

ZERO OPTION - THE EMPTY OFFER

Much media hoo-ha and the applause of politicians has followed the announcement of President Reagan's 'zero option' for missile systems based in Europe. Let us congratulate ourselves. The series of autumn demonstrations throughout Europe has forced the U.S. Government- which only a few weeks previously had been talking about the possibility of a 'limited' nuclear war in Europe - to act as if they were peacemakers. We have forced them to start a propaganda war against the peace movement we are at last being taken seriously.

So what of the offer itself? In brief, the 'zero option' states that if the Soviet Union will dismantle the (increasingly obsolete) SS4's and SS5's and take away SS20's (which have themselves been around for a while), NATO will not introduce Pershing II's or Cruise missiles to Europe. There's no space here to go into the SS's, Pershing and Cruise actually are, there's plenty reference books to look that up in. What is important is that the U.S. is offering to not intro-

duce new missiles if the Ruskies get rid of already existing ones. No doubt when Brezhnev and co. refuse the offer they'll be attacked for it and Reagan will be seen as a generous peacemaker who did his best.

Well that's not good enough. The 'offer' is little more than blackmail. Worse, it's based on a false premise. Reagan does not have the choice to bring Pershing and Cruise to Europe; it's our continent not his. And it's increasingly likely that he will not be able to bring Cruise to most of the nations in Europe, as any Dutch or Belgian person will tell you.

Let's be clear. We welcome America and Russia meeting at conference table (and remember our Government hasn't been asked to join the talks). as Churchill said, 'Better jaw-jaw than war-war.' But the position of the peace movement remains unchanged - the 'zero option' for us is just that. 'Zero nuclear weapons in Europe. And false promises and shady deals won't deflect us.

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NND's PRIORITIES

Leafletting

It has been decided that the mass leaflet of the greater Nottingham area agreed by the AGM will now take place during the half term holiday in the last week of February. Obviously co-ordination and planning will be a key factor if this operation is to be successfully carried out. Between now and the end of December I hope to visit each Neighbourhood group to ascertain the boundaries of their own area, and also get some assessment of their ability or otherwise to leaflet other areas of the city where we do not yet have neighbourhood groups.

It is hoped that each neighbourhood group will liaise closely with other relevant organisations in their area eg labour party branches, churches etc so as to maximise their effort. At the same time I will be contacting groups affiliated to NND other than neighbourhood organisations in an effort to organise leafletting of those parts of the Nottingham area not presently covered by NND. Should you have any enquiries about the leafletting, or wish as an individual/group to volunteer to do an area do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Mark Cole 333524

PS Its planned to include on the leaflet details of a major rally type public meeting with a 'big name' speaker, in the city centre

T.V. and Radio

When the media access group met on Dec 2nd it discussed access to local radio at length and is going to put together some material on using local phone-ins and also explore producing its own radio programme.

However its main project is to get resources facilities and broadcast time for CND to make its own TV programmes under its own editorial control. An application to the 4th Channel is now being prepared with people from the Midland Group New Cinema to get funds to produce one programme or at least investigate the idea. If it comes off this programme would be sponsored by NND, but would be produced in conjunction with other disarmament groups around the country. It would look at existing media presentation of disarmament issues, how the disarmament movement would like to use TV, and also the wider implications for TV of open access partisan programmes.

If you're interested in this group there is a meeting - 7.30 - WEDNESDAY 16th DEC at 118 Mansfield Rd or else contact Brian Davey 582369 (work)

Nuclear Free Zone

The City Labour Group are currently discussing ways of implementing the Nuclear Free Zone resolution whilst the County Labour group are due to reply soon to NND's detailed proposals which appeared in last month's bulletin. However a problem has already occurred with the implementation of ideas for 'Peace Education'.

The County Education Committee has set up a working party to produce a Peace Education curriculum but as yet the requests of the NND Teachers group and Youth Against the Missiles to be represented on it have been turned down. Could 'Peace Education' end up like religious education which arguably turns many school students off religion?

Also Youth Against the Missiles are meeting increasing opposition in trying to organise in schools. Leaflettings have been stopped and their requests for premises have been turned down (yet Mapperley Neighbourhood group were allowed to use school premises for free - one rule for adults, another for youth?) - More details next time.

Conference

EAST MIDLANDS CND ACTIVISTS CONFERENCE

This is going to take place on:-

SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY 11 till 5.30 at QUEENS WALK COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE MEADOWS

It will be largely workshop based and discussion/sharing of ideas and experiences - hopefully bringing together trade unionists, youth, students, women, Christians etc from all over the region. The cost will be £1 and there will be a creche. Leaflets explaining more will appear soon. For further details contact Ross Bradshaw 582506 (work)

STOP PRESS - COORDINATING GROUP DECISIONS

- 1) The Billboard Advertising Campaign is to go ahead in March rather than January when there will be longer daylight hours and people will be able to see them for longer.
- 2) From now on the NND officers will be given the responsibility of issuing press releases/doing radio interviews etc in response to local/national events that occur eg Reagan announcing new 'peace' proposals
- 3) NND's Membership rates are to change. The new rates are:-
Ordinary Rate - Waged + Students - £2.50
Unwaged/pensioners/under 18 in education - £1
Family/more than 1 person at same address - £3
The new rates will begin from January 1st when MEMBERSHIP CARDS will be issued to existing members

DAYSCHOOL DETAILS:

DAYSCHOOL
ON NON-VIOLENT,
DIRECT ACTION,

24th JANUARY, QUEENS WALK COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Nottingham for nuclear disarmament and the national campaign for nuclear disarmament are now committed to supporting nonviolent direct action against nuclear weapons. The purpose of this dayschool is to introduce people to nonviolent direct action - what it is and what it entails, and to discuss what we can do locally.

