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NOTTINGHAM CND

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Illustration by Jean Jago.

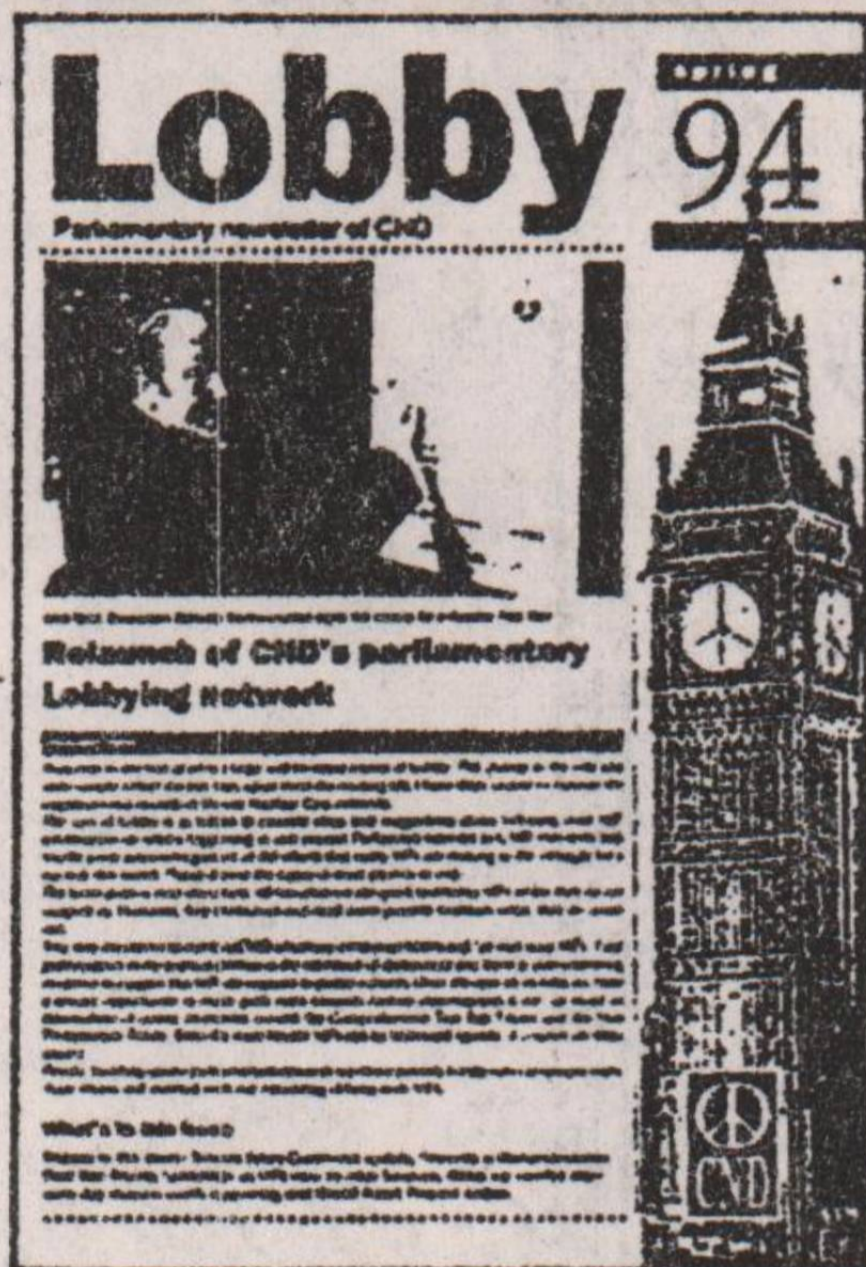
CND ROADSHOW

SAT. APRIL 16

ST. PETER'S GATE

Stall Talk: Worrying Westminster

Gary Lefley, General Secretary



CND has just launched its Parliamentary newsletter *Lobby* as the centrepiece of a new individual campaigning scheme. Anyone can join the network, it's simple to participate, it's effective, you determine your level of commitment - and it's free to CND members.

Issue one has tips from Alan Simpson MP on how to lobby your MP to greatest effect. There are details of three Early Day Motions which you can ask your MP to sign: Britain and a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; Arms Conversion; and US Congress criticism of British nuclear policy. *Lobby* includes more information on the Defence Select Committee examination of Trident. Finally there are suggestions for lobbying on the World Court Project. If *Lobby* interests you contact Malcolm Reid at CND on 071 700 2393 or use the form on page 7.

