



THE Molesworth BULLETIN



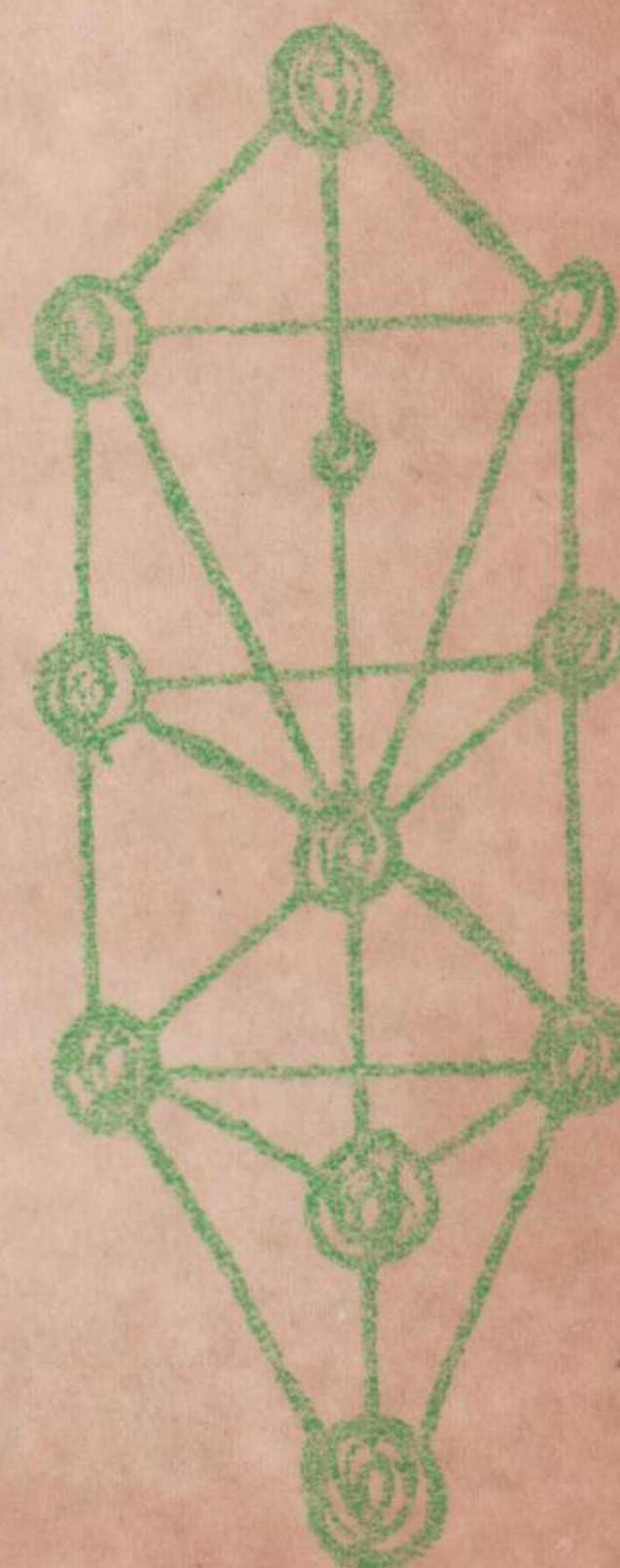
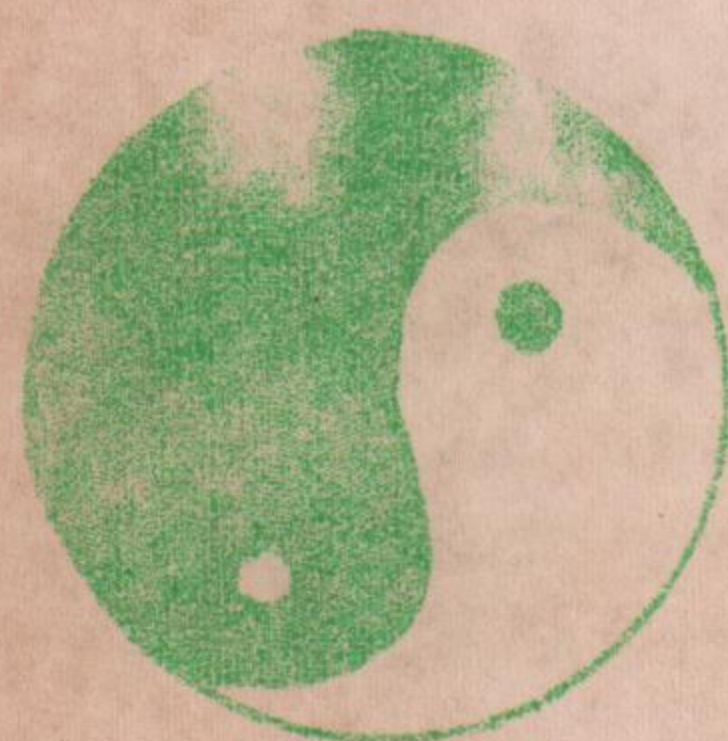
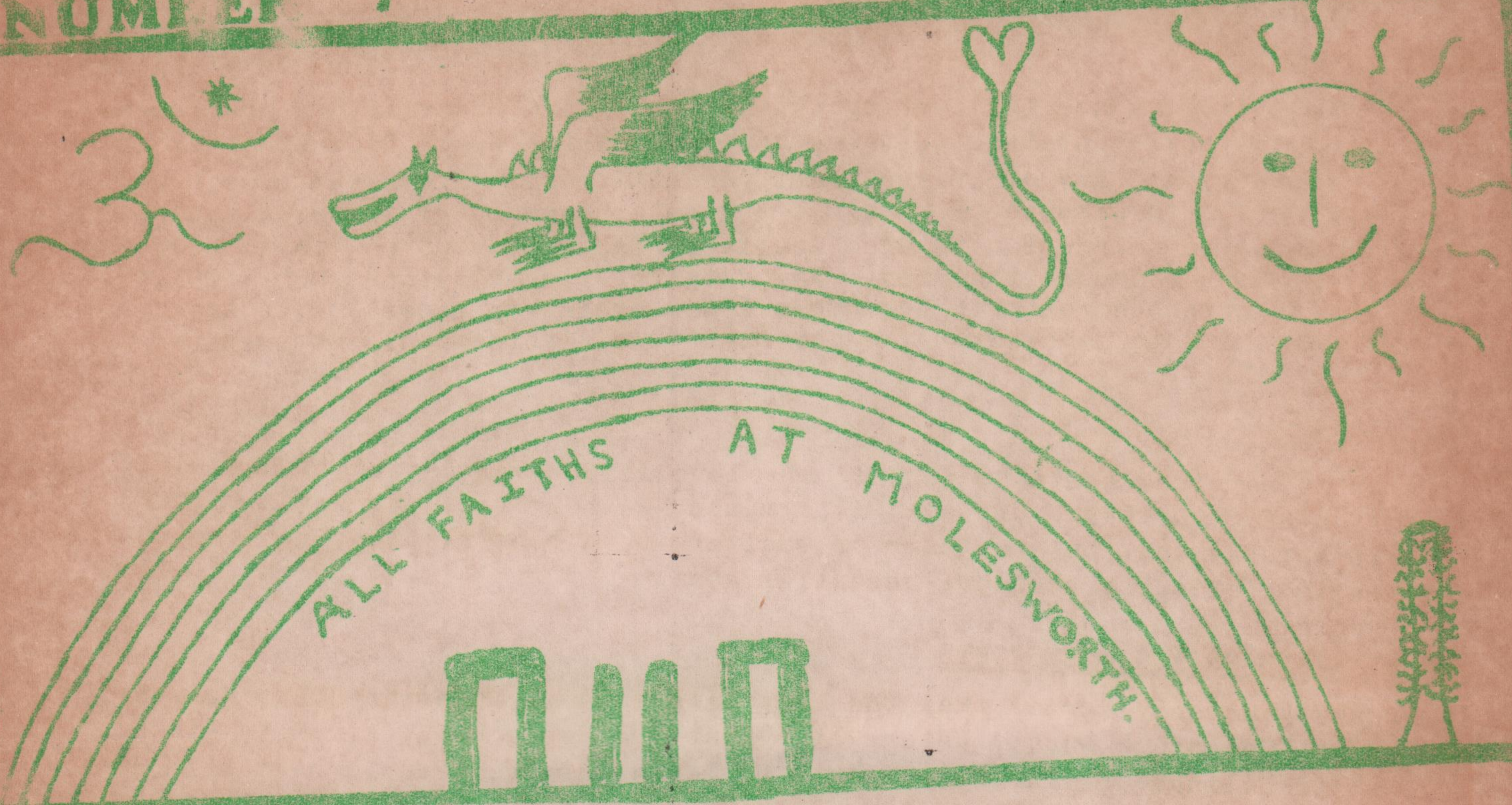
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NUMBER 7

JUNE 1985

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Life around Molesworth

THE PEACE CAMP

The People's Peace Camp has taken a new lease on life since its recent victory in the courts, when the District Council failed to get an eviction order for removal of the camp on health grounds. In the two years the camp has been on "Warren Lane", on the north west side of the base, it has never been "healthier."

