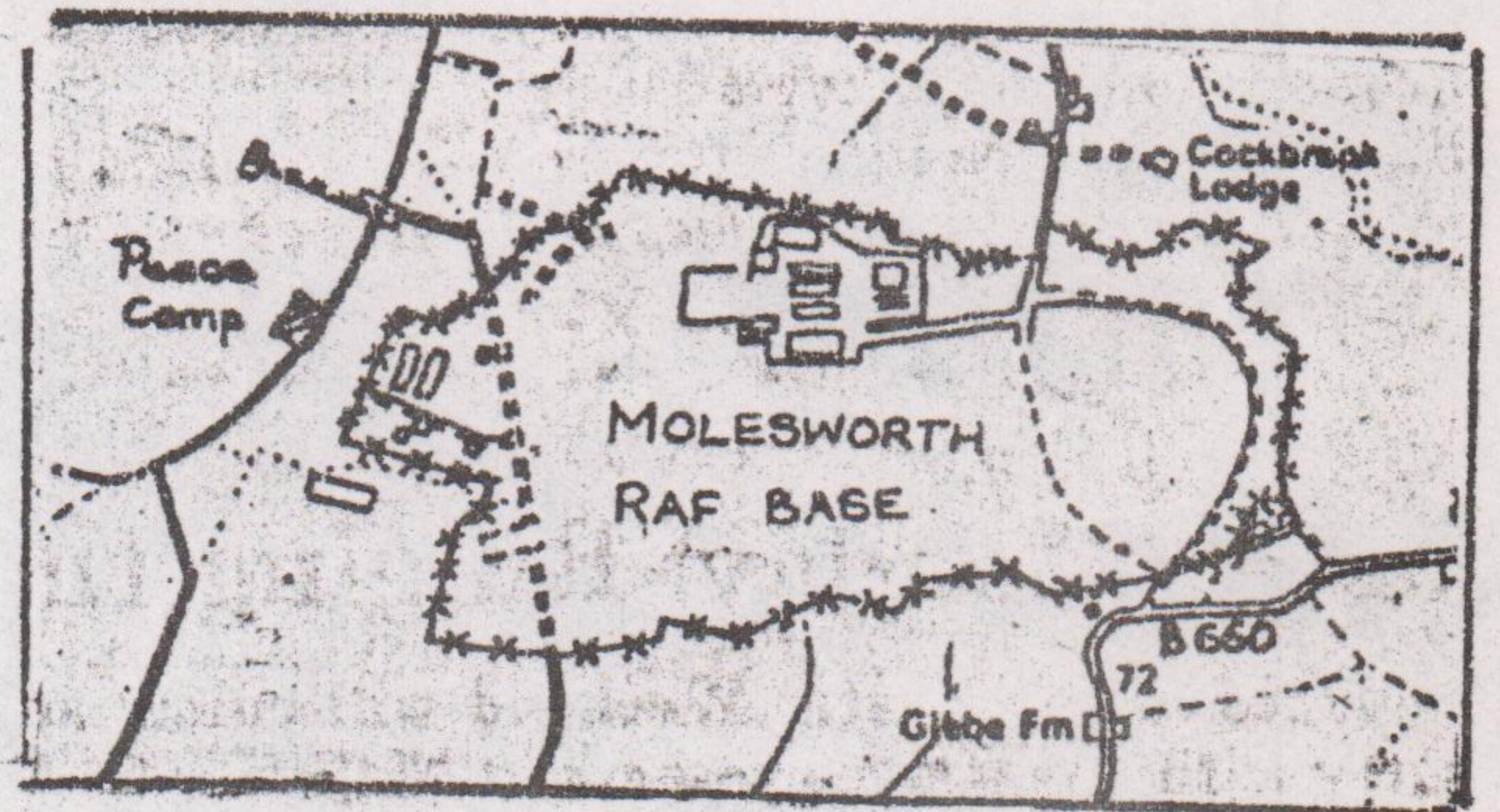
THURS 4 APL. Loughborough to Leicester.

GOOD FRIDAY Join NATIONAL SPONSORED

MARCH - LEICESTER to MOLESWORTH.

via Mkt Harborough and Corby.

YOU CAN JOIN - OR LEAVE - THE MARCH AT  
ANY STAGE



## INTENDING LONG-DISTANCE MARCHERS

Please contact the office as soon as possible. There are many arrangements to make including making a block booking with National CND. More information about accommodation and other arrangements will be available nearer the time.

If you can't go on the march,  
come and cheer the marchers on

COUNTY HALL  
10.30 a.m. on WED 3 April.

## Sponsored Marches: Good Friday

The four day demonstration which CND is organising will start on Good Friday (April 5) with three sponsored marches leaving from Stevenage, Leicester and Cambridge at 10am.

Everyone is welcome to join these marches for any length of time but we are only able to provide overnight accommodation and facilities for the 300 people on each march who register with Goodwin Street in advance.

These 900 walkers will undertake to obtain sponsorship for their efforts of which a proportion will go to National CND to help offset the increasing costs of the cruise campaign.

The rest of the money raised will go to the cruise project of the marchers' choice.



# NATIONAL EASTER DEMONSTRATION

**Easter Monday  
Ringing the Base**

**at MOLESWORTH**

Join the thousands who will form a RING as near as possible to the new razor-wire fence.

Bring a rainbow pennant to plant in the RING ( See the cover ).

Bring something to RING tound the RING.

## COACHES

Leave: Salutation Inn, Maid Marion Way 8.30 a.m.

Return: Molesworth 5p.m.

TICKETS: £4. ( £2 unwaged ) from NCND Office.

PLEASE BUY TICKETS EARLY SO THAT MORE COACHES CAN BE ORDERED IF NECESSARY!

## *Candlelit Vigil*

### OVERNIGHT - EASTER SUNDAY/MONDAY

Come to Molesworth early evening on Sunday to welcome the sponsored marchers to the site, and stay overnight for a vigil.

Bring torches, candles, flares as well as sleeping bags and other comforts.

