

NOTTINGHAM CND March Bulletin



30 YEARS ON: TRIDENT BRINGS US BACK TO ALDERMASTON.

NCND OFFICE ****
 ASPLEY
 ARNOLD
 BASFORD
 BEESTON
 BINGHAM
 BULWELL/BESTWOOD

BURTON JOYCE
 CITY CENTRE
 CLIFTON
 EAST LEAKE
 FOREST FIELDS
 HUCKNALL
 ILKESTON
 KEYWORTH
 LENTON/DUNKIRK
 MANSFIELD
 MAPPERLEY
 MAPPERLEY PARK
 MEADOWS
 RADCLIFFE-on-TRENT
 RALEIGH STREET /
 ALL SAINTS
 RAVENSHEAD
 SHERWOOD/CARR'TON
 STAPLEFORD
 SNEINTON/BAKER'FLD
 TRENT POLY CND
 WEST BRIDGFORD
 WOLLATON
 YOUTH CND

BEESTON MUMS
 BULLETIN
 CHRISTIAN CND
 LABOUR CND
 MEDICAL CAMPAIGN
 MEMBERSHIP
 NALGO WORKPLACE-
 PEACE GROUP
 NAT COUNCIL REP
 RAINBOW CENTRE
 SAFE ENERGY GROUP
 TRADES UNION CND
 WOMEN FOR PEACE

OPEN MEETING

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP
 OPEN MEETING ON PALESTINE

GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN GEE
 Information Officer - Council for the
 Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.
 (CAABU)

MONDAY MARCH 14TH. 7.30.
 Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre
 69 Wiverton Road, Forest Fields.

ALL WELCOME

LOST PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Items too numerous and varied to mention have accumulated in the NCND office, usually after demos, local events etc. The office would like to get rid of these items in the interests of tidiness. If you've lost anything on CND demos over the past few years (!), why not take a look in the NCND office before it goes to the next CND jumble sale?

CORRECTIONS

In response to the new style mistake-free Guardian newspaper, the NCND Bulletin appears to be taking on the mantle of that formerly great newspaper by featuring a regular section under the above heading. Here are this month's:

Don Scott

Apologies to Don Scott for our congratulations to Doug Scott on winning a seat on the City Council. Doug is, of course, a mountaineer and has The Freedom of the City. Don stays on the ground and doesn't yet have the Freedom of the City. Congratulations anyway to both!

Vanunu:

For those who noticed and especially Ken Fleet who wrote the article on Mordecai Vanunu in the February Bulletin, in the paragraph starting "It has to be said that ...", for "decrease" read "increase". (!)

Deadline for April Bulletin: March 21st.

Bulletin Credits: _____

Editorial:

Ann Kestenbaum, Pete Strauss, Rob Raynham,
 Geoff Young and Ross Bradshaw.

Typing: Phyllis Wells.

Layout: Geoff Young.

Printing: Eric Jessop, Louise Jessop and
 Laurence Geary.

Join us

Yes, I want to help. Here is my subscription to Nottingham CND

adult £3.75 household £4.50 unwaged £1.50 group affiliations £5 to 50

Name

Address

I enclose £ membership plus £ donation

Please make cheques payable to NCND and return to:

Nottingham CND, 17/18 Queen's Chambers, 3 King Street, Nottingham.

Editorial

At Easter, CND returns to Aldermaston.

But not for reasons of nostalgia, although the commitment of some of us did have its seeds in those famous marches of the early 60s. This year we return because we recognise that Aldermaston is the brain centre behind a whole new surge of British nuclear depravity.

Trident itself is bad enough. But the new developments at Aldermaston are designed to prepare for even "better" bombs. As the Oxford Research Group has shown in great detail, the very existence of Aldermaston commits the British government to develop new warheads continually and its large team of scientists and civil servants constitute a powerful lobby against any disarmament proposal.

So, please, join us at Easter, old and young together. At a time of crisis in the health service and desperate suffering in so many parts of the world, let us tell all who work at Aldermaston that there are far better uses for our taxes and their talents.

The first thing to do is to read the inside back cover of this Bulletin, tear off the back sheet and stick it in your window.

APRIL

Anyone who wants to do something towards the organisation of NCND's activities on April 4th -whether trucking around town with posters and leaflets, doing the stall on a Saturday, writing letters to the press, being a coach steward etc. etc. ... there's always something! Please contact: Barbara at 625198 or Jane at 626887.

4TH.

Coaches to Aldermaston APRIL 4th.

All tickets £5.50 waged or £3.50 unwaged.

	Pick up	Return
Retford bus station	6.30 a.m.	9.30 p.m.
Worksop Memorial Lane car park	6.45 a.m.	9.15 p.m.
Mansfield Leisure Centre - Rosemary Street	7.10 a.m.	8.50 p.m.
Hucknall Market Place car park	7.30 a.m.	8.30 p.m.
Bulwell Market Place bus station	7.35 a.m.	8.25 p.m.
Nottingham Salutation Inn	8.00 a.m.	8.00 p.m.
COACH 2:		
Newark London Road car park	7.00 a.m.	9.00 p.m.
Bingham Market Place	7.15 a.m.	8.45 p.m.
Radcliffe-on-Trent opp. Shelford Road	7.30 a.m.	8.30 p.m.
West Bridgford TBI		
Radcliffe Road	7.45 a.m.	8.15 p.m.
Nottingham Salutation Inn	8.00 a.m.	8.00 p.m.

OTHER STOPS ON MAIN ROUTE CAN BE NEGOTIATED.

STOP TRIDENT

SHUT ALDERMASTON

THE DOROTHY GREEN BEQUEST

For the past few months the money kindly bequested to NCND has given rise to many ideas over how it could be used. To date we feel that there has been no universally accepted idea that would justify spending all of the money on a single project. Equally, no-one wants to see the money frittered away on small and insignificant items.

The proposal attempts to create access to the money and allow "good" ideas to be funded up to a limit of £500.

The Proposal:

1. The money should be moved to a separate high interest account.
2. The money should be used to fund "special" projects up to £500, which would not normally be considered affordable from the main NCND campaign funds (e.g. regular campaigning work such as coaches to demonstrations or producing the monthly bulletin will still be paid from the main NCND account). The ideas should be both imaginative and enhancing to the work of NCND.
3. Any proposal to spend up to £500 must be publicised in the NCND bulletin and be approved by the Executive Committee at the meeting in the month following the publication in the bulletin.
4. Proposals to spend over £500 must be approved at a quarterly Policy Making Meeting.

In effect, it will mean that the Executive Committee, with good attendance and common sense, will be able to approve spending on Special Projects up to £500.

Proposed by John Mitchell for NCND Officers.

In accordance with the resolution, specific suggestions for Dorothy Green's bequest are below, to be discussed by neighbourhood groups and the decision will be made at the June Policy Making meeting.

Suggestions received have been: _____

1. A new NCND banner, semi-professionally made, costing around £200 - £300.
2. A memorial lecture to be held annually, potentially with a big name speaker to attract a large turn-out, held in a central location.
3. A shop fronted office to keep a high profile in the city centre.
4. The mortgaging or rental of a house or office to maintain the focus of the campaign.
5. Publicity/hoardings/advertising - eith for general messages, particular campaigns or emergency responses.
6. Sponsorship or part sponsorship of a student at the Bradford School of Peace Studies.
7. A written history of NCND.
8. A video of NCND activities.
9. Printing equipment.
10. Pressure pumps - for serving beer at benefits which could be hired out to other groups to raise funds.

Proposals for Dorothy Green Bequest:

To use £500 to finance the publication of a 30 year history of NCND.

Ross Bradshaw _____

"NCND resolves that the funds available to us, through the kind bequest of Dorothy Green, be allocated entirely to the purchase, rental, improvement or conversion of premises for our organisation".

Proposed: Pete Strauss.

To be debated at NCND Policy-Making Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Thursday June 9th, WEA.

