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NOTTINGHAM CND

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autumn

1997

SHINE ON THE WORLD

BEACON FOR THE WORLD

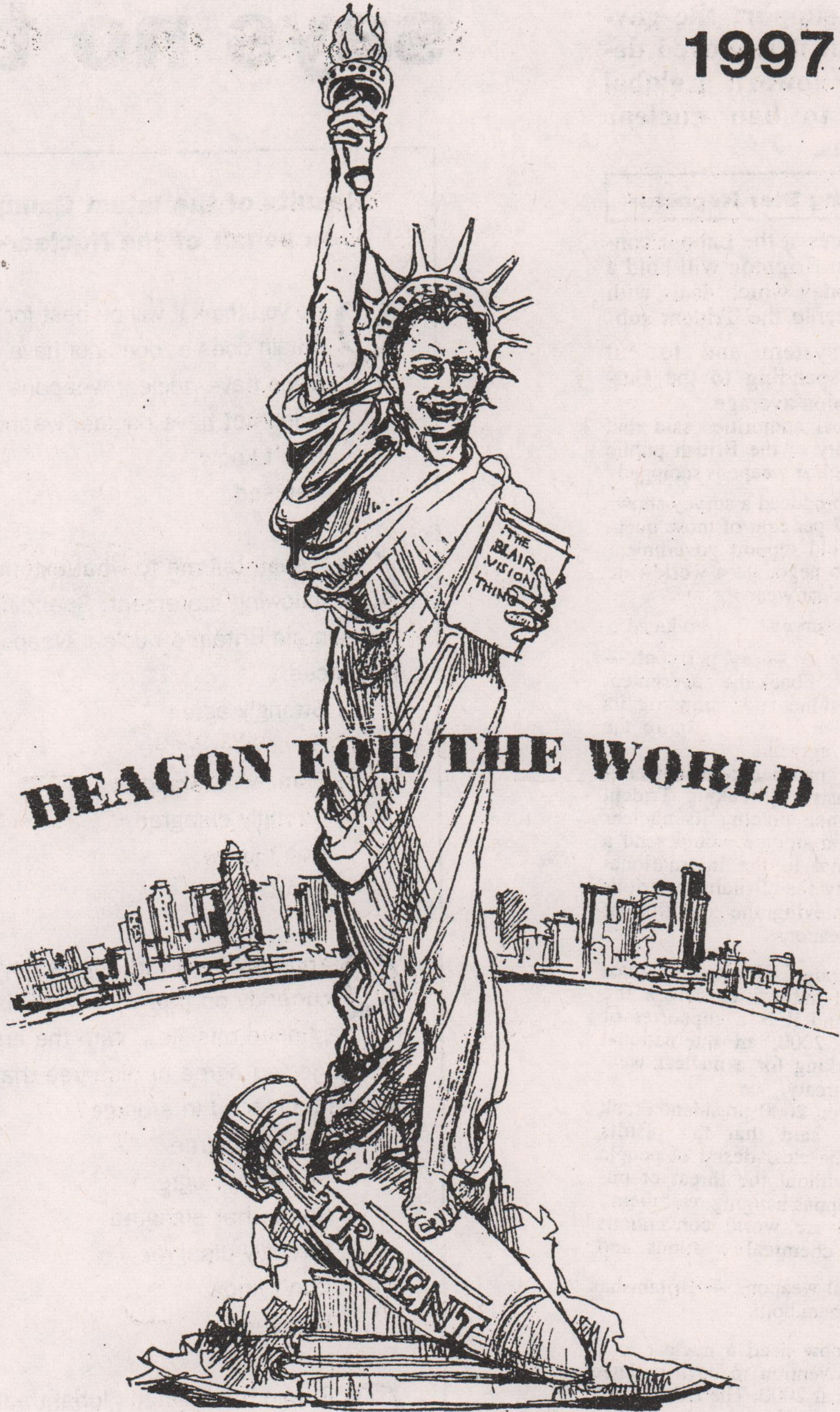


Illustration by Jean Jago.

