

15008 C
ccc

NOTTINGHAM

C.N.D.

Bulletin

NOTTM. CAMPAIGN for NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

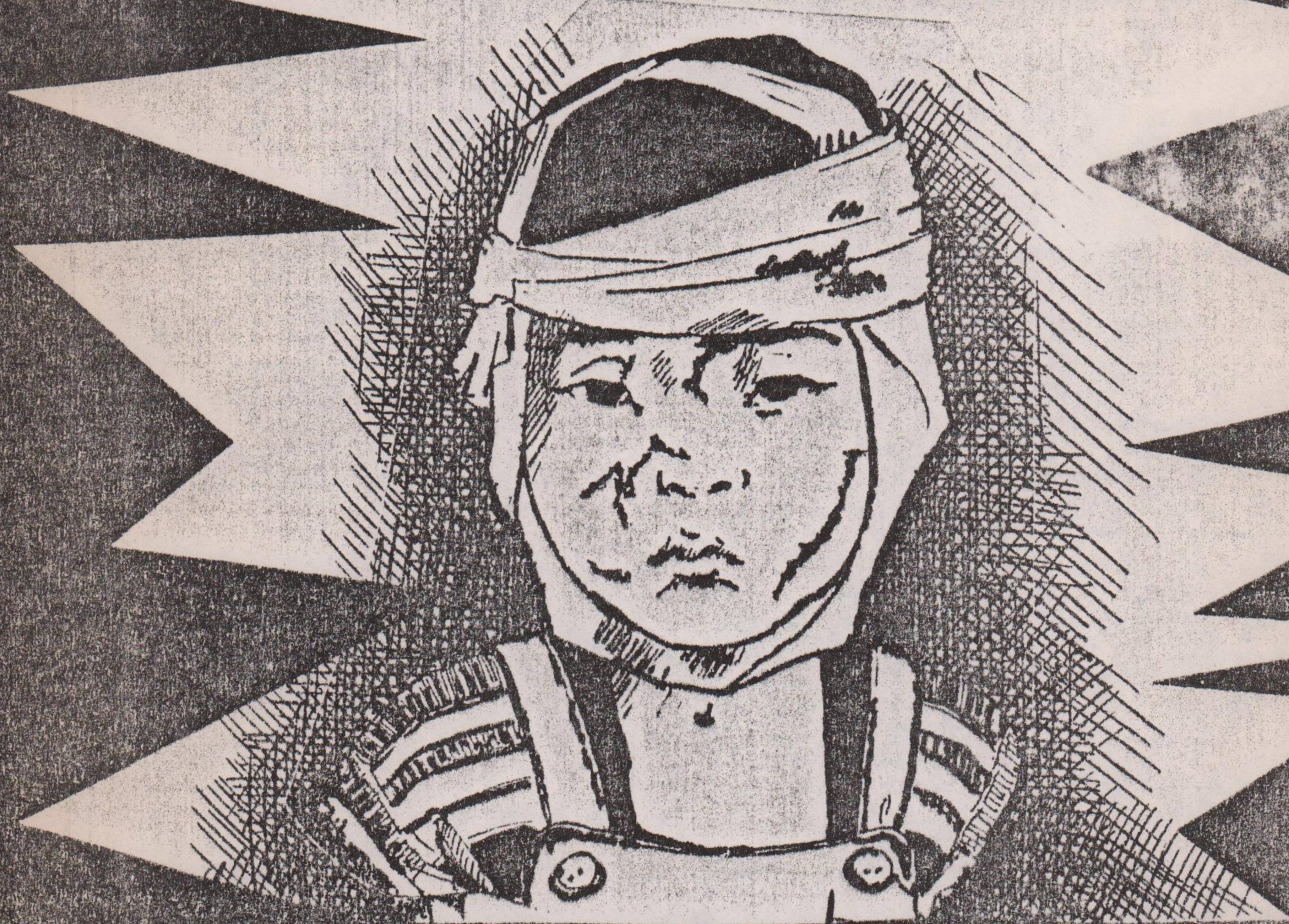
AUGUST

1985

20p

(free to NCND members)

40TH ANNIVERSARY.



Listen to the

HIBAKUSHA

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS

NO MORE NAGASAKIS

FESTIVAL

5TH ANNUAL

The signs for the Peace Festival were good. We'd chosen Bastille Day to hold it, and we started setting up the site on the anniversary of the birth of Henry David Thoreau - tax-resister, dissenter and cat-lover. The weather forecast was less impressive. In fact the forecast was dire.

And it rained. It rained as those who dragged themselves from Live Aid to the Festival site for Spotz caberet the night before. It rained all morning of the festival - such rain I'd never seen before. It didn't rain during the festival. Weather I now realise is an important thing.

Since most of this Bulletin's readership was probably at the event I'll be brief in reporting. The interesting article will be next month when we'll have worked out our finances and putting forward our ideas for next year. But don't worry, we haven't bankrupted CND - nor have we made a fortune on the festival.

