

Diary Dates - Local and National

- Sat 14 March Joint activity with Nottingham Green Party, collecting signatures against proposed Euratom Law on use of nuclear waste.
- Thu 19 March Discussion on proposed Euratom Law at International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 7.30pm
- Sat 4 April Protest in Central London against President Suharto of Indonesia, organised by CAAT and others.
- Thu 9 April "March to Aldermaston" film showing at the BAFTA cinema in London, organised by CND.
- Wed 15 April "Economics and the arms trade" open meeting, 7pm, at Arkwright Lecture Theatre, Nottingham Trent University, Shakespeare St., Nottm.
- Mon 4 May Peacefest 98 - see below.

Peacefest 98

MONDAY 4th MAY 1998

✝ COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

"Celebrating the Peaceable Community"

A day of Worship, Seminars, Music, Workshops, Children's Programme, Stalls, Displays, Activities
- for all the Family -

Speakers already booked include:

- Bishop Rowan Williams
- Bruce Kent of Abolition 2000
- Nicholas Frayling - author of 'Pardon and Peace' in Northern Ireland

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

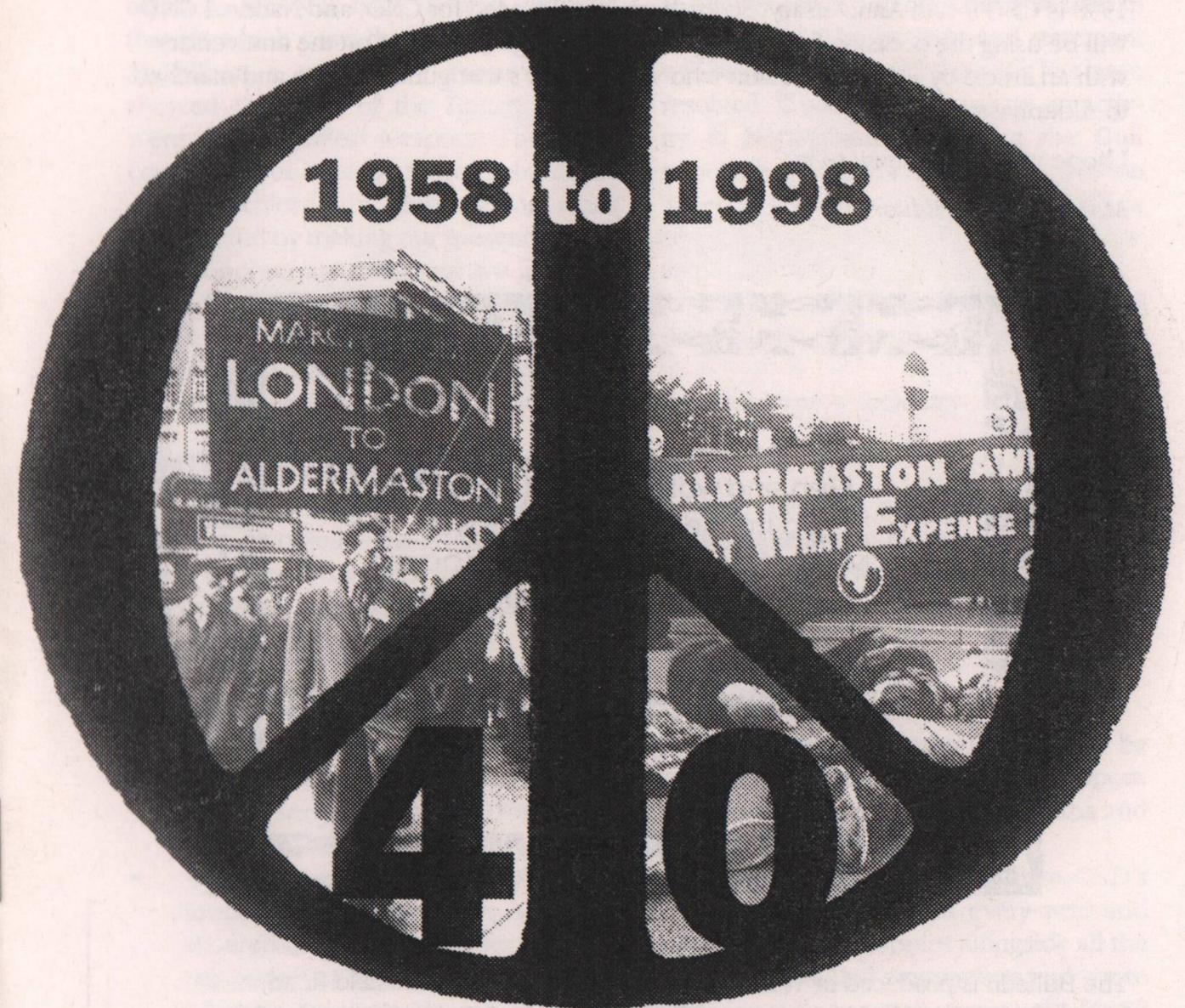
Sponsored by the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (FoRE, Pax Christi, CCND, CANA, QPS, Denominational and other peace groups)