Contact NCND office for further details



"You feel such a fool, writing home to your mum saying your first active service was raiding a peace camp."

*Guardian*  
7 Feb. 85

## 20 Feb

Nearly two hundred people from Nottingham went to Molesworth on Wednesday 20th Feb.... the first East Midlands day on the national rota. About half had gone down with the intention of taking part in direct-action and the other half had a day's programme of leafletting, fence-decorating, silent vigils, singing and noise-making. This was easily the biggest and best-organised weekday demonstration at Molesworth since work started at the base and it was covered by both BBC TV new and Anglia TV news.

The direct-activists among us had all agreed between us beforehand to try and enter the base in small groups from different points, at 2 p.m. If this failed, we were to blockade our nearest gates at 3 p.m. As it turned out, the blockade wasn't necessary. Just before 2 p.m., several affinity groups including Sherwood and the Poly began making noisy diversions at different

sections of the fence. On the dot of 2 p.m., Forest Fields Group dashed out of a nearby wood and, in less than two minutes, had brought the fence down and all fourteen were inside, before the MoD police could do anything.

Altogether, about forty demonstrators entered the base, with part of the Forest Fields Group occupying a tower for half an hour before being removed. We were detained by MoD police for a couple of hours while they tried to "process" us (gather information). Those who'd been notionally arrested gave their names and addresses only. Several of us did not even give that much information because we were never formally arrested. At the end of the day, only three from Nottingham were charged.

PETE STRAUSS.



# DEFEND MOLESWORTH AGAINST CRUISE

## THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

If Michael Heseltine thought that his 1,500 troops, his seven miles of razor-wire fencing and his flak-jacket, were somehow going to halt the Defend Molesworth campaign, he was sadly mistaken. We must now show that the peace movement in this country is more determined than ever before to interrupt, obstruct, delay and generally protest every step of the way. So what does that mean for us locally?

Firstly, the pledge scheme will carry on. The Nottingham Defend Molesworth Group will continue to publicise the issues by talks, posters, leaflets and meetings throughout the county. Over the coming months, we want to build up gradually understanding of, and support for, the campaign, not just within the peace movement, but through all possible channels.

There will obviously be one change of emphasis, however, now that the security fence at Molesworth has gone up; i.e. we will not be building up towards a very big mass presence as an immediate response to construction work having begun. We always recognised that such a mass event would need several months of campaigning work and depended on construction work beginning after Easter.

However, there will be the regular actions and demonstrations every Wednesday, organised by the East and South Midlands regions of C.N.D., starting from now.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HAS BEEN ALLOCATED EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

For those who cannot come on Wednesdays, Notts. will have a presence - alongside other regions - on EVERY SECOND SUNDAY after the SECOND WEDNESDAY.

These Wednesday protests will carry on alongside the slow, steady build up of support for the campaign locally. Over the next few months, as our publicity work in the county continues, we should expect to see more and more people becoming involved in the Wednesday protests. Eventually we will get to a point where we really can hold large-scale mass events on those Wednesdays.

So where do you fit in?

1. Join the demonstrations, either for direct-action or "constitutional" protest. These are the dates to put in your diary.

Wed 13/	Sun 17 Mar	Wed 14/	Sun 18 Aug
" 10/	" 14 Apr	" 11/	" 15 Sep
" 8/	" 12 May	" 9/	" 13 Oct
" 29 May*		" 30 Oct*	
" 12/	" 16 Jun	" 13/	" 17 Nov
" 10/	" 14 Jul	" 11/	" 15 Dec
" 31 Jul*			

\* Since May, July and October have five Wednesdays, the fifth Wednesday of these months will be covered by Notts., Lincs., Derbys. and Leics. all together.

For details of child-care, transport, training, maps, legal back-up, planned activities, what-you'll need, etc., contact Defend Molesworth Group. Please remember, you aren't expected to come to EVERY demonstration. Just come to as many as you can manage.

2. Help us build the local movement. Defend Molesworth Group now meets every Sunday (except first of month) at 7.30 p.m. in the C.N.D. office. If you can't come to regular meetings, but can offer help (from baby-sitting to selling raffle tickets), phone 581948 and ask for Defend Molesworth.

3. If you are in a political party, trade union, church or community organisation, please make sure your group has invited a Defend Molesworth speaker to a meeting.

This is going to be a long, hard campaign. This is only the beginning. It may take three years or more to achieve our aims of successfully defending Molesworth. But, as long as we keep up the pressure, that in itself will bring more supporters into the peace movement, will keep the nuclear "defence" debate alive and will remind all nuclear-weapons governments that we are a real force to be reckoned with.

Good luck!

Pete Strauss.



# CIVIL DEFENCE

OR

# PRETENCE



## Wintex

WEEKEND CAMPAIGN

9 & 10 MARCH

Wintex is the name given to the series of NATO command post exercises held once every two years. The next exercise is from Feb 26 to March 13. During the exercise, NATO military mobilisation can be co-ordinated with the activation of the so-called civil defence system.

The authorities will rehearse the following measures:

- \* controlling movement on the main roads from our cities, preventing civilian evacuation and keeping things clear for the military and police;
- \* cutting off our phones, leaving on line only those "vital to the prosecution of war and to national survival";
- \* arresting and interning people who oppose the moves towards war;
- \* moving Government Ministers, officials and military commanders to protected bunkers.

The setting up of internment areas and arrest of internees would be one of the Government's earliest actions under emergency powers. The preparation and maintenance of lists of alleged subversives to be interned is one of the key wartime tasks of M15. About 20,000 citizens are thought to be on M15 arrest lists. These could include people who have written to their local paper objecting to nuclear weapons or people who are active in their trade union.

During the weekend of 9th and 10th March, we shall be distributing stickers, leaflets and posters produced by National CND to highlight the real reason for Civil Defence.

Neighbourhood Groups will be putting stickers in appropriate sites.

The Listergate stall will be giving out leaflets.

There will be posters available at the office.