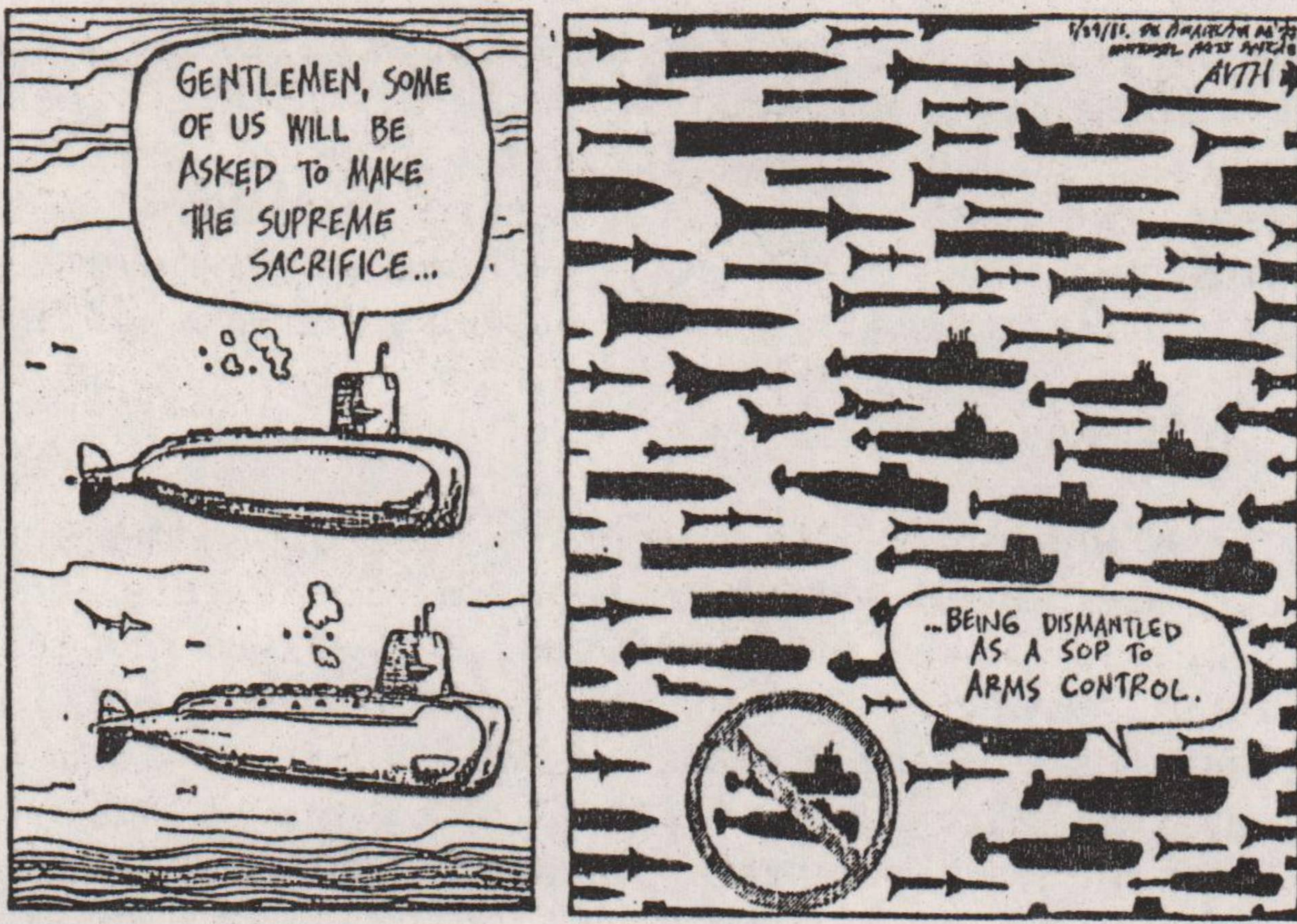
The reasoning behind this proposal is as follows.

1. We should use the £4,000 or so, specifically for a project which would not otherwise be possible for us. In other words, we should not incorporate it into our general funds, for routine campaign and administrative expenditure, since these expenses should be met from our normal fund-raising and subscriptions.
2. We are now entering a period in our history which promises to be very difficult. Membership is slipping: neighbourhood groups are disappearing and there is a distinct threat that Nottingham CND could disappear itself over the next five or ten years.
3. We should therefore use this money for a project which contributes to the likelihood of our survival as an organisation during the coming hard times.
4. It is my view that one sure way in which an organisation such as ours can increase its chances of survival is to have some sort of office. This means that even if membership continues to slip, even if neighbourhood groups continue to disappear, there is still a permanent focus and a practical resource which can allow campaigning to continue for the activists that remain.
5. If the decline continues and no provision is made for securing permanent premises, then there will come a time when NCND could simply disappear, through lack of a central focus. If, on the other hand, we can maintain a reasonable office, shop or premises of some kind, then the inevitable resurgence, when it comes, can be built on and consolidated extremely rapidly and to great effect.

PETE STRAUSS.

200 CLUB WINNERS - FEBRUARY

£50	88	Fred Usher
£10	103	Carstairs Family
£5	113	Simon Chuda



NO SUBSTITUTIONS?

As if you hadn't already guessed, those INF deals might not signal the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons. It seems that the slightly relieved mood that followed that agreement, in the minds of millions of people around the world, has merely given a small number of other people the chance to increase the number and variety of nuclear weapons in their country's possession. On April 26 & 27th. the next NATO Nuclear Planning meeting will take place at Kolding in Denmark and at that meeting a lot of the good that came out of the INF talks will be undone.

In 1979 the same NATO group made the decision to deploy Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe. Now the movement is away from such "straightforward" weapons. The current fashion in the nuclear weapons club is to use smaller weapons that are easier to hide from the civilian population. To achieve this it is necessary to use every launchpad that nature provides:

FROM THE AIR:

F-111s and F-15es (Strike Eagles), to be based at Greenham and Alconbury, will be armed with nuclear bombs and air-launched Cruise missiles (ALCMs). Armed with an ALCM the F-15E will provide the same range as the ground-launched Cruise missiles being banned by the terms of the INF agreement.

FROM THE SEA:

Over the next few years, about 600 sea-launched Cruise missiles will be deployed by the US worldwide. Some of these will be based at Holy Loch in Scotland.

FROM THE GROUND:

Short range Lance missiles are to be replaced by longer range missiles, barely outside the range banned by the INF agreement. The modernisation of NATO's nuclear artillery systems, already under way, will continue. The US has authorised the production of about 600 new warheads for these systems.

So maybe now we can stop pretending to believe that the INF deal was such good news for us in the Peace Movement and stop being afraid to be honest in case we were labelled "whingers". Let's assume that, on one side at least in the Super Power Struggle, something pretty nasty is going on. Let's start whinging! It's what we're here for after all! Let's say that the INF deal was a smokescreen or at least is now being used as one. And then if we're proved wrong so what?

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

A petition is going to be circulated, produced by National CND, calling on NATO to:

"make no further nuclear or nuclear capable deployments in the NATO area"

and calling on Britain to:

"refuse to permit any new deployments in this country".

Allied to this is a letter to George Younger:

Draft text for the letter on NATO:

TO: Defence Secretary George Younger

We call on you to continue the process of disarmament started by the INF treaty signed by Reagan and Gorbachev (and we could add 'and ratified by the US Senate' if it does get ratified quickly) by:

1. making no further nuclear or nuclear capable deployments of any kind in the NATO area, including at sea.
2. continuing negotiations to secure further zero-zero options covering other classes of weapons both nuclear and conventional, and troops and equipment (e.g. tanks, submarines).
3. opening up the political frameworks and discussions to move towards a new common security for the whole of Europe based on demilitarisation and the dissolution of the bloc system that separates Europe into East and West alliances.