BAN ALL NUKES



THE Nuclear Free Local Authorities national steering committee said yesterday that people would support the government if it moved decisively toward a global treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Morning Star Reporter

Delegates at the Labour conference in Brighton will hold a debate today which deals with calls to scrap the Trident submarine system and to cut defence spending to the European Union average.

The local authorities said that the majority of the British public wanted nuclear weapons scrapped.

And it produced a survey showing that 87 per cent of those questioned would support government attempts to negotiate a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons.

But the survey produced a clear majority — 59 per cent — would back the government going it alone and scrapping its own nuclear weapons before the treaty was agreed.

Group chairman Martin Hemingway insisted: "Taking Trident off alert and placing its nuclear weapons in storage would send a clear signal to the international community that Britain is serious about achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons."

The group is backed by over 100 local authorities across the country and it is a supporter of Abolition 2000, an international body working for a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

Abolition 2000 president Frank Blackaby said that the results showed the clear desire of people to live without the threat of nuclear weapons hanging over them.

"There are world conventions banning chemical weapons and biological weapons — Britain has ratified them both.

"We now need a nuclear weapons convention to be negotiated by the year 2000. The British government should take the lead to bring this about."

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said that the new government had the chance to increase Britain's security by taking Trident off patrol, storing existing warheads and arguing for the global treaty.

"These three small, yet important steps would not hurt our security. Instead, they would enhance it, by building confidence between nations," said CND.

Majority says no to nukes

Results of the latest Gallup opinion poll conducted on behalf of the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities

Q Do you think it will be best for the security of your community if Britain does or does not have nuclear weapons?

Does have nuclear weapons	36%
Does not have nuclear weapons	59%
Don't know	4%
Refused	1%

Q Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement: Spending £1.5 billion pounds each year to maintain Britain's nuclear weapons is a necessary use of public resources.

Strongly agree	12%
Somewhat agree	24%
Somewhat disagree	22%
Strongly disagree	41%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%

Q You may be aware that a Royal Navy Trident submarine is currently on patrol at immediate readiness to launch nuclear-tipped missiles. With the end of the Cold War, to what extent do you agree or disagree that Trident's nuclear warheads should be placed in storage?

Strongly agree	27%
Somewhat agree	27%
Somewhat disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	22%
Don't know	3%
Refused	0%

Q Britain has signed global treaties to prohibit and eliminate chemical and biological weapons. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree that Britain should help to negotiate a global treaty to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Strongly agree	73%
Somewhat agree	14%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	2%
Refused	0%

