

THE MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL PEACE FESTIVAL: Impressions from David Lane, interviewed by Jeremy Jago.

The National Secretariat of Nuclear Free Local Authorities, based in Manchester Town Hall, coordinated this nine day event, helped by Manchester and Scottish councils. Nine days constitute a true Festival (including Women's events, a Sarajevo benefit and a Christian CND conference) and one can understand David's regret at being unable to attend more than a part.

Piccadilly Gardens, surrounding Town Hall, was the scene of 'Stop the Hawks', an CAAT exhibition about sales of Hawk fighters to Indonesia. Many young people attended, hearing also how 29 UK firms touted arms to Saddam prior to the Gulf War. An evening workshop followed indoors.

'A Lifetime of Peacemaking' seemed an apt subtitle for Lord Donald Soper's lunchtime talk at the Quaker House. David is impressed how Donald's 91 year life spans work which is diverse yet always practical. Still giving regular speeches at Hyde Park and elsewhere, Lord Soper bases his socialism and pacifism upon Christianity.

David attended 'Achieving Real Security', where Alan Simpson MP, currently working on a Parliamentary Bill on common security, led a discussion on people's true security needs. Alan recalled one 'insecurity' after another as arms systems became outdated, consuming hundreds of billions of pounds as 500 million go hungry. He urged support for October's demonstration against proliferation.

Great Hall housed the penultimate day's centrepiece: the Rally for a Nuclear Free World. Chaired by Bruce Kent, it featured CND's Janet Bloomfield, Nottingham's Alan Simpson, Hilda Murrell's nephew Cadr Robert Green (UK chair of the World Court project to outlaw nuclear weapons), and speakers from Ireland, W. Shoshone, Moscow, Philippines, Fiji and S. Africa. Music, displays and stalls added up to a very rewarding event.

Meeting people from Local Authorities and campaigning groups, David sensed some frustration at a missed opportunity at the Rio Conference. Politicians, many felt, had expressed horror while evading difficult political decisions. More encouraging is the common ground being discovered between different (and hitherto insular) environmental campaigning groups.

David found the Festival very worthwhile and feels it will have educated and inspired everyone who took part.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

August 6th Hiroshima Day Commemorative Service.
Saturday. University Park Lake. 8:30p.m.

This is the 49th anniversary and we are more needed than ever.

September 4th. Green Festival. Victoria Embankment. 11:00 to 6:00p.m.
Sunday

October 29th. National Demonstration. Trafalgar Square. 1:00p.m.
Saturday. Stalls: Street Theatre: Speakers: etc.
 Subsidized transport for members.

November 6th: Nottingham A.G.M.
Sunday.

It is with deep regret that we have to tell you that David Wood died suddenly on Thursday, 14th July. Our sincere condolences to Jos and family.

It is with great joy that we announce the arrival of a baby boy, Joseph, to John Mitchell and Janet Smith. Another wise child who has chosen his parents well.