Attendance was perhaps a bit down on 1984, but considering the weather we were amazed so many came along. There were more stalls - a few more commercial stalls and lots more from Labour Party groups (which is encouraging or discouraging depending on your political position). Once again those local CND groups who were able to put time effort and imagination into their stalls did best. In particular CND groups from Sherwood and Stapleford ran full scale cafes and Sneinton CND had a continual crowd with their electric "break into Molesworth and stop Cruise" game. The Molesworth game had many real-life features including a private entrance for Forest Fields Peace Group - anyone who saw it will know what I mean.

The entertainment was, we think, the best yet - at least there have been no complaints about the mixture of rock, jazz and folk. The second stage run by Mapperley CND people was an excellent new feature - but we could have done with some more games for adults. Many of them were looking longingly at all that was on in the childrens' area. Especially popular there were the inflatables, with the

"environment" being a big success. Us big people weren't allowed inside but kids were able to enter a peculiar world of colour, touch and their own amplified and echoing voices. Lots of people said it was good to see a fair where everything for children is free and they are not used as a source of commercial exploitation.

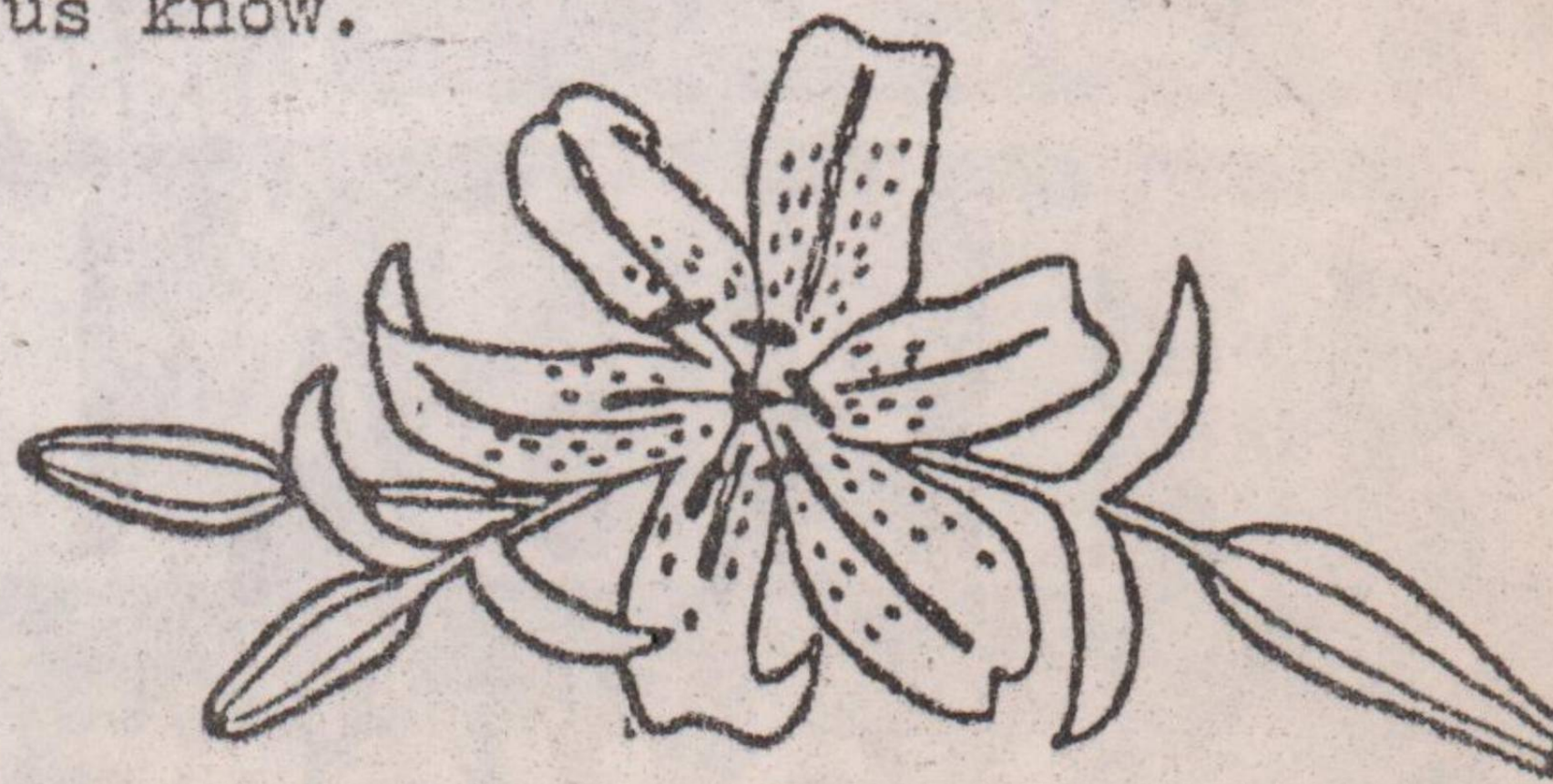
Media coverage on the radio before and after was excellent (the other media being more mixed). Radio Nottingham especially gave useful air time with interviews by Paul Johns and Pat Arrowsmith being regularly broadcast.

Another major plus was that CND itself did well. The CND stall took hundreds of pounds in sales, including people buying tickets for the OCTOBER 26th trains and 32 new members signed up on the day. To them - welcome! Hopefully more people will write in later from the details in the programme.