In particular, Britain should contribute in the short term by immediately scrapping the Trident program, and by refusing to permit any new deployments of nuclear weapons or nuclear capable vessels or aircraft in Britain.

We pledge to resist the remaining nuclear weapons in Europe, and any new deployments, with the same spirit of protest with which we confronted the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles.

We can write to our MPs. The likelihood is that yours will be a Conservative, so the replies should make interesting reading.

Delegations will be going from Britain to Kolding to deliver letters of protest and to join the demonstration taking place outside the meeting venue.

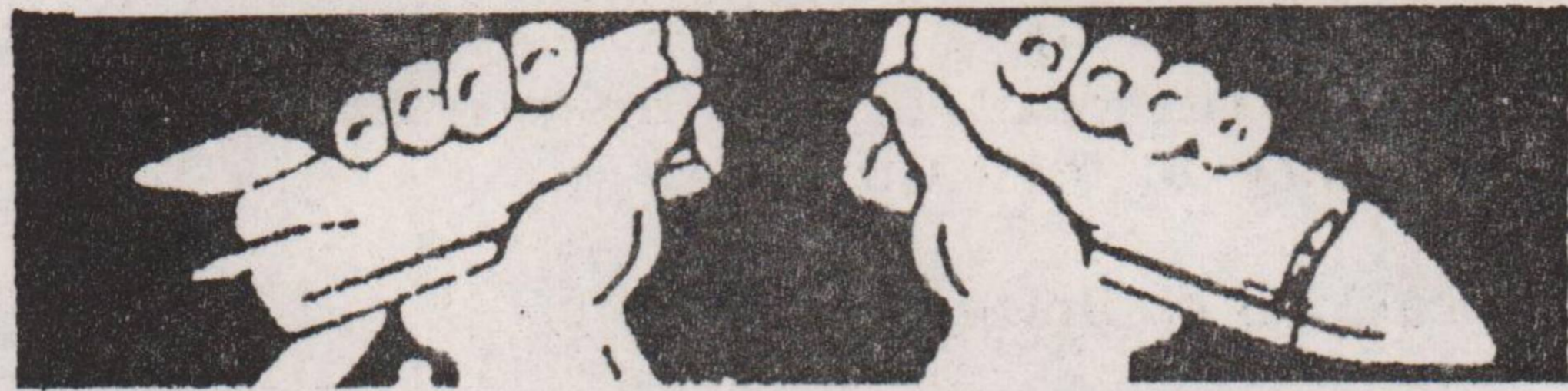
It was decided at the last Executive Committee Meeting of NCND that two people from Nottingham should represent NCND at Kolding. Their fares will be paid by NCND, but any donations towards this expense, by individuals or neighbourhood groups, would be most welcome.

But most of all what we NOW have to do is ensure that people don't think that CND is a redundant organisation after INF. It is clear that things really haven't changed at all and that what is happening now is not the scrapping but the upgrading of nuclear weapons on the NATO side. No substitutions? Let's not kid ourselves.

Geoffrey Young. _____

**APRIL 4
ALDERMASTON
BE THERE**

IN ORDER



TO SURVIVE

As one who participated in some of the Aldermaston Marches of the 1950s and 60s and as a life-long Socialist (though not now attached to any political party). I understand and share some of Diane Bailey's frustration and impatience. It was because of my political understanding that I joined and came to understand the importance of CND.

One thing stands out crystal clear: unless we find some way of eliminating nuclear weapons (and other weapons of similar mass destruction), life on earth faces, eventually, almost total destruction. If that happens, all else will be irrelevant - socialism, capitalism, imperialism, racism, the lot.

If one assumes, as I do now, that it may well take very many years to achieve total nuclear disarmament throughout the world, we shall need an overwhelming majority (say at least 75%) in this country firmly supporting a consistent policy of nuclear disarmament in order to achieve such a consensus that successive British governments (of right or left) will have to adopt it.

Only then can our country exert much influence on other nuclear powers. Such a new consensus can only be achieved by a very broad alliance of all those wishing to outlaw nuclear weapons - not just of the left, but of the centre and considerable sections of the right as well.

CND is already a broad alliance, although it needs to be even broader. We have members and supporters of almost every political party, many committed Christians and other religious people from a host of different churches and faiths, pacifists, trade unionists, scientists, medical workers and other professional workers. Many ordinary folk who have no such affiliation and a host of young people.

All these members have one desire in common - to rid the world of nuclear weapons as quickly as possible because they are too dangerous and/or immoral. However, coming from such a wide variety of backgrounds, we have to accept that unity of action will not always be achieved. Members will participate in actions that seem right and appropriate to them and may shun actions that seem inappropriate. This is the way we are and we have to be very tolerant, provided that actions remain non-violent.

We also need to remember that many of our members are already heavily committed to other causes, but this should not prevent them from joining CND and making a useful contribution occasionally. Moreover, we cannot expect the same level of commitment from everyone. We need to value those who make the positive gesture of joining and do no

more than pay their annual subscription. With encouragement and good leadership, many of these will eventually participate actively. Nevertheless, we need to encourage more to make a much more positive commitment, for how can our movement gain momentum without more members who are willing to take responsibility, organise, lead and/or do the donkey work.

Those who have made a considerable commitment to CND are, by no means, all avowed Socialists (and, goodness knows, those who call themselves "socialists" have been splintered into so many warring factions in recent years). Who would venture to say that Michael Meadowcraft, a Liberal member of CND's National Council, makes a less valued contribution than his Socialist colleagues? We are, after all, all human beings - even the Tories - and none will welcome the nuclear holocaust. If you exclude all those who are not committed "Socialists" from CND and discourage anyone from joining who is not prepared to give top priority to CND activities, we would end up with a very small membership, with very little money and dwindling influence.

All CND members that I have met, whatever their other beliefs, are aware and care deeply about the sort of problems that Diane mentions, that beset the world today. Fortunately, only a minority take advantage of CND's public activities to campaign for their own pet political cause. Yes, I am one of those who object to the flooding of CND's public meetings and demonstrations with leaflets, etc., advertising left-wing causes. This certainly creates the impression that CND is largely an ultra-left organisation and must discourage non-Socialists (who are actually in the majority in this country at the moment) from participating or joining.

I agree that we need to study questions which are linked with nuclear disarmament, e.g. Namibia, South Africa and Apartheid, or with more general issues which disturb the peace of the world, e.g. Afghanistan and Nicaragua.

One of the most urgent tasks for CND this year is to tackle the question of the balance of conventional armed forces in Europe - which is being used too effectively by our government, especially at present in order to obstruct further progress towards nuclear disarmament and as an excuse to improve the seaborn and shorter range nuclear missiles.

All is not doom and gloom, however. We are gradually winning the hearts and minds of the British people. The Fulbeck victory, the banning of dangerous gases by major producers of aerosols, as well as the INF Treaty show how far CND, Greenpeace and others have changed public opinion. The new policies of the Soviet Union are creating a more favourable climate. Let us grit our teeth, build on these first successes, change and improve our work and see the job through to the end.

In order to survive on this planet, we need the maximum unity and tolerance. What Diane is suggesting is fundamentally divisive and weakening to CND. We must not give up. Come back, Diane, we need you - and, I believe, you need us - or have you a better alternative to CND to achieve a nuclear free world.

PAT ROBSON.

OTHERS MUST CONTINUE



Those NCND members who attended the last monthly meeting heard a fascinating account from Meir Vanunu of the international scandal that is unfolding around his brother Mordecai, the imprisoned Israeli "spy".

A brief outline of Mordecai Vanunu's background sounded like one of those potted biographies that authors have in the fronts of their books. A Moroccan Jew from a religious family, above average at school, three years' military service with the Israeli army, a year studying physics at Tel Aviv University, then two years of temporary jobs before getting a position as a technician at the Israeli nuclear plant at Demona. He took a master's degree in philosophy in his spare time. He was active in campaigning for the rights of Palestinians, three months studying Buddhism in the Far East, finally photographing secret processes at Demona before leaving Israel to tell the world.