The May local council elections are an ideal opportunity to raise the issue of nuclear weapons convoys and safety. Many local councils have already been successfully lobbied. Some have held debates on the issue and have passed policy condemning the convoys and government secrecy. CND has produced a briefing for lobbying councillors and local council candidates. It contains the latest information on convoy routes, safety problems raised by the Drell and Oxburgh reports and the Home Office guidelines, model motions for local authorities and suggested questions for candidates. For a free copy contact the Campaigns team on 071-700 2393.

Brushed under the secrecy carpet

Heather Williams, Vice Chair

In December it was disclosed there were 204 secret underground nuclear tests in the US between 1963 and 1990. One test was British. We now know officially that earlier US government scientists deliberately exploded atomic bombs in the atmosphere to examine the spread and effects of radioactive fallout. It seems to be the season for revealing (old) nuclear horrors. How much else is still brushed under the secrecy carpet.

At least Britain has now agreed to join talks and work towards a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), 'though if the process takes a long time and circumstances make it desirable, we may test again before such a treaty is reached'. (The MoD did not say where.) Britain refuses to declare a moratorium. In any case, in the view of the men from the Ministry, Britain has no responsibility to the Shoshone nation regarding the destruction of their land, and anyway one can't 'clean up' an underground test site.

There is a real danger that the nuclear nations will test again before a CTBT is in place. For the sake of all, but especially those, including the Shoshone, the Uighur, the Maohi and the Nenets, who live near the test sites, we must remember that we are all downwinders and we must all keep up whatever pressure we can to ensure that this does not happen.

Nicola Butler, Campaigns Worker

With Cruise gone, the women's peace camp at Blue Gate Greenham Common has closed. However, the camp was always the women who were involved in it and they continue to work for peace networking with other women all over the world--peace work in former Yugoslavia, non-violent opposition to war and fascism in Europe and around the world, involvement in Nukewatch and opposition to nuclear weapons. The women's peace movement continues to inspire and empower women to find new ways of working together for a better world.

"They should not be happening" But they are

Nicola Butler, Campaigns Worker

The latest nuclear weapons convoy breakdown took place on 9 December. A member of Nukewatch was following the convoy when it broke down on the M25. It was parked on the hard shoulder between junction 18 & 19 and a lane was closed causing dangerous traffic conditions and delays for an hour and a half.

As a Nukewatcher was with the convoy and was able to telephone a message onto the network, CND and Nukewatch were able to alert the press and report the breakdown to the emergency planning officer for the Hemel Hempstead area. This resulted in coverage on Radio 1 and Radio 4 as well as publicity in local newspapers and radio programmes.

These breakdowns are happening quite regularly despite the MoD's assertion that "they should not be happening". The only way CND and Nukewatch can expose the high number of breakdowns and accidents is by tracking convoy movements every inch of the way. As we go to press, Nukewatch is preparing for a relay tracking exercise in which Nukewatchers will follow the January convoy throughout its journey between Burghfield and Coulport. This way we will ensure that no incidents can occur without CND and Nukewatch being able to respond to them.

Opposite are the salient points from a letter received from Malcolm Rifkind, via Kenneth Clark, in response to a card sent re Early Day Motion.

If you want a letter too, the cards will be on the stall for signing at the

CND Roadshow



SECRETARY OF STATE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
 Telephone 071-21 82111/2/3