It would be inappropriate to thank individuals for the work they put in over the weekend - there were too many. There are a few we could cheerfully feed to the ducks too. In particular a little group of people with large beer guts who won't be reading this because they hate CND and like hitting people. The pony and trap people who had nothing to do with us and proved the point that those who exploit animals don't like humans either by kicking one of our stewards. And the people who said they'd help guard the site overnight and didn't. Ho hum.

Lastly. Lost property. A dog lead, a key, a watch and childrens' clothes (the latter belonging to T. Bucknall). Enquiries to the office please.

We hope you enjoyed the festival - let us know.



FESTIVAL

5TH ANNUAL

EVENTS

Forward Planning-

What's on in August.

- 1st. Co-Ordinating Mtg. 7.30pm. NCND Office.
- 6th. 40th. Anniversary Hiroshima.
- 9th. 40th. Anniversary Nagasaki.
- 11th. Day of Mourning at Molesworth.
(details Leicester CND 0533 554684).
- 26th. Media Group. 8.00pm. 2, Grosvenor Ave.

September.

- 5th. Co-Ordinating Mtg. 7.30pm. NCND Office.
- 12th. Monthly Mtg, 7.30pm. YMCA, Shakespeare Street. Malcolm Dando on Star Wars.
(see page 9).
- 21st. Nottingham Peace Conference. Victoria Leisure Centre. (see page 5).

OCT. 26

SAVE IT!

October.

- 3rd. Co-Ordinating Mtg. 7.30pm. NCND Office.
- 10th. Monthly Mtg. Policy Making Mtg. 7.30pm
YMCA, Shakespeare Street.
- 26th. National Demonstration in London.
(see page 7).

November.

- 7th. Co-Ordinating Mtg. 7.30pm. NCND Office.
- 14th. AGM. YMCA, Shakespeare Street, 7.30pm.
- 15th- CND Annual
- 16th- National Conference,
- 17th. Sheffield City Hall.

Nottingham Defend Molesworth Group meets every Sunday, 7.30pm. NCND Office.

Alconbury 9 Appeal

As you may have read in the Guardian, the Alconbury 9 trial has ended. Although the judge ruled that no philosophical or political arguments could be used by the Alconbury 9 Defence, which would have formed the basis of their case, the sentences seem to have not been as heavy as some people feared.

Instead of making martyrs out of these young people, the sentences have tended rather to "tie their hands" by binding them over to keep the peace for 2 years, which means that they risk fines or imprisonment if they take part in demonstrations during that time.

The sentences are:

Phil Hudson - one year suspended for 2 years and fined £500. Bound over to keep the peace for 2 years or face another fine of £300.

Paul Rudolph- Same sentence.

Paul Briggs- Community Service Order -150 hrs.
Bound over for 2 years (£250).

Roger Oakley- Community Service Order -175 hrs.
Bound over for 2 years (£250).

Sybilla Snake-Community Service Order -200 hrs.
Bound over for 2 years (£300).

Veronica Dignam was found neither guilty nor not guilty, as there was a "hung jury". At first there were plans for a re-trial, which would have been extremely unpleasant, but although they were shelved, her case will remain "on file" and "not withdrawn".

Corrie McQuaith was found not guilty.

The charges against two others were dropped at the beginning of the trial.

So far money has been "trickling in", but they obviously need £1,000 to pay the two fines. It goes without saying that they should not have to pay these fines themselves. Also a lot of money went into the Defence Campaign. Money is needed - please send donations to:

HELEN, The Peace Chariot, 7 Furnace Cottages, Crow Edge, Sheffield 30.

DEFEND MOLESWORTH SOCIAL.

at the International Community Centre,
Mansfield Road.

Friday, August 23rd.

6.00pm - 10.30pm.

Live music, food, cheap drinks, cabaret,
Children's room.

Tickets £1.75 waged, £1.00 unwaged.
Available in advance or on the door.

LET THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD HEED THE CRY OF THE HIBAKUSHA

— NO MORE HIROSHIMAS

40th. Anniversary Hiroshima/Nagasaki

SHADOW PROJECT

Peace Groups in Nottingham will be participating in the International Shadow Project on August 6th. in commemoration of the 40th. anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The intention of the Project is to bring home, as vividly as possible, the actual horror of those two cities by reminding our communities that when the bombs were dropped those people close to the epicentre of the explosion were vaporised instantaneously, leaving behind the gruesome shadowy outline of where they had stood. The 'shadows' of the project replicate that horrific end-product.

The project is an international one - the idea originating in the United States - and participants across the world have claimed significant public impact on previous occasions. For instance in New York last August, the 3,000 shadows that appeared overnight provoked public reactions which were amazing in their variety. Some were puzzled and shocked by the images, many were touched and respectful whilst a predictable few lamented the scandalous misuse of public pavements. The press response was huge; largely perceptive and sympathetic, commenting on the shadow project's unique and powerful portrayal of the actual and potential horrors of nuclear war. Experience confirms that the emotional effect of such an action is high. This is the solid reason why Nottm. CND is taking an active part in the project.