Enquiries to [redacted]



Nottingham CND Bulletin

March 1998



40 Years of Campaigning

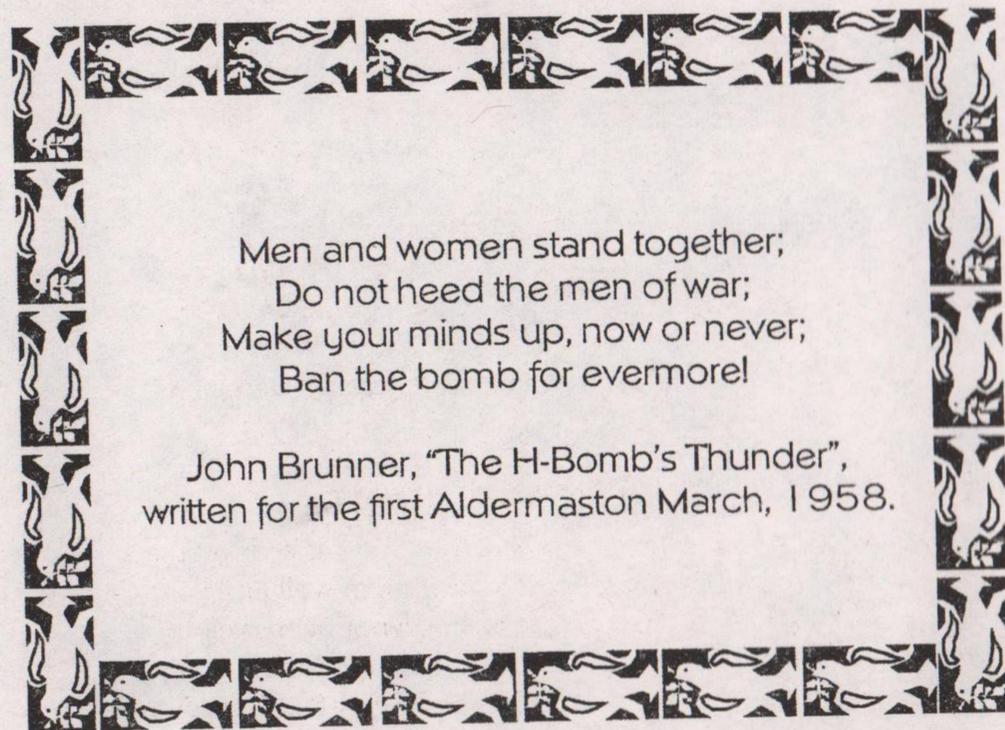
Welcome to the new Nottingham CND Bulletin. After many years of editing the Bulletin, as well as keeping Nottingham CND running, Doreen Gower has decided to take a step back. We all thank her for the tremendous amount of work she has put into the Bulletin over many years.

I have agreed to take over editing the Bulletin. The first change is the size - I prefer an A5 format for a small newsletter like this. I also hope to include regular reports from other peace or connected campaigns. As always, you are invited to feed back your likes and dislikes on the format and the content, and please send in articles, cuttings, etc to be published.

1998 is CND's 40th Anniversary. Sadly there is still a need for CND, and National CND will be using the occasion for a big publicity campaign. We focus on the anniversary with an article by Roger Rawlinson who was at CND's inaugural meeting and marched to Aldermaston.

I hope you like the new style.

Mark Ramsey - Editor



The Bulletin is produced by Nottingham CND, Box 33, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL. Telephone 9588586. Produced using Serif PagePlus 5.0.