D/S of S/90/94G

8th March 1994

para 3 -

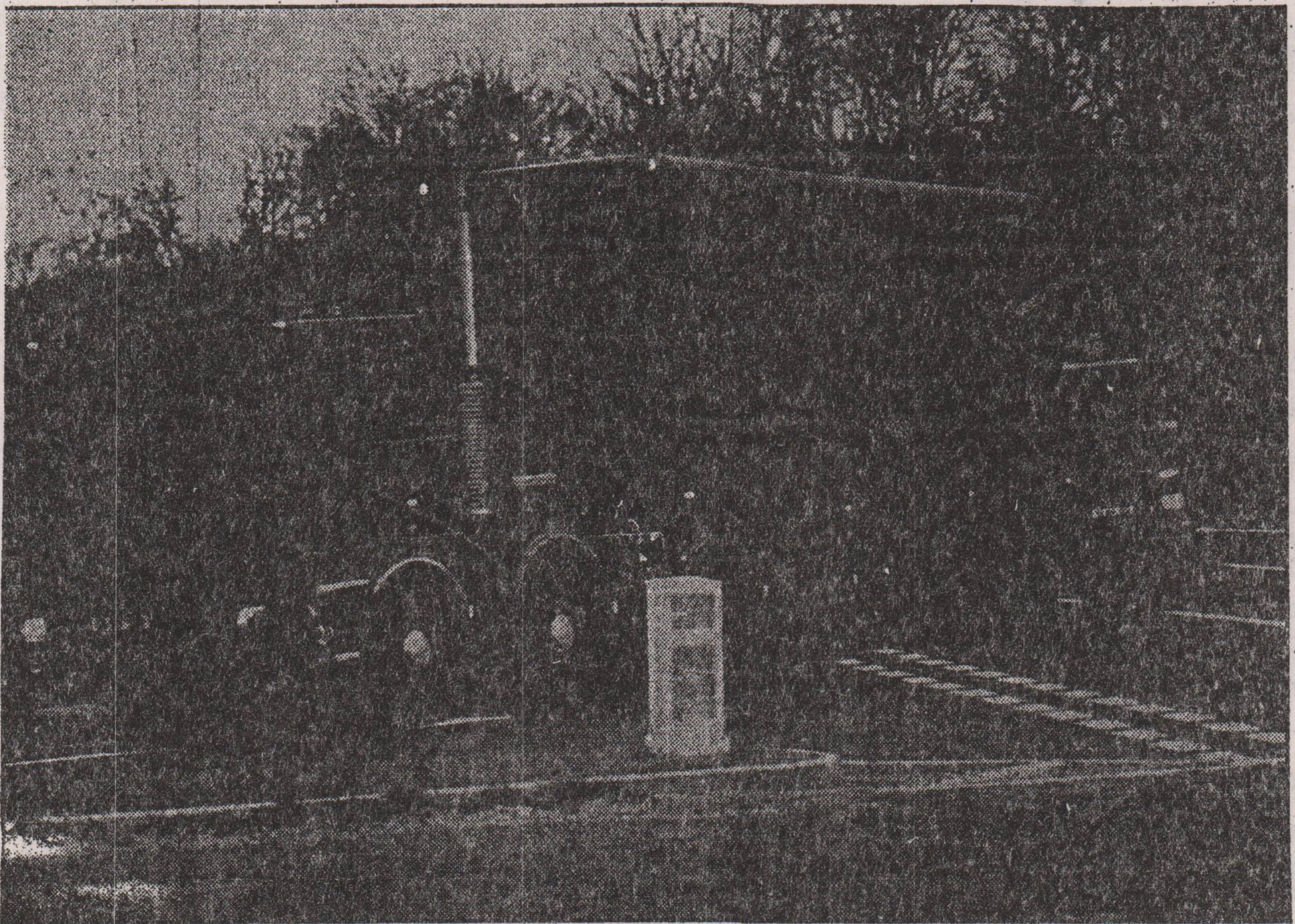
I can assure you that we would not transport nuclear warheads by road unless it was safe to do so. Our nuclear weapons are always transported in containers which are designed and tested to keep the weapons safe from the effects of a wide range of serious accidents including those involving severe impact and prolonged fire.

Nuclear weapon movements are carried out by specially trained and equipped personnel. When transported by road, the specially designed transport vehicles provide a further substantial level of protection. This multi-layered approach means that, even in a severe motorway accident, the warhead would remain safe. There has never been an accident involving one of our nuclear weapons which has resulted in any radiological hazard to the public.

Corroboration of our confidence in the safety of nuclear weapons, and in their handling and transportation arrangements, was provided by the report of a review of safety of nuclear weapons led by the Ministry of Defence's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir Ronald Oxburgh. The report of the Review Committee was published in July 1992. It stated that procedures for ensuring the safety of the UK nuclear stockpile "have been effective, well implemented and rigorously inspected". The Oxburgh Report also concluded, with respect to the transport of nuclear weapons in particular, that our approach to safety was "sensible and practical" and that "warheads are carried by road in vehicles that are secure and equipped with satisfactory means of internal containment and protection".