ACCOMMODATION

There is plenty of space for camping at the Peace Camp and visitors are welcome. You need to be self-contained bringing tents, sleeping bags, food (there is a communal cooker) and any other equipment you will need. Black dustbins bags are very useful to dispose of rubbish, and water containers to bring your own water. Indoor accommodation is also available for up to 100 people in homes and Meeting Houses around the area. For details, ring Clopton (08015) 257. These places have been offered for one-off and emergency cases only. Anyone intending to come to Molesworth for more than two nights should be prepared to camp.

PEACE CORNER

All Faiths services continue for all who love life, everyday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. outside the Peace Chapel. A permanent 24 hour vigil at Peace Corner is well-established, but no tents or shelters have been allowed, so Goretex all-weather sleeping bags are essential gear.

THE ELEMENTS REGAIN MOLESWORTH

It is now generally agreed that the four gates around Molesworth are called: Fire Gate -Cockbrook Lane; Water Gate -near the Peace Camp; Air Gate -in Molesworth Village; Earth Gate -around by Peace Corner. People have been setting up new vigils at these sites. Fire Gate and Air Gate are the priorities as the others are already covered by existing camp sites. There have been arrests at Fire Gate. It is important to accept that it may happen to you if you decide to set up camp. It is almost always possible to avoid getting arrested by just moving on if you are told to by the police.

OLD SCHOOL

The Old School has become a hive of activity, with the regular production of the Bulletin, meetings of all sorts, and the beginnings of a weekly rota to staff the office- answering letters and telephone calls etc. Although it remains technically a private residence, daytime visitors are always welcome especially if you've come to help. Some advanced warning is always appreciated however.

DONATIONS

There were at last count over 12 different bank accounts at Molesworth. People wanting to make donations to the Molesworth Campaign should consider what specific projects or aspects of the campaign they would like to contribute towards.

Donations to the Molesworth Action Fund will buy Gore-tex water-proof sleeping bags and other equipment for non-violent direct action. Cheques can be sent c/o The People Peace Camp, Warren Lane, Clopton, Northants or directly to Trustees Saving Bank, Huntingdon, Cambs. account number 12177560, Code 77 72 09.

Donations to Molesworth For Life will go towards general campaign expenses at the Old School - stamps, printing costs, etc. and donations for Third World projects, including a tool refurbishing workshop at the Old School can be made out to Molesworth Fund for Eritrea, c/o Old School, Clopton, Northants.

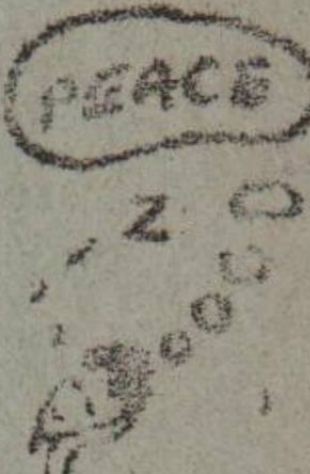
There is a list of specific needs on the back page of the Bulletin - firewood and water are always welcome at Peace Corner and the Peace Camp. Stamps, paper, office supplies etc. are always welcome at the Old School. Otherwise, please do not donate food and clothing to Molesworth. Remember there are many more needy people than us and that most people here are vegan.



AT THE BASE



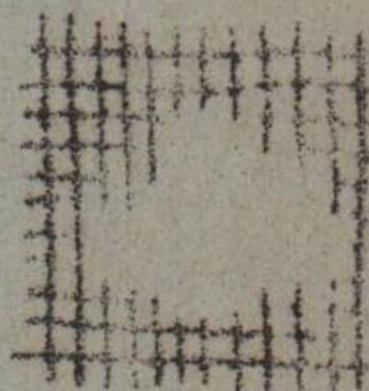
On the 13th of March a public meeting was held at the Old School House. Local residents and members of the peace movement saw slides from Eritrea, of the first shipment of wheat from Molesworth. It was decided to promote the idea of 'Molesworth Fields' throughout Britain, to alert people to the connections between the arms race and starvation. Allotments near Molesworth will soon be available for growing food. People are to be asked to donate old and unwanted tools to the Old School House, before shipment to Eritrea.



Links between the local population and peace campaigners at Molesworth hopefully will be strengthened and a dialogue is being encouraged. This meeting was one such move.

On the 22nd of May a group of nationally known people, including Pat Arrow-smith, Peter Tatchell and Bruce Kent read and handed through the fence, a leaflet addressed to members of the armed forces. It called for troops to refuse to obey illegal orders, especially in relation to nuclear weapons.

Groups from Chelmsford, South End, Cambridge and Huntingdon, numbering around 120 cut the fence and entered the base on the night of the 28th. Several pieces of fence were removed and taken to the American Embassy the following day. 18 were arrested for trespass and 2 for 'going equipped to commit criminal damage'.



On the 16th of May Andy from the Old Schoolhouse appeared in Court charged under the new bye-laws. He had crawled into the razor-wire outside the Peace Chapel and had stayed for a couple of hours before being arrested. In Court the Prosecution was astonished to realise that the charge was being defended on the grounds that the fence, at that point, is not on MOD. This means the byelaws may not apply!! The case has been adjourned to June 11th for further evidence to be presented. Stay tuned to this channel.....!



On the 29th of May Jonathon of Peace Corner was arrested and charged with "going equipped to commit criminal damage" after finding and picking up a pair of boltcutters, left near the fence.



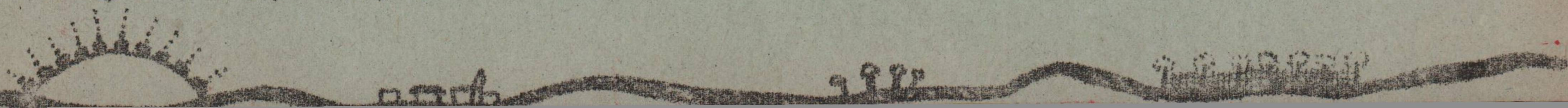
Four Welsh ministers appeared in Huntingdon Magistrates Court on the 30th of May on charges of attempting to commit criminal damage - the tin snips being very old and blunt and hanging a banner on the fence, under the new byelaws. They all pleaded guilty and were fined £10 on each charge and £7 costs. Each of their statements were beautifully prepared and delivered with the Chairman of the Magistrates only requesting them to "be brief" twice.



On the 31st of May the Fire Gate Six were found guilty of obstruction of the highway at Cockbrook Lane but were given an absolute discharge without fines or costs. Observers were convinced that their obvious sincerity and joyfulness (in contrast with the prosecutors mean spirited attitude) communicated itself well and touched the hearts of the Magistrates. All six defended themselves. The fact that the six had maintained the vigil at Fire Gate for 3 days highlighted the absurdity of the case.