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JULY

1994

Hiroshima Day,

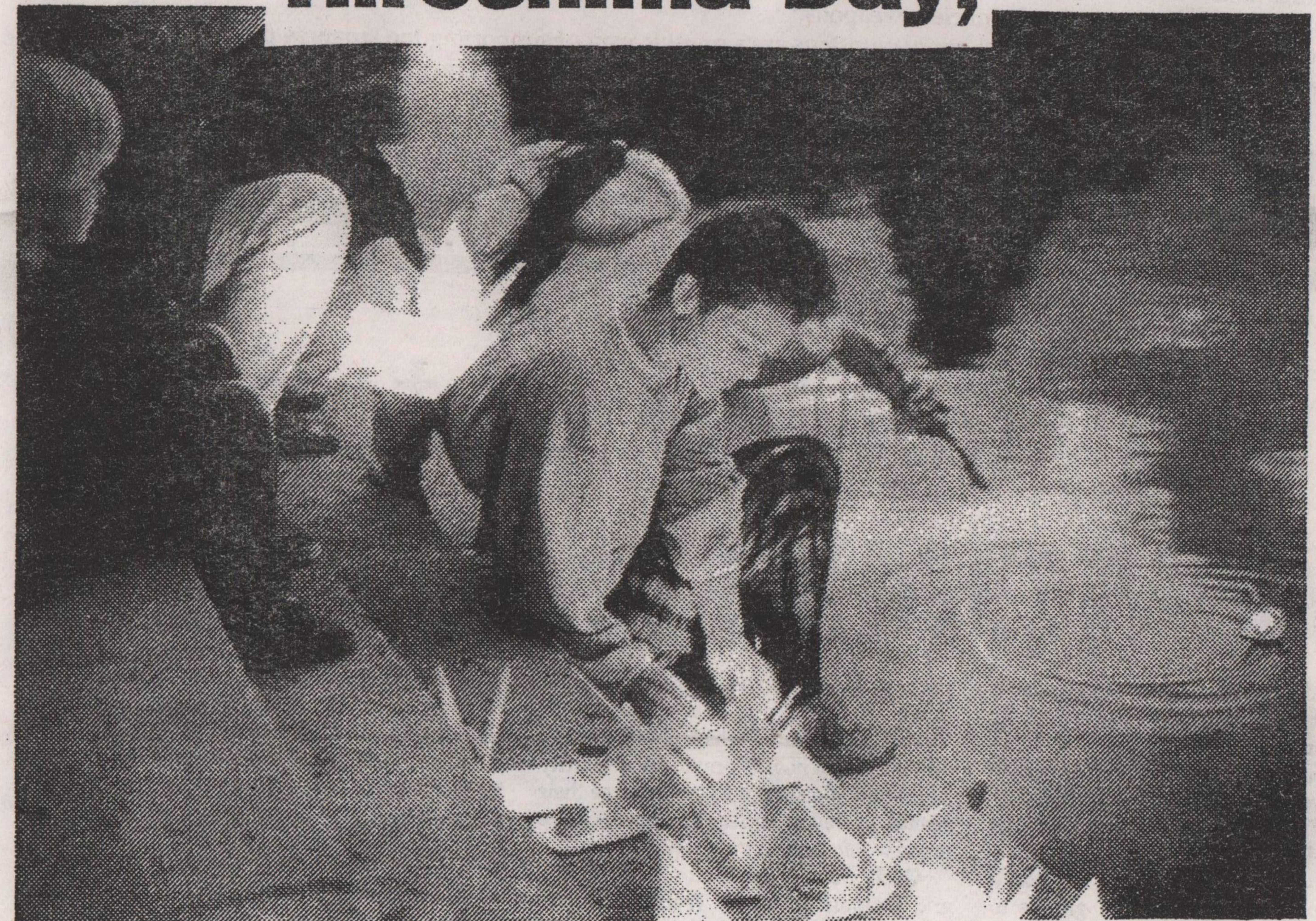


Photo by Jeremy Jago.

Saturday 6th August
Commemorative Service
University Park Lake
8.30 p.m.

Clarion Choir, Barbara's Poetry Reading, Candles & Cranes.



Hiroshima Day has always been a special day of remembrance and prophetic witness for CND and the peace movements of the world. This year it takes place under the cloud of a potential nuclear arms race in S.E. Asia. Japan has the technological potential to build nuclear weapons but has always confirmed its commitment enshrined in its Peace Constitution never to become a nuclear power. However there are siren voices calling for this to be reconsidered and the Japanese government only drew back from making a submission to the World Court that "nuclear weapons are not necessarily illegal" after strong public protest.

China has recently tested again and of course the North Korean crisis continues.

All this means that on Hiroshima Day 1994 we have a real responsibility to remind people of the lives lost and blighted by the first ever use of nuclear weapons.

Our vigils, candle floating and shadow paintings are a graphic way of supporting the Japanese peace movement and others in S.E. Asia and of reminding our fellow citizens of the urgent need for nuclear disarmament.

The HIBAKUSHA - the survivors of the bomb - have been campaigning unstintingly for nearly 50 years for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. They have been nominated for the 1994 Nobel Prize. The least we can do for them is to get out into our communities on Hiroshima Day and say NEVER AGAIN.

Saturday 29 October DEMONSTRATION!

Over the summer, CND groups across the country will be generating support for our national demonstration on 29 October in London's Trafalgar Square. This will be the biggest outdoor CND event in many years. The theme of the demo will be 'Nuclear-Free World or Nuclear Free-For-All?' and CND will be mobilising development and environment groups to participate in the event, which will take

place at the end of One World Week. The theme of One World Week this year is 'People on the Move' which ties in with the whole issue of how to provide real security so that people are not forced to leave their homes, as well as nuclear testing which has made whole regions uninhabitable.

On 29 October itself there will be a rally and balloon release in Trafalgar Square beginning at 1pm. If you happen to know someone famous and/or popular who may want to be part of the platform of guest performers and speakers or could send a message of support then please let us know.

The demonstration will not only be a mobilisation exercise but will act as a series of opportunities to explain our message - that because of the current superpower détente, we have the best opportunity ever to achieve a nuclear-free world. The 1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty negotiations offer an ideal forum for this, since the text of the document participants will be reviewing commits its 162 signatories to achieve rapid and complete nuclear disarmament and our Blueprint sets out how this can be done.