I hope this information will reassure your constituent that the transportation of nuclear weapons by road does not present a hazard to the public.

signed: Malcolm Rifkind



Breakdown truck... The warhead transporter whose 'unscheduled stops' have embarrassed the MoD PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN JONES

N-warhead trucks grind to a halt

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence has spent £60,000 modifying its new fleet of nuclear warhead transporters in a bid to halt a series of embarrassing roadside breakdowns.

In addition to faults rectified under the manufacturers' guarantee, the House of Commons Defence Committee was told yesterday, the ministry has made changes to the engine-driven braking system and the fuel supply. The MoD's Director of Nuclear Policy and Security,

Jonathan Thatcher, said it was hoped this would reduce the number of "unscheduled stops", which according to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, have included three serious motorway breakdowns since July 1992.

Asked if the MoD warhead carriers were similar to the Foden trucks being supplied to Russia, along with 250 special nuclear containers, to help dismantle its nuclear arsenal, Mr Thatcher said the design was essentially the same. "Do the Russians know that?", inquired the Tory MP Sir Nicholas Fairbairn.

Foden Trucks confirmed yesterday that it is supplying 25 tractor units to the Russians through Brown and Root under a £2.2 million deal. But a spokesman said he had no com-

ment on the reliability of any trucks supplied to the MoD.

In his evidence to the defence committee, Mr Thatcher admitted that local emergency planning authorities are not given advance warning of the convoys which regularly carry warheads to and from the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Burghfield, near Aldermaston in Berkshire. But he said local police were informed well in advance. Anti-nuclear protest groups, he added, were almost 100 per cent successful in intercepting convoys, but there was still no intention of taking local authorities — some of whom object to the convoys — fully into the ministry's confidence.

CND, which monitors the nuclear transports, says the first convoy involving the new Foden

trucks broke down on the M62 in July 1992. In May last year another was halted for four hours near the Erskine Bridge outside Glasgow. In August, a motorcycle escort rider was injured in a collision on the A1, and in December there was a breakdown on the M25.

The all-party committee was taking evidence for its regular review of the Royal Navy's £10 billion Trident missile submarine programme. MoD officials reported that it was on schedule and on budget. Two test missile firings would take place this summer and the first of the four submarines should be operational around the end of the year.

However the cost of the missiles was expected to increase by £80 million following cut-backs in the US production run.

ARE YOU REASSURED?

We do not think that the transport of warheads by road was responsible for the notice which recently appeared on the M40:-

Emergency toilets - 20 miles ahead.

NUCLEAR TEST LOBBY.

On Ash Wednesday, 16th February, for the 11th year running, various Christian Peace groups organised a service in a London church followed by a vigil outside the M o D building as part of a campaign of repentance for, and resistance to, nuclear war preparations. The service includes the ceremony of 'ashing' - being marked with ash as a sign of repentance - and charcoal from this ceremony is used by some of the participants to mark the walls of the MoD as part of their non-violent resistance.

We went to London to take part this year, as we have been a couple of times in the past. This year a lobby of Parliament for a comprehensive nuclear test ban had been organized by Christian CND to follow the vigil. The Conference on Disarmament (CD) opened in Geneva in January and is negotiating for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) - if successful this should aid the renewal of the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty which is due in 1995. We went into parliament and met with our M.P. Jim Lester (Broxtowe, Conservative) who bought us a cup of tea.

We had our arguments ready, namely:

- nuclear tests are for developing new types of warheads- they are not needed for safety checks - so they fuel vertical proliferation;
- nuclear tests by nuclear states will make non-nuclear states less inclined to renew, ratify or abide by the NPT - so they fuel horizontal proliferation;
- the technology for a sufficiently rigorous verification regime already exists making the chances of a test escaping detection very small;
- nuclear tests are usually carried out on land belonging to indigenous peoples which we have little right to use, and underground tests create, in effect, an uncontained nuclear waste dump and consequent contamination of the environment.

However, Jim Lester largely seemed to agree with these, which made it difficult to put our arguments forcibly - particularly as M.P's are very good at talking! He said that the U.K. does not want to test (although our information is that it would be happy to do so if it were not prevented by the U.S. moratorium), and that he could best represent our views on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee looking into weapons of mass destruction, which he is on. He was reluctant to sign the Early Day Motion tabled by Alan Simpson urging the Government to support the CTBT negotiations - he said that this was a Labour EDM as by convention a cross-party EDM would have initial signatories from all parties - but that he would look into starting a similar Conservative one! Our meeting with Jim Lester was pleasant - it makes one wonder why he is a Tory when he invariably agrees with what we say/write to him about.