Our aim is to 'shadow' the City Centre and as many neighbourhoods as possible; clearly, the more areas involved the greater will be the impact of the project. In addition, it is important to leaflet as many areas as possible - particularly on 6th August and in areas which have been 'shadowed'. To this end, we will be distributing 10,000 HIBAKUSHA leaflets and people may see posters around certain areas of the city (Hibakusha is the Japanese term for the nuclear victims who survived Hiroshima and Nagasaki). The project will also be backed up by press releases, letters to the newspapers and on radio 'phone-in programmes.

Briefly, the method of 'shadowing' is thus. Place a large sheet of plastic, card or paper on the floor; have a friend pose on the edge of the sheet so that a shadow, cast by either

sunlight or artificial light, falls onto the sheet (an alternative would be for someone to lie down on the sheet). Remember to include a variety of poses by adults and children - perhaps even household pets. Trace the outline of the person with a felt pen. Cut out the shadow and reinforce, if necessary, using cardboard. Then, using non-permanent paint, such as dilute water-based emulsion or white powder paint, brush out from the prepared shadow onto the chosen surface - about five inches makes a good halo effect. Lift the template to leave the shadow.

In this way, a silent testimony to the defenceless victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki can be vividly portrayed for the conscience of the prospective victims of Nottingham.

DAY OF MOURNING AT MOLESWORTH

On Sunday August 11th, there will be a day of mourning at Molesworth to grieve for and remember all those who have died or are currently dying through the world's use of nuclear weapons - from those who died at Hiroshima and Nagasaki to those who are currently dying in the Pacific because of nuclear tests.

The Day of Mourning is being co-ordinated by a group of people from Leicester. Ideas for the Day include silent vigils, prayer, chanting, singing, decorating the fence with the names of victims of nuclear weapons, wearing mourning colours, lighting candles, planting flowers and appropriate forms of Direct Action.

For copies of a poster, legal briefing and more information, contact Cathi McDermott, 161 Knighton Road, Leicester or telephone (work no.) 021-233-1585.

OCT. 26

SAVE IT!

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS

A ONE DAY NOTTINGHAM PEACE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER
9.30 - 4.00

This conference has been organised by the Nottingham Nuclear Freeze Council representing the following organisations:- United Nations Association, Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, CND, Justice and Peace Commission, Pax Christi, World Development Movement, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and the Society of Friends.

It has been organised to mark the fortieth anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is hoped that September 21st will be a day when organisations and individuals find their commitment to peace intensified, their knowledge increased, their contacts broadened, their imagination and ingenuity fired and hopes lifted.

The programme will include:

"The Arms Race Accelerates" PROF. FRANK BARNABY, ex-Director of the Stockholm Peace Research Institute and now Director of the World Disarmament Campaign

"East-West Reach" CLAIRE RYLE, co-founder of the organisation East-West Reach.

"Images of the Enemy" MICHAEL HARE DUKE, Bishop of St. Andrews.

There will be an International Peace Poster Exhibition, Lunchtime musical entertainment and a creche. A simple ploughman's lunch will be provided for those wanting to order it.

OCT. 26
SAVE IT!

REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to come to the Nottingham Peace Conference and enclose £2 registration fee

plus £1.50 for lunch

I would like to use the creche
No. of children

I cannot attend but support the aims of the conference and enclose £ donation towards costs

Total enclosed £

Name.....

Address.....

Please make cheques payable to: Nottingham Nuclear Freeze Council and return to:
Nottingham NFC, 54 Bramcote Lane, Wollaton, Nottingham.

Your registration will be recorded. Please tick the following box if you require acknowledgement



USING THE MEDIA DAYSCHOOL

SUNDAY 18TH, AUGUST 10.30 - 5.00
QUEENS WALK COMMUNITY CENTRE, MEADOWS.

CRECHE AND COFFEE AVAILABLE.

Workshops on (a) How to write a press-release
(b) How to do a TV interview
(c) How to do a radio interview

Video cameras, tape-recorders and real-life media-people will be there on the day to help.

EVERYBODY WELCOME. PLEASE COME!

further details from Pete Strauss 704621.

HUNGER STRIKE FOR PEACE

People are starving, people are homeless and jobless, people queue patiently for hospital beds, whilst our Government spends billions of pounds on Nuclear Arms. It's immoral and obscene!

After receiving fines, totalling £100, as a result of peaceful protest at Greenham and Molesworth, I found myself faced with several choices. I could pay, although unable to afford it, or I could go to prison. Both seemed equally unjust and wasteful. Could there be a way to turn the "punishment" into something positive?

Rage and shame, horror and pity engulf me every time I'm watched by accusing Newscast eyes. The money, which could put light and hope into the eyes of the starving, is being poured into the pockets of arms-peddlers, with our silent consent. I suppose I could post a fiver to Band-Aid or Oxfam - every penny counts, but I'm too sickened to leave it all to others. Giving money alone just isn't enough. I wanted to prove that anyone, however humble, can give of themselves. You don't have to be famous to scream your disgust in public.

The idea of a hunger-strike was born out of the guilt I feel every time I face a full plate. It's not a new concept, but in the past, people have fasted as a form of political pressure. This time it is the only non-hypocritical way, still woefully inadequate, I know of showing the depth of my sympathy.