The next issue of Nottingham CND Bulletin is due in June 1998. Articles (on PC computer disk if possible please) or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to the Nottingham CND at the above address or e-mailed to the editor

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Nottingham CND News

A bit belated but happy and hopefully peaceful New Year. February 17th marked the 40th Anniversary of CND. Sadly there is still a real need for us, however over the last 40 years we have made an impact. We played a large part in ending the cold war and we helped to get rid of the Cruise missiles. We still have Trident with us though which costs the tax payer around £1.5 billion a year. In a recent poll it showed that 59% of the British people were against nuclear weapons. This is encouraging but it needs to be higher. This can be achieved by campaigning more actively and by making our presence felt at every opportunity. This year we are hoping to get the stall out most fortnights at St. Peters Gate between 11am and 2pm but we do need volunteers. If you can only spare an hour that would be most appre-

ciated. On February 14th we had the stall out for the first time in almost a year. It was very encouraging as we had a lot of help and we managed to get quite a few people to sign the petition opposing a military attack on Iraq. We also gave out the official statement made jointly by CND and other peace organisations [see later in the bulletin]. The petition and statement will be on the stall until the crisis has been resolved. If you want an update on activity in Nottingham concerning the Gulf crisis, please contact Nottingham CND on Tuesday afternoons - phone 9588586 or [redacted] or [redacted].

Other dates for your diary, local and national, are on the back page.

Diane Lunzer - Secretary

Nottingham CND Committee

Anyone is welcome to come to NCND committee meetings, every month or so, and get more involved - just phone us! The following people are on the committee: Diane Lunzer (Secretary), John Hort (Treasurer), Peggy Westaway (Membership), Anne Mitchell (Stall manager) and Committee members Jeremy Jago, Marguerite Oldham and Mark Ramsey (Bulletin).

News of long standing members

- **Eric and Louise Jessop** have left Radcliffe and moved to Sutton Coldfield to be with their daughter and her family. We wish them well and will miss their support.
- We are sorry to hear that **Doreen Gower** has not been well for a few months and we hope that she is soon back to her usual energetic self.
- We shall miss **Connie Ford** who has died aged 84. One of Nottingham CND's longest standing members, she went to the Cenotaph in London every year and showed courage in going forward to lay a wreath of white poppies alongside all the red poppy wreaths. Connie was in the first class of qualified women vets and wrote a biography about Aleen Cust, the first practicing woman vet. A communist for 50 years and a former sailing enthusiast, she was a member of the Poetry Society and had a couple of books published. Following WW2 she settled in Nottingham and worked as a government scientist in Donnington, gaining an MBE for her work on fertility in cows. Her funeral was on 20 February - rather than flowers, donations were requested to go to the Poetry Society or Morning Star.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament seeks to persuade people that atomic and similar armaments are totally wrong and should be abolished... One nation able to produce these weapons should set other nations an example by deliberately challenging the hysterical fear that is behind the arms race.

CND Statement of Policy (written by JB Priestly), 1958.



Still needed, still here

by Dave Knight, Chair of National CND

CND developed out of a number of initiatives in the 13 years following the first use of the atom bomb at Hiroshima. At a meeting on 16 January 1958 the National Committee for the Abolition of Nuclear-Weapons Tests transferred its records and goodwill to an ad-hoc committee convened after a New Statesman article by JB Priestley. This became CND, publicly launched on 17 February 1958.
[from Housemans Peace Diary 1998]

1998 is CND's 40th Anniversary and we will be celebrating! Not, of course, celebrating that we are *still needed*, that there are still tens of thousands of nuclear weapons in the world, or that the nuclear junkies are still developing and deploying new horrors. But celebrating that we are *still here*, that we are still campaigning effectively, that without our activities over those four decades the horrors would have been so much worse.

CND is far more than a campaign for nuclear disarmament. The empowerment of individuals to actively engage in the political process by whatever non-violent

means is appropriate to them, is a major part of our work and our success. We not only recognise the problems, we are also part of the solution. We should therefore celebrate the energy, creativity, tenacity and sheer 'bloody-mindedness' of individual activists as well as our group efficiency and effectiveness.

There is still the potential for a major breakthrough in this country and worldwide. Through Action, Lobbying and Education, *our campaign* will continue until, at the very least, Britain has got rid of its nuclear weapons and a global abolition treaty is negotiated.

"Those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt the people doing it."