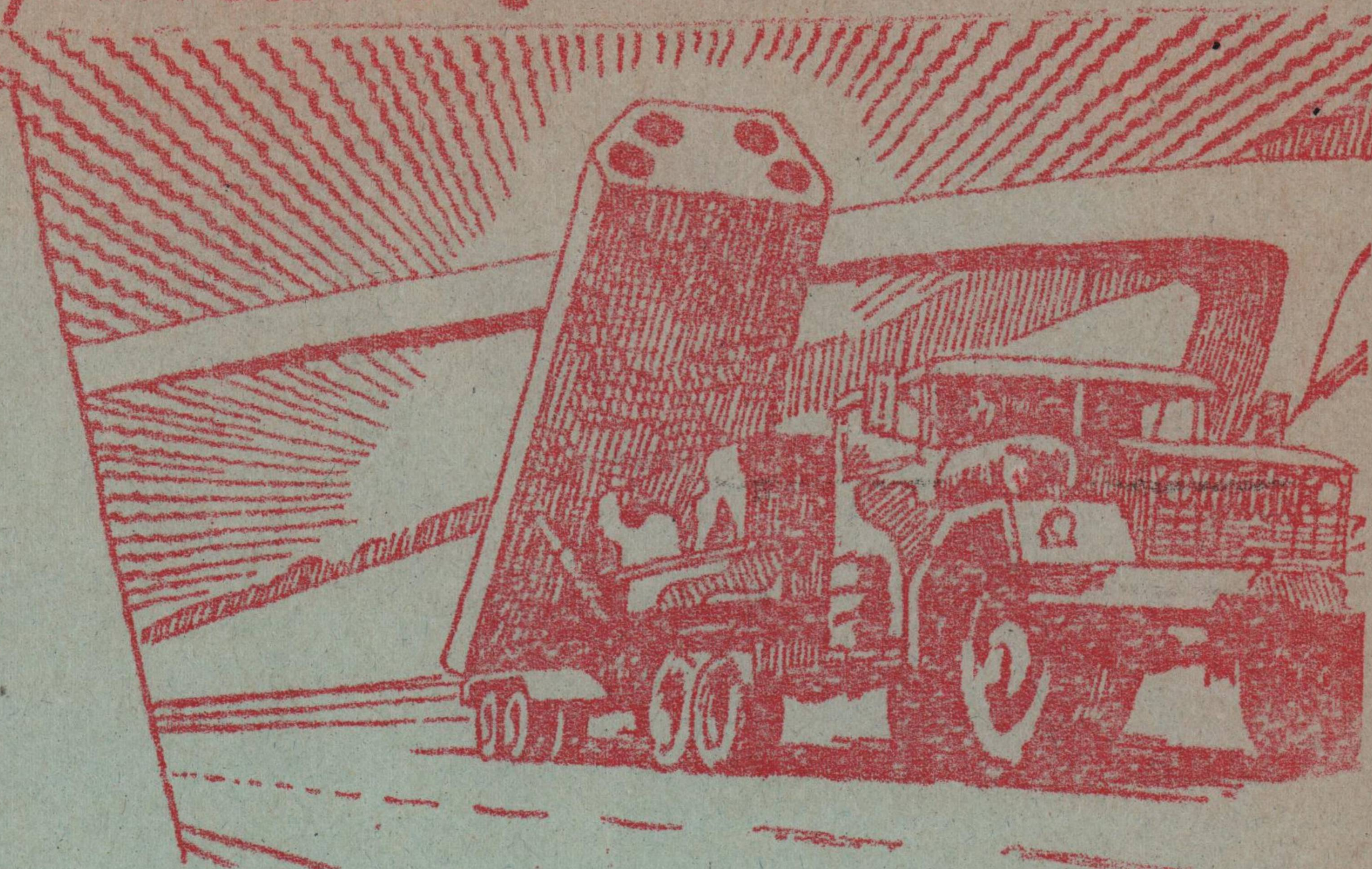


Five people have since been arrested on the same spot, on the same charge, having been vigilling for ten minutes.



Molesworth/Aiconbury Land Trust

**STOP
the
CRUISE
MISSILE
ROAD**



A1-M1 Link via USAF Molesworth

More acres of Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire countryside are to be sacrificed to provide a new cruise missile dispersal route linking the A1 and M1 and passing within two miles of Molesworth. Peace campaigners have been offered a piece of this threatened land, close to both Molesworth and its command centre at USAF Aiconbury.

TO BUY THIS LAND, WE NEED ABOUT £25,000*, AND WE NEED IT QUICKLY!

JOIN WITH US TO BUY THIS LAND

By buying this land and splitting it up into small plots, we can prevent its being compulsorily purchased (as was successfully done at Olmoor near Oxford), and put a 'spanner in the works' of cruise missile dispersal plans. At the same time, we will be able to provide a secure land base for peace campaigners near to Molesworth and Aiconbury, a campsite for use in conjunction with large demos, and a space in which to carry on the constructive work which was begun at Molesworth - planting crops and trees, and using the land for life-affirming purposes.

HELP RAISE £25,000 NOW

To: Molesworth/Aiconbury Land Trust, c/o 59 Whitwell Way
Coton, Cambridgeshire CB3 7PW

Please reserve me _____ square yards of land
on the proposed route of the A1-M1 link road.

I enclose £ (£1 per square yard)
plus £ as a repayable loan
plus £ donation
(TOTAL £)

NAME

ADDRESS

.

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I understand that I shall receive a receipt for all money sent; money in payment for land will be refundable if the full amount is not raised to enable the land to be successfully purchased; loans will be repayable subject to one month's written notice, and will bear the current rate of interest payable on deposits by the Ecology Building Society; donations will not be repayable, and will be used to cover publicity and administrative costs.

* £25,000 is the estimated cost of the land which we have been offered, subject to independent valuation before purchase.



the GATE PARTY

ALCONBURY

10

MOLESWORTH

A beautiful day for it, as the Bedford contingent met to go to Alconbury for the start of the march. Both of us headed off to Molesworth, remembering half way there we were going to Alconbury. A quick change of direction got us there for about 10.30. The sun was blazing down, the police were polite and friendly, and the jets were roaring away. It all seemed very strange.

We set off at about 11.30 and walked at a leisurely pace to our lunchtime stop, which took us through Alconbury. We passed quite a few people who were polite and even friendly towards us evil wierdoes. Just shows yet again, you can't believe the media.

We passed some quite beautiful areas, and stopped at 1.00 at the Buckworth turn. I was totally unable to resist having a vegiburger from the "Veggie" van, so had to go and scrounge some money. After a very pleasant break, during which Bob Phillips counted 230 marchers, we proceeded on our way.

The pace was quickened to a pace I found difficult, along with a few others, although the healthy ones and the police (who were being thoroughly pleasant) were well pleased with it. We passed a couple of farms, with people appearing friendly and interested, as well as some deadpan expressions, and a couple of fields full of cows who were amazed and came running over to see what we were doing. We finally reached a point near the B662 where we had another break. We found we were well ahead of schedule, and waited quite a while for the weary tail-enders, many with children, to catch up - showing to me that the fast pace set earlier served no useful purpose. During the break, the stewards met and discussed how to conduct the end of the march, and put the NVDAers at the front in case the police got awkward. They suggested that the people wishing to participate in any blockade made sure there was a well defined gap between them and the others.

As it was, the police were sweetness and light, and allowed us right up to the top of Cockbrook Lane. A lot of people joined us there, swelling the numbers to over 250. When we arrived at the main gate, we had a break, and after a while Leicester people started the party games. This really livened up the affair, which could have ended in a real anti-climax. They laid on props, games and "custard pies", which were liberally spread around. Basically, they got everyone to have a good time.

After a while, someone said the minibus was leaving for Alconbury to take drivers back to their cars, so I had to leave. I'm not sure if there was any direct action after I left, although I have heard reports that there was. You will have to hear about that in a future edition!

Finally, thanks to E. Midlands pledge, who organised the day and helped me to try and do so in the S. Midlands (with limited success); Nottingham for turning out lots of people, Leicester for the fun and games, and to everyone for coming and making it worthwhile, especially (for me) those from S. Midlands. And thanks to the police, who were really good all the time I was there. This was in stark contrast to the way I have seen them recently, and was a pleasant surprise. I felt it had been worth doing for several reasons, and showed that with a little imagination, attendance at Molesworth does not need to be seen as a chore.

Richard Black.

PEACE IS NO CONSPIRACY

'STOP THE AIR FAIR' 21ST JULY

Alconbury is a U.S. air base. It will also become the central centre for the planned Cruise missile base at USAF Molesworth.

In 1984, nine people were charged with 'Conspiracy'. Their crime was to set up a Peace Camp outside the base. We accuse the military of conspiring to commit mass murder.

On Sunday 21st July, the military plan to hold an air show to show off their military might. These same weapons are for the sole purpose of killing.

On that day people who oppose the glorification of war will also be at Alconbury. We shall be there to voice and act against the disgusting charade of a military air display.

The profits from this air show will be given to charity, but at a price.

Resources are needed for starving people, for creating a world that cares, not kills. How can you give money from a military air show to charity, when the military is one of the main reasons why there needs to be charity.

CHARITY MONEY STAINED WITH BLOOD IS BETTER NOT GIVEN.

For further information please contact: Molesworth Action Group, Peace Camp, Warren Lane, Fay Way, Clpsten, Kettering, Northants.

Defend the Alconbury 9!

NORTHAMPTON CROWN COURT JUNE 10TH 10.00 AM

After many months of waiting the Alconbury 9 trial is about to begin. It is of vital importance that our friends who are facing this ordeal are supported. Remember this trial is not just about a few isolated individuals. It is a test case in the Government/Military strategy for dealing with Peace Activists. Under this wide and vaguely defined Conspiracy law, no act of "criminal damage" need be committed. "Conspiracy" has occurred if its "proven" that several people have perhaps, spoken of, cutting fence, for instance. The price of this "conspiracy" could easily be three years or more in prison. The trial is likely to take several weeks. You can offer support in many ways:

- 1/ Attend the Northampton Crown Court, especially on the first and last days and the first day of the defence evidence.
- 2/ Extend your Pledge trip to Alconbury and tell your local press. U.S.A.F. Alconbury is only 7 miles from Molesworth.
- 3/ Have a peace camp in your town.
- 4/ Get Nuclear Free Councils to give money to the Defence Committee.
- 5/ Hand yourself in as "conspirators" Information from 37 Montpellier St, Brighton.
- 6/ People who can't come to the trial can ring U.S.A.F. Alconbury (0480) 52131 and the Ministry of Defence (01) 2189000 and ask for Michael (Heseltine). Simple statements of how you feel can be effective.

Further information from Alconbury 9 Defence Committee 12 Axiam Ave, Westward, Peterborough.

IMPRISONED

No. N39833

NAME

Polly C. J.

