

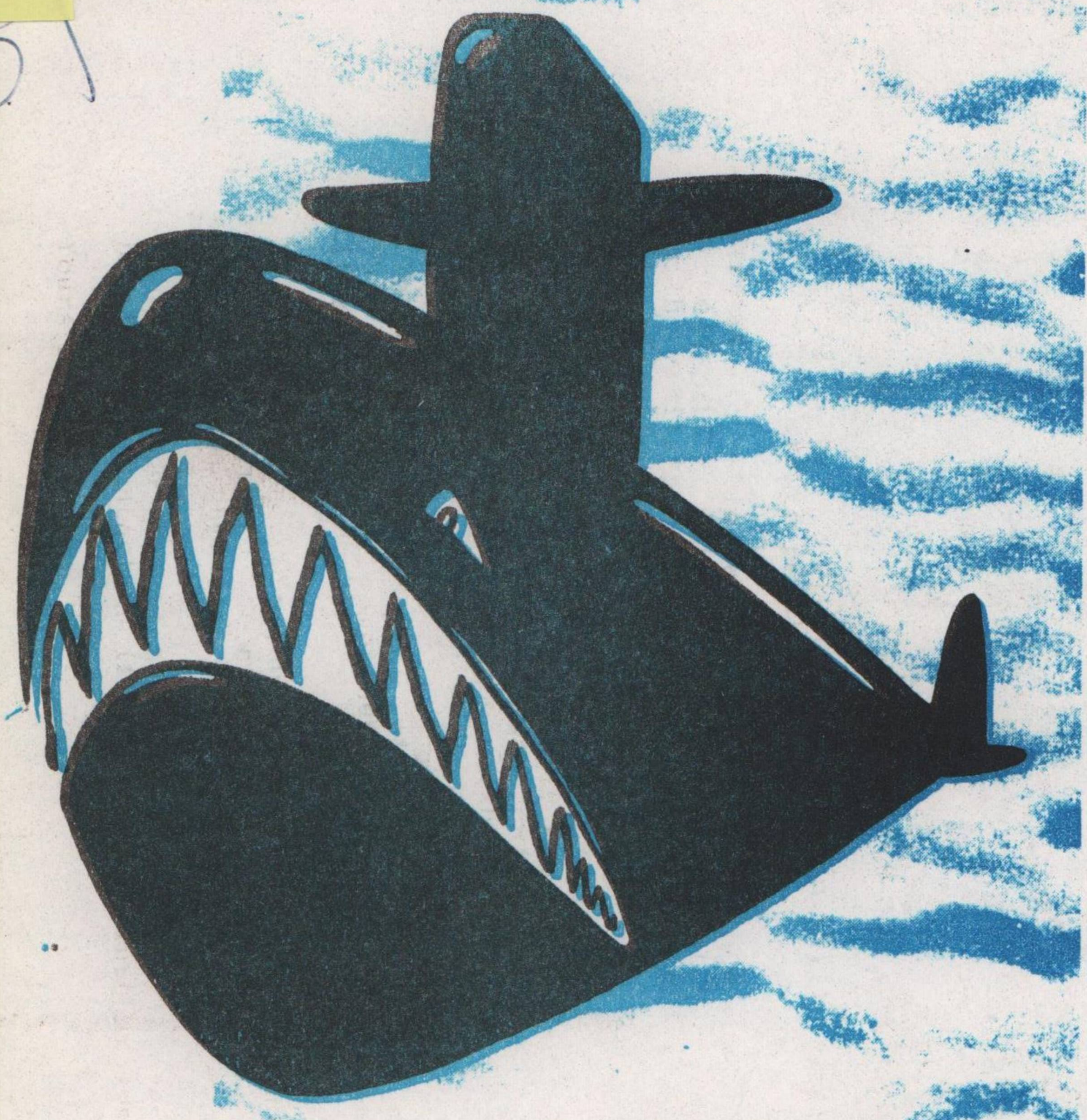
15496

NOTTINGHAM CND

MAY March Bulletin



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



along comes

TRIDENT

**HELP US REACH
25,000 HOUSEHOLDS**

< SEE PAGE THREE >>>>>>>>

Editorial

THE WISDOM OF THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR.

CND General Secretary, Meg Beresford, and Daffyd Ellis Thomas, MP, went to see the Iraqi ambassador last month to deliver a protest. They went to tell him of their absolute horror of the Iraqi government's use of chemical weapons against Kurdish civilians at Halajba on the Iran-Iraq border.

Press reports here quote the number killed as about 5,000, but Kurdish organisations insist that over 21,000 people were slaughtered. They call it "Our Hiroshima". (If you're wondering why there hasn't been much outrage for "our" media or "our" government, it is because "we" want Iraq to win the war against Iran, because this would serve Western, i.e. American, interests.

The ambassador shrugged and said - without much conviction - that Iraq was not responsible. But he went on... "Why shouldn't we use chemical or biological weapons to defend ourselves? Why shouldn't we use any weapon?" "Any weapon?" said Meg. "Yes, any weapon", replied the ambassador.

"Why shouldn't we?" he continued. "After all, your own country, Britain, is prepared to defend itself with nuclear weapons. Why should we be any different?"

STALL SPOT

The next licenced stall day is Saturday 7 May. The stall group has decided to try out a street collection. So come along and rattle a tin for NCND and give a CND sticker to anyone who donates. We'll also be handing out some very effective leaflets from National CND on the links between the NHS cuts and the arms build-up.

Later on in the month - Saturday 23rd May - we'll be taking the stall out again to launch the Trident leafletting campaign. Please volunteer if you can for a stint on the stall - it's an excellent way of reaching the general public and we can almost guarantee that you'll feel it's an hour well spent!

To volunteer, either phone Hilary on 625198 or turn up on the day.

EVENTS

LIFE IN BRITAIN OR DEATH IN SRI LANKA?

THE VIRAJ MENDIS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN
WILL BE HOLDING
A NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
IN MANCHESTER
ON MAY 28TH

COACH TICKETS PRICED £1.50 and £2.50 AVAILABLE
FROM MUSHROOM BOOKSHOP or BY WRITING TO
BOX A, HIZIKI, 15 GOOSEGATE, HOCKLEY, NOTTINGHAM.

VIRAJ MENDIS WILL STAY! STOP THE DEPORTATIONS!

BANNERS
WELCOME!! 8,000 MARCHERS
LAST YEAR!!

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP MEETING:

"DISARMAMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND THE U.N."

Guest Speaker: Ken Fleet (Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation)

ALL WELCOME!

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

7TH END CONVENTION IN LUND, SWEDEN
29TH JUNE - 2ND JULY

This year's convention will address, in particular, the theme of neutrality, the concept of nuclear-free-zones and the specific threat from nuclear confrontation in the North Atlantic.