For a man with such a wealth of experience, his clumsy movements in the world of journalism and state interests are in stark contrast. His only press contact - a journalist who leaked his story, his photo across the papers and the Mossad after him, he trusted a woman he had only known for three days and went from London to Rome with her hoping for safety. Not surprisingly, there were two men waiting for him in the Rome apartment. He was smuggled back to Israel, drugged.

This is where he is now, in solitary confinement, awaiting sentence for his efforts to tell the world the truth. So what is the truth? Simply that, as many had suspected but had been unable to prove, Israel IS a nuclear weapons state, that it has between one and two hundred nuclear warheads, that American aid in missile programmes gives it the capacity to deliver those warheads up to 1,500 kilometres away. So much for an INF deal. Israel has co-operated with South Africa in the production of nuclear weapons. Finally, if we did not already know, the Middle East may well spark the conflict that will lead to a nuclear holocaust.

Perhaps we in the West should not be too self-righteous about this. The French sold the civil nuclear power to the Israelis, the Norwegians the heavy water and so on. It can hardly be that our governments were not aware of Israeli intentions. Yet again the prospect of a few dollars overrode the need for the survival of mankind.

Mordecai is expecting to receive around twelve years when the court gives sentence (expected to be in April). Early in the trial, his brother had feared a heavier sentence, but partly due to pressure from the international Peace Movement and Mordecai's dignified stand in court, Israeli public opinion has moved to a more sympathetic position and a greater understanding of his actions.

As Meir Vanunu said, "There is no anti-nuclear movement in Israel, but sooner or later my brother's actions will bring results and raise this as a political issue". In the meantime, we in the West must take the responsibility.

In the words of Mordecai Vanunu:

"We must not keep silent
Others must continue what I have started
It is up to us all to act."

DAVE DICKINSON.

Please write letters of protest to the Israeli Embassy at:
2 Palace Gardens, LONDON W8

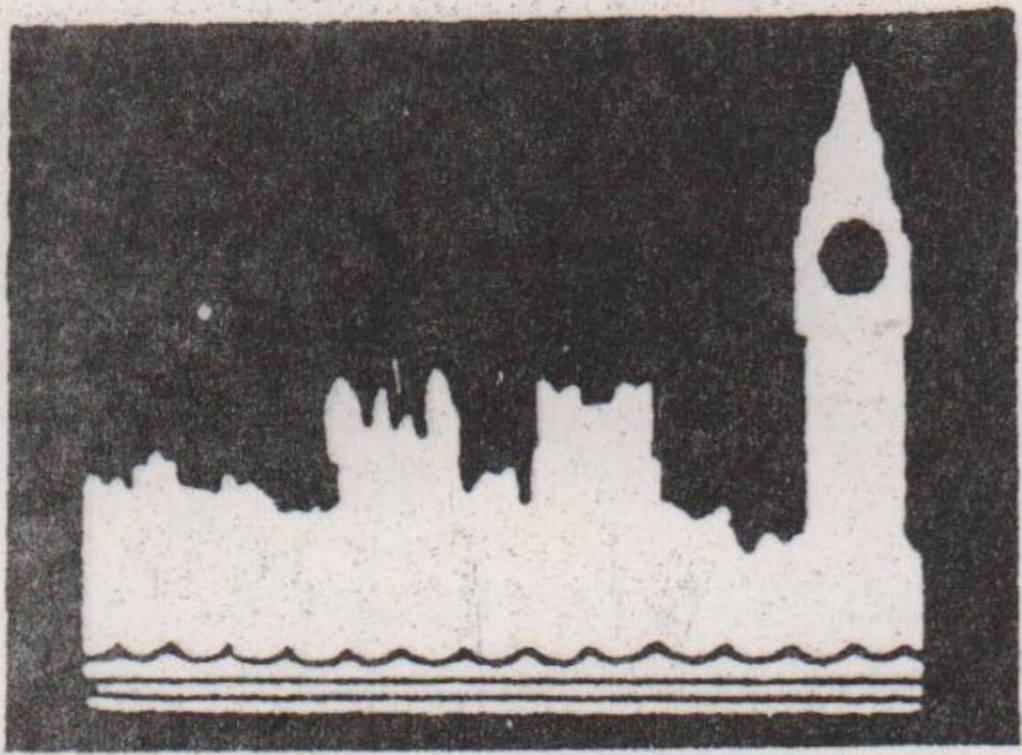
Letters of support to:
Mordecai Vanunu, Ashkelon Prison, POB 17,
Ashkelon, Israel.

Contact addresses:

Britain: Mordecai Vanunu Defence Committee, BM
Box 9585, London. WC1N 3XX
(Contact: Meirav Devir).
Israel: Mordecai Vanunu Defence Committee, P.O.
Box 1371, Tel Aviv 61013.
(Contact: Yael Lotan).
U.S.A.: Mordecai Vanunu Defence Committee, P.O.
Box 45005, Somerville, MA 02145.

A PETITION IS CIRCULATING AT THE MOMENT. PLEASE
MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE SIGNED IT. COPIES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THE NCND OFFICE.

**APRIL 4
ALDERMASTON
BE THERE**



PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

The nuclear disarmament agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union is to be welcomed by all of us who are interested in progress to peace, although there is still a long way to go.

Labour's policy is being put into effect by Reagan and Gorbachev. Those who campaigned for peace, both within the Labour Party and the wider Peace Movement, take pride in this first step.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Thatcher has said that nuclear disarmament "has gone far enough" and is already planning to "cheat" on the agreement by putting Cruise missiles on ships and planes after being told to remove them from the land. This could put the Reagan/Gorbachev initiatives at risk. Decisions were taken by NATO at the 1983 meeting in Montebello, Canada, which will mean that, while 160 ground launched Cruise missiles are leaving Greenham and Molesworth, perhaps 700 air-launched Cruise missiles will be installed on British and US aircraft in Britain. I have asked the Secretary of State for Defence, George Younger, in Parliamentary Questions, to deny this and, so far, there has been a deafening silence.

Other "modernisation" is going ahead to upgrade our nuclear capability which, to any rational person, flies in the face of the spirit and optimism of the Reagan/Gorbachev summit.

Labour wants Britain to work with the grain of world opinion and the USA/USSR for further steps to a nuclear weapon-free Europe and, ultimately, to a nuclear weapon-free world.

Instead of scowling in a corner, Mrs. Thatcher should cancel orders for the expensive US Trident submarines) which the Americans may negotiate away anyway), cease all back-door rearmament and now play a full and enthusiastic part in the nuclear, chemical and conventional arms reduction processes.

Graham Allen
Labour MP Nott'm South and CND Member.

ALLIANCE WITH THE BOMB

Where do the Alliance parties stand on defence? Any answer to this question needs first to define which parties and the relevant time scale. I will be addressing my comments to what the new parties are likely to be like over the next twelve months or so.

After the Liberal and SDP conferences, the structure of the new parties seems to be fairly well defined. Dr. David Owen and his rump will form a new SDP with 3 MPs, a handful of councillors and even fewer viable constituency organisations.

The Patriot Vote

The position of the Owenite SDP has the merit of being clear. The new SDP will be for Trident, for NATO, for cruise missiles and for the civil nuclear programme. Freed from any restraint of dealing with the Liberals, David Owen is likely to become even more outspoken on these issues and may well try to complete for the "patriot" vote in competition with the Conservatives and Margaret Thatcher. In particular, they will certainly join with the Conservatives in opposing any notion of a nuclear free Europe.

The merged Liberal and SDP party, officially named the Social and Liberal Democrats (or SLD for easier typing), do not provide such a clear picture. The SLD will inherit the Liberal fudge. The critics of the fudge berate it as an un-macho unwillingness to take "a clear stand". Defenders of the fudge do not believe in speaking unequivocally on behalf of a membership that is unequivocal.