PLEASE HELP to let NOTTINGHAM know about WINTEX.

## NOTTS EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER IN HOME OFFICE WORKING PARTY

In a press release issued on Feb 8th, Archy Miller of Notts. C.N.D. revealed details of a Home Office working party report entitled "The Standardisation of Training of Civil Defence Volunteers". The release, drafted after careful consultation with trade unions and sympathetic councillors, disclosed that one of the authors of the report was the County Emergency Planning Officer for Notts., Mr. H. A. Tinsley. Mr. Tinsley was found to have participated in the working party without the knowledge of the council and did so in his own time.

At a press conference, attended by reporters from Radio Nottingham and Radio Trent, representatives from NALGO, the Fire Brigades Union and MCANW, along with Andy Miller, forcefully presented their objections to the document which is seen as part of the government's effort to compel local councils and their employees to take part in its futile Civil Defence Programme.

All the representatives stressed the fact that this programme was designed to lull the public into believing that a Nuclear attack would be survivable when, in fact, the only people to benefit from preparations would be those in positions of power.



The Guardian  
22. 2. 85.



## CIVIL DEFENCE OR PRETENCE (continued)

MCANW pointed out that the training in first aid, detailed in the report, took doctors 5 years of intensive study and that dispensing tea and sympathy was all very nice when waiting for an ambulance to whisk you off to hospital in peace time but would hardly be appropriate when ambulances had been commandeered and hospitals destroyed after a nuclear attack.

The Fire Brigades Union presented a similar case in the light of the list of technical activities required of a volunteer which even a fireman of 20 years' experience would be hard pressed to carry out, even in normal circumstances. The report talks blithely about training volunteers in the use of "improvised firefighting equipment": presumably this means garden hoses!

NALGO criticise the vast amounts of money spent, supposedly, to prepare for the feeding, housing and treatment of victims in a hostile, bitterly cold, contaminated nuclear wasteland when we are unwilling and unable to spend money housing all the homeless and treating all the sick in our society today. NALGO will support any member who, for conscientious reasons, refuses to take part in Civil Defence duties.

A follow-up letter from Andy Miller, which will be distributed to Neighbourhood Groups, details some of the action which can be taken to make the most of this report in making Civil Defence a live issue in the run-up to the local elections.

ANDY KEYSE.

## CHILWELL IN PARLIAMENT

Here are the WRITTEN ANSWERS given on Jan.31, 1985 to questions on CHILWELL raised in Parliament through CND's Parliamentary Lobbying Network.

Rob Raynham and Dave Dickinson drew up over 50 questions which elicited these first replies. More as it surfaces.

### RAF Chilwell

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence what was the date on which the memorandum of understanding between his Department and the United States authorities regarding RAF Chilwell was signed.

Mr. Lee: RAF Chilwell was formally made available to the United States Air Force on 9 May 1984 under the terms agreed in an exchange of letters.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence, whether the use to be made of facilities at Chilwell by the United States Air Force will include support for the 501st Tactical Missile Wing.

Mr. Lee: The vehicles stored by the United States Air Force are general support vehicles, such as fuel bowsers and tractors; none is earmarked for use by the 501st Tactical Missile Wing.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian jobs will be created as a result of the acquisition by the United States Air Force of facilities at RAF Chilwell.

Mr. Lee: It is too early to say.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether vehicles stationed at RAF Chilwell by the United States Airforce will be required to take part in dispersal exercises.

Mr. Lee: No.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many United States personnel will be stationed at RAF Chilwell; and whether there will be any personnel accommodated in the area.

Mr. Lee: There are no plans to station American personnel at RAF Chilwell, and therefore no plans to provide housing for them in the area.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether RAF Chilwell will host United States Airforce personnel and equipment in 1985.

Mr. Lee: General support vehicles are already stored at RAF Chilwell. They are at present maintained periodically by visiting USAF personnel from other bases.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement compatible with the interests of national security regarding the function of RAF Chilwell.

Mr. Lee: The facilities at RAF Chilwell are to be made available to the USAF for the storage of general support vehicles such as fuel bowsers and tractors.