AGENDA

- 10.00 - 10.15 AN INTRODUCTION TO NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION.
- 10.15 - 11.30 DIRECT ACTION WITHIN THE LAW
Someone at the Peace Camp at Greenham Common will talk about their experience at the camp.
DIRECT ACTION OUTSIDE THE LAW.
Someone from Bristol Anti-Nuclear group will talk about how they organised to stop a train carrying nuclear waste.
- 11.30 - 1.00 WORKSHOPS - 6 options
a) How do we get our message across/street theatre?
b) How do we involve the unions?
c) How does direct action relate to the media?
d) An introduction to nonviolence training.
e) The experience of NVDA in the campaign against nuclear power.
f) The legal limits.
- 1.00 - 2.00 LUNCH
- 2.00 - 2.15 WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST
Where are the bunkers? What are local civil defence plans?
- 2.15 - 2.30 IDEAS FOR ACTION.
Suggestions as to what could be done locally.
- 2.30 - 4.00 WORKSHOPS
Random workshops to discuss what we can do.
- 4.00 REPORT BACK - CONCLUSIONS.

Cost - 50p (including tea and coffee). A simple lowcost lunch will be available. Creche - please notify ages of children and special needs. Bookstall.

Queens Walk Community Centre is in the Meadows on Queens Drive about ten minutes walk from the railway station.

NB. The above programme for the dayschool is provisional, and there will be a meeting to discuss it further, as well as the opportunity to put forward proposals/ideas for Direct Action on MONDAY 14th DECEMBER at 8.00 in the Environmental Factshop.

Further Reading to article overleaf

1) From Protest to Resistance: the direct action movement against nuclear weapons. (Mushroom/Peace News) £1.25
Locally produced pamphlet about the direct action wing of the 50's and 60's disarmament campaigns.

2) Direct Action and Liberal Democracy, by April Carter. (RKP) £3.50
Theory and practice of n.v.d.a. in a

3) Hell no, we won't glow, by Sheryl Crown (Housman) 45p.
Account of the mass occupation of Seabrook (USA) nuclear power plant in 1977.

4) Direct Action against Nuclear Weapons: the legal limits. (Bristol Socialist Legal Group) 60p.
Lawyers' guide to direct action and the criminal law.

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

NND at its' well-attended AGM decided that one of its priorities over the next year should be nonviolent direct action (n.v.d.a.) against nuclear weapons. CND, at its annual conference, voted overwhelmingly to support regional and local groups taking nonviolent direct action in support of the campaign and agreed that CND would be willing to organise and lead national direct action if the occasion arises. In particular CND supports the Peace Camp at Greenham Common and non-violent action against the Government's civil defence exercise 'Operation Hard Rock' next autumn.

This is the background to the renewed interest in this particular type of action. In the 50's and 60's the movement was split over whether n.v.d.a. should be used, not so this time.

What is nonviolent direct action?

Whatever you do as an individual to directly effect events is direct action. As an example, it is direct action to insulate your loft to preserve fuel and so reduce the need for more power stations. It is direct action to try to stop lorries entering a nuclear power station. Clearly though we are talking about types of action which do directly confront the military state.

Is it legal?

You can take direct action within the law or outside the law. The more sustained actions - like the Greenham Camp - have stayed just within the law and avoided provoking arrest. However, we are not necessarily completely in control of this - if, for example, 500 people blockaded all the entrances to County Hall by sitting down the police may arrest. If we sat in the road, they definitely would.

Do you have to be a pacifist?

No. For some, however, nonviolence is a way of life - which includes men not oppressing women, organising equally and collectively rather than by command and refusing under any circumstances to use violence. NND though is talking about using nonviolence as a tactic. Violent action would certainly make us many enemies amongst our community and would mean that many NND people would not take part. In any case our opponents can easily meet violence with violence and win - either physically at the time or through long prison sentences later. They cannot so easily deal with continued nonviolent direct action by thousands of people. It is nonviolent direct action that is NND's policy and it is nonviolent direct action that is CND's policy.

Can anyone take part?

Clearly those whose jobs, homes or families would be at risk may not wish to

risk arrest. In an action where arrest is a possibility the involvement of these people is crucial in giving support, eg. by handling press, publicity, legal aspects, fundraising. This type of contribution is no less important than any other

How do we organise?

N.v.d.a. has been organised in all sorts of ways but the more successful has been where people organise (within the massed numbers) in small groups of those they trust and like. As isolated individuals we can easily be tempted to do something we may later regret and are often targets for the police. Working in these small groups helps us to pool our ideas creatively and find the support we need in order to cope with the strain and any problems which might arise. Our colleagues and friends can give us the ability to remain strong and confident. NND, through its' neighbourhood groups, has already shown how useful this type of organisation is.

Do you need training?

Many people have used techniques like role-play (acting through possible events) It is useful to try to see how all participants in an action feel - the protestor, the police, the onlooker. Preparation is certainly necessary, legalities, arranging support - people, first-aid (always be prepared), contingency plans. The event on the day is only one part of a process, a lot of talking is needed first!

What type of action is possible?

Here's a list. Blockade of cruise missile site, occupying local bunkers, disrupting civil defence exercises, sending money to others already engaged in direct action. tax refusal by self-employed people, refusal to pay t.v. licence (until BBC show the War Game), sitting-in at The Evening Post to demand fair coverage, rows of potential recruits at army careers office, streams of potential customers for fallout shelter companies, constantly filling surgeries of pro-nuclear MPs, sitting in front of nuclear waste trains, mass visits to local war-planners officesadd your own ideas.

Does this replace other activity?

No. N.v.d.a. is only one of NND's priorities. Our basic educational and propaganda work must carry on. Whole areas of the city have not yet been approached by NND; Clifton Estate (approx 20,000 population) has only 3 NND members. In other parts of the city we have no NND people at all. Unless we are constantly stating and re-stating the unilateralist case to as many people as possible we will find ourselves isolated and unpopular when we do take nonviolent direct action.