Chinese proverb

The First Aldermaston March

Roger Rawlinson remembers his own lone march

It is now 40 years since the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was founded. I had already returned my second world war campaign medals to Churchill in protest at his decision for Britain to have the H bomb. On 15 May 1957 the first British H bomb was exploded in the Pacific.

On 17 February 1958 the inaugural meeting of CND was held at Westminster Central Hall and four overflow halls. When I arrived there was a large crowd waiting to enter Central Hall. However I was determined to enter the hall first in order to seek a suitable viewpoint to take photographs, so I went behind the building where I found an unlocked door. Inside the editor of Peace News was helping to get his stall ready and gave me a press-card. When the speakers came in I was ready to take pictures of them and the crowd which filled the hall. The speakers lined up on the stage, below which the name of the new organisation was indicated in large letters. They were Michael Foot MP, Earl Bertrand Russell, Commander Stephen King-Hall (author of "Defence in the Nuclear Age"), Canon Collins and the writer J.B. Priestley. A total of 5000 people attended the five halls. The speakers moved in relays to the overflow halls. This was the largest demonstration since the war. My photographs were published in Peace News.

The press and television now took more notice of the movement which, however, took some time to grow as new groups were formed all over the country. Later in 1958 I heard of a plan for a march from London to Aldermaston, where the bombs were produced, organised by an independent "Aldermaston March Com-

mittee" pledged to non-violence and supported by CND and other peace organisations. I decided I would make my own contribution by walking from Portsmouth, where we lived, to Aldermaston to join the London march. Arrangements were made for me to be received and provided with lodging for the night at various halts on the way. I started my lone walk on Good Friday 4th April 1958, the same day as the march left London and I was to cover about the same distance as the marchers (about 50 miles) in the four days to Easter Monday. To my surprise and pleasure 15 people gathered to see me off in the main square. Four of them walked with me the first ten miles. I carried two 'No H Bombs' posters, one in front and the other attached to my rucksack. Throughout the walk I distributed my own leaflet in which I put forward the following points:

"We are committed to using nuclear weapons against a Russian attack even if it were confined to conventional weapons ... A nuclear war would be mutual suicide. Some nation must say NO to these devilish weapons, disarm and tackle seriously the causes of war. A realistic policy would be to include help to the people of the Third World ... As a Christian I believe it is wrong to kill anyone. How much worse it would be to flay alive millions of human beings ... I appeal to all, particularly mothers whose children will inherit the world we are preparing for them, to protest against the H bomb..."

The first day's journey to Petersfield was the longest, nearly 20 miles. I came in for a lot of barracking from groups of cyclists. Their remarks were mostly good

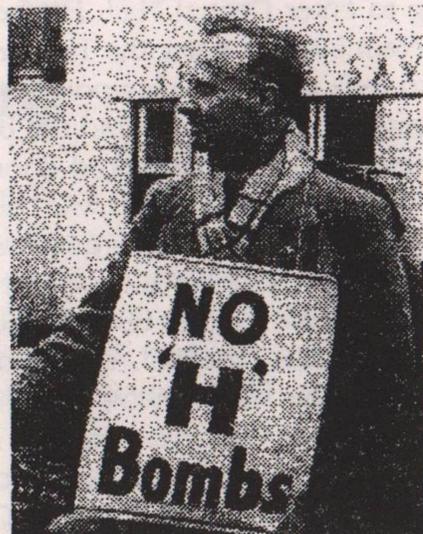
continued on page 6

The First Aldermaston March (continued from page 5)

humoured, sometimes encouraging ("Good luck, that's the stuff"), occasionally derisive ("Lets have a big bang"). Perhaps the best remark in support was from an Indian cycling past who said, with a smile, "Well done". At Petersfield, which I reached in the late afternoon, a group of people were waiting for me in the main square. The lady I had contacted had, no doubt, arranged this reception. Some of us followed her to her home where we discussed many types of deep subjects. An elderly lady who had been in the suffragette movement told us of her walk from Portsmouth to London years ago. Other struggles were mentioned entailing many sacrifices but which had achieved reforms. Suddenly I felt very humble. What a lot had to be done before we could have peace and my contribution seemed less than a drop in the ocean.