(In block letters - surname first)

It was Saturday 4th May. Jill from the camp and I were at Peace Corner Gate collecting a couple of Gore-Tex' as we were going to stay at Firegate that night. I was arrested for breaching my bail of keeping away from Molesworth and not going within 15 miles of the base.

I was driven off in one of the 'riot' vans. The van was very untidy and had various bits of rubbish on the floor, including a copy of the porno mag 'Pleasure'. Police vans which I have been in, have stickers from the Miners strike on the sides and roof. "Smash Scargill" and "Scabs don't heal so don't pickit" adorn many an interior. I noticed additional 'trophies' such as "Work for Peace" and "Peace is no conspiracy".

I was kept at Huntingdon Police Station. It was very boring but I was allowed to write letters and read books which friends sent into me. There was a work to rule going on at HMP Bedford so there were two or three prisoners at Huntingdon, though I wasn't allowed to mix with them. On Tuesday I was taken to the Magistrates Court at St Neots. I was charged with non-payment and after saying I would not pay them, was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment.

"WE DON'T HAVE INDIVIDUALS HERE" I was told. The piece of red wool which I was wearing around my wrist which was from Fire Gate was removed. Throughout my short time behind bars this was the thing that was important, the stamping out of individualism. After being stripped, showered, had a doctor's check-up and saw the chaplain I was put on Wing P, the young prisoners wing. I was now number N39833 assigned to cell B38 a fine defaulter. By now I had changed into prison clothes.

Entering prison was like going to a new school as a child, rather intimidating and oppressing. So there I was in my stripey shirt and 'sch-

ool' trousers. I was sharing a cell with two other people.

They were both younger than me and serving sentences of 18 months or more.

HUNGER STRIKE

I refused food that night. I was allowed to smoke and had my own reading material with me. That took my mind off eating. After three days of trying to ignore my fast, the prison officers moved me to a solitary cell so that I could be monitored. The hungerstrike is then officially recognised. During this time, a meal is kept in your cell throughout..

At Bedford, prisoners were allowed to smoke. Pocket money is given to you to buy tobacco, matches and cigarette papers. I think that being able to smoke helped me not to eat. On Sunday I was taken to the hospital wing to see the prison medics. After a certain period of not eating, the prison department gives a warning. Mine was: "I must formally caution you that by not eating you could damage your health and it is possible that if you continue you will die. I must warn you that the prison department will not take any responsibility should this happen. At one time we would have force-fed you - we are not allowed to do that now. It is your choice. It matters not whether you starve to us. We don't care, it is not our responsibility."

"SHORT, SHARP SHOCK"

I was told later I would be transferred to a detention centre in Nottinghamshire. HMDC Whatton was totally different to Bedford. Leon Britain's "short, sharp shock" centres represent the Tory's answer to the rising crime rate amongst the youth. At Whatton, no real attempt was made to reform youngsters from crime, no attempt was made to find out the root of the problem. Detention centres are a bit like the story "Clockwork Orange" - conform or suffer. The attempts to 'help' youngsters are giving them information and propaganda about youth training schemes and the evils of listening to peer group pressure.

The stamping out of individualism was acute. You are taught to obey without question. Rules and regulations are imposed and any infringements are punished by loss of remission.

IMPRISONED

pocket money or the 'bloc', solitary confinement. I was put into the hospital wing. Since I was not allowed to smoke, not eating was a lot harder. I was also not allowed to lie on my bed and sleep during the day.

Boredom and isolation got to be far more than not eating. After seven days I decided not to eat. Like all forms of HVDA, persons must feel they want to do that action and not be scared to say when they don't want to continue or feel that action is not for them. I didn't want to continue. I was moved to Unit 2 Space 5 Dorm 7 the next day.

SCRUBBING FLOORS

The day for 'Trainees' (we are not referred to as prisoners) runs on the idea that physical exercise, work and discipline reforms the criminal mind. In my opinion it does nothing of the sort; if anything it turns people into very fit trainees. The age of prisoners were between 14 and 21. You are dressed, look and behave the same. My hair was cut to regulation length, something that annoyed me grossly..

The routine involves such petty things as saying 'sir' after every sentence, asking whether you can go to the toilet, learning how to march up and down. Folding bedding and clothing is an obsession. Again it must be done to exact regulation standard. Scrubbing floors with little green pads in the morning and then finding you are doing them again in the afternoon because there's nothing else the officer or 'screw' can find to do.

RACISM

The attitude of the prison officers is not very encouraging. Sexism, racism

and anti-gay sentiments are in general very obvious. What amazes me is how a person can keep up verbal abuse for as long as some of the 'screws' did. 'Get your fucking black head down nigger before I kick your coonlike head in', a sentence to a young black lad whilst going to bed.

'Don't stand like that boy, anyone would think you're some sort of arse bender' 'Fuck' and 'smelly bastards' were well used words.

Competition is encouraged. Everyone is graded and awarded points. The colour are graded and the advantages are given in extra food or television.

POLITICAL CHATS

Talking to prison officers was difficult. In general I found them to be 'so far right they were in danger of falling off the edge' In front of inmate arguments about international law and and the injustice of a nuclear world were greeted with 'fuck off' and 'what about the Russians' argument. Individually

I found slight sympathy for the cause but not agreement. Most were indifferent: "You're all walking £10 notes to me" and "Not only do I object to CND but I don't like having to pay for you lot in my rates"

My inmates were sympathetic but uninformed: "Going back to Greenham Common?" "Is there free dope and sex on peace camps?" "Are you vegetarian then?" and more such questions were very hard to answer and stay on the issue of nuclear disarmament and peace.

I was released on Friday 24 May. I got remission. After 22 days of institute it was good to get back to Molesworth.

Whilst in prison I received many cards and letters of support. Thank you very much. Please keep on writing to other peace prisoners, it gives you such a good feeling when you get them. I will probably end up in prison again for I do not see how my actions are criminal.

UP AGAINST THE LAW

DAY OF ACTION

Against

MOLESWORTH CONTRACTORS

8.30am-3.30pm
JUNE 26th

This Day of Action has been called by Leicester CND. It is not intended to be the be-all and end-all of a contractors campaign, but to get the ball rolling. The information, ideas and materials below can be used over the coming months and years. Build up your own local campaign, in your own way and at your own pace. We've got 3 years of construction at Molesworth - we have the time and the experience to prevent the arrival of the missiles.

Below we have tried to mix some of the information we have sent to groups with details of how it was collected - these details will, we hope, be of use to you in your home area. See end of article for list of materials, information etc that you can send off for.

THE CONTRACTORS

Tarmac...Blue Circle...Isis...Telecom...people at Firegate and others have noted down who's entering or leaving the base, and we've put these lists together into one. It's

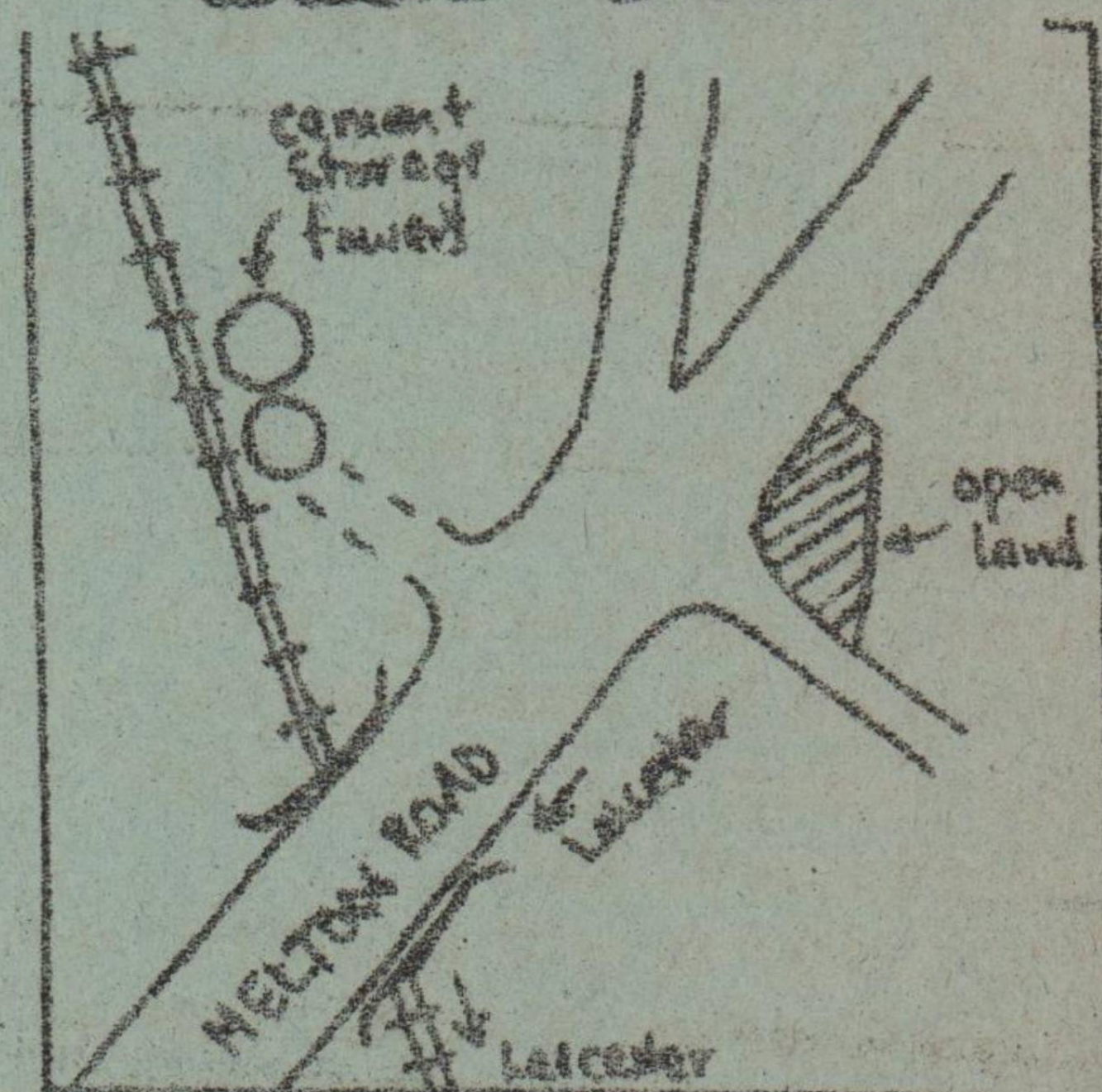
not complete. Then we went through the local phone book to find any branches in our area. We found over 40. A trip to the reference library turned up an industrial location directory (used by lorry drivers to find their destination) plus detailed O.S. maps - from these we produced maps of contractors' sites.