—STUNT ACTIONS—

Over the last three years there has been a growing campaign in the Severnside area against the shipment and dumping at sea of low level nuclear waste. As a part of this opposition there have been two "stunt actions" at or near the small port of Sharpness. We chose the term "stunt actions" to describe some of the events at Sharpness, partly because sometimes during preparation for them we have felt more like a troupe of acrobats than anti-nuclear protesters! A stunt action is an event carried out by quite a small group, probably 20 or less, which has some element of direct action, and is newsworthy through being imaginative and visually interesting.

During the week in which the loading of the waste took place at Sharpness in 1978 and in the few weeks preceding it, dockers and local people were given leaflets explaining what the waste was, where it was going, and some of the reasons for opposing its dumping. Between then and the summer of 1979 when the first stunt action took place, there was a fair bit of work in making local contacts and researching into the precise way the waste was handled.

This first stunt action was preceded by our failure to stop *The Gem*, the ship which was to carry the waste from entering Sharpness docks. It was while a number of us were looking around the dock area wondering what we could do next that some-one suggested occupying the cranes. It was clear that this could prevent loading; it would be very difficult to remove us, and our presence would be quite obvious to the press and local people. There followed two days of frantic planning and preparation by groups from Oxford, Stroud and Bristol. This involved deciding who would occupy the cranes (in pairs, two for each crane) and who would form a support group to drive vehicles, supply the occupiers with food, and follow anyone who might be arrested. People also undertook to contact the press as soon as the cranes had been occupied.

On the day, three cranes next to *The Gem* were successfully occupied, despite nearly everyone having been stopped by the police on their way to the docks. The action lasted for about four hours until *The Gem* was moved to another berth so it could unload using unoccupied cranes.

Local press coverage was extremely good and some of the national papers and the News at Ten carried the story. The action was followed by a conventional demonstration three days later.

By the summer of 1980 when *The Gem* was due once again to dump waste from Sharpness, we were much more organised. Again the whole area was leafleted, dockers contacted, and there was a protest march and a public meeting with the Atomic Energy Authority at Sharpness. The planning for the stunt action itself began several months in advance with a meeting of people from Bristol, Bath and Stroud. Various ideas were discussed but the main idea adopted was based on a previous action at Torness power station

site, and on the now thorough knowledge of the countryside around Sharpness and the loading procedure. The plan was to obstruct one of the trains carrying waste to the dock by building a scaffold tower across the branch line. Preparations included a weekend practising scaffolding, meetings between groups, and an examination of feasible sites for the scaffold tower.

The detailed organisation was done in the few days before the action, during which time those involved gathered at a nearby house. This gave a further opportunity for people to get to know each other and for everyone to take on a specific role or roles. Some people went to the docks to mislead the police into thinking this would be the main site of the action. Others were to transport and erect the scaffold, and some were to climb up and stay on it. Four people took on warning the train driver of the obstruction using flags and banners, and one person acted as a scout to warn when the train was coming by observing further up the line. Once again press liaison and support roles were taken on. Each person knew what they were to do, but also what everyone else was doing and also had a clear idea of the time scale of the events. As a result the action itself worked exactly as planned, the train was held up for four hours, after which the police pulled down the tower.



Seven people were arrested and remanded in prison for 5 days, and an eighth person was later charged. Media coverage was overwhelming. All the TV and radio news bulletins featured the event, most of the national newspapers carried it, and there was some coverage in European newspapers. Locally protest against waste dumping had been covered in the newspapers every day of the week that *The Gem* was in dock.

LESSONS

1) This sort of action only has any meaning in the context of a more general campaign of conventional protest. It is much harder for the media to label protesters as extremists if local people have met them leafletting or at public meetings.

2) Spending time together before actions is time well spent in which people can get to know and trust each other, and therefore have confidence that each part of the plan will be carried through.

3) It is crucial to brief a solicitor before such an action. This could have prevented seven people spending 5 days in prison.

4) The tension of such an action always leads to exhaustion, as well as the intense planning needed in the few preceding days. Support people need particularly to be aware of this.

5) Even when everything has been done to get press coverage, it is still partly a matter of luck how much you get. The coverage in 1980 was improved by the lack of other news items that day.

6) Local knowledge is vital. The more one issue is worked on, the more this increases. Maps and photographs are essential to planning.

7) The forces of law and order will not necessarily end our actions for us. We need to decide how to bring an action to a satisfactory conclusion taking account of how long people can sustain their energy.

THE VALUE OF STUNT ACTIONS

1) They have some direct effects. Both those described caused delay and expense for the AEA.

2) They provide a means by which people can take control of a situation rather than asking some-one in power to alter things, even if that control is short-lived.

3) They are appealing to the media and thus effective in putting points across to a large number of people. The media coverage in 1980 could alone justify the expenditure by the wider anti-nuclear movement in paying the fines incurred.

4) They can inspire people and are an indication of strong commitment in that people are prepared to risk injury, arrest, or imprisonment.

FOR THE FUTURE

How about a number of stunt actions one day carried out by separate groups? The only co-ordination needed would be to agree on a day. It would then be up to individual groups to plan and carry their actions. Alternatively, a co-ordinated series of actions against a particular site as was discussed on the Torness Alliance could be planned.

We are beginning to plan for Sharpness again and a wider anti-sea dumping campaign is being organised. If you are interested contact Bristol Anti-Nuclear Group, 18 Bishop Road, Bristol, BS7 8LT.

This article is reproduced from Peace News. The authors, Julia Hammond & Trevor Houghton are members of Bristol Anti-Nuclear Group.