The next morning it was snowing hard. The worst weather in 50 years we were told. After a good breakfast I thought of the hundreds of marchers who had slept at Hounslow the night before, some on bare floors. As I left the snow was falling thicker than ever. A short distance out of town a car stopped me. It was a film unit which I had been warned would be taking ciné shots during my walk. The weather conditions delighted the film crew. They took me trudging along slushy roads past snow covered fields. At every town and village they insisted I remain standing outside shops to hand my leaflets to customers as they came out. At Alton where I arrived late in the afternoon we had another ciné session. The unit's leader, an American, would call out to shoppers: "Hi, come on there. Now, Sir, what do you think of the H bomb?" Next minute opinions of citizens of this small town were being recorded. A diminutive

youngster on a bicycle shot past shouting "That's right 'No H bomb'. We don't want the H bomb - blow the world up". "Hi" shouted the Yankee, "come back, come back will you." The boy wheeled round and cycled back. The American grasped hold of him, rushed him towards the car and got him to repeat his views on the Bomb to the tape-recorder. My billet for the night was a farm some miles away. The farmer and his wife gave me a real welcome. This was a Christian family - a hatred of war and aspirations for a finer life were taken for granted. The farm-



Roger Rawlinson during his march

house was 250 years old - dark oak beams, an enormous fireplace in which red embers from a smouldering log twinkled in the near darkness. There was no electricity. That night after a hymn and a prayer I took myself to bed in the old fashioned way by the light of a candle in a brass holder and spent a peaceful night. Next morning I was taken into Alton where I met a local supporter, a Quaker, C.W. Hope Gill who offered to go part of the way with me. I also met the reporter and photographer of the local paper,

continued on page 7

The First Aldermaston March (continued from page 6)

which later produced a sympathetic report. I set off with my new friend in the direction of Basingstoke. We had not gone far when a bearded man and his family, outside their house, asked us in for a cup of tea. After a short rest my companion left me to carry on after we had walked a further six miles or so. There were few encounters on this road, but one stands out in my mind. An old countryman taking his dog for a walk stopped to tell me his experiences in the two world wars - "With this H bomb its no longer fighting. Its just slaughter of men, women and children and dumb animals - they suffer too. What's worse is the poison what's left behind... Good luck boy."

At Basingstoke I was met by a group of enthusiastic supporters who accompanied me through the town and helped me to distribute my leaflets. Then I was taken to the good lady who was putting me up for the night. It was still early so after tea I went to the main square and I had just unrolled my poster when one of the ladies who had met me earlier came along on her way to church and asked me to go with her. This I gladly did. Afterwards I spent about an hour speaking to people in the town centre and giving out leaflets.

The next morning I had 15 miles to go to meet the London marchers at their lunch halt at Burghfield. I met very few people on the way. At last after walking for five hours with only one short break I realised I had not far to go as the film unit suddenly appeared. They told me they would film me at the bottom of the hill. They must have announced my arrival too for when I approached Burghfield green, crowded with marchers, I had my brief moment of glory, the loudspeaker announcing "This is Roger Rawlinson who has walked all the way from Portsmouth.

Give him a big cheer". I staggered across the green, for by now I was rather footsore, and found myself surrounded by beaming faces. It was announced that I was going to give a message and a microphone was pushed into my hand. I told them about my experiences - the encouraging signs from those I met, the jeers of some, the hooting of motorists sometimes indicating approval, sometimes dissent, etc. Before I could enjoy a coffee offered by one of the marchers, I was surrounded by reporters asking all sorts of questions.

After a quick lunch it was time to march off. The demonstrators with their banners, varied clothing and baggage reminded me of some assembly of the Middle Ages, a pilgrimage or a crusade. Indeed who could deny this was a crusade. I took some photographs. I felt I was witnessing an historical occasion. On approaching Aldermaston heath we were warned of possible provocative action by opponents of the marchers. However there must have been very few of those people. Some had climbed up trees but all remained silent perhaps overwhelmed by the sight of such a vast number of protesters. As we listened to the speeches I noticed a number of well known personalities including Pastor Martin Niemoller, the brave German clergyman who resisted Nazism and was imprisoned - I had only just heard him speak in London. However of all the sights which remain in my mind on this occasion none made such an impression as a Japanese man watching our arrival gently bobbing his head up and down as if bowing to each one of us, a gentle smile on his face in which gratefulness and sadness and some hope too seemed to be inextricably mixed. We had *not* forgotten Hiroshima.