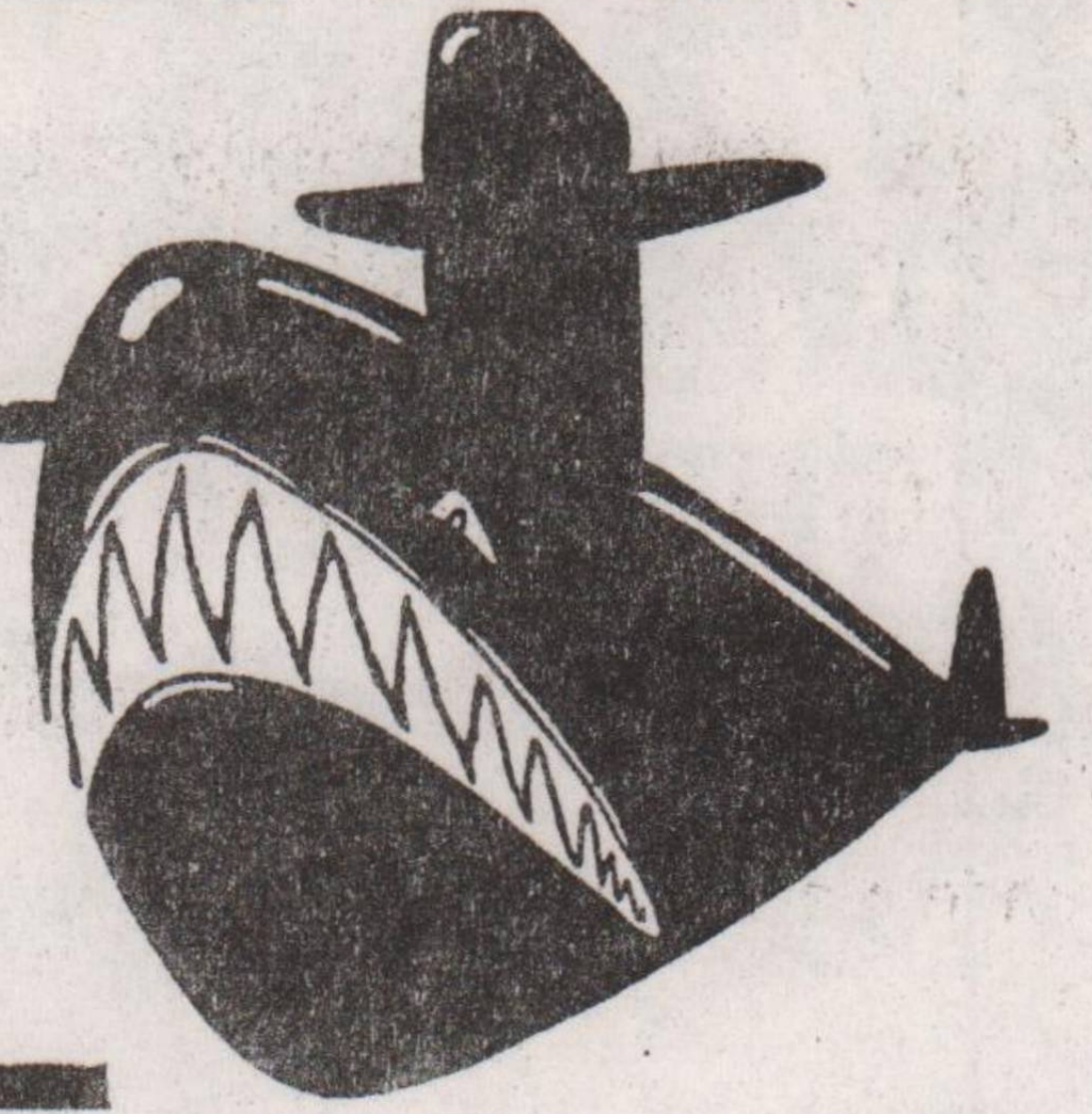
Registration is £30. Further details about the Convention and possible travel arrangements from National CND or the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 10TH MAY from 2.30 p.m.

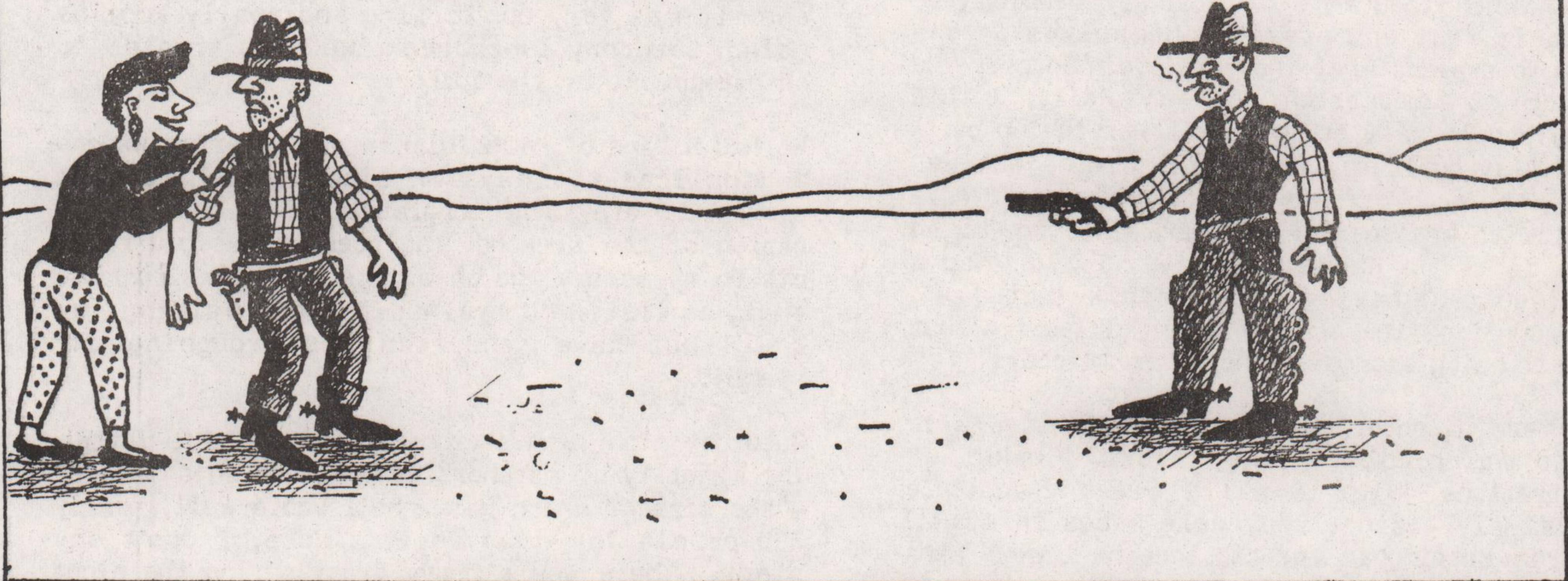
Organised by the UNSSD3 Campaign Committee. Join others in putting your views to your MP about the UN's Third Special Session on Disarmament and the key issues to be debated at it. Write to your MP in advance that you'll be at the lobby and would like to speak to him.

MASS LEAFLET CAMPAIGN MAY 20TH- 29TH.