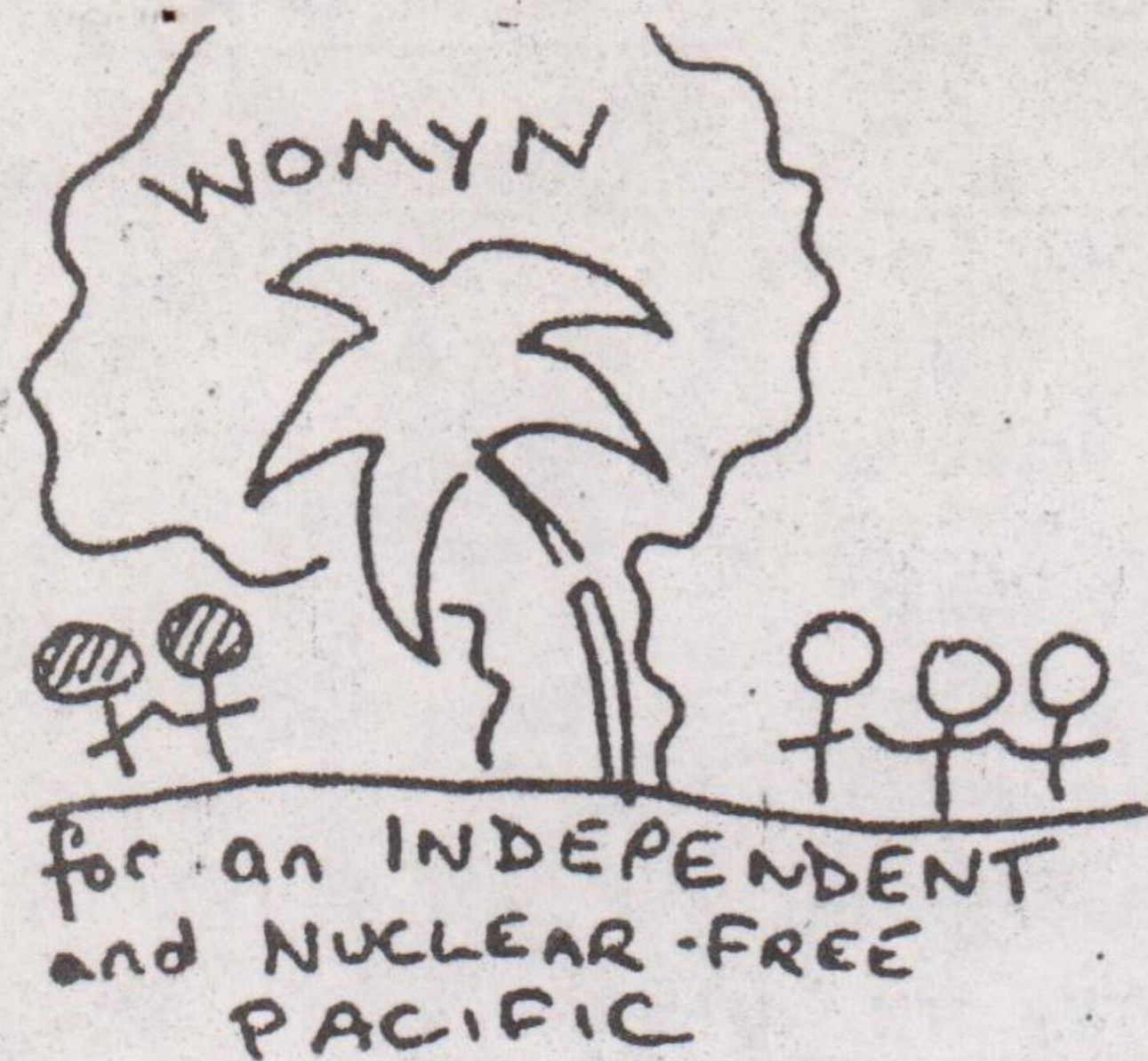
### CO-ORDINATING AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

#### CHANGE OF DATE

From April, the members' monthly meetings will be on the SECOND SUNDAY in the month instead of the first. This is to facilitate advertising it in the Bulletin.

Co-ordinating Meeting will be on the FIRST THURSDAY in the month and will no longer be linked to the monthly meeting. This decision was taken at the February Co-ordinating Meeting.





# PACIFIC ISLAND WOMEN in NOTTINGHAM

1 March 1985 will be the thirty-first anniversary of the explosion of a 17 megaton hydrogen bomb over Bikini Island. It is also the start of Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Week, commemorating four decades of "nuclear colonialism" in the Pacific region.

Two women from the grassroots Nuclear-free and Independent Pacific movement will spend the month of March touring Britain to tell the story of the effects of the nuclear age on the 8 million Pacific Basin inhabitants and their environment.

The women's tour will aim to increase the British people's awareness of the concerns of the Pacific Islanders and to win international support for their human rights.

The continued colonization and militarisation of the Pacific has enabled the U.S., France and Britain to develop their nuclear technology, leaving Pacific Islanders displaced from their homelands, economically and politically dependent, and stricken with radiation-related illnesses. The Pacific is crucial to US global strategy and the peoples pay a high price, yet little information reaches the West.

## WRITING ABROAD PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS

This is the title of the latest LETTERNEWS produced by the World Disarmament Campaign.

It is invaluable to anyone interested in building a peace chain with individuals or groups in other countries and has particularly interesting sections on Australia and the Soviet Union, which include lists of addresses.

A copy is available for reference in the NCND Office (filed under International)

Thursday 14 March

N.C.N.D.

PUBLIC MEETING

7.30

Room 4

International Community Centre

Mansfield Road

Friday 15 March

WOMEN ONLY

MEETING & SOCIAL

7 p.m.

All Saints Community Centre

Raleigh Street (near Church)

(wheel-chair access)



Pacifying the Pacific "The Guardian" 18.2.85.



# the arms race to armageddon

To amplify the December Bulletin article, 'Generals for Peace', here are the facts.

The Generals for Peace and Disarmament group was formed in 1981 by retired high - ranking NATO officers. By 1983 it had increased in numbers to 13: all generals or admirals, and from 9 NATO countries. Memoranda were submitted to various conferences, particularly the UN Disarmament Session, 1982.

The Generals do not appear to support unilateralism but admit that- 'It is the peace movement which has emphasised more resolutely the dangers of the nuclear arms race! In 1983 the group published a booklet, 'Ten Questions Answered', at 95p, and available at NCND office, with these conclusions:

Freeze policy should be implemented. First-use should be renounced by all. Independent initiatives should be made individually between NATO/WTO states.

Foreign deployment of nuclear weapons should be renounced. Nuclear-free Zones should be established.

Strategic weapons should be reduced; tactical systems abolished; conventional forces reduced to size consistent with defence requirement.

## THE ARMS RACE TO ARMAGEDDON

In 1984 the Generals published the book with this title at £3.95.

The sub-title, 'A Challenge to US/NATO Strategy', indicates the group's critical attitude to that strategic policy. In fact, a French admiral in the group - along with two French generals - were fired by President d'Estaing for 'criticising French and NATO nuclear policies'.

A major point in the book is that, 'policy domination by the US has emasculated the control of Western European countries over their own individual and collective security'.

To quote from the book:-

'NATO states have much greater industrial potential than the WTO states,'

'NATO military bases encircle WTO countries in an iron ring.'

'more advanced military technology than WTO.'

'The US plan is to defeat the USSR at a cost that would not prohibit US recovery.'

## THE SS 20 DECEPTION

The General's book exposes the 'deliberate falsification of the reason for deploying Cruise and Pershing, as a counter to SS 20s,' by quoting General Rogers - 'We would have deployed these weapons irrespective of the SS 20s because we had this gap in our defence spectrum'.

## WHOSE FINGER - ?

US Admiral is quoted, in the book, as stating: 'US nuclear weapons will be used only if and when the US decides. No other NATO state has a veto power.'