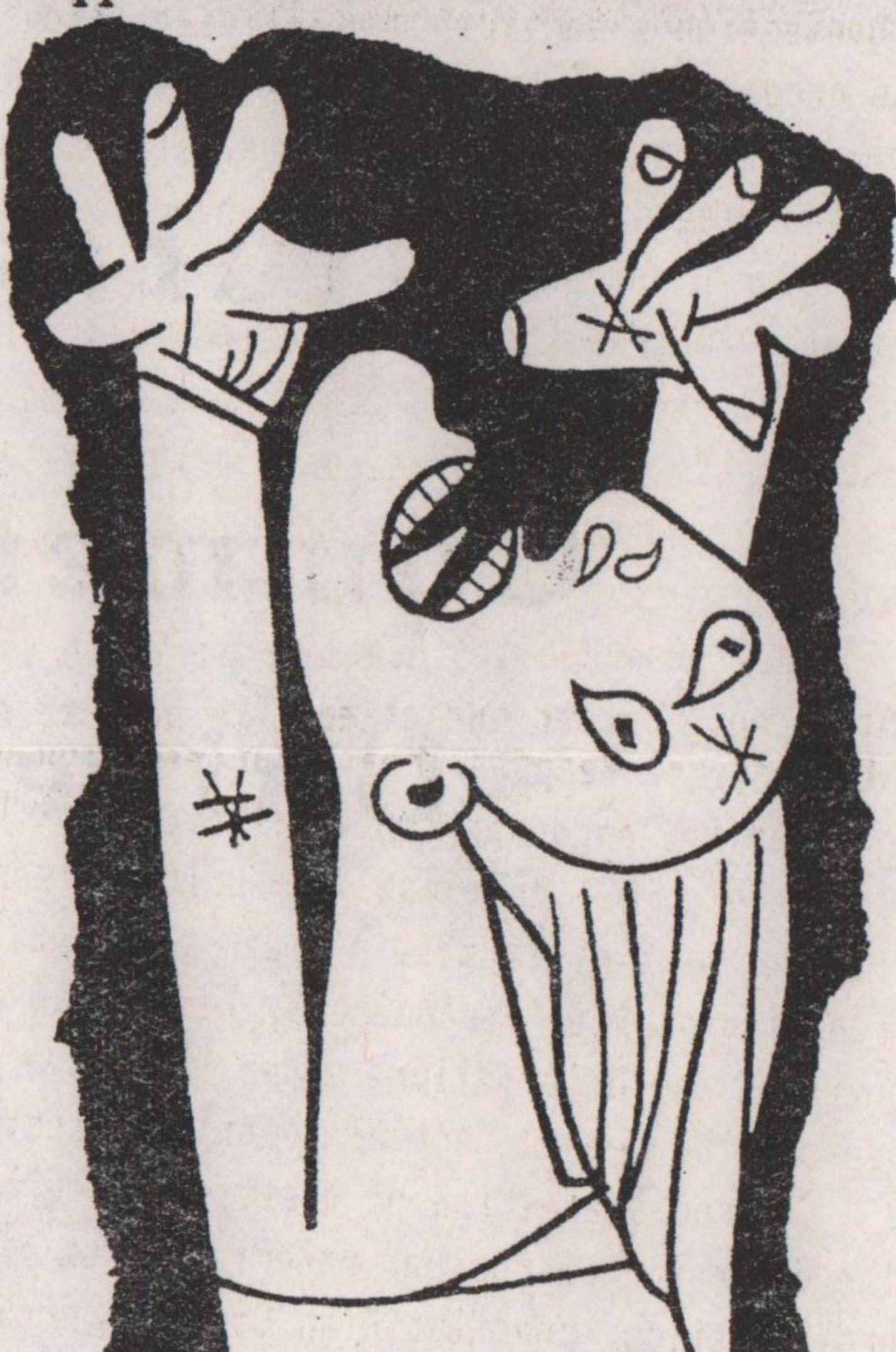
CND must raise the funds needed to make an impact on 29 October. Please see page 20 for how you can help with fundraising.

Other ways to be involved include writing letters to the local press, letting other political, religious, development,

environmental and human rights groups know about the demonstration and selling balloons which will be released on the day.

If you can help, or would like information about transport to the demo, please contact your local group or national office.

Remember, we need you to show your support. Be there on 29 October!



Notttingham C.N.D. intend to provide transport for this demonstration, as we consider it most important to show that we still exist. Nuclear weapons are still illegal; immoral; expensive and more dangerous than ever.

NCND SEMINAR REPORT: "Please stop saying Swords into Ploughshares"

The seminar on Proliferation took place at the International Community Centre on June 18th. The first speaker was Will McMahon of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade.