Commitment to NATO

The new SLD starts off with one significant disadvantage and that is the specific commitment to NATO in its constitution. This reference was opposed by the 10% to 15% of the Liberal Party opposed to Britain's membership of NATO, on political grounds, and by about 80% of the Party on the grounds that it is foolish to write specific organisations into a constitution. The Liberal argument was that the place for policy stances, such as support for NATO, was in the policy documents. In order to achieve a merger, the Liberal negotiators and, finally, the party backed down and conceded this point.

Where the SDL will stand on defence will only really become apparent after the September Conference and even that clarity could be put in doubt if the appropriate resolutions are not tabled for this Conference. The initial policy statement has started the party off as multi-lateralist but probably pro-disarmament. It has not made its mind up over Trident and wants cruise negotiated away. This position can be contrasted with the new SDP which will be multilateralist and anti-disarmament.

Given that the old Liberal Party was only marginally in support of direct or unilateral disarmament (decisions were often won by as little as 30 out of 1,200) and that the SDP has been a much more conservative grouping, it is probable that the new SLD will be by a small majority multi-lateralist; the relative success of recent peace negotiations is likely to make the new Party even more likely to take a "let's not rock the boat" view.

Prior to the Blackpool meeting and immediately after it, there was some talk of a new Liberal Party being formed and this would have further reduced the peace element of the new Party. Except for one or two minor cases, this issue has now died and most of the radical wing of the Liberal Party have committed themselves to joining the SLD and campaigning to change it. The new rules on eligibility to attend the National Conference are likely to aid them in doing this.

Where's the Beith?

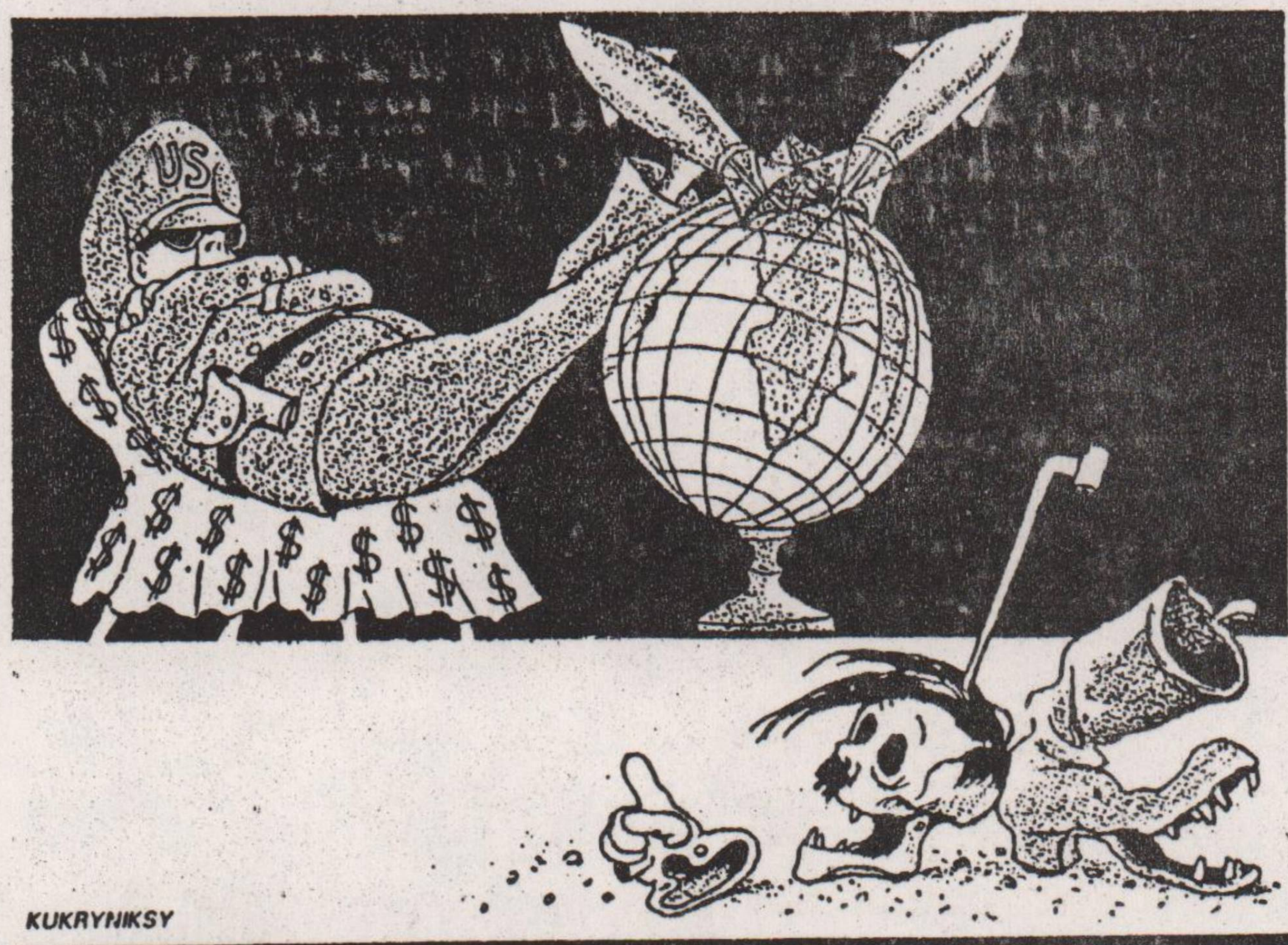
The position of the new SLD may party be defined by the forthcoming leadership battle. David Steel

clearly starts as the favourite, if he chooses to run and the signs are that he may do. The other front runner is Paddy Ashdown, one-time darling of the radical wing of the Liberal Party. Another candidate who may make waves is Malcolm Bruce. A victory for Steel (or Alan Beith if Steel doesn't run) would set peace campaigning in the new party back considerably. A victory for Ashdown or Bruce MAY advance that campaign. But as ever, it is best not to put too much trust in what people might do after they have been elected.

One final brighter note is that there will continue to be an active peace element in the new party and these people will, I'm sure, appreciate any support their comrades from other parties and philosophies can give them.

Ray Poynter.

GLOBAL



UPDATE

Feb.1 Reports of growing splits between Thatcher and her European partners. She is unhappy with the proposed Franco-German co-operation on defence because she fears it may speed up Europe's divorce from the US of A. She is also displeased with West Germany's desire to scrap short-range weapons in Europe.

Feb 2nd. Caspar Weinberger (ex US Defence Secretary) is awarded an honorary knighthood for his services to the British role in the arms race.

Feb 3rd. Helmut Schmidt (ex West German Premier) interviewed on Radio 4, says that NATO is rapidly becoming out of date and he can see no use for it by the end of the century.

Meanwhile, in East Germany, the government releases a number of peace activists who had been arrested for disrupting an official march. Protest meetings and church services around the country eventually forced the government to let the detainees go free.

It is announced that the drivers of the munitions train that ran over American Peace Protestor Brian

Williams, are to sue him for causing them mental trauma!

Feb 4th. There is a sudden worldwide rumour that there has been another Chernobyl-type nuclear disaster in the USSR. Interestingly, the news leads stock market values to tumble and the dollar to soar! The rumour turns out to be false.

The British Central Electricity Generating Board announce a postponement in the proposed Chernobyl-type test at Trawsfynned nuclear power station. It is widely held to be the public outcry which forced the U-turn.

The US House of Representatives Reject President Reagan's request for 36 million dollars of aid for the contras.

Feb 6th. It becomes clear that the government has smuggled new rules through parliament that make it harder for objectors to mount a case against the Hinkley Point nuclear power station.

Feb 7th. A scandal begins to develop, as a Grand Jury in the US names Panamanian "strongman" General Manuel Antonio Noriega with drug smuggling offences. The scandal lies in that the "strongman" turns out to be on the CIA's payroll.

Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev are nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

An opinion poll in France shows 71% in favour of a unified Western European army.

Five British provincial airports threaten to ban British Nuclear Fuels' flights of plutonium.

Feb 9th. General Secretary Gorbachev announces that the Soviets are to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan over a 10 month period, beginning on May 15th.

Kurt Waldheim, President of Austria, is found by a commission of historians to have been aware of Nazi atrocities being committed when he served in the German army and to have lied about his past.

Feb 10th. The hull of a Trident submarine is lost overboard in the Irish Sea, just off the Galloway coast. (Shame!)

Feb12th. US Congress committees condemn British plans to ship plutonium to Japan, on the grounds that it increases the risk of nuclear accidents and makes proliferation more likely.

Feb 13th. At Shikoku Nuclear power plant in Japan, thousands of protestors take part in a die-in to object to a Chernobyl-style experiment being carried on at the plant.

A Soviet and an American warship collide in the Black Sea. Both sides blame the other.

Feb 15th. The Observer reports a near meltdown on a Polaris submarine on January 26th, when a reactor cooling system broke down. The MoD denied the story.

PETE STRAUSS.

LOCAL UPDATE

Like a swan gliding sedately upstream, Nottingham CND does likewise, only the legs paddling frantically away underneath the body are the officers elected last October. There is a feeling that things are a little too sedate at the moment. Others feel that this is the way it has to be given current circumstances. Perhaps something in between would be ideal. Whichever way you look at it, Nottingham CND is alive and perfectly capable of kicking.

On Thursday March 11th. a lot of people missed an excellent meeting. Meir Vanunu came to speak at an NCND Policy Making meeting. Those of you who missed his account of the imprisonment of his brother Mordecai and the discussion that followed will get some of the flavour from Dave Dickinson's report of the meeting (p.7), but certainly missed an opportunity of listening to a story that conveyed the essence of what CND campaigning is all about.

This meeting was hopefully the first of a series of public meetings to take place in Nottingham this year. There is a feeling that this type of event, if well organised, could play a major role in maintaining NCND's public profile in Nottingham. So watch out for future meetings. A collection made after the meeting raised £25 - £30 for the Mordecai Vanunu Defence Campaign and NCND decided to donate another £50.

The saga of the Listergate Stall continues. Neighbourhood groups alert enough to apply for licences to hold a stall received the following dates:

Bulwell: Feb.27, May 28, June 18 (in Bulwell), Sep 17.
FFPG: Feb.20, May 28, Sep.3, Dec.3.
Raleigh St.: March 26, June 25, Sep.24, Dec. 24.
+ NCND: Feb 13, May 7, August 6, Dec. 10.

A total of 16 licences. To make the best use of these licences, it is clear that other neighbourhood groups are going to have to help out. If you or your group can possibly help, please contact NCND at 472556 or Hilary at 625198.

Do you ever incur expenses in your NCND activities? Would you like to be able to claim these expenses back? Well, not a moment too soon, in fact several too late, those bus fares into town to do your office volunteer stint or membership duties or those stamps you used or telephone calls you made from home can be refunded quite painlessly by filling in an expense sheet! They will be available from the NCND office very soon if not already.

Peace Festival? Yes it seems there will be one this year! A group is forming, but needs help. It meets at the Rainbow Centre and as the next one is on March 1st, you might not read this in time, so ring the Rainbow Centre and find out when the next meeting is.

Have you seen the new National CND leaflet on Trident? It's so good that on seeing it the

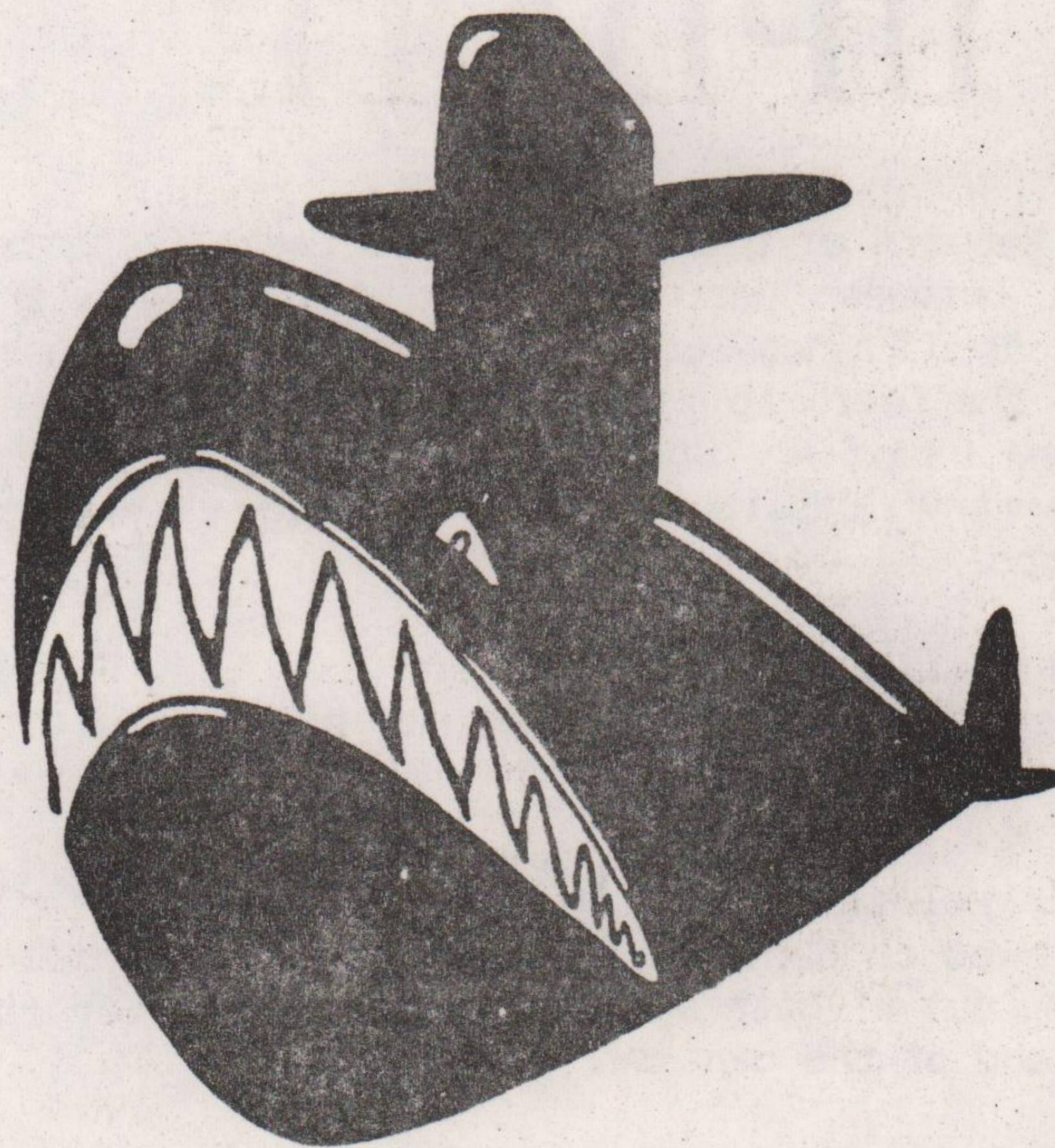
Executive Committee meeting overturned it's decision not to leaflet this year! It's that good. Most of the neighbourhood groups who've seen it will be leafletting in May and June, so make your group's order as soon as you can.

It's even going to be used in conjunction with the Sherwood Street Theatre event at Listergate on April 2nd., even though the event is specifically linked in to the Aldermaston demo two days later. As many leafletters as possible are needed on April 2nd., so please come along and help Sherwood put on a good show.