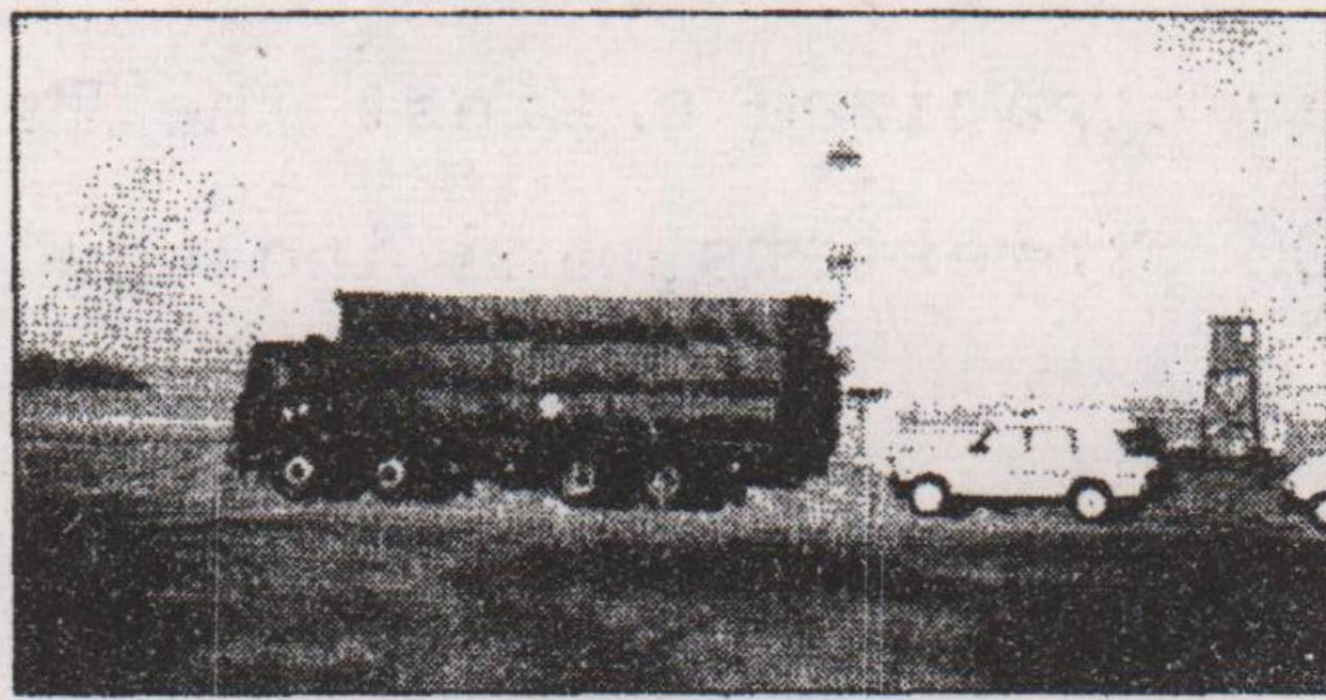
Secret nuclear flights revealed

CND is investigating top secret military flights regularly taking place carrying cargoes of Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) to and from the United States.

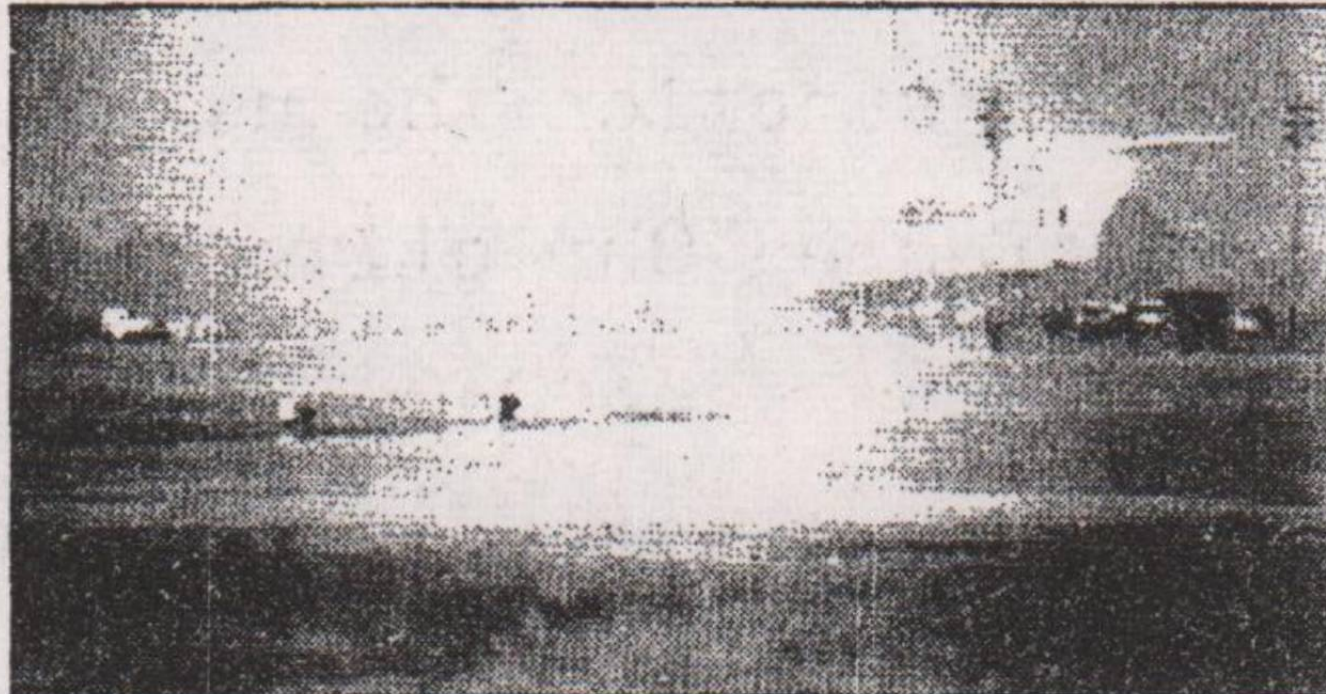
The SNM convoys begin their journey by road from AWEs Aldermaston and Burghfield and travel to RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. An RAF VC-10 aircraft then flies the cargo over south west England and Wales on its way to the US Airforce base at Dover in Delaware.