Will began by observing that the Warsaw Pact dissolution ended a 40 year period in which the whole arms market had been dominated by US/USSR policy. Russian arms exports to its former allies have fallen 8-fold. A new, uncertain world arms race has begun, with new suppliers and fewer arms embargoes. Russia will readjust, selling cheaply (and offloading secondhand) into Western arms markets. A South-to-South trade is developing. South Africa, seeing sub-Saharan Africa as its sphere of influence, is set to triple arms exports, with ANC's agreement. Having failed to condemn the Indonesian East Timor occupation, ANC is 'no saint', Will said.

Stabilisation is a long way off. The Asian Arms race poses a new, non-nuclear threat to world order. Booming economies and reduced debts make the Far East now the biggest market. The ending of the Cold War exposed rivalries, eg over fuel fields - but the press is silent over the possibility of large conventional wars in the Far East.

As the West faces domestic military cuts, governments can convert arms industries, boost their exports or abandon them, along with their workers. The UK's anti-planning, anti-intervention govt. is hostile to conversion, so favours exports, and increasingly, abandonment. Arms jobs, Will insisted, are not safe. He noted less hostility now to CAAT's line in Plymouth, where arms jobs fell by two-thirds since 1986. The 'Defence Exports Service Organisation' touts UK arms in the Far East, making the UK most responsible if war does start. Press and Unions were silent when UK Hawk aircraft were sold to Indonesia. Also, when the Nigerian military squashed the 1993 election victors, UK cut off overseas development aid worth £23M but agreed to maintain delivery of Vickers tanks - a policy of selling wherever, to whoever.

Expanding on CAAT's current campaigns, Will sought throughout to question any link between the arms trade and employment. This capital intensive industry with high R & D costs (30%) is itself the job destroyer, not cutbacks thereof. A CAAT document details how the trade creates unemployment. Will's quoted plea heading this article expressed his view that some conversion initiatives, eg Lucas Aerospace, were misconceived - implying military firms had only to change their product without changing their structure.

CAAT is sending a roadshow to 12 towns, and early November sees 'Arms & Conflict Week' during which a John Pilger 'World in Action' programme will tell the story of Sean Devereaux - assassinated for speaking out on arms aid. A student network encompasses 35 contacts, and a further current campaign is against European landmine exports. The 'Arming the World' factpack fits the ethics section of the National Curriculum.

Discussing Cllr Peck's remarks on Councils' investment policies, Will reported worry at British Aerospace, whose shareholders also include churches and NHS hospitals! A CAAT published study 'Writing on the Wall', given to all councils, exposes the firm as the worst big stockmarket performer and worst military company. Current CAAT studies are researching BA-funded academic courses.

After lunch, the second speaker, Dan Plesch from BASIC (British-American Security Information Council) explained his organisation's service to politicians, journalists etc, supplying information which although routinely published in USA was uncommon in Europe. He took pleasure in the success of Rebecca Johnson in Geneva, working in diplomatic communications, reporting information on nuclear tests and earning congratulations from Aldermaston scientists - she is a CND and Greenham veteran. Dan's overall message was that CND has contributed to lessening the likelihood of actual war.

Current uncertainties are used by governments to 'justify' arming. If all the US/CIS arms control treaties were actually implemented, each side would still have 10,000 nuclear devices. US junks annually 2000 of its 20,000. Israel is a potential nuclear owner. Japan resists nuclear ownership (indeed its World Court submission refuses to accept any justification for such weapons' existence) but its likely response to any Korean bomb is unknown.

Two opportunities are open now: Test Ban talks, and the Non Proliferation Treaty Renewal Conference. BASIC will report, research and exert pressure.

What of ex-Soviet bombs? Poverty in CIS may urge scientists into corrupt sales. The West could buy up the devices, but is not. No serious attempt is made to restrict nuclear components and 'dual use' technologies - eg Heseltine holds up Anti Chemical Weapons Treaty ratification due to 'costs to industry'...

Dan saw encouragement in the current US administration exploring how close an approach to total nuclear disarmament is possible. USA now leads in nuclear disarmament, he asserted. Many in the US Govt want a non-proliferation treaty this year, or as a minimum, a nuclear test ban. Nuclear Weapons states signed Article 6, advocating halting the arms race and promising nuclear disarmament, leading to general and complete disarmament. A legalistic approach by CND is called for - querying the UK's failure under the above. The UK government is acutely embarrassed. When, in the Lords, Article 6 is quoted, the records actually omit the sentence!

During discussion of questions, Dan highlighted efforts to inspect installations in N Korea and Iraq to guard against the diversion of nuclear materials from civil to military use. He observed little comment from the Labour Party on proliferation, praising Alan Simpson for his interest and generally approving of the current defence spokesman, though noting the Foreign Affairs spokesman is 'Nuclear Jack' Cunningham.

He ended lightheartedly - recalling an American CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) booklet 'Guide to the UK', which listed 'principal organisations' as follows: 1) CBI (2) TUC (3) NFU (4) CND