THE DOS AND DONTS OF LEAFLETING

DO NOT TRY TO LEAFLET INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN TENSE SITUATIONS
WHERE YOU WILL NOT BE WELCOME



"YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A COUPLE OF HOURS HELPING TO DELIVER THE "JAWS" ANTI-TRIDENT LEAFLETS TO HOUSEHOLDS NEAR ME. PLEASE RUSH MY NAME TO THE LOCAL LEAFLETING CO-ORDINATOR!"

OR JUST PHONE
625198 TODAY!

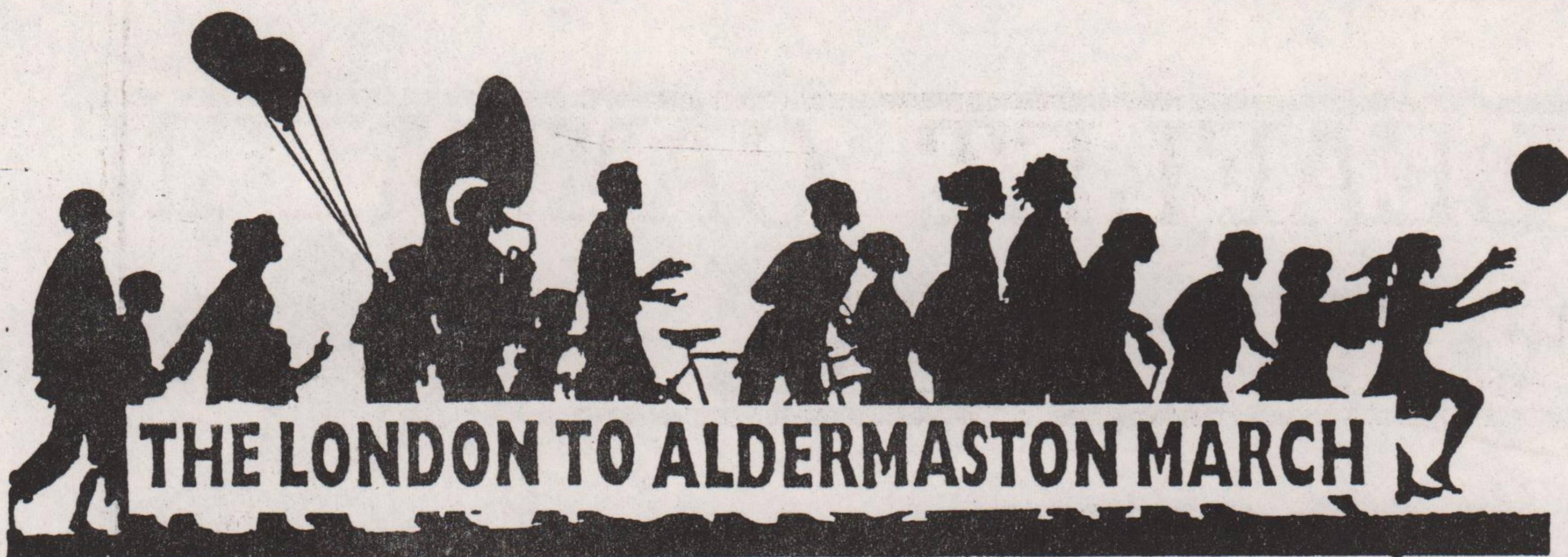
NAME

ADDRESS

.....

TELEPHONE

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: NCND, 17/18 QUEEN'S CHAMBERS, 3 KING STREET, NOTTINGHAM



JANET LAIL REPORTS ON THE MARCH.

I'd made up my mind before Christmas when I saw it in "Sanity". I would go on The March.

Anyone with demo experience will be familiar with the under-reporting of what are actually major events - when thousands of ordinary people vote with their feet and present themselves on the streets to express what they believe. So, for the CND London to Aldermaston March and Rally, I told as many people as I could that I was taking part, so that they could say they knew someone who was there. The spin-off was that I had some 30 dove symbols with messages of hope and peace to fasten to the fence on Easter Monday. I also had a strong sense of having those people "with me", which magnified the already powerful feeling that came with being alongside the other marchers.

My son and daughter, Davinder and Jasmine, were keen to march, too. (They are old hands at demonstrations, with 18 and 15 years' experience respectively - since they were babes in arms.) Also from Nottingham for the long haul were Nina and Dave Hewitt from Arnold - their first but not last "do" - and David Lane from West Bridgford.

(Three of us were put up in London through CND by Belinda - a musician - also marching. Her father had been on early Aldermastons.)

Friday - 1st April - April Fool's Day - Good Friday - brought wonderful weather. It felt like a good omen and indeed the whole weekend was lovely. Assembling in Hyde Park, we were an attraction to the cameras as Davinder wore a Trident submarine resembling Jaws II - on his head! (Sherwood group had been busy with chicken wire and papier-mache making a fleet of these - so look out when the Trident leaflet comes round in May.) He was to wear this for four days - a worthy feat as it drew attention all along the route, making the front page photo in the "Morning Star".

Friday night was in Southall after a very tiring day, the walking pace being slow and irregular through 12 miles of London streets. Accommodation was in a school and in the Community Centre, with hospitality from local Indian people. We were greeted and encouraged by MP Sid Bidwell, the MEP (and his Great Dane) and the Mayor of Southall.

We were quite tightly packed in the hall and this was a sleepless night for me. I tried breathing in unison with the snorers, but the intermittent coughs were startling. With a crashing headache, I was dreading the next day's walk - the longest at 19 miles. However, I was in luck. Near us was a Buddhist nun and, whilst we were in the l.o.n.g

breakfast queue, she gave me a head massage, which shifted the headache a treat!

The Buddhists were good company. On the first day, the repetitive beat of their drum and the chanting rather got on our nerves whereas, by the end, it was very comforting and really kept us going. Saturday lunchbreak, we were treated to entertainment by the Spinners.

We had a band of camp followers - catering wagons and Uniloos - always in situ at each resting spot, CND are to be congratulated on the organisation of the weekend. The queuing has blurred a bit in my memory though at the time it struck me that, whilst we'd trained for the walking, we could not have rehearsed the "roughing it" element.

Saturday night was a vigorous test of this latter. The majority of marchers were put up in a marquee - the size of which was unbelievable well, nearly 700 people lay down in it! Note, I don't say slept. There was a heavy frost during the night and we were frozen.

We'd been bussed from Maidenhead to Sonning Common as there were no premises available to us in Maidenhead (Are there no church halls there, for instance?) Now, tiny Sonning Common may be unknown to you, but there is a generous and loving Peace Group there who provided that large number of people with an abundant breakfast-cum-packed lunch and EASTER EGGS. Thanks also go to Reading Quakers: the Friends gave us evening meal and breakfast on the last night - and I did sleep, in their warm Meeting House!