I completed, in solitary confinement, the first five-day sentence I received, refusing all food for the duration. Even during this short period, I learned that starvation is a painful business. By the last day, I was suffering badly from acute stomach cramps and headaches. My mouth began to ulcerate and my lips were cracking. I felt alarmingly weak. With the lack of stimulation, privileges such as association and exercise being denied, these symptoms may have been amplified by stress, but the principle remains the same.

I don't give these details to excite your pity, after all it was voluntarily self-inflicted. I, probably in common with you, have never been completely without food for this length of time before. I didn't connect those staggering, ulcerated, bloated figures I saw on TV with the sordid, ultimately filthy truth behind a long and agonized death.

Perhaps I'm being over-dramatic about just a few days. I can't, however, be dramatic enough about the need to change a system that ignores suffering, dismissing it as some other countries' problem, while it continues to buy, manufacture and harbour the obscenity of nuclear weaponry.

Sympathy is not enough. These victims need food not tears, action not words. I, therefore, call for your support by sponsorship, the proceeds to be split between "WAR ON WANT" and the "DEFENCE AND AID" fund - the choice, of course, is yours. Find the form with your local neighbourhood group or at the CND office in Nottingham. Between us, we can turn injustice and repression into something good!

JAYNE WITHERS.

P.S. I still have £65 in fines to pay; my refusal to pay will result in a sentence of 10 - 14 days.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

The membership drive has already begun !

The West Bridgford Group have started knocking on doors and have brought in TWENTY SEVEN rejoined members !

In another door knocking exercise, the Raleigh Street Area group increased their membership by EIGHT.

At the Peace Festival, THIRTY TWO more people became members of N.C.N.D. - paying up on the spot - due to the excellent work of the Membership Team. Many others showed an interest in joining and took away membership forms.

All this and the Membership Drive hasn't really started yet ! Has your group planned ahead for the September Drive ? The West Bridgford and Raleigh Street groups will confirm that it's an extremely rewarding exercise and it doesn't take up very much time.

There will be more news about the influx of new members in the next Bulletin.

OCT. 26
SAVE IT!

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION LONDON

Saturday,

OCT. 26
SAVE IT!

On Saturday, October 26th., the opening week of the United Nations Peace Year, CND will hold it's national demonstration in the centre of London.

Coming at a time when the superpowers are again negotiating on arms, CND will focus on the failure of talks to achieve nuclear disarmament.

In particular, the demo will highlight our own government's unwillingness to contribute to the disarmament process and to say that if this country acts independently then Britain can make a difference.

A circular demonstration - symbolising people all over the world caught in a spiralling arms race - will link the Embassies of the superpowers with the people of the world caught in between them.

At intervals during the afternoon while the circle is still complete, everyone will take part in activities which will illustrate the waste and pointlessness of the arms race; the determination with which we, along with peace movements in other countries will strive to halt it; and the unity and strength of ordinary people like ourselves to change the world in which we live.

Simultaneously our demonstration will point to the failures of our government to make progress towards nuclear disarmament.

Our slogans and messages will concentrate attention on Britain's reluctance to include it's nuclear weapons in arms negotiations, on it's massive escalation of the arms race by the purchase of Trident, and it's destabilising effect on the international scene with it's acceptance of potential first-strike cruise missiles.

Clearly it is vitally important that Nottingham CND makes a strong presence at this event. A working group has been set up which will meet regularly over the forthcoming months to co-ordinate travelling arrangements, train events, publicity drive, fundraising events etc. Already the first steps have been taken in that we have booked TWO TRAINS to take us all down to London for this demo. Tickets for the trip are NOW AVAILABLE from the Office, Mushroom, Ouroboros and Hiziki priced £10 waged and £6 unwaged. Children under 5 go free. Both trains will be catered for, one by Veggies and the other by Ouroboros/Hiziki. At this stage it is not possible to say whether tickets will be made available to N/G's on a sale-or-return basis.

Although all the logistics have yet to be worked out, National CND plan that Hyde Park will provide the starting and finishing points for the day.

The demonstration will assemble at the south end of Hyde Park and march out and along it's west side to the Russian Embassy. Following Bayswater Road along the north side of Hyde Park, the march will turn down Park Lane and towards Grosvenor Square passing the American Embassy and returning to Hyde Park for a short final rally.

As yet there has been no firm decision taken about the form of the activities to be held during the march which everyone would take part in. The working group within NCND will be considering ideas and feeding them back to National CND. However, some of the proposals are as follows;

- * Once the circle is complete, stop the march and do some form of freeze/silence/ripple effect shout.
- * Have a series of activities on the hour eg:
 - 1.00pm. '4 minute die-in'
 - 2.00pm. 4 minute sit-down.
 - 3.00pm. Linking of hands followed by singing.

Once the end of the march has just left Hyde Park and the last activity has taken place, it is suggested that marchers continue along the route to the next major entrance to the Park where they would be directed to the rally area. This would mean that the march would end quickly and everyone would be able to attend the rally.

The NCND October 26th working group will be stocking up with publicity materials as soon as they are available and will be feeding them out to groups. These will include 'Oct 26 Save It' stickers, special leaflets and posters, two-colour placards and perhaps a billboard advertising campaign in the run-up to the demo. We will be asking for a big effort to cover the whole city using these materials and will be organising letter writing and radio 'phone-in publicity nearer the day. Please see future Bulletins, minutes of Co-ordinating and Neighbourhood Groups etc. for up-to-the-minute 'state-of-the-art' details.