Two people drove round 4 of them one Sunday morning, wandered about, took photos and made notes on suitable types of action at these sites. We also kept our eyes open for where these firms are working locally, eg in town centres.

All this took some time to do but it's NOT difficult. Remember, we dealt with every local contractor; if you

choose just one it would take very very little time.....

BLUE CIRCLE



One of the main cement suppliers at Molesworth. Melton Road, Syston - only 15 minutes from Leicester City Centre - regular buses from ABC Cinema in Belgrave Gate.

Site is adjacent to main Leicester-Nottingham line, and just off main Leicester-Melton Road A607. Two tall cement storage towers next to railway line, complete with fixed ladders to the top. Large sign at main road entrance to site. Large area of open public land opposite entrance - suitable for picnic! Also banners, leafletting, etc?

OTHER STUFF

We've found out some phone numbers (phone book, directory enquiries and our own press/media directory) with a view to some sort of telephone blockade on June 26th. Unfortunately we haven't specified a time to phone, and haven't highlighted one or two numbers, so the effect is likely to be minimal. So....BULLETIN readers, please phone Mo"D" 01-218-9000 on June 26th 1-2pm and Molesworth base 03014-591 6-7pm (Bythorn number) to air your views! Tarmac etc local numbers will be in your phone book. Try them in the morning, their busiest time.

Listings have been sent to Peace News, Sanity, Campaign! etc, and adverts put in newsletters in our region. Press + legal advice also produced. None of this is very difficult to do.

IDEAS for ACTION

Other than phoning and letterwriting (Press etc) we've thought up as many as we can. Blockades, bike rides, picnics, vigils, leafleting, fencing-ins etc. Full lists available: see below. We're also in the process of producing.....

The LEAFLET

Written so that it is (we hope) relevant both to workers and the general public. We're talking to our regional T&GWU and UCATT and hope to get them to put their names to it. This is the draft; please feel free to reproduce it if you want to.

66

The British Government is currently building a second cruise missile base at "RAF" Molesworth, 42 miles from Leicester, on land previously used by the Peace Movement to grow wheat for the starving in Eritrea. This base is being built by many civilian contractors, firms which you and your friends and neighbours may work for, firms whose services you may use, firms who may provide much needed local employment; BUT who are also actually involved in the preparations for nuclear war.

In a time of high unemployment, it is difficult to turn down any job or contract, but in fact military contracts create far fewer jobs than many others.

We all realise that there is only so much money to go round - the Government is constantly telling us this. So how can they afford to spend £6,000,000 on a fence at "RAF" Molesworth, while schoolchildren are forced to share books, while people die because of the low level of funding available to the N.H.S., while millions live in sub-standard housing.

Let's make sure that the limited amount of money available is used to the benefit of the community and not to hasten it's destruction.

Union officials and workers at Vickers and Lucas Aerospace, two large firms totally dependant on military contracts, have spent much time and money on developing alternative production schemes, most notably a road/rail bus, which would be as profitable, but of much more value to the community than their current military contracts.

It can be done.

If you're a worker at a firm with a Molesworth contract, talk to workmates and union officials, and consider alternative employment schemes.

If you're a consumer of these firms services, do you really want to support a firm whose profits come from the preparations for World War III?

Say NO to the construction of "RAF" Molesworth.

Say NO to American cruise missiles in Britain.

99

T.C.W.U. HAS STATED IT WILL BACK ANY WORKERS REFUSING TO WORK AT MOLESWORTH.

SEND FOR MORE INFO:

Contractors lists, stickers, graphics (as on cover of this BULLETIN), ideas for actions, more phone numbers, press + legal advice.....send large SAE to June 26th Group, c/o Leicester CND, 13 Welford Rd, Leicester LE2 7AD or phone (0533) 554684. Donations towards photocopying etc most welcome.

SEND US YOUR INFO!

Contractors names, 'hard evidence' of their involvement (photos with the date shown somehow - current newspaper in foreground? - NFZs trying to block Molesworth contractors need these), details of work being done - anything you think might be useful.



Sticker (black on yellow) 5p each

TAXE
ACTION!!

.....on June 26th...or anytime. If on or near June 26th please let us know what you are doing; we will be sending press releases and reports to peace press, Grauniad etc.

Remember ...

.....a one-placard vigil for half an hour is infinitely better than nothing at all.

Yours in Peace, Chris, Linda, John, Cathi, Ian, Bob
June 26th Group.

FIRE GATE

Fire gate is the gate, in Cockbrook Lane, you come to walking down the bridleway from Peace Corner. There has been a sporadic presence here since Easter, but it has been hard to keep a constant vigil because of constant evictions. One policeman in particular has taken it into his head that we are blocking the highway - which is absurd as there is a massive tree just where the vigil is placed!

Fire gate is the main entrance for contractors so it is important we are there so we know what is going in and out of the base.

There is a tradition (when we are here) to wave at every vehicle, contractors, fellow protestors and police and it is really lovely now because most of them wave back at us. Police vans stop for a chat, or bring us food, and we have even had a game of cricket with the police (using their van as the wickets).

From a muddy patch by the side of the road people have made small circular flower beds, and written "PEACE" & "HELLO" with rubble left by the M.O.D.

SOMETHING PERMANENT IS GROWING HERE - A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Nicky & William

What you can do for Molesworth

1. Helping with the Molesworth Bulletin.

The Bulletin is meant to come out the first full weekend of each month (July 6-7) in time to reach other newsletters before their deadlines. All hands welcome on deck that weekend for collating and addressing at the Old School. Bring a sandwich! Writing, typing, and printing the Bulletin takes place non-stop the previous week (i.e. the first week of each month) by the Bulletin Group. Anyone with skills or special interest in helping that week should come to the initial Bulletin meeting immediately after the next "Liason" meeting (27 June, 8 pm Old School) or ring Clopton (08015) 257 for details.

Written contributions to the Bulletin--poems, reports, accounts of events at the base, etc.--should be sent to the Molesworth Bulletin c/o Old School, Clopton by the beginning of each month. Articles are less likely to be edited if they are brief!

2. The Legal Support Group is attempting to compile information on arrests, court cases, sentences, etc., in conjunction with the Selva Shelter Legal Centre in Peterborough. Anyone with such information or interested in helping with this aspect of the campaign, please contact the Legal Group c/o Jill Brooks, Peoples Peace Camp, Warren Lane, Clopton, Northants.

3. The County Action Group (Cams) will be liaising with the new County Council and working on Nuclear-Free Zone issues on behalf of all of us. The group next meets on Wednesday, 12 June at 7:30 at 4 Bridge House, St. Ives, Cambs. Contact: Richard Oldfield 0480-63054.

4. The Direct Action Research Group is collecting information on Molesworth contractors, potential Cruise dispersal sites, construction plans on the base, etc. The next meeting will be Wednesday 19 June, 4 pm at the Old School in Clopton. Contact: Chris Hardy, 4 Hobart Street, Leicester (tel. 536149).

5. The Trade Unions Group will be working with the trade unions who are already sympathetic to the cause and could become our most effective allies in preventing the actual construction of the base. Meeting: Wednesday 19 June, 2 pm, Old School, Clopton. Contact: Keith Bennett 0480-58676.