Throughout the weekend, the effort of pounding the road was lightened by the conversations with so many people: a young German who roller-skated all the way; a group from Faslane Peace Camp (note: People's Witness for Peace there, 23rd - 24th July); a Lincoln man who is helping to build the Buddhist Temple at Milton Keynes; 1958 veterans, some in their 70s and youngsters in their early teens, altogether spanning three generations walking together in harmony, with a common purpose: to rid Britain and the world of nuclear weaponry.

The final couple of miles were memorable for their quiet expectancy. When we reached the people waiting at Aldermaston, I could not hold back tears which stemmed from a great compound feeling of joy and relief that so many of us are on the side of peace.

JANET LAIL.

IMPORTANT, NO VERY IMPORTANT, SO PLEASE READ IT!

Some of you may know NCND's current office tenancy will run out on the 31st October 1988. This means we have to decide where or what our future office requirements will be. To this end the March Executive Committee meeting came up with a list of FUNCTIONS that a NCND office should fulfill.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

administration
bulletin collection point
information giving
central focus

SECONDARY FUNCTIONS

hold meetings
storage
stall storage
selling point

Although the general feeling was we should not rush into this decision, there is one choice we MUST make at the next Executive Committee on MAY 18th.

One premises which will be available in June is 182 Mansfield Road (next door to the Rainbow Centre). If NCND wants to bid for this tenancy we must decide in MAY or we will miss the opportunity to do so. Essentially we have the following options:-

- 1 Bid to move to 182 Mansfield Road,
- 2 Wait and renew our current office tenancy in October
- 3 Look at other office premises.

To fulfill the essential office function the office needs to be visual and easy for all members to get to and get into, the sort of thing Marks & Spencers or W H Smiths have in the City Centre. The problem is being able to afford these locations. Other premises have been looked at, but unfortunately most were just too expensive. To help make a decision over 182 Mansfield Road, I have put together (after excessive group pressure to do so), three comparable evaluation sheets for:

a) our current office, b) 182 Mansfield Road and c) a premises currently occupied by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers which is likely to become available. These contain details of room sizes, cost, accessibility, etc, and are available for examination at the NCND Office.

THESE ARE NOT THE ONLY OPTIONS WE HAVE so bring your views, or better still your group's views with you to the next meeting. It's at the WEA on SHAKESPEARE STREET at 7.30 pm on WEDNESDAY 18th MAY.

OPTION 1: British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Office

LOCATION

- a) address 33 Castle Gate, Nottingham
- b) description - ground floor office within 3 storey building split into other office spaces, shared front access

OPTION 2: Old Earthwise Premises, 182 Mansfield Road

LOCATION

- a) address 182 Mansfield Road. The building adjoins the Rainbow Centre.
- b) self-contained building in terraced row. Three storey + cellar, front and rear doors

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

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.

FOREST FIELDS GOES TO ALDERMASTON

ROD LANGFORD REPORTS ON THE RALLY.

Forest Fields at 7.15 on a Bank Holiday Monday in April isn't the liveliest community I've seen. It's just light and the only other people are pairs of paper girls and boys on BMX bikes and an occasional milkman, until we arrive at the Carlton Hotel bus stop, 10 minutes later, to find 2 more intrepid anti-nuke campaigners wondering if they'd got the right day.

Then a luxurious Silverdale coach appears and the few of us board the coach and greet the driver. He asks me if it's the "Cambridge place" (Molesworth?) we're going to. "No", I say, "It's the other one, Aldermaston, near Oxford this time. Didn't they tell you?"

We pick the best seats and stash our lunches and waterproofs (demo survival kits) overhead. Gradually, the bus becomes nearly half-full, some folk I haven't seen before (very encouraging), all slightly bleary-eyed, cheerful and jolly; if, like me, a little anxious.

Twenty-five minutes after we are due to leave, we set off for the "Salutation Inn" to meet the other three coaches from Nottingham and hopefully to collect more passengers. Lots of people, mostly familiar, from the neighbourhood groups, are milling around. Last minute organising with a banner or two, collecting money, distributing bulletins. Then, there's the S.C.A.N.W. Submarine Toppers Contingent! wearing their now familiar anti-Trident shark/submarine toppers. Brilliant!!!

Our coach is declared, by referendum, non-smoking, something I'm in favour of, even though I've smoked regularly for longer than I haven't. I just feel that smoking in confined public places is anti-social and there are enough anti-socialists among the anti-nuclearites without me!

Within half an hour, we're off, in convoy, with me wondering how many others have got it together for CND.

During the journey we chat and I find plenty of time to fasten threads to the few dozen dove symbols that the supporters who weren't able to go have sponsored.

The Driver's Lunch. At the toilet-stop, in the usual service-station where the habitually smoking driver gets a concession lunch that I wouldn't touch with a barge pole, there's a chance to chat with people from the other coaches and the heart-warming sight of more than a dozen coaches, carrying contingents from other towns. Then off on the final leg to Aldermaston.

Well before mid-day, we see the first glimpse of the fence around A.W.R.E. It's already festooned with thousands of sponsored doves and symbols, the surest way to see the outline of the perimeter, in my case, for the first time.

After a diversion to the village of Aldermaston, passing groups of walkers from various places, carrying banners and placards, searching for the correct approach road, the coach park is found. Well organised! The first person to board our coach is carrying programmes, plenty to go round, one each. If there's one coach in the park, then there must be 200 (at 50 people to each, we've now got an attendance of 10,000) without the 1,000 marchers and all those who came by their own transport. And more coaches arriving; still, in fact, arriving by the time NCND's erected its banners, donned its shark toppers and assembled to join the trail of people back to the triple-fenced A.W.R.E

I'm holding one leg of the F.F.P.G. banner and it's windy, fine weather, but enough breeze to make the job quite tricky. But always a proud moment when someone says, "Forest Fields? Where's that?" I answer, with a smile, "It's from U.K., near Nottingham."

The rest of the afternoon, I spent:-

- 1) Fastening symbols to the few remaining empty spaces of the fence,
- 2) Finding the local pub closed to peace campaigners and
- 3) Making my way through crowds of fine people to find Youth C.N.D. at their allotted gate. Just the whim of an early middle-aged grandpa to see how much of the next generation is joining us in the campaign.

Elation. On the way there, enough time to link hands round the establishment and clatter. To see the marchers from London, such a feeling of elation to meet and walk among them!! Wow! I vaguely remember the marches from the 60s from the T.V. - so long ago - and so much for us yet to achieve.

The Youth C.N.D. gate was humming with rock 'n roll and public address against the war-mongers.

Yes, of all, the youth was the most inspiring, the music I've heard before, the speeches much the same as ever, but the people were new - together we can do it!

Then, back to the bus to meet the leaving deadline. Home again by 8.00 p.m. A fine day.

ROD LANGFORD.

- * S.C.A.N.W. - Sherwood & Carrington Against Nuclear Weapons.
- * F.F.P.G. - Forest Fields Peace Group.
(for those who may not know).

P.S. THE DOVES RAISED £30,000 FOR NATIONAL C.N.D.

PEACE MISSION TO ISRAEL

Ken Fleet of the Russell Foundation joined representatives of the Peace Movements of Italy and Spain in a delegation to Israel to show solidarity with Vanunu at the end of his trial. This is part of his account of the visit.