Anyone interested in joining the working group should contact either Dave Dickinson (608228 eves) or Rob Raynham at the NCND Office (581948 day).

OCT. 26
SAVE IT!

NOTTINGHAM CND AND THE EVENING POST

For some time now, Nottingham CND has had a policy of boycotting the Nottingham Evening Post. The reason for this dates back to when the management of the newspaper sacked its journalists who wanted to belong to their union, the NUJ. A long industrial dispute followed, one component of which was the total "blackening" of the paper by all sections of the labour movement and other progressive groups. As far as the NUJ is concerned, the dispute is still on, because the Evening Post continues to be run by anti-union management and because some of the sacked journalists still don't have a job.

This is the background to our present policy. I believe the time has come to look again at that policy and, indeed, to change it. I will be proposing a motion, at the next Policy-Making Monthly Meeting, that CND ends its boycott of the Post. I will ask the Executive Committee to invite someone from the NUJ to come along to that meeting and explain the Union's current position and I hope that as many CND members as possible also come and take part in what is bound to be a very difficult, yet important, discussion.

Here are some of my reasons for wanting to see an end to the boycott.

(1) CND is practically the only group that still consistently sticks to the boycott policy. Many Trade Unions, Labour Party branches and the City and County Councils now talk to the Post in one way or another. I don't think it is fair for us to have to carry on single-handedly as the "conscience" of Nottingham's Labour movement.

(2) The campaign to isolate the Post has obviously failed. Despite all our efforts, the paper continues to be produced and sold successfully, with all the news and stories a provincial daily needs. There comes a time, in situations like this, when you have to be big enough to admit you have lost. It is foolish and naive to pretend that the boycott has any hope of forcing the Post's management to change its mind.

(3) With that obvious failure in mind, let us look at what effect the boycott actually has on us and our campaign against nuclear weapons. We are deprived of any access to the single most important news agency in this area. It is an

incredible sacrifice, considering that we spend a large part of our time, money and energy desperately trying to squeeze ourselves into the public consciousness. The Nottingham Trader is simply no substitute for a two-edition daily local paper like the Post. We could have a story in there every single day of the week if we were well-organised enough.

(4) A second effect on our campaigning is that we deprive ourselves of the opportunity to reply to allegations made against us in the paper. Three examples come to mind...the Post wrote a story last summer accusing the Reclaim Chilwell Group of being "far more than just an off-shoot of CND". The paper went on to say that the Reclaim Chilwell campaign was created after the failure of mass-picketing in the Miners' Strike and implied we were part of a nationally co-ordinated campaign to overthrow civilisation as we know it. More recently, there has been a letter in the Post accusing CND of "rigging" the local Trident ballot and there has been a furious editorial attack on the Council's decision to grant £500 to the Peace Festival. Because of our policy, we can't answer any of these allegations and criticisms.

(5) The issue here is NOT about the political complexion or editorial content of the Evening Post. Of course, it is quite a right-wing paper; but that isn't the point. Most provincial (and national) newspapers are very right-wing. The issue is to do with the sacking of journalists and the subsequent union call to "black" the Post. I am sure that the Post will continue to be anti-CND even after we start "talking" to it. But that's neither here nor there. If we only talked to pro-CND papers, we wouldn't even send press releases to the Guardian!

(6) There is an argument that says "nothing is as important as the campaign for nuclear disarmament. The success of those who want to change to world (like the Trade Unions) depends on the success of those who want to save it (us)." I don't think I completely agree with that because the world is far too complicated a place to separate off single issues in that way. CND needs the unions and the unions need CND. I think it was good that we supported the boycott for all this time and showed our solidarity with the sacked journalists. It's just that now we need to re-assess the situation and, I believe, concede defeat.

cont....

(7) I want to emphasise that I'm not suggesting this because I am in any way anti-union. I have been a socialist and a member of the Labour Party for ten years. And it's not because I don't believe in sticking-to-your-principles either. I am quite prepared to sacrifice all sort of things for the sake of a principle. It's just that I think we've got to the stage now where we're carrying on with the boycott almost as an unthinking knee-jerk reaction. It's become a sort-of dogmatic orthodoxy in which the benefits of our principled stance are completely outweighed by the price we pay for it.

I hope that, after reading this, CND members will try and get the issue raised at their Neighbourhood Group meetings, so that there can be as much discussion as possible. If you feel strongly one way or the other, then please look out for the Policy-Making Meeting and come along to take part in the debate. Whatever we finally decide, I don't think we can continue ignoring the problem any longer.

PETE STRAUSS.

OCT. 26

SAVE IT!

OCT. 26

SAVE IT!

OCT. 26

SAVE IT!



STAR WARS

"What if free people could live secure in the knowledge that their security did not rest upon the threat of instant US retaliation to deter a Soviet attack; that we could intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil or that of our allies?.. I call upon the scientific community who gave us nuclear weapons to turn their great talents to the cause of mankind and world peace: to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

This was part of Ronald Reagan's TV address in March 1983 and the first that the world heard about America's Strategic Defence Initiative, now more often known as "Star Wars". It was only after Reagan's re-election that it sank in that the man was serious. At a cost of between

one and two thousand billion dollars (compare the Apollo Moon project which cost \$25 billion) American scientists and industrialists would turn their minds and resources to the development of a defensive system designed to neutralise a nuclear attack from the direction of the Soviet Union. The size and complexity of the project makes the mind boggle. The implications for world peace and security are immense and frightening.