On April 23rd., Doreen Gower and Peggy Westaway will be leaving for Russia. They will be making links and handing out CND badges etc. They will also be laying wreaths on memorials. Meanwhile Rob Raynham will be going to America, also making links with Peace Groups out there. They will be sending reports of their activities to us in Nottingham via the CND bulletin, providing us with our very own Super Power link-up! Watch this space!

PS. Yes they will all be coming back to Nottingham.

Just when you
thought the world
was getting safer ...
Just when the
superpowers are
starting to disarm ...



along comes
TRIDENT

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

Diane Bailey's open letter last issue must have struck a chord with many readers. Perhaps the editor's headline "CONTROVERSY" didn't do it justice, wrongly making it look like a deliberately provocative article intended to bait readers of a flagging magazine.

I agree with most of Ms Bailey's points, particularly her observations about membership numbers and motivations. It's likely that the initial sense of desperation or urgency is itself the trap: the members leave after a few years, not having banned the bomb.

We all have to agree that CND has failed to simplify issues and that poverty, racism and greed-economics are wrongly pushed to the sidelines. When a government does disarm, it will have been elected by nearly half the voters. We must talk to people - someone says this at every meeting and it's true. But the sit-ins, the petitions, the NVDA that Diane Bailey mentions are surely statements to the government and are intended to reach the public through being newsworthy. So the trace of a message that filters through to people is either misrepresented or stated in isolation, split from the essential social issues. News bulletins are probably a poor campaigning tool, but we seem to crave them because "What other way is there?" Coverage like this mobilises people - but in at least two directions. It strengthens the resolve of the sympathetic and the hostile to think and vote in opposite ways.

Do you know more than a couple of CND supporters who voted Tory or Alliance in '83 or '87? I don't. But there are too many NON-VOTERS in the movement and outside: people who justify sitting back by saying "Kinnock might break his promises". Is this a reason to let in the wreckers yet again? Another reason sometimes given for not voting Labour is that a watered-down Labour government is worse than a Tory one. One theory being that widening social divisions are a better breeding ground for progress through collective anger than a "comfortable" society in which the cracks have been papered over. This is a cruel and dangerous gamble, particularly in the nuclear age.

Instead of attacking "middle class" elements within the movement, we should be converting outsiders. The real villains are not middle class Labour voters, but working class new Tory voters - such as white males in well-paid jobs who are "Fine, thanks very much". This is a class grouping that most radical-left theorists rarely discuss!

Jeremy Jago

Upon reading the February NCND Bulletin and John Peck's memory of Aldermaston I feel I must write and tell you of a terrible irony. I am a miner who took part in the 1984/5 Strike, becoming politically aware in the process. I then joined NCND in the belief that not only were nuclear power stations dangerous but a direct threat to my livelihood.

When it was announced that Linby Colliery (where I work) would close, a public meeting was arranged which I attended. The first person to speak was a man working on the landsale who was responsible for the sale of our product. He went on to say that there was a market for every cobble of coal cut at Linby, including one for A.W.E. Aldermaston.

The fight to save the pit was lost, so it will close in March on the grounds of being uneconomic and presumably the Aldermaston order, one which we could all well do without will go to some other Notts. pit.

Anyway, come the April 4th. demo, I'll be down at Aldermaston feeling slightly guilty at having helped to prop up the nuclear industry during the past 12 years.

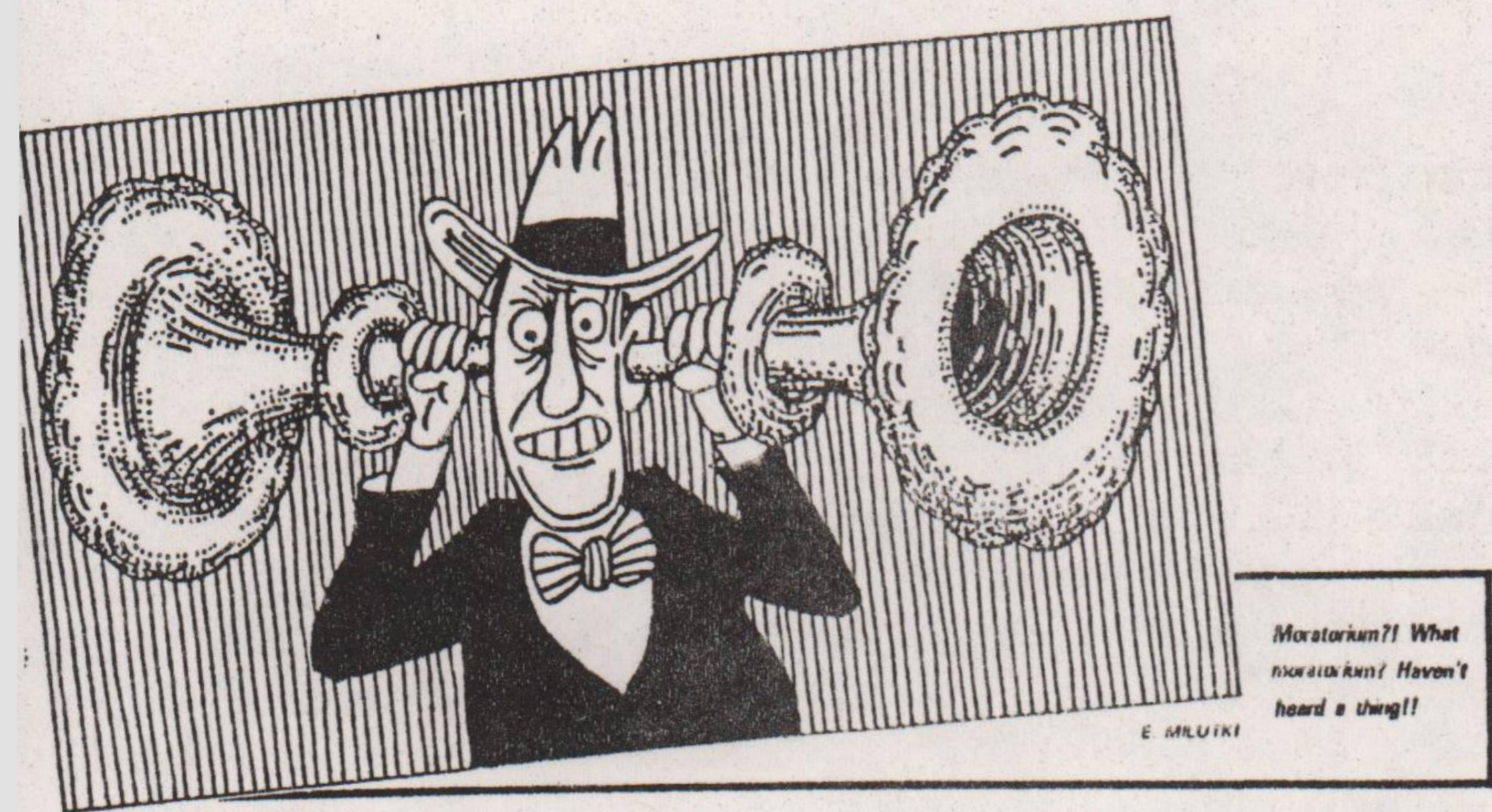
Bob Bakewell.

**APRIL 4
ALDERMASTON
BE THERE**

**OL' BRUCIE'S
AT IT AGAIN!**

All that weight that Bruce Kent shed walking from Faslane to Burghfield has obviously returned. Under the pretence of forging links for world peace, Bruce has decided to walk from Warsaw to Brussels, which just happen to be the places where the Warsaw Pact was signed in 1955 and where NATO has its headquarters respectively. According to my calculations, if he walked along the edge of a ruler, it would be 770 miles, so let's assume he's going at least 1,000! What a hero!

This time there won't be regular stops for meetings along the way, but possibly the odd one here and there with local peace groups. As you can imagine, the organisation of such a walk takes some time and full details are yet to be announced. Expect sponsorship forms in the not too distant future and then get cracking for Bruce.