Since the trial was conducted in conditions of absurd and intolerable secrecy and the verdict of 60 pages length not published, it is difficult to assess the reasoning of the court. What little has come out is extremely worrying. On passing a sentence of 18 years imprisonment, nearly the maximum, the judges likened Vanunu's act to the "worst crimes in history that were committed for ideological reasons". This about the act of a lone individual acting according to conscience against a powerful and relentless state rather than vice-versa!

No doubt the security measures and the secrecy which meant that key ministerial witnesses were not allowed to testify helped to bring about such a result. But the Israeli authorities are clearly worried that the truth about Vanunu's abduction may become officially established. That is the main reason why such extreme measures were adopted to isolate him. It is to be hoped that the authorities in Italy may be persuaded to pursue this gross infringement of their rights more diligently than they appear to have done heretofore.

Vanunu's prison conditions certainly have not improved since the end of the trial. He is still kept in solitary confinement and refused visitors. Our delegation, which included an Italian senator and a British MEP, were refused any contact with him, and only with difficulty were we allowed to deliver a letter to Ashkelon prison where he is held.

We could only conclude that the severity of the verdict and sentence on Vanunu were a final confirmation that the experts were right in their favourable assessment of the validity of his testimony. We tried to put the conclusion to Mr Zippori, the Director of Israel's two-person Ministry of Disarmament. He refused, however, to discuss the Vanunu case, but simply re-iterated Israel's official declaration that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Interestingly he did make the clarification that "introduce" meant "produce" and not merely "import", thus clearing up any ambiguity in the undertaking, which experts are now convinced was breached many years previously.

Mr Zippori re-affirmed Israel's support for a nuclear free zone treaty in the Middle East. He defended Israel's failure to take up the Egyptian proposal for such an arrangement, on the grounds that the Arab states refused to sit down at the same table with Israel, and that in such circumstances it was impossible to negotiate detailed arrangements, including safeguards, between the parties concerned. He also attempted to justify Israel's refusal to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty or to allow inspection by the International Atomic Energy Inspection Agency on the grounds of hostility shown to Israel by this body and the United Nations.



Clearly Israel does feel seriously threatened by the Arab states and has developed nuclear weapons to counter this perceived threat. What is particularly worrying is the way that these weapons have been developed in such secrecy: if they were intended merely as a deterrent the Israeli Government might have been expected to be quite open about their plans. The arsenal that Vanunu's disclosures have exposed is quite capable of destroying all major Arab cities - or their populations, if neutron bombs are used.

Our good hosts in Israel were members of the Vanunu Defence Committee. Sadly they represent only a minority amongst Israeli peace groups. Most Israelis were indifferent or hostile to Vanunu and this perspective is shared by many peace activists. There is, in fact, no peace movement in Israel as we know it in Western Europe, in the sense of individuals and organisations concerned with the broad issue of world peace and disarmament and the particular challenge of the nuclear arms race and their own country's part in it. Everybody there is almost completely pre-occupied with the immediate threat to peace in the region and most see the nuclear issue as either an irrelevant or subsidiary factor. This pre-occupation has intensified with the recent uprising of Palestinians in the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, under occupation by Israel ever since the 1967 war.

LETTERS OF PROTEST TO:
Israeli Embassy,
2 Palace Gardens,
London W8.

Israeli's who are keen to resolve the "Palestinian problem" talk of a polarisation of opinion with Israel since the uprising. The majority appear to approve of the tough crack-down in the Occupied Territories; quite a sizeable number would like to see even stronger measures, some going so far as to advocate the mass deportation of all Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. On the other hand the leadership is less self-confident than previously, and this manifests itself in the divisions between and within the parties of the

coalition government. But both the majority of the Likud and Labour are united around a determination neither to negotiate with the PLO, who are recognised by Palestinians inside and outside the Occupied Territories as their rightful leaders, nor to withdraw from the territories nor even to consider the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Yet these are the essential pre-conditions for a settlement that will go any way to meet Palestinian aspirations.

There are groups who recognise that Israel can never be secure so long as the Palestinians remain frustrated in their yearning for a homeland. One of the most radical are "There is a Limit" which was founded during the Lebanon invasion and whose members may now refuse to serve in the Occupied Territories or to carry out certain orders (all Israelis are liable to be called-up for reserve duty until the age of 50 after serving 3 compulsory years in the armed services). The Government is quite worried by potential for disaffection and frequently attacks the movement in its public pronouncements. Individual cases of refusal tend, however, to be accommodated or managed so they can be kept quiet.

A new group has sprung up recently under the name of "Down with Occupation". It claims 3-5,000 adherents and brought out a demonstration of several hundred on the streets of Jerusalem while we were there.

By far the largest grouping is "Peace Now" which was founded by several hundred army officers and reservists during the Camp David negotiations in 1978. They can bring 199,000 on to the streets but they are avowedly Zionist and vague in their support for Palestinian demands. For this reason they are much criticized by the Palestinians and the more-radical Israeli groups, who nevertheless seek to influence them and join their demonstrations. Within the Knesset only a small group composed of the Democratic Front (largely Communist) and Progressive List oppose the dominant consensus. Even Mapam, to the left of Labour, do not really identify with the situation of the Palestinians and, like "Peace Now", are overly concerned to keep close to Israeli "public opinion".

ISRAEL'S BOMB
The First Victim
The Case of
MORDECAI VANUNU

Spokesman £2.25

What then are the chances of a peaceful settlement? It is absolutely clear that the Israeli Government will not yield an iota of territory or recognition in defending what it perceives as its vital interests, unless it is subjected to the most intense pressure. There seems to be scant chance of Israeli public opinion moving sufficiently to force a change of course, unless it is itself moved by external events which induce it to perceive its interests differently.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:
Mordecai Vanunu,
Ashkelon Prison,
POB 17,
Ashkelon,
Israel.

The Palestinians have been pressing for years for an international conference that will involve the super-powers as well as the interested parties in the region. Progressive Israelis now recognise this mechanism as indispensable to breaking the deadlock. The uprising has generated much pressure and has caused widespread international concern and a slight wavering in Israeli establishment circles. The Americans are now pressing them to agree to a conference, but its proposed form has found favour with no-one but Egypt.

The Americans tend to look on Israel as a key ally and component of their strategy in the Middle East and beyond. The powerful Zionist lobby and the key Jewish voters in the United States have led to uncritical support for Israel and the constant flow of massive funds that prop up the Jewish state. Even defiance of American policy such as that embodied in the Non-Proliferation Treaty has been studiously disregarded by U.S. leaders. Only if the American Government can be persuaded that the Middle East is an integral part of a global settlement with the Soviet Union and that the present Israeli state policy is contrary to United States interests might it exert the powerful influence it undoubtedly could have on Israel. Such pressure is needed to bring Israel to the conference table to sit down and make an agreement with the Palestinians, which for all practicable purposes means the PLO, underpinned by guarantees from the super-powers. It has to be said that the present Schultz plan, even though Mr Shamir is resisting it stubbornly, comes nowhere near what is required to satisfy the Palestinians, Arabs or Soviets. As Israel intensifies its retributions against Palestinians and their leaders, despite world-wide condemnations, Schultz's journeyings appear more and more irrelevant and unconvincing even as a public relations exercise.