The VC-10 has to head for the first available base in the US as flights of this nature over America are banned due to concerns over the safety of containers of radioactive materials. The current International Atomic Energy Agency regulations only require the containers to be capable of withstanding crashes

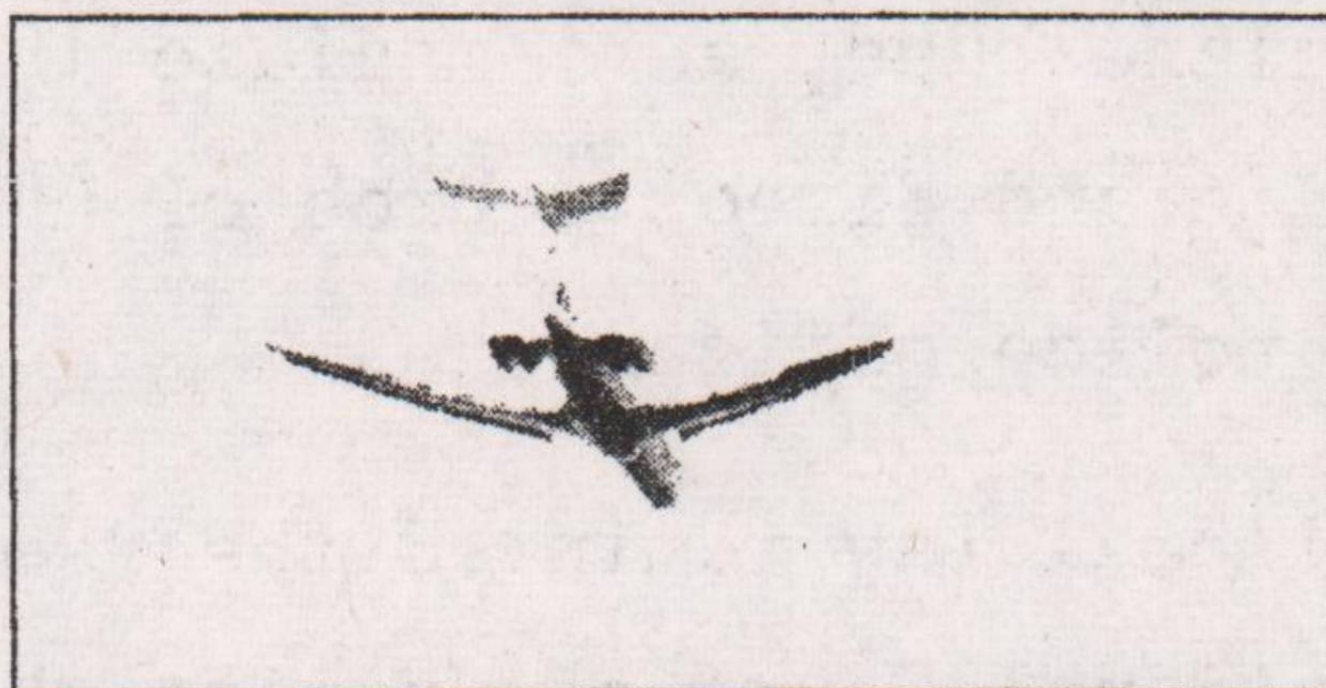
The Special Nuclear Materials convoy . .



which takes cargo to Brize Norton...



which is flown to the USA...



in breach of the Non Proliferation Treaty

from 30 feet at 30 mph.