Women's Peace Camp News

Recently we received the first edition of a newsletter written by women and men at the Greenham encampment. Here we reprint some extracts from it. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, or send a letter of support, write to: WOMEN FOR LIFE ON EARTH, MAIN GATE, RAF GREENHAM COMMON, Nr NEWBURY, BERKS.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN??

The Womens Peace Camp at Greenham Common wasn't planned. It simply unfolded into existence after a series of powerful, almost coincidental "happenings."

A woman, with two children, living in Wales, initiated the original march -110 miles from Cardiff to Greenham Common, Berkshire. Other women helped organize and advertize.

About 40 women -young and older, teenagers, three babies and five men were involved throughout and they were supported by many, many others on their way. The march was a powerful experience for everyone.

At the end of the 10 days we were at the US Air Base (proposed Cruise Missile site!) Four women chained themselves to the fence. Then a group of women arrived dressed in black.

They rocked and "keened!" They mourned for the children who may never be allowed to grow up. At the same time a demand was read out to the American Base Commander for a televised debate on the nuclear (especially Cruise Missile) issue between the marchers and the Ministry of Defence. This has not taken place.

The rally -held at the main gates on September 5th was an electrifying experience. Marchers spoke to a large group of people. Now, these marchers had not done this sort of thing before, and this is what was so important. It was full of life, real emotions, music, happiness, tragedy -and it was all because "ordinary" people were coming out of their usual situation to show that they care.

In hope, desperation and strength they were trying to alter the nuclear suicide course that threatens our lives and Planet daily.

After the chaining and rally the Women's Peace Camp emerged and we are still here. It is led by women but strongly supported by both men and women. We feel that the

fact that the Camp is led by women is very important. In our society at large most of the rich, influential and Military are men and -to put it bluntly- look at the mess we are in!!

So women - "come out of your usual situation- become more assertive and take pride in your womanly values."

And men - "see the value of the women's lead and support them in every way you can." The shift away from a domineering, patriarchal society is best for everyone.

It is a realistic way to make changes in our dangerous -sadly lacking in quality- society.

WHAT ARTISTS SHOULD DO

It is the duty of Artists, Poets, Play-writes, Songwriters and Performers everywhere to contribute their work to the cause. New work will be especially appreciated, as this will help to stimulate the immediacy of the campaign. Artists of all kinds should send their work to newspapers, periodicals, art galleries, government officials, American military personnel and by dint of sheer imagination sway the hearts of all people from the folly of nuclear weapons. Artists should also use their powers to stimulate the discussion of alternatives to Nuclear Energy. Art is a beneficial weapon in the campaign against the destruction of Matter as it is itself on a higher, spiritual level. We must convince the powers that be of the superiority of Spirit (e.g. Thought) over the mere destruction of Matter. To do this we must raise Spirits, Consciousness, Laughter, Tears - whatever means we have at our disposal. Radio, Television, Newspapers etc. have distorted the truth - even kept it from us. The balance must be redressed. Art must assume Political Responsibility in re-defining our notions of 'Freedom of Speech' otherwise the Peace speechmakers will not succeed.

SAFE ENERGY GROUP - DUMPING ENQUIRY

PUBLIC ENQUIRY AT LOUGHBOROUGH Nov 24 th to Dec 2nd

This enquiry was called by the Department of the Environment as the Natural Environmental Research Council appealed against the decisions of Rushcliffe and Charnwood Borough Councils not to allow it to drill test boreholes at Ratcliffe on Soar power station and Wymeswold airfield. These boreholes are supposed to be entirely for research purposes to look into the feasibility of building a repository for high-level nuclear waste in clay.

Both councils insisted that one had to consider the end purpose of the bore-holes ie. a repository. The council's case rested on the possibility that to allow the bore-hole programme was to open the door to the dumping of nuclear waste here.

The Safe Energy Group and Loughborough Friends of the Earth prepared a joint case in which we made the following points:

- 1) That we don't consider a local public enquiry to be the place to consider an issue which is a national problem
- 2) We don't believe this is a purely research programme. We pointed out that feasibility had been accepted and the and the present programme was aimed at finding a site to build a repository.
- 3) We argued against the whole asinine concept of irretreivable waste dumping, and suggested that an engineered repository should be built at or slightly below the ground surface to keep the solidified waste in for the next few hundred years at least.
- 4) We also stated that public opinion should be taken into consideration and that the D.O.E. had been very unhelpful.

The whole Inquiry only took 1½ weeks which is much shorter than the other two inquiries on the same subject (Ayr 5½ wks, Newcastle 5wks). One reason for this was that the Atomic Energy Authority was not present, and the D.O.E. and the N.E.R.C. tried to talk only about the test boreholes and their local environmental effects, eg. noise.

Rushcliffe Borough Council were very helpful to us in a number of ways. Both Nottingham County and City Councils sent letters of objection to the inquiry. We felt, however, that local objections from the public were very poor. We appreciate

the lack of time between the announcement of the Inquiry and its opening, but there was still enough time for people to organize at least a letter. We heard reports about all sorts of demonstrations and disruptions of the Inquiry that were being planned, but none of these materialised.

In our view, one of the factors for making a decision on where to build a repository is likely to be the level of opposition. If this is so, then this area must now be the most likely place to end up having a high level waste repository, or, as seems even more likely, a dump for intermediate level waste.

The Safe Energy Group will meet again on Wed. 27th January 1982. At this meeting we will discuss our future plans including

- 1) The merger with N.N.D.
- 2) Future campaigning strategies.
- 3) Petitioning against nuclear dumping in this area.
- 4) Discussion of meeting with other groups involved in the Public Inquiry and the People's Inquiries.

For anybody interested, the meeting will be held at the Environmental Factshop at 8.00 p.m.

MEDICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons Notts branch meets on the first Thursday of every month in the Post-Graduate Medical Centre at the City Hospital at 8p.m. The next meeting will be on January 7th. At the last two meetings we have watched videos of a talk given by Dr Helen Caldicott. We are currently concentrating on opposing the proposed appointment by Trent RHA of a war planning officer. We have set up sub-committees to deal with -

- 1) Arranging public meetings given by national speakers to a wide audience on the subject of 'Medical Effects of Nuclear Technology'.
- 2) Developing a panel of speakers from within our own number who would be available to attend and speak at local meetings such as WT, Horizon, Housewife's Register etc in order to raise public awareness.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

This last few months has seen several million people demonstrating for disarmament in Western Europe, of which the Amsterdam demonstration reported below is the most recent.

Less well known is that there have been major, officially sponsored demonstrations in Romania and East Germany and the Romanians are pushing hard for a Balkans nuclear free zone. East German alarm about Europe's vulnerability to nuclear devastation mirrors that of W. Germany - they are both in the front line.

In Western Europe the people of Holland and Belgium seem particularly implacable in their opposition whilst in Scandinavia the anti-nuclear movements have a long way to go after electoral victories for the right in Norway and expected in Denmark

Aside from demos there's been several major conferences sponsored by END and there's ideas of a major convention bringing together peace movements, churches, womens organisations, trades unions, councils, universities etc from all over Europe. It will probably be in Brussels over several days involving a thousand people - perhaps in June.

For more details of European events contact Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation 784504 or get the END Bulletin - available from Mushroom price 50p



HOLLAND RALLY

THE DUTCH DISEASE

Surprisingly this has nothing to do with elm trees! It's the name the Dutch give to their peace movement, which they claim is spreading throughout Europe. The Netherlands certainly appears to lead the way. There was a conservative estimate of 350,000 people at the rally in Amsterdam. but the platform quoted half a million, and from the middle of the crush who could argue with that figure? The centre of the city had been completely taken over. If you tried to make a comparison with Nottingham it would mean that the area from BroadMarsh to the Theatre Royal and from Maid Maron Way to Hockley was wholly devoted to street stalls, fringe activities and a solid mass of people. We were told that the internal transport system throughout Holland had broken down owing to the number of people trying to join in. Figures of 2,000 people left behind on platform stations were quoted.

The route was 7 miles but we never left the starting square. It took us four hours to move to the edge of the square itself. The best sight of the day was contingent of about 300 Dutch soldiers, in uniform, led by an officer, marching round the square to the applause of the rest of the crowd. It is believed that the following day they were taken to court. (Does anyone know what happened to them?)

The local people made us very welcome. We were offered accommodation, drinks of coffee and given a discount in shops.

The crowd in Amsterdam appeared more mixed than the London one. There were grandparents, parents and children. It was truly a family day-out. There was much more noise than in Hyde Park. People joined in the singing and there was a lot of chanting and shouting. One peculiarity of the Dutch is that they throw back their heads and make a sort of wolf-howl. Everyone joins in, and the result is very spectacular.

Sylvia Parsons

**'A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS AROUND
THE WORLD...'**

The International Group has produced a message from NND in English, French, German, Italian and possibly a few other European languages which we hope will be sent with cards and correspondence to all our individual and group contacts in Europe and beyond - 2p each. Please think about including one of these with any Xmas Cards you may be sending overseas. Available from Factshop

CND CONFERENCE

With 120 motions submitted to the conference and rumours rife of party political infighting the conference wasn't as bad as I feared it might be. Yet perhaps the decisive vote for Joan Ruddock as the new chairperson of CND demonstrated the desire of many to do something about the loud mouthed, motion mongering, men who revel in such occasions I couldn't possibly do justice to all the issues debated so I'll focus on two - both because of issues they raise about the campaign and about the way conferences are run.

First there was the appalling debate about the World Disarmament Campaign which was polarised between two motions, one wholeheartedly supporting the WDC and the other calling for a complete renunciation of it. Now in practice many CND groups opt for a position of not emphasising the WDC petition which is seen as confused, too directed at governmental leaders etc but accepting that there can be some cooperation eg recruiting people to CND whilst petitioning for the WDC. The only way this viewpoint could be expressed was either voting both motions down, or, as we did, voting not to take them at all and letting CND groups get on with what they're doing

Throughout the debate the word 'Multilateralism' was bandied about in ways that helped nobody. I think we need to distinguish between 2 types of multi-lateralism. In the sense that all (or almost all) of us seek disarmament East and West we are multi-lateralists. But the multi-lateralism of governments - of Reagans 'we won't introduce any more if you take some of yours away' - is an approach we'd all reject since its consistently failed ever to negotiate a reduction in nuclear weaponry. The WDC, in my view, get the two types of multi-lateralism mixed up, and Bruce Kent's oft quoted phrase 'A unilateralist is a multi-lateralist who means it' doesn't, I think, shed much light on the subject. I prefer to see it in terms of unilateral acts providing the cutting edge, the way to start a process of disarmament.

Then there was the discussion about Direct Action. This never came up in motion form. Instead a statement from CND National Council went to a workshop of 150 people ! The workshop felt that the statement was too weak - allowing CND nationally to support other peoples actions but giving no commitment to initiating anything. The statement was amended accordingly and was put to conference where only 3 put of 900 opposed it It reads:-

CND supports regional and local groups in undertaking considered non-violent direct actions in pursuit of the British campaign. This is particularly urgent in view of continued government rejection of popular demand to stop the Trident programme and reject the basing of Cruise Missiles in this country. In particular conference supports the Peace Camps at Greenham Common or elsewhere and actions against Operation Hard Rock next Autumn. Also, the CND National Council will undertake to provide a lead to groups and organise actions in cases where considered direct action is felt necessary."