Joint Statement on the Gulf Crisis of February 1998

This joint statement was drawn up at an emergency meeting of the peace movement's Crisis Response Network, convened by the National Peace Council on 4th February 1998. It has been endorsed by organisations listed at the bottom, and is the statement distributed at the CND stall in Nottingham recently.

We categorically oppose a military attack on Iraq as currently threatened by Britain and the USA. We oppose this on both ethical and practical grounds.

The ordinary people of Iraq have already suffered enough from the Iraqi regime and from seven years of harsh economic sanctions, which according to the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation have cost the lives of more than half a million Iraqi children. They are the inevitable victims of any further attacks and could suffer catastrophically if chemical or biological weapons sites were bombed.

Military action has been ineffective in seriously influencing the Iraqi regime in the past and there is no reason to suppose it will be any more effective now. Indeed the most likely result of such action will be to put an abrupt end to the UN inspection process which has so far succeeded in dismantling at least part of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological warfare capability.

We therefore support the broad international consensus for negotiation as the appropriate method for resolving the present inspection crisis. We believe there is still ample room for give and take on both sides, and would propose as a first step that the UN inspection teams should be more broadly based and not dominated by states hostile to Iraq.

We strongly urge the British government to align itself with this broader view, withdraw its support of the current US

position and use its good relations with the US to persuade it to seek more creative solutions to the present crisis.

We are united in our aim to rid the world of all weapons of mass destruction, including those held by Britain and the US, and were particularly alarmed by the statement made last week by US Assistant Secretary of Defence Kenneth Bacon, refusing to rule out the use of B61 deep penetration nuclear weapons as a means of achieving their military objectives in Iraq.

The current inspection crisis is part of a larger problem involving a massive level of arms exports to the region, especially by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and an increasing militarisation currently fuelled by lack of progress in the Middle East peace process. We therefore call on the British government to work towards a de-militarised and de-nuclearised Middle East through negotiations which encompass all the security concerns of the region.

Campaign Against Arms Trade
Pax Christi
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Peace News
Quaker Peace & Service
Peace Pledge Union
Fellowship of Reconciliation England
United Nations Association
Medical Action for Global Security
World Disarmament Campaign

The Leicester Experience

by Jeremy Jago

How do other local CND groups run themselves? The recent Nottingham CND meeting welcomed Anna Cheetham from Leicester CND: it was an interesting opportunity to gain insights into local campaigning elsewhere, and to compare the experiences of two groups.

At a time when large public meetings are infrequent, street stalls are important to convey the message publicly. Leicester's street trading licence allows sessions any Saturday morning: the group aims for 2 per month. Leicester's campaign has always had a close association with the Quakers. The stall presence grew from a Quaker Peace Group vigil, itself originally silent. In contrast, the stall now makes regular use of megaphone. As at NCND, something is always provided for passers-by to sign - locally derived if not available then from National CND. Passers are mainly office workers on weekdays and food buyers at weekends: either way, they're in a hurry - and an eye-catching display or stunt can get the message across quickly. An example during a Militarisation campaign used an actor in ball and chain, standing dead still (at what time in professional work is this training actually used?). Reportedly, people were curious

as to whether it was a dummy.

Forthcoming stalls ideas will highlight the 40th anniversary of CND's foundation, unifying hitherto disparate anti-nuclear campaigns. JB Priestley's article initiated co-operation with Canon Collins; the first Easter march was on 4th April. (Incidentally Anna drew attention to the news in Campaign magazine of a London re-showing of the Aldermaston march film). Doubtless Valentine's Day will also provide some sort of tag: in the freezing atmosphere of the meeting room, inspiration somehow eluded us.

Stalls enable a good street 'presence' and media awareness, yet without requiring many people. The same applies to the use of local newspapers. A Leicester Mercury article featured a photo of an MoD convoy taken at the behest of 'Nukewatch' member Tom Cuthbert. It led to more letters. A Hiroshima commemorative vigil also led to newspaper and radio coverage. Anna quoted several examples of topical letters to the Editor, some initiating debates which spread into the paper's leader column. Free newspapers, financed by advertising, usually function with tiny staffs and make heavy use of handouts and press releases. Some unusual, and by traditional standards obscure, subjects have thus found their way into the pages as prominent articles - surely an area to investigate.

We could have discussed far more - such as Ploughshares East Timor campaigner Joanne Wilson's talk to LCND's AGM - but time was against us. Anna and the Leicester members are a most friendly group with whom NCND will keep in touch.