The exact nature of the cargo remains secret but information obtained under the US Freedom of Information Act indicates that it is likely to be either plutonium and/or highly enriched uranium along with parts such as nuclear warhead triggers. These flights are not only extremely dangerous, they also break commitments made under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) not to develop new weapons or co-operate with other countries in developing nuclear technology.

The flights occur as part of a military nuclear co-operation agreement that was established in 1958 to help Britain build and maintain its nuclear arsenal.

Results of further investigations will appear as we get them.

Diana and the landmines

Lionel Trippett

THE funeral passed the end of my road in North West London.

In common with many others, I was uncomfortable at the mass public outpouring of emotion. I had seen Diana once. It was at Barrow. She was there to name a Trident submarine. I was there to protest. But time goes by. Her recent campaigning on landmines in particular had been brilliantly effective.

It can be galling to people who have been campaigning for years when the sudden arrival of a media superstar turns the issue into a public crusade in a matter of weeks. But no one owns an issue. We all know that.

But to return to the funeral. I could sit and watch it all on TV. I could make arrangements to leave the country until the whole business was over. Or I could walk 300 yards

and have a look. But I'm not good at being a spectator. More was needed. The answer was simple. Leaflet the crowds.

The anti-landmines campaign office is four bus stops up Holloway Rd. On Friday I collected a mass of leaflets, got myself up to date on the Oslo negotiations and wondered what sort of reception I might have.

Come Saturday and the Service. Between the Verdi and Elton John, I set off. Clumps of people were gathering along Finchley Rd and more appearing by the minute. Slightly tentatively, I fished out my leaflets and starting to offer them.

The results were amazing. Everyone took a leaflet. Everyone knew about the landmines campaign. Hands were reaching out. Rather embarrassingly, I was thanked repeatedly for doing something. In particular, black and

Asian families had turned out in large numbers and were eager for leaflets. People were reading them carefully and mothers were explaining to their offspring what landmines were and what they did.

In 45 minutes I got rid of well over a thousand leaflets.

Afterwards I walked back along the stretch where I'd been giving them out. Not a discarded leaflet in sight. In many cases I think they were taken home as souvenirs of the occasion.

I was quite tired afterwards but with a sense of achievement. It had been a crowded and intense experience. Now I regret that there was no concerted effort to leaflet all the thousands who had waited overnight and gathered in Hyde Park. I don't think the crowds were hysterical or sentimental idiots. And I'm glad I took the trouble...

"FASLANE CAMP LIVES!"

In case anyone thought that Faslane Peace Camp had gone away with the change in Local Government boundaries it is inspiring to know that young anti-nuclear fighters are digging in to defend the camp, and also a few weeks ago yet another lively demonstration was organized against the Trident submarine base. It was attended by well over 500 protesters, and included delegates from Germany, Belgium and the Ukraine.

Scottish CND joint secretary Brian Quaille lashed out at the Governments' decision to maintain the Trident missile system. "Tony Blair has said that he would, if necessary, be willing to sanction the use of nuclear weapons. How can this be squared with his professed Christian beliefs?". He went on to highlight the threat to the Faslane Peace Camp. Argyle and Bute Council has stated that it will be issuing an ~~eviction~~ order on the camp. 'It is an irony of our times that the law is being used to evict peace campers' Mr. Quaille said "yet today the Faslane base, an immediate threat to human life and direct source of nuclear life and direct source of nuclear pollution is being protected by hundreds of police officers."

Alan Wilkie, expert of International Law reminded the demonstrators of last years' judgement of the International Court of Justice that the use or threat to use nuclear weapons was contrary to humanitarian law. "After this judgement it was grossly misleading of the British Government to deny to Parliament that the possession of nuclear weapons and membership of NATO was in contravention of international law" he said. "The Nurembourg Charter of 1945 placed the responsibility on every individual to uphold international law. It is up to everyone one of us to do so and to ensure that others do so too."

Signs declaring the illegality of nuclear weapons was fixed to the miles of barbed and razor wire fencing round the base.

Peace Camp resident Dave made an appeal for 'lots of people' to come to the camp and be ready to come in an help in the event of the Council trying to evict the campus.

Margueritte Oldham.

Our next Public appearance is at St. Peter's Church site on November 1st selling White Poppies.