## THE CIA AND CND

The Generals describe the US as - 'manipulating the media in Europe through a special group, including the CIA, led by the US Ambassador in Eire Dailey, which has been formed to counter arguments against intermediate range missiles' and that 'CND is a target of the group.'

## THE GENERALS MEET !

In Vienna, in May 1984, 6 retired NATO generals met 8 retired WTO generals (including 2 from the USSR), to discuss European security.

Surprisingly (?), the Western 'free press' ignored this.

After the vitally important meeting an agreed statement was issued in which both sides concluded that they should bring into public debate the following measures:

A treaty on non-use of military force between NATO and WTO.

Commitment of all nuclear states to no first-use.

Agreement on Freeze.

Removal of chemical weapons from Europe and destruction of all stocks. Freezing military budgets and step by step decreases.

More careful consideration of all arms control and disarmament proposals.

Regular consultations between European states, at all levels, on European security.

Finally, a further meeting was planned for May, 1985.

Will the press want to know ?

J.H.R.  
Ex Services CND Nott'm.





## CYCLE for PEACE

CITY CENTRE TO CHILWELL BASE!!

Sherwood and Carrington group are organising a "CYCLE FOR PEACE" on Saturday, March 30th.

We will be gathering in the MARKET SQUARE at 11.00 a.m. and hope to arrive at Chilwell between 12.30 and 1.00 p.m. In case you might wish to join the rally en route, we will be cycling along the following:

Market Square - Derby Road - Gregory Street - Abbey Street - University Boulevard - Broadgate - High Road (through Beeston centre) - Attenborough Lane - Nottingham Road - to main Gate.

We shall be returning to the city centre between 1.30 and 2.00 p.m.

There will be hot soup and hot drinks available on arrival at Chilwell.

While there, a large scale decoration of the fence will take place, so bring materials, wool, string, etc., to make it as eye-catching as possible. We shall also placard the road and make our presence felt.

We would like to make the rally as much of a spectacle as possible, so decorate your bikes with balloons, streamers, flags, stickers, etc. Dress up if you like! You can also bring horns, whistles, hooters, bells, etc., so that we can make plenty of noise.

Sandwich boards will be available, which will draw attention to Chilwell and also publicise the Easter action and what has happened at Molesworth. There will also be leafletting in the Old Market Square and Beeston.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT OUR ACTION AND KEEP CHILWELL AND MOLESWORTH IN THE PUBLIC'S MIND. GET ON YOUR BIKES..... AND CYCLE FOR PEACE!!!!!!

## ALCONBURY EMERGENCY DEMO PLANNED

Seven members of the Alconbury 9 are now awaiting trial on charges of "conspiracy to commit criminal damage". If found guilty they face up to 10 years in jail, and the government will have another weapon to use against us. Who next would be charged with conspiracy?

On the first day of the trial (the date of which is not yet known) people are asked to assemble in

MARKET SQUARE at 12.30am.

There will be a large petition for people to sign 'admitting' that they have conspired for peace. At 12.45am we will march to CENTRAL POLICE STATION to hand ourselves in for conspiracy. (Hopefully they won't actually take us in!)

Groups are asked to bring banners and there will be leaflets aimed at the public explaining the significance of the Alconbury Trial.

This demonstration has been initiated by Forest Fields Peace Group.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THE DEMONSTRATION

## THANKS

Nottingham City Council has given NCND a grant of £2,000 to help us maintain office premises in the City. We are very grateful for this generous demonstration of their support.



# Neighbourhood Groups

Following the introduction of Executive areas of interest, Celia Lacey and I have taken on the Neighbourhood Groups as our portfolio responsibility. It is our intention to visit each local group within Nottingham CND and, indeed, we have already seen several since January. We seek to ascertain the extent of their activity, its nature and whether there are any organisational problems which we can help to clear. For those lacking in ideas and enthusiasm we can provide lots of stimulating campaigning lines of thought which we see as being vital to intelligent and inventive local activity.

To have a lively and invigorating campaign, we must be well informed - not just with factual information about weapons systems and warheads, but with intimate knowledge about what the overall strategy is, how CND is moving, what the important elements are in the campaign, how we as Neighbourhood Groups can fit in and be innovative around the various campaign focii. This inside knowledge is best assimilated by regular discussion and evaluation from within the Group and within Nottingham CND by meetings of Neighbourhood Groups. The system exists - let's use it!

Celia and I will be approaching Neighbourhood Groups to invite us to their regular meetings for a more-or-less informal chat and we will be asking those groups without fixed meeting dates to arrange one for us. There is a lot we can do for N/Gs and a lot you can do for us.

We have long lists of lapsed Nottingham CND members and National members who have not joined locally. Part of the difficulty that Neighbourhood Groups face is that people whose membership lapses are forgotten about and never seen again. With lists going back over a year, N/Gs can easily track those individuals down and keep them in touch with what is happening. Same with local National members (if you see what I mean!) A door knocking exercise on them could produce more Nottingham CND members, probably even a donation!

In the general run of the campaign, Neighbourhood groups tend to be taken for granted. It is our concern that this should not be the case and, on our travels, we hope to be encouraging local groups to take a greater involvement in the orchestration of activities.

It's really a 'back to basics' exercise with other areas of Executive liaison being brought in - such as Media, Bulletin and the Office to help strengthen links and functions central to NCND and to create a solid platform for a positive move forward across the whole spectrum of CND work.

Over the next year, the Exec. will be working very hard to give Nottingham CND a much higher profile. Celia and I will be concentrating on improving the working relationship between each N/G and NCND. It's a long job, but worth the effort, if we can engineer an overall increase in the activity for Peace in this city.

If there are any N/Gs whom we have not yet contacted or who have not come back to us after the initial contact - please 'phone me at the Office number (581948) or Celia at her home number (604986).

ROBERT RAYNHAM.