6. The Peace Chapel Group is working to keep up the pressure on the M.O.D. for access to the chapel. Come to the daily services at Peace Corner (11 am and 4 pm) for more details, or ring Jeanne Steinhardt, Wellingborough 222532.

7. The Molesworth Information Campaign has been coordinating the leafleting of villages and towns around Molesworth and other consciousness-raising activities. There is no meeting planned for the near future, but information is available from Janet Bloomfield 0525-371823.

8. Other working groups have been suggested, including one to work specifically on producing Resource Materials such as slide shows, exhibitions, post cards, etc. for spreading the Molesworth message. Anyone interested in coordinating this or any other working group please come forward!

The best forum for sharing information and ideas about all aspects of the campaign is the monthly Liason Meeting which next meets at 8 pm on June 27 at the Old School. Groups involved with Molesworth are asked to send one representative to this meeting and to finance that person's travelling expenses.

Remember: WE CAN STILL STOP THIS BASE FROM BEING BUILT! We still have three years to build a campaign to prevent eventual deployment. Please think about how you and your group can work on this campaign over the long haul so that together we will stop the arms race.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

To: Press Officer, Ministry of Defence.
Base Commander, USAF Molesworth.
Michael Heseltine, Minister of Defence.
Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister.

We, the undersigned, urge you to allow access to Eirene, the All Faiths Peace Chapel at Molesworth. Eirene was dedicated as a place of worship by the Bishop of Huntingdon on September 2, 1984, but is now surrounded by barbed wire and guarded 24 hours a day by Ministry of Defence police and dogs, although it is not part of the intended cruise missile base at Molesworth nor within the main perimeter fence. This Peace Chapel is for many people a holy place and a symbol of what they believe in. Preventing access is therefore a denial of basic civil liberties which guarantees freedom of religion to all.

Please return completed petitions to Stewards of Eirene c/o 'Halcyon Spirit'
Peace Lane, Peace Corner, outside USAF Molesworth, Brington, Cambs. PE17 5BB.

"EIRENE"

A PEACE CHAPEL
FOR ALL FAITHS
AT MOLESWORTH

EIRENE WORKING GROUP.

A small group met to discuss the future of 'Eirene'. It was decided that there should be a wooden notice board erected in the gardens containing information about the history and purpose of the chapel. A member of Bishop Stortford CND group has offered to make this and the group have agreed to donate the materials.

Letters received from the MOD indicate that they are still considering demolition and will not allow access because they feel, 'there is an unacceptable risk that such a concession will be exploited for political ends by those opposed to the development of the base'. They also say that our involvement with Eirene is suspected of being, 'concerned with political rather than religious matters'.

In view of this it is essential that the pressure is maintained and letters continue to be sent to all those who might influence the government's decision. In particular we are appealing for help from ministers of all faiths, asking them to discuss this issue. We have a letter outlining both our case and that of the Ministry's (taken from their communications). A copy of this letter can be sent to you if you feel you have an outlet to any religious groups in your area.

Write to: Eirene Working Group, c/o Halcyon Spirit, Peace Lane, Peace Corner, Brington, Cambs.

SMALL, BRIGHT AND HEAVY

Small the universe in the midst of void,
Bright the star in the midst of night,
Heavy the planet in the midst of space.

Small the song in the midst of stillness,
Bright the flame in the midst of darkness,
Heavy the atom's heart in the midst of emptiness.

Small the joy in the midst of sorrow,
Bright the hope in the midst of despair,
Heavy the mind in the midst of prejudice.

Small the word in the midst of silence,
Bright the good in the midst of evil,
Heavy the man's life born to die.

We are small, bright and heavy,
But we are not alone.

Rainbow Village on trial

POLICE LIES & BLIND JUSTICE

BRIG OUBRIDGE REPORTS,

From Friday 17th May until the following Friday, May 24th, the longest Molesworth trial so far took place in front of Huntingdon magistrates. In the six-day hearing, eleven Rainbow Villagers and two supporters from Milton Keynes were accused of having obstructed Police Superintendent Blake in the execution of his duty at Peace Corner at 7.15 a.m. on April Fools' Day. Four others failed to appear on the same charge, and hence now face an additional charge of failing to appear, whenever the police may manage to track them down.

The first day of the mammoth trial was almost completely taken up with the evidence of Supt. Blake. He stated that he had been on duty at Peace Corner the previous day, Mar. 31st, and had seen a car which he knew to be associated with the Rainbow Village, and the occupants appeared to be doing a 'recce'. Knowing the stated intention of the Rainbow Village to return to Molesworth, and it being his duty anyway under a plan agreed with the Asst. Chief Constable to 'secure' Peace Lane (referred to throughout by the prosecution as 'the lay-by'), Blake arranged for 47 police officers to be at Peace Corner from 6a.m. the following morning.

According to Blake's story, 7 Rainbow Village vehicles (3 coaches, 2 vans - one towing a caravan -, a lorry and a car) all arrived together at 7.15, and stopped, blocking one carriageway of the B660. While a police sergeant spoke to the driver of the leading coach, the other occupants all got out and milled about in the road, which Blake described as a "customary tactic by these people to make things more difficult for the police"! Blake then (so he said) told everyone to get back in their vehicles and move on, and when, after 5 minutes, they had all refused to do so, he arrested them because he feared a breach of the peace by local villagers.

Cross-examined by Niel Davidson, defending most of the accused, Blake said that he could not answer questions on the legality of his actions, but that he did "whatever was necessary". He stuck rigidly to his story that he had spent 5 minutes warning people to go before any arrests were made. Asked whether 47 police officers might not have been sufficient to prevent local villagers taking matters into their own hands, Blake replied "Not necessarily", although he had earlier stated that his fears of this were based on 4 such villagers having said in February that such action would take place if the Rainbow Village were not removed.

Throughout Blake's evidence and his own preamble, police prosecutor Mr. Beale (described by an observer at the trial as "a venomous weasel in half-moon glasses") did his best to bring up (and maliciously misrepresent) any previous incident involving Rainbow Villagers that he could possibly twist into a prejudicial slur against us, answering Niel Davidson's repeated objections with the contention that the court had to take into account Blake's state of mind in deciding whether he was in fact acting reasonably in the execution of his duty. The defendants, on Niel's advice, did their level best throughout to stifle any involuntary reactions of either anger or sheer incredulity at both Blake's version of events and Beale's dubious antics, and were actually congratulated by the chairman of the bench ~~at the~~ at the end of the first day for their restraint and good behaviour.

The second day of the trial was taken up with a succession of minor police witnesses - one arresting officer for each defendant (although one caused amusement by pointing out the wrong man in court, so that one defendant had apparently been arrested twice and another not at all), a couple of sergeants, and the officers who had taken our statements at

Thorpe Wood (peterborough) Police Station. None of the arresting officers had been able to hear what Supt. Blake had said to us, but they all agreed that he had been talking to us for 5 minutes before we were put under arrest (even though they were far less clear on when the 5 minutes began or how long any other portion of the morning's events had taken). They all agreed that everyone who had been arrested had come quietly and been no trouble to deal with, and they all maintained that they had had no briefing whatsoever before our arrival. One significant fact which emerged from the arresting officers was that neither I nor Mike Johnson-Smith could possibly have heard any warning which Supt. Blake gave (even supposing that he in fact gave one), since we had both remained in my van (which had been the last to arrive) out of earshot of Supt. Blake, and that the first thing which any police officer had said to us was "Get out. You're under arrest."

Although we had all declined to answer almost all the questions we were asked at the police station, one thing at least was clear from our interviews. The one question which we had all immediately answered was "Did you hear Supt. Blake tell you to go?", and the answers ranged from a simple but clear "No." to the more emphatic "That's rubbish, that question! It never happened!"

The morning of the third day, Tuesday, brought us to the last of the prosecution witnesses, Inspector-now-Chief-Inspector Rogers, who had been promoted some time after the April 1st incident. Despite his 18 years experience in the police, Insp. Rogers was not a very impressive witness; he seemed incapable of looking either the defendants or the magistrates in the face, and as he muttered at his shoes he looked by far the guiltiest person in the whole court.

Insp. Rogers (referring to the notebook which he had made up with Supt. Blake just after the arrests), was the only police witness who had heard what Blake had said to us, and although he looked exceedingly uncomfortable in doing it, he backed up Blake's version of events. Although he did slightly vary the by now unconvincingly predictable "5 minutes", (he said "4 or 5 minutes"!), he agreed that Blake had warned us all to go, given us time to go, and only then had he arrested us.