John Waller (NND delegate to Conference)

A SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE CONFERENCE DECISIONS

- 1) A large majority for a new structure for CND National Council - a 100 member body consisting of 20 elected at conference and 80 chosen from regions. (which means that the East Midlands region of which we are part would have 5 delegates - one of whom would be from NND,
- 2) Overwhelming support for CND being prepared to support and initiate non-violent direct action
- 3) A narrow majority in favour of CND giving more emphasis in its campaigning to British withdrawal from NATO
- 4) A narrow majority against CND committing itself to supporting Solidarity in Poland and liberation forces in El Salvador
- 5) Overwhelming support for CND giving support to campaigns against nuclear power, nuclear waste etc
- 6) A clear rejection of Jobs Not Bombs as the major slogan of CND. And a clear desire for CND to remain broad based and not identified with any political party, but a vote for more campaigning within the trade unions especially emphasising alternative plans for the Arms industry
- 7) A clear vote for the age limit of youth CND to remain at 21
- 8) Overwhelming support for a coordinated series of international demonstrations - possibly in June when the United Nations Special Disarmament Session is on.

PEACE ON EARTH



PEACE

At any time there are peace activists like ourselves in jail for their activities or for refusing conscription. At this time of the year it is useful to send them support; we know from those released how encouraging it is to receive cards from other peace workers throughout the world. The War Resisters International, which is in regular contact with war resisters all over the world, suggests the following. When sending cards, just sign your name, don't include a message or anything which might lead to the authorities harshening the prisoner's conditions. Send the card in an envelope - address it in block letters and put your own name and address for any returned mail or further correspondence. If your card is simply returned, send it to the British ambassador of the country concerned with a polite request for it to be forwarded. A longer list is printed in the current issue of Peace News, available from the NND office. Please write to:

USA

George Vesey and Louis D'Benedette (imprisoned for nonviolent direct action).

DC Jail, 1901 D St SE, Washington, DC 20003, USA.

USSR

Alexei Polishchuk (refused to join the army)
Ukrainskaya SSR, Sumskaya Oblast, Romensky Raion,
S.Perekrestovka, UCHR US-319/56, USSR.

SWITZERLAND

Erich Troesch (refused to join the army)
Postfach 2124, 8200 Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

XMAS CARDS

NND's own - 10p each - sold preferably in packs of 5. Available from the Factshop or group orders to Ann Kestenbaum 602497.

Vigil

CHRISTIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS






Our Nagasaki/Hiroshima Vigil outside ST Peter's Church, Nottingham, went so well in August that we are to have another Vigil - of prayer - inside the same church on Sat 19th December from 9.00-11.0a.m. and from 3.00-5.00 pm. Mostly the prayer will be silent but we shall speak a few words to lead the meditation from time to time. On Sat 12th Nov. we had a training day, well, morning for people who want to speak to church groups about the nuclear issue. If anyone missed it and would like to know more, please contact me. If you want to know more about the Vigil, please contact Ann Finlay, tel 231428.

A happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year to all!

Barbara Lacey.

CND JEWELRY

sterling silver profits to NND

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
|  | 12mm pendant | 2.20 each |
|  | 17mm pendant | 3.20 |
|  | 12mm earrings | 4.40 a pair |
|  | 17mm earrings | 6.40 |
|  | 12mm feminist CND pendant | 2.20 |
| | matching earrings | 4.40 |
| | 18" silver chain | 1.30 |

— orders to Ann Kestenbaum
(602497)

The discussion about alternative defence at Sunday's monthly meeting never got beyond a rather sterile exchange of views about whether we should actually be discussing the issue and I, for one, found it very disappointing. It seems to me that we have to be much more positive in our response to the question "How will Britain be defended without a nuclear deterrent"

There may be a number of good answers ranging through non-violent resistance, guerilla warfare and conventional military defence (& including mixtures of these) and I don't suggest for one minute that there should be an official CND view. But in order to make political choices, people need to have a sense of what real alternatives there are. Yet too often we fail to present any "workable option" instead of nuclear weaponry.

Even if people were to come to believe (as I do) that the likelihood of Russia wanting to invade this country is very small, there is still a need in most peoples minds for an insurance policy. At present we have a retaliatory deterrent which is actually increasing the risk of war. What we need is a defensive deterrent ie a defence which would make this country extremely difficult to 'digest'; something that could not be used or seen as 'aggressive' (and incidentally couldn't destroy the lives of millions of innocent people whose 'side' is irrelevant.

Comment!

I'd like to briefly outline one option - a strategy of independent territorial defence based on non-aggressive conventional weapons. We would not have long range strike aircraft for instance, no ocean going fleet and no overseas army. We would however maintain powers of reconnaissance and interception. It wouldn't need conscription and would mean a far lower level of defence spending. This conventional defence could be reinforced by non-violent resistance or guerrilla warfare.

Obviously such a change would have repercussions for Britain's membership of NATO. Dan Smith argues that it would mean with drawing from the Brussels Treaty and from NATO's integrated command but not necessarily complete withdrawal from NATO. Certainly being outside NATO would make going non-nuclear easier in many respects, but going non-nuclear within NATO might enable a much less dangerous transition towards the dismantling of the blocks....but that's another argument !

Ann Kestenbaum (NND secretary)

Responses to this viewpoint are invited - contributions over 400 words will be cut as has this article.

CND MISSILE ATTACK ON RAF COTTESMORE

Rutland Sec. hits out at police 'double-dealing'

Mike Murdoch, secretary of Rutland CND, has spoken publicly for the first time since an amazing episode at RAF Cottesmore. The story begins on Friday 30th October when a tongue-in-cheek article appeared in the Rutland and Stamford Mercury regarding CND's 'March Across The Sky'. The article said, 'Rutland CND will be encircling RAF Cottesmore and from undisclosed sites ... will launch a co-ordinated firework 'rocket attack'. Rutland CND expects that the mobile launching pads (a range of bottles of various capacities) will not be detected until after the rockets have been fired.'