What is quite certain is that unless the Palestinians receive justice, terrorism and conflict will continue to escalate, democracy will be further undermined in Israel and much more blood will be shed. In this situation the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East with all that this entails will be almost inevitable.

Ken Fleet _____

CORRECTION - March Bulletin

The Malcolm Chalmers article referred to in "How much should we pay for Defence?" was in the New Socialist not Scientist.

OTAN NO!

SAYING "NO" TO NATO THE SPANISH WAY

For the Peace Movement in Andalucia, (US) Rota plays the same role as Molesworth does to us. Some 70 km up the coast from Gibraltar, this American base is an important part of American military strategy, allowing it to monitor and, if necessary, control shipping and submarine movement through the straits. In the last few years, it has become a focus for protest against NATO and the American presence in Spain. This year was the fourth march to Rota; 20th March, the posters were all over Sevilla. In big letters ! FUERA ! OUT ! It didn't take much persuasion to get me to buy a coach ticket and so, at 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning,, in heat that was already beginning to get uncomfortable, I joined the 400 or so people who went from Sevilla.

The demonstration was organised by the Co-ordination of Andalucian pacifists (COPA) but most people marched with the many organisations who had given their support to the demonstration. Arriving at the start of the march, we found a sea of flags and banners, Red for the Communists, Red and Black for the Anarchists, Purple for the Feminists, Green for the Ecologists, Green and White for Andalucia, even the Purple, Yellow and Red flag for the old republic (1931-39). The obvious absence was that of the Socialist party (PSOE) banners who have a majority in parliament and represent the most powerful political force in Spain today.

Twenty minutes late we set off, the Spanish attitude towards demonstrations is somewhat more festive than our own. Music, singing, dancing, chanting, beer, food and, despite a complete mixing of the political factions, very little newspaper selling. At the head of the march was a small hot air balloon with the words ! OTAN NO! (NATO NO!) painted on it. Every 10 or 15 minutes, it would shoot up, accompanied by cheering and clapping.

When we reached the base, the march stopped for speeches and the burning of an American flag, before fanning out to encircle the base with a human chain. This proved difficult, not for lack of numbers but lack of organisation and considerable interest in shady spots and cold drinks. Still, I think we finally achieved it.

The last stage of the demonstration was to be a rally at the main gate, but the police decided they had had enough. Using as a pretext the few anarchist/autonomist youths who had been catapulting stones fairly uselessly into the base, they attacked the demonstration.

A formation came down the road, shields, batons and rifles which they weren't reluctant to point. It was a rather hurried end as we boarded the buses that had come to meet us, everyone getting onto the nearest bus regardless of its destination. Inside the atmosphere was tense, though some of the youths continued to fire their catapults out of the windows as we drove away.

It was a messy end to what had been an uplifting demonstration, perhaps it reflected the frustration of the movement here after victory was literally snatched from their grasp in the NATO referendum two years ago. Then, despite early promises of an Anti-NATO policy, PSOE did a U-turn once in power and campaigned actively for NATO during the referendum. Only the Communist party and other groups on the left campaigned against; in spite of this, on the eve of voting, the polls showed a slight majority against: that night Gonzalez, leader of PSOE, went on television in an unprecedented and unscheduled appeal for Socialists to vote for NATO. The vote the next day gave a small majority for NATO. Not surprisingly, Gonzalez is not a popular man in the peace movement.

Once we had found our own buses and were on the way home, numbers were discussed. The papers the next day quoted the organisers' figures of between 10 and 15 thousand. Personally, I put it a little lower. Certainly though everyone agreed it had been smaller than in previous years, a result of the disappointment at the referendum.

Nevertheless, the movement in Spain is far from finished and they, like us, are learning to live in difficult times, the struggle must go on.

! OTAN NO ! ! BASES FUERA !

DAVE DICKINSON.

THE DOS AND DONTS OF LEAFLETING



LETTERS

Dear Bulletin,

Duty, rather than positive expectation, took me down to the National CND demonstration at Aldermaston, so perhaps I was biased at the outset. I found the experience tedious, meaningless and depressing. There are several goodish reasons to continue the annual national demos: a show of strength; participation from people not otherwise involved in CND activities; (limited) national media coverage; morale-lifter from presence of other likeminded people, etc. etc. However, I think these potential positive aspects were totally negated by the abysmal structure and organisation of the event. There was no focus or activity to give unity or the sense of "doing something" - no march, no NVDA, no contact with non-demonstrators, no nothing. The linking of arms and encircling the base with noise were a joke. These things need co-ordination (remember "Arms across Scotland") - well, where were the stewards? - I saw only one all day.

I got off the bus, wandered, with my local CND group aimlessly halfway around the base, back again and onto the coach. Four hour's worth. What were we there for? Time and effort given by thousands of people to turn up on a Bank Holiday were shamefully squandered.

The decorating of the fence with paper doves epitomises, for me, CND at its worst. The fence may have looked pretty, but who (outside the people who put them there) gives a damn. If we think that this furthers the cause of nuclear disarmament, then we are dangerously deluded. It does nothing.

Have we learnt nothing? If we are to act symbolically (as is our characteristic) to show our anger and loathing of the nuclear establishment, then we must act effectively, e.g. to gain maximum publicity with a message that will draw other people to support our cause.

If Aldermaston is the best that National CND can do, then the future for the movement looks bleak indeed. We can and must do better.

TOM BARBER.

I read with interest Geoff Young's article, "No Substitutions!", in March's bulletin and the reply of Jos in the April one. Having read both articles carefully I thought that Jos didn't quite answer the substantive points made by Geoff. These were that after the INF treaty there were moves being made to "increase the number and variety of nuclear weapons". That is nukes were being up-graded. New nukes for old, so to speak! Geoff then gave a number of examples of substitutions in air-, sea- and land-based missiles, and also pointed out that the current trend was to replace "straight-forward" nuclear weapons, like Pershing 2 and Cruise, with "smaller weapons that are easier to hide from the civilian population".

Jos agreed with Geoff that with NATO's "modernisation" (i.e. substitution) programme (decided on in 1983) "still proceeding, NATO could soon have enough substitute weapons to compensate for those lost through INF". She even agreed that militarily INF is "insignificant". but she thought this point was not the issue. It is "the psychological and political effects of INF that are important". I think Jos is completely right, but, unfortunately, in the opposite of the way meant by her, because politically the treaty was of not much importance and psychologically it was actually harmful to the peace movement.