At the end of the prosecution case, Niel Davidson made a legal submission that the charges should be dismissed due to there being no case to answer. He and Beale had a lawyers' sparring match citing precedent and counter-precedent on the extent of a police officer's duty, and when police have or do not have the right to block the highway. However, there was probably never much chance of Niel's submission being successful, since it would have needed clear legal direction from the clerk to the magistrates in order for them to throw out the case at that point. On the first day of the trial we had had a clerk who looked like he might have been capable of giving such direction, and who had actually been quite sharp in pointing out how far Beale could or could not go. However, from the Monday onwards he had been replaced by a clerk who had been much more content to let Beale get away with whatever he liked, and so much slower to intervene that at times she seemed to be doing the police's job for them.

Nevertheless, when the bench came back in with their decision that the cases against all the defendants should go on, it was a psychological blow to all of us, not least because we had all been in court already for longer than we had expected, and the strain was beginning to tell. At the end of the day, after the first of the defendants, Rebecca West, had given her evidence, another of the defendants, Martin Melville, got to his feet in the dock and announced that he wanted to change his plea. Although Beale was keen for the court to accept a new plea immediately, the magistrates wisely adjourned the case for the night (it was 5 o'clock anyway) in order to give Mel the chance to talk it over with Niel and come back to court in the morning.

Having realised that a guilty plea would not in fact end the ordeal any sooner, since he would still have had to sit through all the rest of

the defence case, and that we did still have at least some chance of winning (on appeal, if not immediately), and having had an evening and a night to recover his composure, Mel retracted his change of plea the following morning, and the case continued.

By comparison to the police witnesses, the defendants all seemed refreshingly honest. This was probably the most noticeable feature of the defense evidence throughout. All our testimony added up to the same story, told in different ways from a variety of different viewpoints, but together making a convincing and consistent whole. We arrived at Peace corner to find the large police presence, and the entrance to George's field blocked off. The lead vehicle stopped, and everyone got out to see what was going on. Blake called everyone into a group, saying that he had something to say to us; when everyone had gathered, he told us we were all under arrest and waved his PCs in to haul us off. No warning to go. No chance to go. No five minutes.

Beccy had been on her way home to Brighton to see her mum, and had gone along to Peace Corner hoping to find some S.E. Region pledgers to get a lift from. She had obeyed Blake's instruction to gather together, and then found herself under arrest. "are you a rainbow warrior?" sneered Mr. Beale at the end of his cross-examination. "Yes." she said firmly.

Postman Jon had wanted to make tea for people at Easter from George's field, and thought George would not mind. He had gone limp on arrest, and been dragged away, but his arresting officer had already said that he had not been any trouble. He also admitted to being a 'Rainbow Warrior'.

Roddy tried to explain the Hopi profesy of the Rainbow Warriors before agreeing to be classified as one. With a flourish, Beale produced a copy of Peace News from his inside pocket, and attempted to question Roddy about an article by 'a Rainbow Villager'. Niel Davidson had to intervene twice to get a ruling that this was not relevant, since Roddy had not written the article, whatever it said.

Carpenter Jim said that if he had been warned by Blake to move on, (which he had not), he did not know whether or not he would have done so. He had had charges against him dismissed previously, because the court had ruled that Blake & Co. had been acting illegally in trying to block the entrance to Grafham Water car park.

Mel admitted to being the one who had, according to the police evidence, "urinated into the road" (this incident had been a highlight of the police account of events). He denied that this had been a calculated insult to the police, and pointed out that there had been a bus between him and the policeman who had reported the incident.

Like Roddy, Ben had been still in his sleeping bag when the buses had arrived at Peace Corner, and had barely had time to find his shoes before being arrested. Like the others, he had simply followed Blake's instructions.

I was the last witness on the Wednesday, and told the court that I had talked with George a couple of days before and felt that George would have been glad if we had got onto his field, but that it would have put him in a very awkward position to actually ask him and make him an overt conspirator.

Time ran out before I could be cross-examined, and attention shifted to the question of how people could sign on the next day and be expected to be in court in Peterborough (Huntingdon court would be closed that day) at the earlier time of 9.45. They promised to arrange giro for us in Peterborough.

After court, we went to see George to ask him to be a witness for us. Had he done so, his evidence would have confirmed that he would have been pleased to have us in his field, and would have proved that the police did not have his permission to block the entrance off. But George has been under so much pressure from some of his neighbours and from the police, that he didn't want to give evidence, and we didn't

want to make him do so against his will.

On Thursday morning we all turned up on time in Peterborough, despite the longer journey. All this time we were under imminent threat of eviction from both our camps at Sharnbrook (outside Bedford) and at the Peace Pagoda in Milton Keynes, and tension was rising as to whether we could finish the case before the bailiffs came in.

Beale's cross-examination of me went on a long time without his quite managing to prove that I was in fact Napoleon! (He had stated before that the fact that I had not got out of my van was irrelevant, since Napoleon would watch a battle from his horse on a hill, but was still responsible!) He did manage to establish that I was some sort of group treasurer and a writer (his emphasis!), as if this automatically made me a prime enemy of the state and therefore guilty by definition!

Jan told how she had had to wait in Jerry's car until Jim came back to help her into her wheelchair and push her, at a run, up to the group around Blake, where she had arrived just in time to be arrested. Mark from Milton Keynes told how he had been asked by Jerry to come along as an independent observer. Like everyone else, he had thought that he was going to find out from Blake what was going on, and simply found out that he was under arrest. Terry, another Rainbow Villager, gave much the same story as everyone else. All were subjected to Beale's relentless and vindictive style of cross-examination, which was by now showing itself to be clearly 'over the top'.

Our star witness that afternoon was Asst. Chief Constable Radcliffe, who had not been mentioned in police evidence, but had shown up at the scene within ten minutes of our arrest. He contradicted Blake's story that the 'securing' of the 'lay-by' had been a plan which he had agreed, but said that, in relation to the CND Easter Demo, "it was my biggest concern, and, if I may say so, CND's biggest concern, that these people would return." When asked about phone taps, he at first hedged, and then resorted to the careful form of words used by successive Home Secretaries to say that there were no authorised phone taps on anyone concerned with Molesworth.

Mike's evidence and that of Jerry Hartigan, a family solicitor and peace activist from Olney, near MK, who had come along in response to a late night phone call from Jan to help her move, completed the defense case. Beale seemed to obtain particular enjoyment from grilling a fellow solicitor on Friday morning, trying to cast Jerry in the role of some sort of legal mastermind (which wasn't too convincing).

By that time, the balance of evidence was quite clear to anyone with an unbiased perspective. A journalist who had sat through the whole case agreed that it was obviously a police set-up to round us all up and worry about charges afterwards, and that the police evidence had clearly been a fabrication. However, to return a verdict which would have clearly implied that the police were lying (from Blake down) was something which was beyond the abilities of Huntingdon magistrates. After Niel's closing submission they retired, and in due course came back with the compromise verdict that Mike and I were not guilty, and the other 14 guilty. It was a verdict with no justice in it, and I felt sick as I walked out of the dock and waited for the others to receive their sentences.

Beale asked for prosecution costs of £107 per person. The bench fined everyone £25 plus £50 costs, with the exception of Jerry who was charged double. Perhaps it may be reversed on appeal, if people can find the stamina to go for a replay.

We came out of court and headed straight back to Sharnbrook, where a large number of grim and stropky policemen were helping bailiffs evict the last of our homes from the lay-by. Most of the village had left the previous afternoon for Stratford, en route to Stonehenge, on holiday!!

STOP PRESS: About 100 Rainbow Villagers were among the 500 who were ambushed, beaten up and had their homes destroyed by Stonehenge police.

Coming Events

June

- 10 Alconbury Conspiracy trial begins - Northampton Crown Court
- 12 County Action Group mtg., 7:30 pm, 4 Bridge House, St. Ives
- 13 Molesworth Finances Review mtg., 8 pm, Old School - All cheque signatures / welcome!
- 14 Quaker Meeting, 8 - 8:30 pm, Old School - All welcome
- 19 Trade Union Group meets, 2 pm, Old School
- Direct Action Research Group meets, 4 pm, Old School
- 22 Sponsored cyclists arrive from Barrow (300 miles)--come to give a good / reception.
- 24-30 Summer Workcamp: there are still some places left on this workcamp based at the Old School. Details in last Bulletin. Workcampers must apply in advance to the Old School.
- 25 Balloon release, early evening, Peace Corner (contact Huntingdon CND)
- 26 Contractor Day of Action (see inside this Bulletin, p.5)
- 27 Liaison Meeting, 8 pm, Old School
- Bulletin Group, after Liaison Meeting
- 30 Quaker Meeting 12-1 pm, Old School, followed by bring & share lunch