## NCND POLICY

The following two resolutions have been passed:

1. that the Exec of NCND should examine the past local performance of all political parties contesting the Local Council election to be held on 2nd May and examine the manifesto of each party. Furthermore, this information to be distributed to individual members of NCND with a recommendation from the Exec that members use their vote and actively support candidates of whichever party adopts policies which would help NCND to achieve its aims, and that the Bulletin should publish a contact number for each political party.

(N.B. for Exec action on this, see April Bulletin.)

2. NCND welcomes the moves made by the Exec towards a system of specialized responsibility by Exec members. It instructs the Exec to ensure that all important areas of campaigning are covered in this way. Co-options should be made where necessary. It urges all Exec members to organise and publicise working groups and meetings to deal with their specialised areas of work. These should be open to all NCND members. Exec should be responsible for ensuring that NCND members are familiar with and involved in the work of their groups, by using the bulletin and providing talks to Neighbourhood Group meetings. Non-NCND members can be involved in the working groups where appropriate (e.g. Trade Unionists, Councillors).

(N.B. the original motion as printed in last month's Bulletin was amended to delete para. 6.)



# The bomb in the hands of a secret few

WALTER SCHWARZ reports

THIRTY years after the Churchill government's furtive decision to camouflage Britain's atomic programme under "other current expenditure" — a decision revealed in the release of secret Cabinet papers yesterday — the same questions remain unanswered. Who makes nuclear decisions? Do politicians merely ratify in secret, and parliaments rubber stamp ex-post-facto, what scientists, soldiers, bureaucrats, and industrialists have decided?

A small, privately-funded group at Woodstock — the Oxford Research Group — has been working for two years to identify some 800 nuclear decision-makers in the five nuclear countries, USA, USSR, Britain, France and China, and a few close runners-up like Israel and India.

After working from published sources, interviews, correspondence, and official archives, the group's three full-time and five part-time researchers are not naming the 800, in order to go on working and protect their sources.

But the group — led by Scilla McLean, a research fellow at Bradford University — has reached some preliminary conclusions. They make

essential reading in the nuclear debate and will indeed be published this year.

Nuclear policy appears in the group's research as "at best a post-hoc rationalisation for the development of weapons systems whose raison d'être has become institutionalised." These policies were effectively set up in the 1950s and, "politicians are still being presented by civil servants and advisers with options that do not include non-nuclear alternatives."

One problem is the time-scale. Nuclear systems take 15 or 20 years to develop. "By the time a minister, let alone a head of government, becomes aware of a system of development, so much has already been spent on it, both in terms of finance and the careers of individuals, that the momentum for this continuation is inevitable."

This is where defence bureaucracies show their power. The British Defence Ministry, the country's largest employer with a staff of 600,000, is formally under the control of a minister and three junior ministers who are seldom in office for more than three years. So real nuclear power is in the

hands of the Ministry's four permanent departments.

The problem is even more acute in France, where a quarter of the final costs of a weapon go to pay off research and development. "The decision to begin applied R & D is therefore tantamount to a decision to produce and deploy the weapon," says the research group.

Of our own Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, the group finds that "its very existence commits the British government to continually develop new warheads. The large team of scientists which assembles to develop a new warhead is naturally reluctant to disband. Indeed, it has been suggested that the Chevaline warhead project was promulgated in order to keep the team together until Trident work could begin."

So Aldermaston, like Los Alamos, Livermore and Sandia in the US, "constitutes a powerful lobby against a comprehensive test-ban treaty."

The new Aldermaston plant now being built with four bays "will ensure that development work on a new warhead will always be needed. The two bays for Trident will create considerable production capacity which in turn will create pressure to find programmes to use that capacity."

If Labour comes to power in these circumstances and tries to implement unilateral disarmament, it "would face the prospect not only of undoing a series of costly and complex negotiations, but also of redirecting a committed bureaucracy, which has been going in one direction for nearly four decades, of renegotiating alliances, of resisting industrial pressure, and of deciding what to do with the installations, the highly-specialised personnel and, not least, the stockpile of warheads themselves."

British legislators do not even know the cost of nuclear weapons systems "because nowhere do MPs see what American legislators see—the 'line' items which describe the cost of each weapon separately in its research, testing and development stages."

Commons select committees have no power to summon ministers. The defence committee has indeed complained that "Parliament's role in the decision to produce a successor system to Polaris has been limited to

endorsing a decision already taken."

The group points out that in nuclear weapons decisions the Secretary of State is not obliged to get full agreement of the Cabinet or of its defence and overseas policy committee, to the R & D stages. "He can opt to restrict awareness of a project in this way for straight political reasons—fear that other ministers might disagree—and not for reasons of security."

Cataloguing the ineffectiveness of parliaments, the group recalls that the Chevaline warhead was under development for 13 years before it was mentioned in the House of Commons. The US Congress "has not stopped a single nuclear weapons system."

In the US the group dissected the lobbying powers of the three nuclear laboratories which employ 25,000 scientists and technicians. The lobbying was spectacularly effective in sabotaging President Carter's attempts at arms control in 1978.

Russian leaders are apparently less prone to manipulation by scientists, and pressure is the other way round. The group found a tendency in the Politburo to urge sci-

entists to match Western advances, such as the independently-targeted multiple re-entry systems. The Politburo says to the weapons institutes: "Make us one of these."

France comes off as the worst case of the nuclear tail wagging the political dog. The atomic energy agency (CEA) is a "state within a state" which lobbied openly and successfully for the neutron bomb. When the Socialist government recently suspended nuclear testing at Mururoa, the CEA's intensive lobbying "had such an effect that three days later the tests were allowed to continue."

Politicians will certainly dispute the Oxford Research Group's thesis that they are manipulated by boffins and mandarins. Truman's decision to make the bomb in peacetime — and later to make the H-bomb — was opposed by some distinguished scientists as earnestly as it was advocated by others. It was his own decision. If Carter's disarmament efforts were sabotaged by the lobbies, Reagan has been his own nuclear master: indeed his "star wars" initiative took much of his administration by surprise.