The day ended with a meeting including speakers bringing us up-to-date with the C.D. The C.D. opened with most countries stating that negotiation for a CTBT should be a top priority in 1994. The U.S. in particular emphasized the Clinton administrations commitment to achieving a CTBT and emphasized the responsibility of the nuclear powers:

"A CTBT will be an important part of our efforts to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and will place a major restraint on the nuclear weapon states ... (T)the nuclear weapon states bear a special responsibility to contribute to these negotiations, and you have our commitment that the United States will meet its responsibility"

By contrast the U.K. asserted Britains attachment to nuclear weapons and emphasized the importance of curbing horizontal proliferation:

"The United Kingdom Government continues to attach importance to the role of nuclear weapons for the preservation of our security now and in the foreseeable future. But we recognize also that the need to ensure effective measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has increased".

It seems we must continue to put pressure on the Government to be more supportive of moves towards a CTBT as a precursor to renewal of the NPT.

Mark & Sally Ramsey.

C.N.D. ROADSHOW.

The Roadshow will be at the usual place by St. Peter's Church. With the visual impact of the show, and the fact that we aim to have this and the usual stall staffed from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. on Saturday, 16th April we anticipate that we shall be well occupied - a change from the normal stall.

Andy is scouring the peace catalogues to find suitable goods for sale at a price the passing trade can afford (not an easy task) and we will also have a new supply of the 'Early Day Motion cards for signatures.

Guess what? we would appreciate a few extra volunteers for one hour shifts. If you can spare an hour please 'phone 588586 and leave your name and the hours that you can spare on the answerphone, by April 7th so that we can arrange a rota.

If you cannot spare an hour, perhaps in passing, you can stay for a few minutes to allow somebody to go for a cuppa and 'a you know what'. Please do try to come to the roadshow to make it a success.

200 CLUB.

January winners:	Francesca Mitchell	£25
	Barbara Lacey	£10
	Anne Mitchell	£ 5
February winners:	Win Douglas	£25
	Anne Mitchell	£10
	Francesca Mitchell	£ 5
March winners:	Mary Riddell	£25
	N.C.N.D.	£10
	Barbara Lacey	£ 5

Unfortunately due to the reduction in the number of members, and the strict proportion of prize money imposed by the licencing committee, the top prize of £25 will be reduced to £15 as from the April draw. Should the number of members increase we will increase the top prize money.

PROLIFERATION DAY SCHOOL.

As the issues raised in this bulletin are pertinent and ongoing we are organising a day school on June 18th. This coincides with the beginning of the Campaign against Arms Trade week.

We are inviting speakers from BASIC and the Leicester City Peace Group as well as CAAT.

Please date the date and come along, with friends it is an open meeting.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18th. I.C.C. DAY SCHOOL,

Nuclear leak costs power firm £54,000

NUCLEAR Electric was fined £34,000 yesterday for deliberately leaking radioactive gas.

The case, the first prosecution of its type in Britain, followed an incident at the Wylfa magnox power station in North Anglesey last July.

Magistrates at Amlwch, Anglesey, also ordered Nuclear Electric, which admitted two charges under the Radioactive Substances Act, 1960, to pay costs of £20,170.

Mr Martin Warren, for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, which brought the charges, said sulphur 35 and carbon 14 gas leaked after a 130lb grab on a refuelling machine fell 40ft on to a pile cap, landing inches from a fuel rod containing radioactive uranium.

A few hours after the grab was found to be missing the reactor was tripped and a sample of air around the core showed the level of radiation to be nine times the action level.

It was decided to release some of the air into the atmosphere over a two-hour period. But a measurement taken a few hours later showed that radioactivity was still more than five times the action level and a further amount was released, said Mr Warren.

Staff at the power station released the gas without considering the information available to them, and did not know the wind direction at the time, or the potential for serious harm could to the environment, he added.

Mr Wyn Lloyd Jones, for Nuclear Electric, said the company reported the release of gas immediately and conducted tests to measure the effects on the surrounding environment.

Switching off

PowerGen is mothballing plants at Richborough, Kent, and Ince and Fiddler's Ferry, Cheshire, to save costs. The company said there would be no job losses. *Telegraph* 12.3.94