July

- 1 London Regional Day of Action at Molesworth
- 4-14 Molesworth Summer School of Peace Studies: speakers, films, workshops based on the following themes each day (Contact Old School for details):
 - 4 "Grassroots Diplomacy" Launch of Summer School at 12 noon with a People's Declaration of Independence at Peace Corner
 - 5 "World Citizenship - a People's UN"
 - 6 "International Law"
 - 7 "Nonviolent Civilian Defence"
 - 8 "A Peaceful Economy - Alternative Work"
 - 9 "A Peaceful Economy - Alternative Structures"
 - 10 "A Peaceful Economy - Alternative Lifestyles"
 - 11 "Hungry for Change - Helping the Third World"
 - 12 "Hungry for Spirit - Helping Ourselves"
 - 13 "Organizing for Nonviolent Revolution"
 - 14 Folk Night, 8 pm, music and dancing from around the world
- 6 Quaker National Day of Action at Molesworth (Contact QPS, Friends House, Euston / Road, London)
- 6-7 Bulletin Collating weekend - bring a friend!
- 12 Quaker Meeting, 8-8:30 pm, Old School
- 21 Stop the Air Fair: Alconbury, Molesworth, Huntingdon Research Centre, Tarmac / Depots
- 26-27 Meditation weekend, Old School: "Exploring Ways to Peace Within Ourselves and in Our World" Christopher Titmuss, a meditation teacher world-wide, will be leading two days of meditation and discussion. (Contact Andy at the Old School for details.)
- 28 Quaker Meeting, 12-1pm, Old School

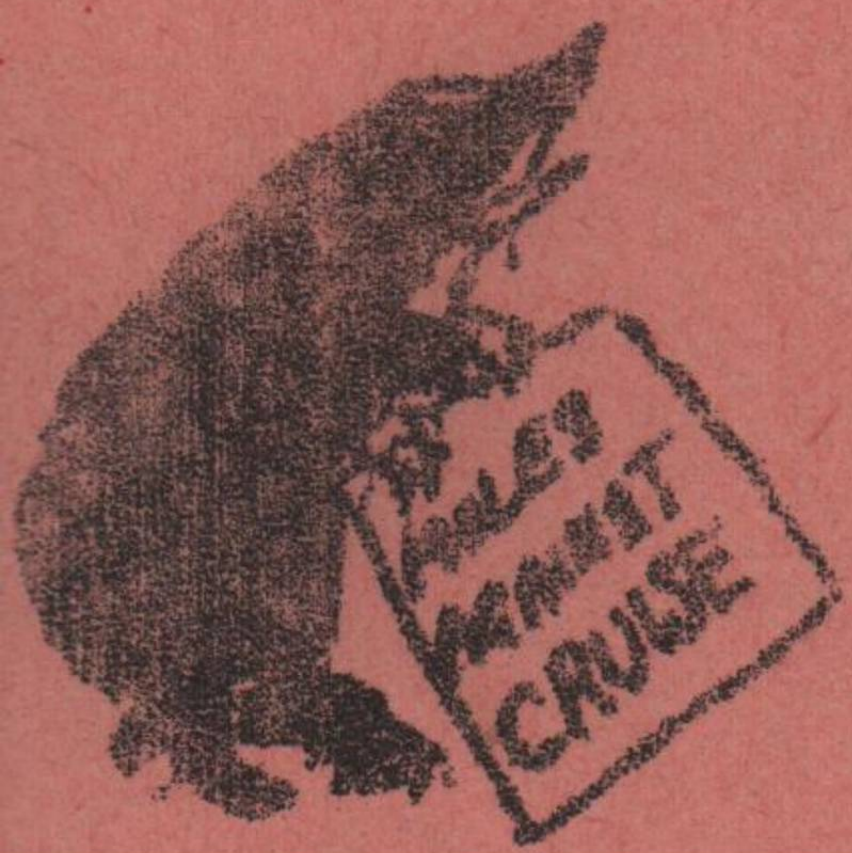
August 6 Hiroshima Day: activities planned at Molesworth by Huntingdon CND, Ex-Services CND, East Anglia Pledge, etc.

September 1 Eirene Day

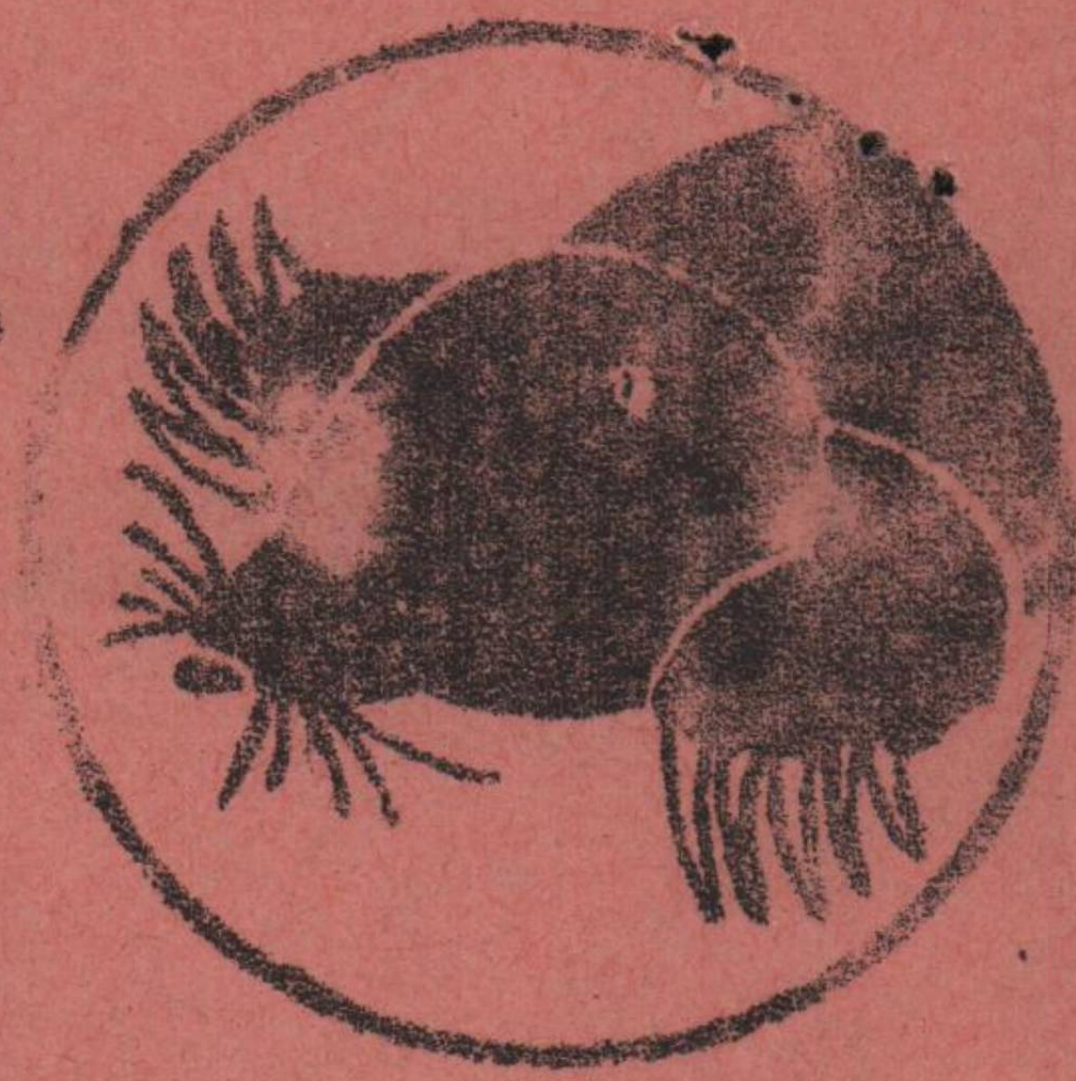
1-7 National Pledge Week of Action: Nonviolence is the Only "Defence"

October 24 International Day of Action to Stop the Arms Race

Note: July 28 to August 10 will be held the 10th International Nonviolent March for Demilitarization, this year to be in Denmark. Contact: WRI, 55 Dawes Street, London.



THE Molesworth BULLETIN



The Peoples Peace Camp and Peace Corner Watch need a camp oven, gas stoves, bicycles, sheets (for banners), gear-tex's, wood and most of all you!

APOLOGIES to anyone who has received more than one copy of the bulletin, or who has subscribed but not received a copy. We are still trying to get our mailing list of nearly 1,000 people in order, please help us by letting us know of any mistakes. Apologies also to those people who have sent us articles which we were not able to fit into this issue. Thanks, from the June Bulletin Group - Bob, John, Timmon, Andy, Jill, Jill, Tom, Su, Michelle, Gary, Paul.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER to Peace Groups in exchange for a regular copy of your newsletter! Otherwise subscriptions to the Bulletin are £3.00 per year minimum (or less if you haven't got it).
We have for sale :-

Badges	25p	Eirene Cassette Tapes	£3.00
Posters	£2.00	Eirene Cards	15p or 85p for 6
Postcards	15p	Leaflets	
Eirene	20p		
Songbooks			

Bookings for the Molesworth exhibit, slide show, speakers and the 24 foot Easter Mural and orders for the above should be sent c/o Old School Clifton, Northants.

For a list of contractors, MOD construction plans, a County Council pack, legal support forms or a list of potential dispersal sites write with an S.A.E. c/o Old School.