Why is this? Jos herself supplies enough information to prove this point. Politically, the recent NATO summit meeting in Brussels was "patently a public relations exercise" (Jos). The recent meetings between Reagan and Kohl, the same old game of Washington and Bonn wheeling and dealing for political advantage over the other, she says. While in reality NATO had decided to replace the weapons covered by the INF treaty fully four years before, although details of the (Montebello) agreement had not "been revealed to parliament until ...last November" (Jos). In other words NATO generously bargained away weapons it was happy to be rid of anyway. (The Russians had their own reasons for helping this deception). But the point is: where, where is the "new departure in international relations", spoken of by Jos? Ask yourself: is the world - or even Europe - a safer place since the signing of this agreement? Can anyone honestly say they feel safer (even 4% safer)? I think not.

However, what of the psychological effects of the treaty? These are far more important. The treaty is part of a psychological "peace offensive" by the big powers. In this offensive the appearance is given of steps towards peace and disarmament but in reality nothing changes - in fact things get worse. In this offensive the shadow of peace looms large, but it is always a shadow devoid of all substance. Jos herself says that Gorbachev has "proceeded to take the stage with offer after offer and talk of a nuclear-free world by the year 2000". But isn't it clear to everyone that this is exactly what it is - just talk. Examine the statement: a "nuclear-free world" within less than a DOZEN years!!! Isn't this the biggest fraud, the most monstrous deception, a sickening pantomime enacted on the world stage to fool public opinion into believing that somehow, something is being done to bring peace closer? Unfortunately there is no doubt that some of the peace movement have been disarmed by this "offensive" into believing that peace can be left to the big powers, yesterday's warmongers. This is nothing but a dangerous and fantastic illusion, the evidence speaks against it.

In this debate nobody has the monopoly of truth but I think time will show that Geoff's view of things is far closer to the truth, and more useful to the peace movement, than Jos'. By all means oppose pessimism but oppose blind euphoria too. Everyone of us would like peace, tomorrow if that were possible, but self-deception doesn't help. I believe it is clear now, several months after INF, that things have not really changed. What should we do? We need all of us, as a priority, to step up our work for peace and to rely not on the big powers "peaceful intentions" but on our own inner strength, convictions and solidarity with our neighbours.

Earl Alexander

HOW CRUISE IS GOING.....

WHAT ABOUT THE REST?

As long as the 150 U.S. Bases and 30,000 military personnel remain in the UK and as long as U.S. forces have free access to British ports and dock facilities and the right to establish Ground Defence Areas for use in war, then Britain will remain a staging post for the Pentagon war machine.

Even before the ink is dry on the INF Treaty (and before it has been ratified by the U.S. Senate), Margaret Thatcher and her government were offering the use of U.S. Bases in the UK for new nuclear weapons - more dual-capable F1-11s, F-15E Strike Eagles with air-launched cruise missiles and submarines and ships equipped with sea-launched cruise missiles.

NOTICE TO QUIT

But all is not doom and gloom. The Warsaw Pact is offering to negotiate further reductions in nuclear and conventional weapons. The West German government is resisting the "modernisation" of NATO battle-field nuclear weapons on its soil and America's budget deficit is forcing the U.S. government to consider troop reductions in Europe. The Spanish government has negotiated the removal of 72 F-16's, the virtual closure of the Torrejon base and a 50% reduction of U.S. personnel; and the U.S. Bases in Greece are the subject of current negotiations between the two governments since the expiry of the defence agreement at the end of 1987.

The time is right for the British Peace movement to put the removal of the U.S. Bases on to the agenda and to give the U.S. government "NOTICE TO QUIT".



PROTESTING THE CRUISE CONVOY

Everyone who is able to make it, to witness the return of Cruise at the end of its exercise is welcome.

The most visual route back to Greenham is the southern route along the A3203 and then up the A34 to Newbury (see map on reverse).

The two best places to witness the convoy on this route are at the Countess roundabout, Amesbury and at the Swan roundabout, Newbury.

There will be Cruisewatchers at these roundabouts who will have information about the convoy to help people out for the first time. People are asked to come in self-sufficient groups, support for each other is important as the first (or indeed any) sight of the convoy can be very distressing.

RECLAIM SALISBURY PLAIN

DEMONSTRATION AND TRESPASS

There was a call at CND Conference for a mass demonstration on Salisbury Plain if Cruise came out after the ratification of the INF Treaty.

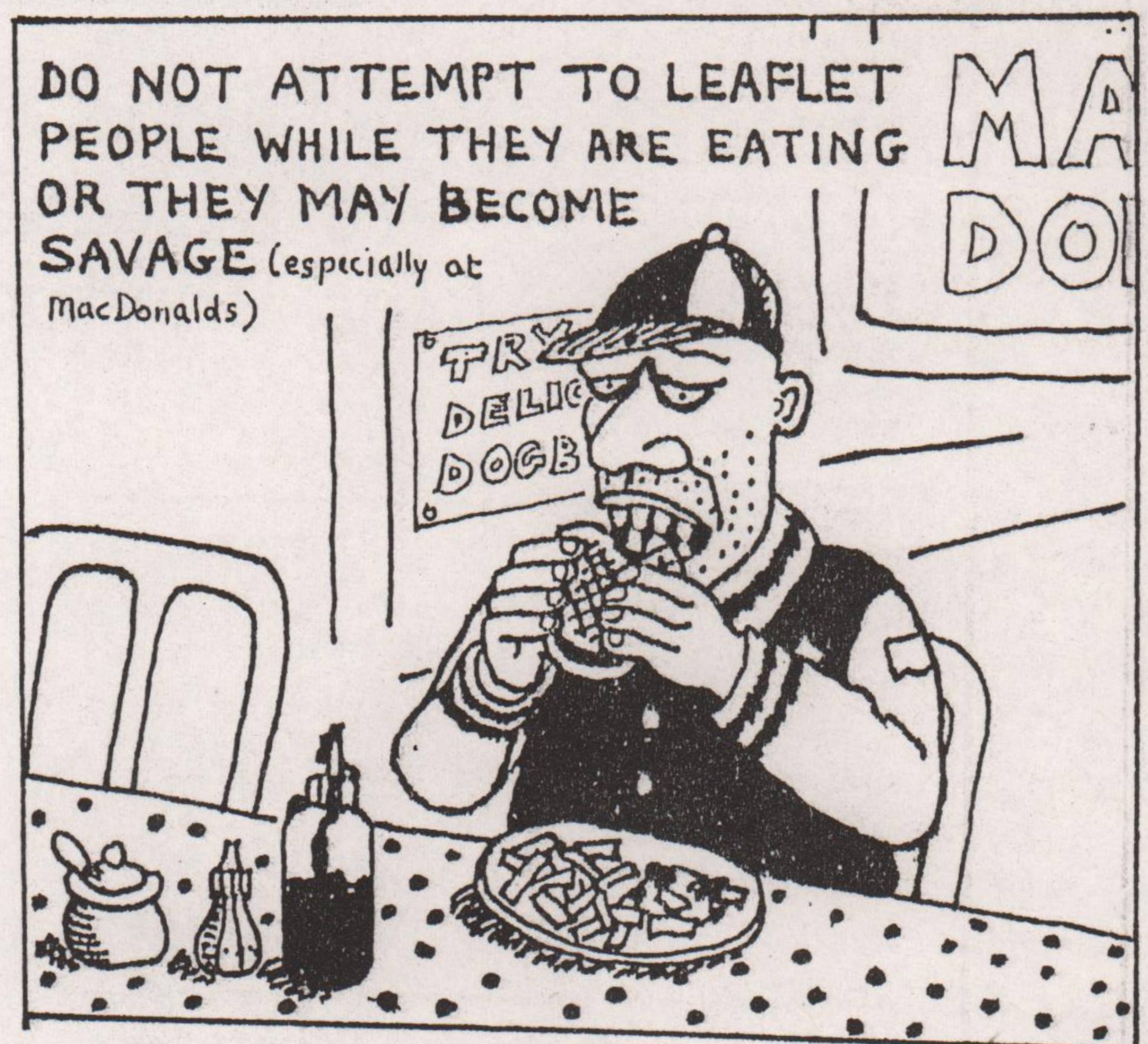
There was a discussion at a recent Cruise Resistance as to what sort of demonstration should take place.