STAR WARS

What is it?

On Thursday 12th September, 7.30 p.m. at the YMCA, Shakespeare Street, NCND has as guest speaker:

DR. MALCOLM DANDO of Bradford School of Peace Studies and foremost authority in Britain on the subject.

The meeting is open to the general public.

Star Wars must be stopped. To campaign effectively against British participation and support, we must understand, if not all its technical complexity, at least its political significance for Europe. All CND members are urged to attend this meeting.

Further information about Star Wars available from the NCND office:

"Questions & Answers about Space Weapons" produced by National CND 10p
"Star Wars" pamphlet by E.P.Thompson and Ben Thompson £1

June SANITY which includes the article "The Politics of Space Weapons" by Rip Bulkley 50p

OCT. 26
SAVE IT!

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

2 Bedrooms in communal house or 2/3 bedroom flat or house needed for child (6), woman and man. Non-smokers. From August 1st.

Please contact: Gisela or Bill, "Beauchamp House", Washfield, Tiverton, Devon. Tel:0884 254095.

NCND.

OCT. 26
SAVE IT!

Mission
— NOT QUITE —
Impossible

On Sunday, July 21st., the annual Air Fair at USAF Alconbury took place. Air Fairs attract thousands of people and they are very popular outdoor events, particularly amongst children, who get a chance to see the "real thing".

The theme of the day seemed to be:

"Look at these wonderful pieces of technology and look at all this skill and bravery being displayed. Not only that, all this is here to protect YOU."

Against this background, a protest was planned to take place called Stop the Air Fair, calling on people from all over the country to come and protest against the use of an American Base such as USAF Alconbury for a show of this kind. Besides this, the thought of being allowed to drive through the gate and onto the base was too rare an opportunity to miss.

Sixteen people from Nottingham took part in the action, with the main aim of distributing 1,000 leaflets to fair-goers, in an attempt to explain to them what USAF Alconbury is really used for. Handing out leaflets can be a difficult thing to do even in ordinary circumstances, but when the leaflet links what people have come to see with death and starvation, it becomes a confrontation that some people find difficult to overcome.

Fortunately, there were a lot of people from other parts of the country, who either had their own leaflets or wanted to help us hand out ours. At first, the leafletting went quite smoothly and the response was rarely aggressive, but once the M.O.D. and USAF security realised what was going on, it became more difficult.

Eventually, leafletters were arrested for "conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace". Nobody was charged, some people weren't even questioned, but they had been prevented from continuing to put over ideas that didn't correspond with the propaganda exercise that the day was intended to be. As the cars streamed out for hours afterwards, a large number of people were handing out leaflets and placarding. It's quite likely that many of the visitors never make the connection between an Air Fair, the arms race and worldwide starvation. It's a connection that has to be emphasised on every possible occasion.

...ADVERTISEMENT...



180, MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM

tel. 0472802

After 2 years of planning, we now have a building, 180 Mansfield Road, next door to Earthwise. Although the premises are slightly smaller than we originally hoped for, there is room for a library, meeting room, main office, sales area, a vegetarian food co-operative, - namely "Veggies" - , pigeon-hole facilities for groups, a pottery making area and poster/banner design facilities.

We would like artists and craft people to sell and display their work in the shop area.

Our sales area will provide badges, postcards etc., as well as good quality second-hand clothes, hand-made pottery, original artwork and photographs.

Our library is growing daily, but we still need donations of books, journals, pamphlets etc. on such issues as peace, environment, co-operation, alternative technology and related subjects.

We also need: spare paint, furniture (esp. desks and shelving), typewriters, filing cabinets, folders, art equipment and good quality second-hand clothes. But, most importantly, we need volunteers to "person" the building and help with decorating, planning, general help ie. an all-round genius would do !

Last but not least is of course - MONEY ! You could either fill in a banker's order and make a regular contribution or make a one-off donation.

For those wishing to be involved in the day to day running of the Centre, we meet every Monday, starting July 22nd., at 7.30pm., at 180 Mansfield Road.

Please, remember that with your help the Centre can flourish and perform the vital role of a much-needed Peace Centre in Nottingham.

OCT. 26
SAVE IT!

GETTING AT M.P.S

Lobbying? Worthy and useful but dead boring? This may have been what many of us thought too, before we heard Marjory Thompson, National CND Parliamentary Monitor, talk about CND's new monitoring network at the July Members' Meeting.

Although Britain may claim to be the mother of parliaments, our government set-up is probably less open to public pressure than any other in the West. Marjory, who comes from the USA, has found MPs more difficult of access and more insulated from public opinion than Congressmen/women. Topics of vital importance to ordinary people can be ignored in Parliament. There have been only six full debates on nuclear issues since 1980 and Britain's is the only chamber in a NATO country not yet to have debated SDI ("Star Wars").

To remedy this, to make MPs better informed on nuclear matters and more susceptible to public opinion, CND has set up the PARLIAMENTARY MONITORING network.