Sunday 14 April

Joint NCND/MCANW

Meeting

"THE BOMB IN THE HANDSOF A SECRET FEW"

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Gari Donn

Project Co-ordinator

Oxford Research Group

7.30

Friends' Meeting House

Clarendon Street



## THE BOMB IN THE HANDS OF A SECRET FEW (continued from p.11)

In Britain, Attlee's decision to make the bomb was perhaps manipulated by his Cabinet Secretary, Sir Edward Bridges — but he took it with his eyes open, for clear political reasons, to keep Britain a great power. The clearest case of political decision was De Gaulle's: nobody forced him into going nuclear. Mitterrand inherited a ready-made and probably unstoppable nuclear machine.

Peace movements have succeeded in bringing nuclear issues down to the market place, but they will achieve little unless they go on to the next stage, unravelling

the web of intrigue and vested interest in the nuclear process.

Politicians must not be allowed to abdicate the most awesome of their responsibilities. The Oxford research report has come at a time when the flaw in deterrence is becoming apparent: to be technologically credible, you have to be seen to be preparing for war, and there is no difference between that and actually preparing. If the complex of decisions involved is ever to be reversed, we must first ascertain who are the deciders.

the Japanese victims who are still suffering today and the victims of the atmospheric nuclear bomb tests in the Pacific. We felt that they should propose an action or demonstration which each local group could adapt to its own circumstances, thus giving the day a country-wide unity: (perhaps each group could launch candle-lit paper boats on its nearest stretch of water, as is done in Japan).

The Regional Meeting's other function is to act as co-ordinator for the county. With the Molesworth campaign getting underway, the group has plenty to do.

ROBERT SPENCE.

## Notts CND

Like Shakespeare, CND appears to operate at many levels and some of those levels are not fully understood. Most readers are aware of their neighbourhood groups, (working at grass-roots level of NCND Co-ordinating Committee) and at the top of the pyramid, National CND. But how many are aware of the levels in between which try to ensure that there is democratic accountability all the way up the line?

I went to a meeting recently of one of these "missing link" groups — the Nottinghamshire Regional CND group. This group, composed of delegates from town groups and other affiliated groups within the county, sends one delegate to the National CND Council.

You may wonder how and why National CND usually decides to hold its annual demonstration in October in London. The answer is that this, like any other National CND decision, is taken by delegates acting on your behalf. So if you dislike what National CND is doing in your name, make sure that your group's delegate to the next tier up is voicing your point of view.

The recent Regional meeting mandated its delegate to take a number of proposals to the next National Council meeting. We felt that CND should get out of the habit of national demonstrations in London, always going from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square. We proposed that marches should start in different parts of London and converge on one place: Westminster perhaps, where Direct Action groups might plan an encirclement of the Houses of Parliament.

On the subject of the 40th Anniversary of Hiroshima this year (6th August), we felt that National CND should emphasise the link between

### AFFILIATION TO NATIONAL CND

Neighbourhood Groups, and other organisations (eg Trade Unions, Political Party branches etc) can affiliate to National CND by paying the appropriate annual fee. (£10 for organisations with less than 100 members). For this you receive all national mailings, including "Campaign" and are entitled to send delegates to National Conferences and Notts CND.

Outlying Groups that are not in close contact with NCND office are particularly urged to affiliate to National CND.

GREENHAM no longer has a London address.  
Send all correspondence, cheques etc to  
Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp,  
Newbury, Berks.

## YOUR BULLETIN

Contributions from members are always welcome.

Please: Keep it short.  
Type if possible, if not write legibly  
(printing helps) leaving space between  
lines.  
Get it in before deadline.





Dear Bulletin,

February's Bulletin contained an article which stated that CND Airborne were unable to fly the CND balloon at 13 of the 17 events to which we went.

The article I handed in to the office clearly stated that we were unsuccessful at 3, three, THREE!

Come back "The Sun"..... all is forgiven!

Love,

PATRICK HATTON.

Dear Bulletin,

CND is of necessity largely involved in negative campaigns: we nearly always have to protest and condemn; we have few occasions to celebrate and support. Bob Nicholls's suggestion that we use Gromyko's visit to London as an opportunity for yet another protest seems to me singularly inopportune. After 5 years of belligerent and provocative ranting, the Thatcher Government has taken a few tiny steps towards re-establishing the East-West dialogue that is essential for a secure world.

Gromyko's visit to London provides us with the opportunity for a POSITIVE demonstration in favour of detente - not yet another protest.

JOS WOOD.

Dear Bulletin,

Rob Nichols's letter is symptomatic of the confusion which exists in most progressive groups and movements at this time. Much of this is due to economic and media pressures, sometimes to achieve a popular standpoint, sometimes to expediency, sometimes just to disruptive tactics. Not that I accuse Rob of the latter point, but the effect is just the same.

The first task of the British C.N.D. is Britain's role in the arms race and to obtain a Nuclear Freeze and a Nuclear Free Zone, as in New Zealand, Australia and Canada. Our hostility to the Americans is due to the fact

that there are American troops and American nuclear weapons on our territory and our territory is being used as a forward post for American defence.

This is the British problem and no amount of posturing on a cheap popular platform of hostility to Russia will help one iota to Peace, especially in view of the fact that Russia has offered to reduce on a quid pro quo basis missiles targetted on this country. Let us build bridges, not fall for the oldest media canard in the world, 'The Reds are coming'.

Let us do our job for a Nuclear Free Zone, Cruise Out, Trident cancelled and, if we do that, we shall be getting somewhere.

ERIC JESSOP.

#### MOLESWORTH AND GREENHAM PEACE CAMPERS - SLIDES AND TAPES

Roger Rawlinson offers to bring his collection to Group meetings. Anyone interested ring Plumtree 2204.

## DETENTE

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## ARMCHAIR ACTIVISTS

There are those of us who like going to meetings, those of us who tolerate going to meetings and those of us who positively hate going to meetings. That the large majority of CND members fall into the last category is hardly surprising to my way of thinking and, at the risk of further discouraging you from meetings, I want to address two particular suggestions to the armchair activists amongst you.