Weather permitting we shall them again on Saturday November the 8th.

On both dates we would appreciate help with this action.

The War Charity to benefit will be decided at the AGM.

More children and other civilians are killed in war than soldiers.

'YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND ...'

Electronics World magazine is not on the top of the anti-nuclear reading list. But this month's leader column is devoted to a distinctly odd issue which highlights the relationship between environmental concerns and non-proliferation.

The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Project or HAARP is organised by the University of Alaska and backed by the US Navy and Air Force. Described as the most powerful 'Ionospheric heater' ever built, the equipment consists of 48 transmitters and aerials - pointing upwards. It is intended to 'heat and lift a portion of the Ionosphere above a selected location or locations ... and make a huge invisible 'mirror' for bouncing electromagnetic radiation back to earth.' As the writer aptly asks: Why?

It seems the US Military wants to communicate with its submerged submarines by penetrating the oceans with very long wavelength signals. Also, and this is the crux, it seeks to probe the land with the same sort of signal to search for underground tunnels etc of military interest. This explains the funding of this section of the work under the Counter-proliferation and Non-proliferation provisions of the Defence budget.

We now come to Dr Rosalie Bertell, Founder of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health, and likely to be more familiar to CND folks as the author of 'No Immediate Danger' (Women's Press, 1985), an exposure of health threats posed by nuclear weapons. She observes that 'The earth is ... delicately balanced ... no one really knows how ionospheric experiments will affect that balance...' Others are more forthright, almost apocalyptic in their warnings: Al Zielinski, a German researcher, foresees a global disaster from electromagnetic waves interacting with the protective layers of the planet and its gravity. Even the US Secretary of State for Defense imagined in April 'an eco type of terrorism' in which climate was changed, earthquakes triggered and volcanoes set off through the use of electromagnetic waves...

This might make the Electronics World readers wonder if they mistakenly received a Sci-Fi comic. It might at least cause them twinges of unease before returning to the more down to earth articles on working with microwaves or reducing that pesky phase noise.

What is the bewildered normal human being to make of all the foregoing? I think the lessons are twofold. First, technological research with big human implications can escape discussion on the grounds that 'we' cannot understand it. Second, those who attempt to mediate between the technologists and the public could too easily be caricatured as alarmists or cranks.

The public understanding of science is a vital step towards environmental reform.

Jeremy Jago.

Hiroshima Day

The Hiroshima Day Memorial was more sparsely attended than in recent years, but attracted more attention from persons wandering in the Arboretum than previously.

Barbara Lacey was unable to be with us this year so Jeremy Jago gave a reading of relevany material, and at short notice Roger Rawlinson took over the roll of Master of Ceremonies. Dave Hodgkinson played melodies on the guitar and the Clarion Choir, as usual, sang from their repetoire of relevant songs.

This year we followed the candle-lighting with a slow procession, led by the Clarion Choir, singing, to the Waverley Street park gate.

This innovation gave a more positive ending to another sincere and moving memorial to the dead from the first nuclear bomb.

Doreen Gower.

Green Festival

The 1997 Green Festival took place at the Victoria Embankment on Sunday, 31st August, under a heavily-clouded sky.

Due to a larger layout of stalls, caused by a record number of bookings, there was a comfortable promonade area between the row of stalls so the number of visitors did not appear as numerous as in previous years. In fact there was a steady turn out and stalls were reporting good activity, despite the occasional shower, until about 4:15p.m. when the rain fell in torrents, literally, and the wind blew the Information Tent three feet out and the First Aid Tent was completely destroyed. There was a rapid exodus from the site, but the Clarion Choir sang on and some stalwart souls still remained to enjoy the rest of the entertainments offered. The day ended in brilliant sunshine.

Anne Mitchell raised £19 on the Nottingham CND Stall (I don't know how) but was left with a lot of rain-sodden goods which Anne has taken home to attempt to rescue.

Doreen Gower.

It has been my ambition to produce a bulletin without errors, but alas this is my last and my consolation is that I am not alone in the mistakes stakes:-

What a wind-up

FROM the *Derby Evening Telegraph*: "Production workers with mechanical brain urgently required."