EEC GOES NUCLEAR

Last October's meeting in The Hague of foreign and defence Ministers of the seven-member Western European Union (WEU) marks a further step towards a common Western European defence policy, based on nuclear weapons.

According to a "Platform on European Security Interests", adopted by the ministers, "the construction of an integrated Europe will remain incomplete as long as it does not include security and defence." The document adds that the "independent" nuclear forces of Britain and France contribute to overall Western European defence and security.

IGNORED

According to the document, "to be credible and effective, the strategy of deterrence and defence must continue to be based on an adequate mix of appropriate nuclear and conventional forces, only the nuclear element of which can confront a potential aggressor with an unacceptable risk."

The WEU was founded in 1954 after West Germany and Italy joined the Brussels Treaty Organisation (comprised of Britain, France and the Benelux countries). For most of its life it has been overshadowed by NATO and ignored by its members.

An attempt in 1984 by Britain and France to re-activate the WEU in order to promote "European security interests" led to regular meetings of WEU foreign and defence Ministers and the creation of a number of specialised WEU agencies on arms co-operation, security and defence matters and arms control and disarmament. Until last year, the attempt to revive the WEU seemed to have foundered on the opposition of the United States, concerned that West European self-assertiveness would damage its own interests.

APPALLED

The WEU has been given a new lease of life, however, by last year's summit in Reykjavik and the agreement between the super-powers to scrap intermediate nuclear force (INF) missiles in Europe. Britain and France, together with the conservative members of West Germany's ruling coalition, were appalled at Ronald Reagan's readiness to bargain away nuclear weapons with Mikhail Gorbachev, claiming that the deal would leave Western Europe exposed to Soviet conventional superiority and would be the first step towards the "denuclearisation of Europe".

The willingness of the United States to conclude an INF agreement over the heads of its Western

European "allies" and its readiness to force them into line to get a deal (as when Washington forced West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's humiliating climbdown over Pershing 1As) has renewed the debate about strengthening Western European defence co-operation and creating a "stronger European pillar" to represent Western European interests in NATO. It has also led to renewed consideration of possible European nuclear co-operation.

The WEU's new assertiveness is matched by a number of other developments designed to strengthen Western European defence co-operation in general and links between Britain, France and West Germany in particular.

French President Francois Mitterand and Helmut Kohl announced that the two countries were setting up a joint defence council to intensify military co-operation as the nucleus of future European defence co-operation.

COLLABORATION

The French have hinted that they are to see their nuclear "protection" as extending to the border between the two Germanies, rather than ending at the Rhine.

Meanwhile, British and French defence ministers have discussed closer Anglo-French co-operation in nuclear strategy and in the production of a new generation of nuclear weapons. Earlier this year, the then Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton admitted that "our nuclear collaboration with France is that much more important if we do get a deal to remove INF".

WEU officials admit that their long-term aim is to integrate the WEU into the framework of the Common Market. Although the EEC is officially a civil community, its foreign policy role has been strengthened during the eighties. The Single European Act, adopted by EEC members in early 1986, states that the EEC is ready to co-ordinate its positions more closely "on the political and economic aspects of security".

In fact, the WEU offers certain advantages as a framework for the proponents of closer West European military co-operation. It is the only Western European organisation with a legitimate mandate for security and military matters. France is a member and takes an active interest in its affairs.

OBSTRUCT

Most important of all, countries which often obstruct NATO consensus, such as Greece and Denmark - contemptuously described by officials as "semi-neutral" - are not members. Indeed, one effect of the "Platform on European Security" is to close the door on a number of European countries, such as Spain, Greece and Norway, which have expressed interest in joining the WEU, unless they renounce their anti-nuclear policies.

Of course, the WEU does not allow its restricted membership to prevent it speaking in the name of the whole of Western Europe. Neither does it stop a creeping militarisation of the EEC.

In October '87, a resolution adopted by the European Parliament and supported by all the political parties - with the exception of the Greeks, the Greek Communists and a few Socialists - claimed that it "is in Europe's interest to ensure its own

security and defence on a more independent basis" and called for "talks with a view to setting up, in the context of political co-operation or in addition to it, the machinery for increasingly close co-operation on defence".

In Britain, support for efforts to strengthen the European pillar of NATO in general and joint nuclear weapons co-operation between Britain and France in particular, is no longer confined to the SDP. In March this year, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe spoke of "trends in American thinking" which might diminish European security and called for a European defence strategy, based on Europe's own conventional forces and the British and French nuclear deterrents and constructed around the Western European Union.

Many of Labour's European sister parties support a stronger European pillar including a nuclear element. A senior official in the West Germany Social Democratic Party (SDP) has conceded that they would have greater contacts with Britain's Social Democrats were it not for the traditional ties with Labour.

According to Paul Scheffer, who works in the research institute of the Dutch Labour Party and supports greater security co-operation within Western Europe as a way of increasing independence from the United States, "a nuclear-free Europe is not a viable entity". "If we refuse to co-operate with Britain and France as long as they pursue an independent national nuclear policy, there will be no European security co-operation," he claims.

In September 1986, the Labour Party agreed with other Socialist parties inside NATO on the need for "a European pillar in the Atlantic Alliance" to "develop and express a cohesive European policy and to co-operate in the evaluation and elaboration of defence capabilities".

Labour added a rider to a joint communique with the East German SPD the following month that "this must not be the embryo of a new military bloc or European superpower" - but implicit support was given to the WEU by the parties' statement that the structure of the new "Europillar" should be either "within the framework of the Alliance or in some other appropriate existing European institution".

STEPHEN BROWN is CND's international worker. He writes here in a personal capacity. This article is reprinted from "Tribune".

POUNDS FOR

TURN YOUR UNUSED FOREIGN CURRENCY INTO £££S FOR NCND THIS YEAR. COLLECTING TIN WILL BE IN NCND OFFICE PERMANENTLY. BRING IT, SEND IT, GIVE IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTACT.

NOTES ONLY. NO COINS, PLEASE.
(Except JERSEY)

PESETAS

BOOKS NOT BOMBS



BREAK NEW GROUND

by Sue Brown and Mallen.

(S. W. Ploughshares) £1.25.

This small pamphlet aims to challenge the traditional ways we in CND work, drawing on what the participants of the "Tools for Change" 1987 Tour learned. Their project comprised travelling from town to town, collecting tools for forwarding to Eritrea (part of Ethiopia) and, in so doing, drawing the links between third world poverty, the arms race and what individuals can do now to help change. The base of the campaign was setting up a stall and refurbishing tools on the spot and talking with the people attracted by the activity. Bashing old tools into shape created an alternative image for the onlooker - here was something more than just protest - who more often than not asked what they were doing. The Ploughshares people contrast this experience with our normal street image which at once attracts or repels the committed but does little to convince or to create dialogue. At the end of the tour, some of the participants entered the nuclear base at St. Mawgan and used some of the tools to start digging up the base, until they were arrested.

The Ploughshares experience was that a positive image - doing something directly to combat third world poverty and concentrating on one to one conversations "works" better than the set piece demos which cost so much time and energy.

Having read the pamphlet the day after attending a large (non-CND) demonstration and watching how bemused passers-by were, for all our numbers, many of the points struck home. But still - we do need our "set pieces", to feel our strength, yes and to socialise on the march and to make a statement of conscience. Different actions are not mutually exclusive. To me, the value of this pamphlet is in showing how much a small group can achieve and that the new directions suggested may make us at least think how we can do what we do now a bit better. The pamphlet is available from Mushroom Bookshop.

ROSS BRADSHAW.



STOP TRIDENT

SHUT ALDERMASTON



APRIL 4TH BE THERE!

COACH TICKETS

TICKETS: £5.50 WAGED
£3.50 UNWAGED

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COACHES LEAVE
SALUTATION INN, MAID
MARION WAY 8.00 a.m./
CARLTON HOTEL (FFPG) 7.30