The system operates on two levels, the first being through existing channels at Westminster. 135 Labour MPs and one Liberal are members of Parliamentary CND. CND parliamentary workers are offering them assistance with organizing and drafting questions to Ministers, and researching material for supplementary questions. The aim is to stage minor debates at Question Times. So far, these exchanges have had little media publicity in England, apart from reports in "The Times". However, the reverse is true in Scotland: here, where public awareness of the obvious nuclear threat posed by Holy Loch is much higher, they are widely reported.

Parliamentary workers feed MPs information relevant to their constituencies. For example, attempts to hush up a recent Scottish road accident involving a nuclear weapons convoy failed when the MP concerned heard about it from CND.

The monitoring system operates at a second level through the constituencies. The aim is to have a PARLIAMENTARY MONITOR in every single constituency. (So far, there are about 400.) The main job of the monitor is to organize the systematic lobbying of his/her MP through letters, visits to surgeries and, where appropriate, to Westminster. The monitor receives CND information packs similar to those provided for MPs every other month for use by the local team of lobbyists that the monitor will, hopefully, get together.

There are 5 categories of MP as far as CND is concerned:

- A Ministers who cannot diverge from Government policy. Marjory stressed that it is, nevertheless, important to keep these people informed and in touch with public opinion.
- B Primitive nuke-nuts.
- C Unknowns.
- D MPs who are on the way towards our viewpoint.
- E MPs who are with us.

We were relieved to hear that there are no Category B "Nuke-nuts" in Notts.

CND believes that personal contact between an MP and CND members can be very valuable, particularly if the MP is a Tory as has already been found in some instances. Many - in fact most - MPs are ill-informed on nuclear matters and many have been interested, in some cases, grateful, for the detailed information that monitors have been able to provide.

In Westminster, there is now an increasing awareness amongst MPs that they have monitors. Some have undoubtedly become much more responsive to, and ready to meet, constituents. A future problem will certainly be that of ensuring that a government committed to nuclear disarmament keeps to its programme. A functioning monitor system is going to be very useful here, as was the case in New Zealand.

The monitoring system exists in name only so far in Notts. We left the meeting convinced of the urgent need to make it work, some of us planning to get together with others in our respective constituencies to plan action.

People from ALL local constituencies (Nottingham North, South, East, Rushcliffe, Broxtowe, Gedling) are badly needed to take part in the campaign. You do not necessarily need to be an expert. Obviously, it is important that some lobbyists are well briefed on topics they raise, but lobbyists who appear to be just sincere ordinary people are equally important. The MP, isolated in his Westminster ivory tower, must be given a first-hand impression of what people are thinking and feeling.

An important aspect of lobbying work is letter writing - something which may appeal to those not able to get out much. The urgent need for letters is underlined by the fact that, in spite of the Anti-Trident Campaign, Heseltine has received only 125 letters on the subject this year - so far.

If MPs and Ministers do not receive letters of protest, they are able to claim - and may even believe - that people are happy about Government policy.

If you are prepared to take part IN ANY WAY in your Constituency Monitoring Campaign, please inform Rob Raynham at NCND office or contact your monitor direct.

JOS WOOD.

NCND.



CONTACTS
CONTACTS
CONTACTS
CONTACTS
CONTACTS
CONTACTS
CONTACTS

AUGUST BULLETIN TEAM.

Editorial: Wendy Wain, Angela Phelps, Rob Raynham, Jack Rotherham, Geoff Young, Dave Orli. Typing: Phyllis Wells. Layout: Geoff Young, Rob Raynham, Dave Orli. Cover: Dave Orli. Plate: Ramoth. Printing/Collation: Jack Rotherham, Eric & Louise Jessop, Ruth Kane, Peggy Westaway, Laurence Geary, Bill Haines, Rob Raynham and others.

To be delivered to:

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY NOTTINGHAM CND-UNIT B 14-18, ST MARYS GATE, NOTTM. TEL. 581948

JOIN C.N.D. NOW!

step towards a future free from the threat of nuclear war.

Membership Rates

Ordinary £3.75
Family £4.50
Unwaged/Pensioners/Students £1.50

I wish to join Nott'm CND and I enclose for one year's subs.

I enclose a donation of

I enclose one year's subscription to "SANITY"

(£4 special rate offered to members living in Bulletin delivery areas.

THE BULLETIN IS FREE TO NCND MEMBERS

Name

Address

..... Tel

Return with remittance to:

NCND, Unit B, 14-18, St. Mary's Gate
(Cheques payable to Nottm. CND).

JOIN THE DEBATE, READ- **Sanity**

Voice of CND

BARGAIN RATE FOR MEMBERS

£4 p.a ie 33p a copy (Bookstall price 65p)

THIS OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE IF YOUR BULLETIN IS DELIVERED BY A NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP OR YOU COLLECT YOUR COPY YOURSELF.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS: £1 of each sub. goes to the group that delivers Sanity.

I ENCLOSE £4 FOR 1 YEARS
SUBSCRIPTION.

NAME

ADDRESS:

..... TEL

NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

NCND MEMBERSHIP NO.

PLEASE RETURN TO;

NCND, UNIT B, 14-18 ST MARYS GATE, NOTTM

(Please make cheques payable to NCND.