Comfort food

FROM the menu of the Passage to India, Hinckley: "All the dishes on this page are for sitting in only."

Knight falls

FROM the Croydon Conservatives: "In the disillusion honours list he was created a Baron."

Dry run

FROM the *Blackpool Evening Gazette*: "The defence said Weller had two previous convictions for drinking but neither was drink related."

Nessun dorma

FROM the *Liverpool Echo*: "Each bedroom has en-suite facilities and public areas including a bar, lounge, games room and TV room."

Queen Henry

HEADLINE from the *Review Series*: "First woman Lord Lieutenant of Surrey since Henry VIII."

Mixed menu

FROM the *East Anglian Daily Times*: "Full evening breakfast and dinner with coffee."

Brief encounters

FROM the *Chesterfield Express*: "25 club at The Gate. Dress smart or casual (no jeans or trousers)."

Ye of little faith

FROM the *Forest and Wye Valley Review*: "82 per cent said they believed in God, 9 per cent were unsure and a similar percentage were unbelievable."

Surprise, surprise

FROM the *Gloucester Citizen*: "Mop and Bucket Set, contains mop and bucket £3.95."

Just the tonic

FROM the *Eye Parish Newsletter*: "The PCC meeting will be gin with prayer."

Still going strong

FROM *Saga Magazine*: "Old Dux veterans, now 120+ welcome new members."

Nottingham CAAT

CAAT has two contacts in Nottingham who are helping to co-ordinate this action:
Christine Curran who can be contacted at home on [REDACTED]

Diana Holt who is President of Action for Earth at Nottingham University and can be contacted on 0 [REDACTED]

Leafleting Heckler & Koch

It was agreed at that meeting to leaflet the factory in Nottingham to give the workers information about the types of regimes that are using H&K products. We are writing to the trade unions in the plant and I am discussing the matter with Alan Simpson MP, who is the local MP. We are aiming to get into a dialogue with the employees in the site so that we can inform them of our concerns and discuss the issue further.

We will be leafleting the H&K site on the morning and late afternoon of Thursday October 16th. The morning leafleting will take place between 6.15 am and 8am so that we can catch the night shift leaving and the two morning shifts starting. In the afternoon we will be leafleting between 4.15pm and 5.30pm as the day shifts finish work

The address is: Kings Meadow Road, The Meadows, Nottingham NG2.

How you can help

- 1) Obviously we would like as many people to help out with the leafleting by turning up at the site at those times. If you cannot make it yourself then please tell as many people about it as you can and encourage them to go.
- 2) If you cannot make it this time but would like to be involved in future activity then let Christine or Diana know.
- 3) CAAT will ensure that the action is properly resourced. If you would like to make a donation then send it (made payable to CAAT) to the CAAT office in London to help us pay for the costs of the action. Every little bit helps.
- 4) If you are involved in a local community or campaigning group then encourage them to support the action and discuss the issue.

Yours with best wishes

Will

Will McMahon
Campaigns Co-ordinator

NOTTINGHAM CND

Box 33, 118 MANSFIELD RD. NOTTINGHAM, NG1 3HL Tel: 588586

A.G.M.

SUNDAY

2nd **NOVEMBER**

I.C.C.

Mansfield Road

Nottingham

2'oop.m.for 2:15p.m.

Crisis Meeting

URGENT

For years the mandate at our AGM's has been 'Keep on 'til we drop' now some of us are ready to drop and unless we get physical help then thoughts must consider closure....sad though that would be.

We need help with the stall, due to illness and lack of help the stall has not been out this year - apart from the festival. O.K. theres not much to sell and it can be boring, but it is our only public image and 2hours per member per year would encure its existence.

We need help with the bulletin - mainly articles on any nuke or nuke related issue - with compiling, printing and mailing.

We need helporganizing special events - Hiroshima Day, Chernobyl Day, White Poppy Day etc.

If you cannot make the AGM would you please let us know your opinion upon the future of Nottingham CND - whether you wish it to continue or not and let us know in which way we can help. This can be either by letter cr a message on the answerphone -0115 958 8568.