These activities have taken a rather quiet backseat to the excitements of demonstrations, public meetings, leafleting, etc., and it is difficult to know just how much they've been pursued by individuals from the quiet of their own homes. I feel that they are vital parts of our campaign which need much more emphasis.

The two activities I have in mind are letter-writing and phoning the local radio stations, both of which can be done from your armchair. "Easier said than done", you reply and I agree with you. But help can be on the way if you will take advantage of it.

First of all, there is an excellent publication called Letternews, produced by the World Disarmament Campaign and designed for those wishing to become involved in writing letters on disarmament issues. Letternews claims that writing to politicians, influential people and the media is still one of the most effective ways of putting arguments across and helping bring about changes in attitude. It gives you information on to whom it is best to write on particular issues (with addresses) and provides background information on those issues to support your letters, as well as analysis of the opposing arguments in order to help you counter them. It also carries suggestions of how you might work with other people in your personal letter-writing campaign. Letternews is available at £2 for four issues from WDC Letternews, 238 Camden Road, London NW1 9HE and the back issues 3, 4 & 5 can be obtained. Copies are available for reference at CND office.

Getting on to local radio phone-in programmes is perhaps more daunting for many people, but just think how often we could find excuses for making a point about peace if we were really determined - linking it to items about social expenditure (or lack of it), international contacts, gardening (a tree for Molesworth?) .... Help could be on the way here, too, for there are sympathetic radio people willing to talk to us about it, and help run workshops.

I wonder? .... might we entice you to just one meeting?

ANN KESTENBAUM.

## MOLESWORTH VIDEO

Jerky Video Collective, who made the "Reclaim Chilwell" video last summer, are now working with a group from Leicester to make some tapes about the Molesworth campaign.

Plans are for a series of 'news' tapes month by month as a record of what people from Nottingham are doing; and for a high quality tape for wider distribution (ready in May).

Although working on a voluntary basis we desperately need money for equipment, tapes, transport - over £400 in total!


So any donations would be wonderful, thanks!

To: - JERKY VIDEO COLLECTIVE  
8 MOUNT HOOTON TERRACE  
FOREST ROAD EAST  
NOTTM

Tel: 784963

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# Wanted . . .

## FOR YOUR BULLETIN

### More Helpers!

We need in particular:

Help with layout i.e. pasting-up

Word-processor typists

Help with collation and stapling

Ring Jos on 33 3637 if you can help.

## FOR THE MEDIA GROUP

Someone who would be prepared to monitor  
local papers, i.e. read and cut out  
anything relevant to CND.

CONTACT

NCND office

## FOR THE LISTERGATE STALL

A SUITCASE

## SPEAKERS

Many organisations such as W.I.'s Co-op Guilds,  
Pensioners' Associations, regularly invite  
outside speakers, so too do many Secondary  
Schools as part of General Studies and  
Citizenship courses.

Do you know of any such that might like a  
speaker from CND?

If so, contact the office.

NCND would also welcome more volunteers to give  
such talks.

## PARLIAMENTARY MONITORS

National CND's Parliamentary and Elections  
Committee is in the process of recruiting from  
amongst members a parliamentary monitor for  
every constituency. The monitor would act as a  
liaison person with National CND. A network of  
such monitors will be vital to the Trident  
lobbying campaign which is planned for later  
this year.

Although about half the constituencies have been  
covered, the Nottingham area constituencies  
(Nottingham South, North and East, Gedling,  
Broxtowe and Rushcliffe) still have no monitors.

People are also wanted who would be willing to  
write occasional letters to M.P.s or join others  
visiting surgeries.

Anyone - or any group - that can help, please  
contact Celia Lacey on 604986 or Rob Rainham at  
NCND.

## FOR NCND OFFICE

### MORE VOLUNTEERS

We are finding it increasingly difficult  
to keep the office open 10-5, Monday to  
Saturday. At present a very few people  
are having to give up a lot of time.  
The problem is particularly acute on  
SATURDAYS - the most important day for  
us to stay open.

If you can give us a few hours -  
regularly or occasionally - please let  
us know.



# EVENTS

- MAR Sun 3    Monthly Meeting. Lydia Merrill, Convenor of Nuclear Free Zones Network.  
Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon St. 7.30.
- Thu 7    Co-ordinating Meeting. NCND Office. 7.30.
- Sat 9
- Sun 10    "Wintex" weekend campaign. (See p. 5 ).
- Sun 10    Molesworth Defence Meeting. NCND Office. 7.30.
- Wed 13    Molesworth Pledge Day. Coaches leave Salutation Inn: 8.30 am. Tickets  
on sale at NCND Office.
- Thu 14    Public Meeting with Pacific Women. (see p. 7 )
- Fri 15    Women for Peace Meeting/Social with Pacific Women. (See p. 7 ). 7 p.m.
- Sun 17    Molesworth Pledge Day. (Coaches: enquire at office.)  
Bulletin DEADLINE and Editorial Meeting. 7.30. NCND Office.  
New Bulletin workers welcomed.
- Wed 20    Peace Festival Meeting. NCND Office. 7.30.
- Sun 24    Molesworth Defence Meeting. NCND Office. 7.30.
- Sat 30    Cycle for Peace - City Centre to Chilwell. (See p. 9 )  
April Bulletin ready for collection.
- APL Wed 3    March Chilwell to Molesworth starts. Arrives 10.30 at County Hall.
- Thu 4    Co-ordinating Meeting. NCND Office. 7.30.
- Fri 5    National Sponsored March leaves Leicester for Molesworth.
- Sun 7    Candlelit Vigil at Molesworth.
- Mon 8    NATIONAL DEMO at MOLESWORTH.
- Sun 14    Monthly Meeting. Dr Garri Donn of the Oxford Research Group (see p. 11 )
- PAN meets Mons 4, 18 and 25 Mar.

CONTACTS    Same as for Feb. but ADD

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