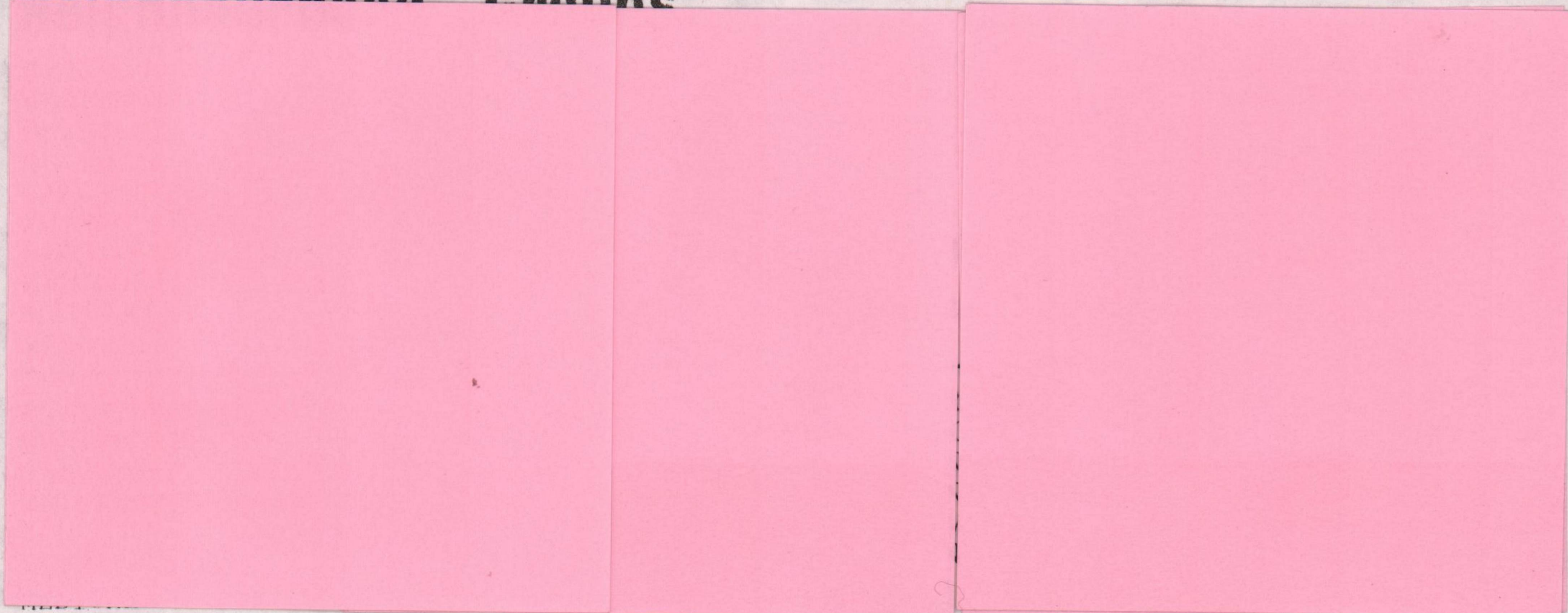
Immediately, RAF Cottesmore was put on red alert, live ammunition was handed out traffic was stopped, weekend leave was cancelled and orders were given to shoot anyone near the perimeter fence. Mike was oblivious to all this, as he was busy buying the 27p rockets. He told us,

'Although the incident will be amusing to those not involved, it came as a great shock to our supporters.' The story becomes more intriguing when it is learned that the RAF base, when approached by the media, made out that it was purely part of a national nuclear attack exercise. 'Someone is deliberately giving out false information - infact, telling lies,' commented Mr Murdoch. He was told by the police that any request by RAF Cottesmore for the demo to be halted would immediately be granted.

Mr Murdoch is clearly upset by this whole farcical charade and states, 'The police, at the time, put pressure on to frighten us off. I believe that this could turn to harrasment in the future.' The final comment though, must go to the Chief Officer of Rutland police. He told Mr. Murdoch, 'You are the enemy within, and we all know that the enemy within is nine times more dangerous than the enemy without.'

CONTACTS PAGE

Neighbourhood Groups



ARNOLD GROUP

Arnold and Woodthorpe branch of NND held its first meeting on Nov. 19th. There were about twenty people present. We formed a committee and agreed to meet regularly to promote locally the aims of CND. We came up with several fundraising ideas including 1) holding a stall on Arnold Flea Market on a Wednesday evening, 2) diminishing coffee parties. We agreed that our first priority should be to organise the leafletting of our own area with the NND leaflet and advertising for the planned public meeting to take place in Feb. After that has been completed we hope to arrange a public meeting in Arnold to raise local awareness. Our next meeting will be on Jan. 6th in Arnold Methodist Hall at 8p.m.

WOLLATON ACTION FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Around 60 people attended the showing of 'The Bomb' on 2nd. Dec. After the film smaller groups were formed for discussion with members of W.A.N.D. where we endeavoured to ascertain people's reasons for coming and their reaction to the film. This was followed with a short but challenging talk by Ross Bradshaw who summarized the aims and future activities of C.N.D. and stressed the value of local groups within the movement. Many thanks go to all who worked so hard towards making the evening a success. Next meeting 7.30pm. Monday 18th January in the lounge of the Willoughby Arms, Lambourne Drive, Wollaton.