On the Sunday when Cruise is out there will be a demonstration on Salisbury Plain and, for those who wish to carry their protest to the Americans exercising on the plain, information as to its whereabouts will be made available.

Groups will have to prepare themselves as well as possible in advance, as there will not be much advance warning, although with the Treaty ratified and exchanged at the Moscow summit in May, it is probable that the next Cruise outing will be in July.

SEE JUNE BULLETIN OR CONTACT NCND FOR DETAILS OF NOTTINGHAM CND'S ARRANGEMENTS.

THE DOS AND DONTS OF LEAFLETING



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 PEACE GROUP
 NAT COUNCIL REP
 RAINBOW CENTRE
 SAFE ENERGY GROUP
 TRADES UNION CND
 WOMEN FOR PEACE

200 CLUB WINNERS:

1st. prize £50 - Val Harris
 2nd. prize £10 - Pete Strauss
 3rd. prize £5 - Gina Clayton

MAY BULLETIN CREDITS: _____
 Editorial: Ross Bradshaw, Pete Strauss,
 Ann Kestenbaum and Geoffrey Young.
 Typing: Phyllis Wells, Hilary Trengrouse.
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 Printing: Louise Jessop, Laurence Geary,
 Rod Langford, Bill Haines.
 Leafletting drawings: Sue Young.
 Deadlines: Articles and caption entries:
 Monday MAY 16TH. _____

STOP PRESS The Peace Festival Committee
 wishes to propose a loan of £1000 from
 Nottm CND. To be discussed at Members'
 meeting, May 18. Proposed: Bill Haines.

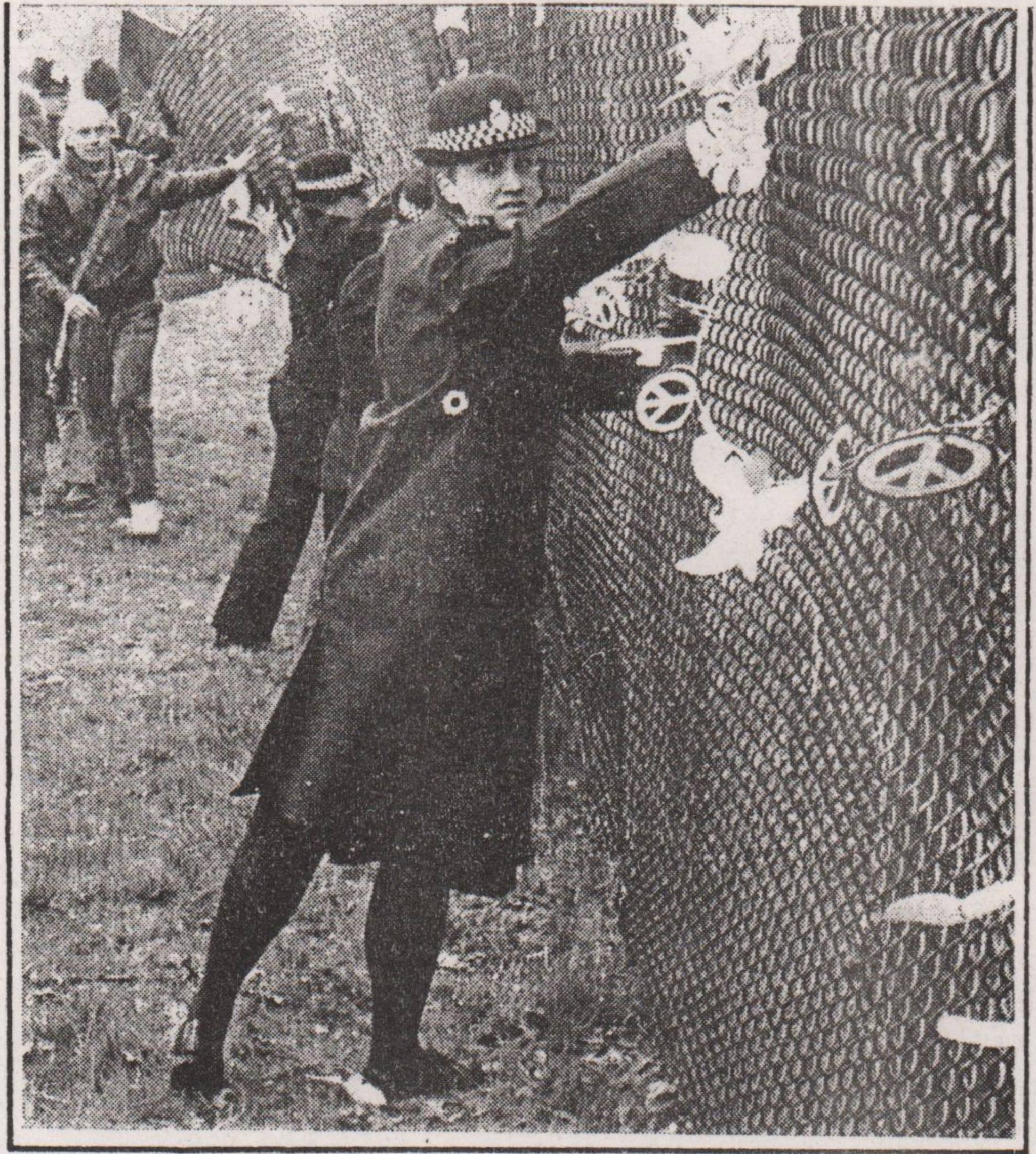
WIN FREE FILM TICKETS!

CITY LIGHTS C·I·N·E·M·A

Choosing the winner of the caption competition in April's Bulletin was not an easy task, but after much deliberation the editorial team decided that the prize of free entry for two at City Lights Cinema should go to Geoffrey Jago with:

"I told him Thatcher thinks nuclear power is economic!"

Here is this month's teaser!



ADMISSION: £2.50, £2.00, £1.25

JUNE 5th.
Simon Fanshawe
 plus full support

MAY 29th.
Lip Service.
 plus full support

SPOTZ CABARET
 OLD VIC FLETCHERGATE