WEST BRIDGFORD

The coffee morning was well attended and the display and bookstall attracted interest. The showing of the Bomb had a fairly low attendance of about 50 people but there was a lively discussion afterwards which had to be cut short through lack of time. The next meeting will be at 8pm on WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY at 1 William Rd. We will be discussing the city wide leafletting campaign. Will anybody who can help with house to house leafletting please come to the meeting or contact Sue Thomas 818387

SHERWOOD & CARRINGTON

Are holding a jumble sale in January. If any individual or neighbourhood group has any jumble they'd like to contribute could they contact Ann Lewis 605806 or Pete Hamshaw 622590

MAPPERLEY PARK r.i.p

The half a dozen stalwarts of the Mapperley Park group have accepted the inevitable and will no longer be meeting as a separate group, though it will nominally keep a contact number and carry on leafletting etc. BUT on the bright side they've thrown in their lot with Sherwood & Carrington group which has now its own youth section, mothers & toddlers group, drama group and newsletter. This could well be the tone of Neighbourhood action over the next year - mergers of some of the smaller groups who never really reach a viable size to form groups large enough to cover most of the areas of campaign work and to have debate and action. So the ending of Mapperley Park group shouldn't be seen as a set-back but the enlarged Sherwood group a more efficient use of our skills and person power. What do other Neighbourhoods think ?

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

NND POLICY

NND is opposed to all nuclear weapons, East or West. We want Britain to renounce possession of such weapons and to close all nuclear bases. We see a nuclear weapons free Britain as an essential step towards a nuclear weapons free Europe and World, and to the end of nuclear alliances. The only defence against nuclear war is nuclear disarmament.

NND OFFICE

Our office is one room in the Environmental Information Centre, 15 Goosegate - 582561 Simon, who handles much of NND's administration, bookings of the War Game etc is usually in the office 10.30 till 3 on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday. The Centre itself is open from 10 to 5.30 excepting Thursday and Sunday. If Simon isn't there somebody else in the Centre may Be able to help. Phone messages are taken

THE WAR GAME

This is still available for groups to book to show at public meetings, in your school, workplace, church or wherever. The rate is variable depending on what your group can afford, Contact the office for details.

SPEAKERS

If your group/organisation of whatever kind would like a speaker from NND then contact Bob Wardle 604813 who will arrange one

TELEPHONE ENTRIES

If any Neighbourhood Group wants to have its phone number entered in the Telephone Directory as a sub group of Nottingham for Nuclear Disarmament could they contact Pete Zabulis 414323 this month. The cost is £4 and would be billed to the person whose phone was being used.



CND PUBLICATIONS

NND SALES

<u>Tee Shirts</u> - large, medium or small (with CND symbol and Nottingham written in black on yellow background)	£2.50
<u>Berets</u> - Black CND symbol on red, purple, sage green etc	£3
<u>Necklets</u> - CND symbol	.75p
<u>Sanity</u> - Magazine of CND - bimonthly - new issue now out - much improved 1/2 off to local groups buying bulk copies. Annual Sub	.40p £2
<u>NND Bulletins</u> - Extra copies	.10p
<u>What Do we do after we've shown the War Game ?</u> - New CND pamphlet - a disarmament action manual. Essential reading	.75p
<u>British Overkill</u> - A Peace News broadsheet outlining Britians nuclear weapons Bulk Sales to groups	.10p .04p
<u>Facts Against the Bomb</u> - Bestselling pamphlet - published by NND	.75p
<u>Blessed are the Peacemakers</u> - Christain CND pamphlet	.75p
<u>Badges</u> - CND symbol black/white	.15p
East Midlands CND black/orange	.15p
Give Peace a Chance - CND sign on rairbow background	.20p
Teachers/Real ale drinkers/cat lovers.....against the bomb	.20p
<u>Stickers</u> - Give peace a chance	.20p
No Cruise	.20p
Stop Trident	.20p
CND - Nuclear Free Zone bumper stickers	.25p
<u>CND Mugs</u> - In tasty black and white and with quotes to get things stirring	£1.75
<u>On the Brink</u> - Poems by Pat Arrowsmith	.60p

Please send extra if ordering by post. Also what about taking things sale or return to run a stall.

Diary

DECEMBER 1981

- MONDAY 14th - 8.00 - Direct Action Planning Meeting - Environmental Factshop
- TUESDAY 15th - 8.00 - Nuclear Free Zone Group Meeting - Environmental Factshop
- WEDNESDAY 16th - 7.30 - Media Access Group - 118 Mansfield Rd
- SATURDAY 19th - 9am till 11am - Christian NND vigil - St Peters Church, Broadmarsh
3pm till 5pm

JANUARY 1982

- THURSDAY 7th - 8.00 - Medical Campaign Meeting - Post-grad medical centre, City Hosp
- SUNDAY 10th - 7.30 - NND MONTHLY MEETING ON NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION - Friends Meeting House, 25 Clarendon St
- MONDAY 11th - 8.00 - Events group meeting - Environmental factshop
- THURSDAY 14th - 8.00 - NND COORDINATING GROUP
- SUNDAY 24th - 10 till 5 - NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION DAYSCHOOL - Queens Walk Community Centre, The Meadows
- WEDNESDAY 27th - 8.00 - Safe Energy Group - Environmental Factshop

FEBRUARY

- SUNDAY 7th - 11 till 5,30 - East Midlands CND Activists Conference - Queens Walk Community Centre, The Meadows

The following is the main national activities for the coming year

March 21st - Demonstration at Womens Peace Camp at Greenham Common.

Easter - Regional events/demonstrations probably at military bases

6 June - Main National Demonstration linked to worldwide activity aimed at United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. Venue uncertain

October - Opposition/Disruption of 'Hard Rock' civil defence exercise

BULLETIN DEADLINE.....BULLETIN DEADLINE,.....BULLETIN DEADLINE.....

The Deadline for the January Bulletin is TUESDAY 12th JANUARY at the Environmental Information Centre, 15 Goosegate



JOIN

NOW!

Return to Susannah White (membership), 9 Tavistock Drive, Mapperley Park, Nottingham. Cheques/postal orders made payable to NND.

I want to join NND and enclose £2 for a year's membership
I enclose a donation of

Name.....

Address.....

..... Telephone.....