Armageddon by accident

The Russian technician blinked at the radar screen. A sea-launched missile was rising rapidly off the coast of Norway, heading towards the heart of Russia. A US Trident submarine was thought to be in the area. The technician took a deep breath. The missile was almost certainly capable of scattering up to eight warheads over Moscow within 15 minutes of launch. Russia had 15 minutes to respond.

By the time the news reached President Yeltsin, the situation had deteriorated further. The separating stages of the rocket created the impression of multiple missiles. He considered the options. He could launch 3,000 bombs immediately and obliterate North America and western Europe. He could sit tight. Or he could activate the "dead hand" system, which launches the missiles only after nuclear explosions are detected.

Yeltsin had 150 seconds left on the clock when the decision was postponed – the missile was, in fact, a US scientific probe sent up to investigate the Northern Lights. Weeks earlier, the Norwegians had informed the Russians, but somehow the message had got lost in the system.

To this day, nobody is sure why on January 25 1995 the world came within 150 seconds of nuclear annihilation. Since then, there has been a growing campaign to take more than 5,000 missiles off their 15-minute triggers – known as "de-alerting". Next week, 61 nations will meet in Geneva for the UN Conference on Disarmament, but one topic that won't be up for discussion is ways of de-alerting missiles. "We're not going to de-alert now,"

Taken from The Guardian, 15 January 1998

Frightening isn't it. So next time someone tells you that nuclear disarmament is no longer important, you'll know why they are wrong.

says a spokesman for the US government. "We'd rather try and eliminate the weapons completely."

William Peden of CND claims this reluctance to de-alert stems from an unwillingness to disarm at all. "You'd think that a good logical first step in avoiding nuclear war would be to de-alert the weapons, but it's seen by strategists as the first step on a slippery slope," he says. "The nuclear weapons' states don't actually want to discuss getting rid of nuclear weapons. The non-aligned movement does. So you have this impasse where even the sensible risk-free first steps like de-alerting cannot even be discussed."

Admiral Sir James Eberle, former commander in chief of Task Force 345, Britain's Polaris nuclear force, agrees: "De-alerting can be done, should be done and it would contribute to stability if it was done."

Bruce Blair, a defence analyst in Washington DC, says: "Military planners on both sides remain fixated on the remote spectre of a deliberate surprise nuclear attack from their former adversary. To deter such an assault, each country strives to ensure that it could respond with a forceful counterattack against the full spectrum of military targets on its opponents' territory." This is not possible unless the 15-minute triggers remain in place.

Two years on from the last near-miss, this strategy is a disaster waiting to happen, says CND's Peden: "All it takes is a failure of a 5 cent chip or a problem like the millennium bug and we could be looking at an accidental nuclear war."

Blair defies Left-wingers on Trident

The Government is spending almost £100 million on new nuclear missiles for Trident submarines. The order for seven more is the clearest demonstration that Labour has ditched unilateralism and will maintain Britain's nuclear deterrent. It is certain to anger Left-wingers at a time when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is keeping a tight grip on public spending and maintaining the Tory pay squeeze.

The order will also be seen as an indication that the Government's strategic defence review, which is due to report around the end of the year, will decide to keep Trident as the backbone of the nuclear deterrent well into the next century. It will bring the number of Trident missiles purchased or ordered by the UK to 58.

US changes strategy on nuclear war

The United States has secretly rewritten its nuclear battle plans for the first time since the end of the cold war, formally putting an end to the arms race and abandoning the long-held idea that it could win an all-out nuclear war.

A new Presidential Directive acknowledges that international agreements to reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapons mean that the US will no longer have enough warheads to win a nuclear war. Under the guidelines the US military must focus on a range of options to deter hostile powers, including Russia, China and "rogue states", from using nuclear weapons. It coincides with the release last week of a report by the Pentagon's National Defence Panel which concluded: "Retaining nuclear arms at current levels ... will be expensive [and will not] facilitate the transformation process essential to respond to future threats."

The directive retains the option of nuclear strikes against the military and

Labour went into the 1987 election pledged to cancelling Trident and decommissioning Polaris submarines. In 1992, Labour said it would retain a nuclear capability, but would not increase the number of warheads. However, its manifesto at the last election said a new Labour Government would retain Trident and would press for multilateral negotiations to achieve mutual and balanced reductions in nuclear weapons.

A leading Left-winger, Llew Smith MP, last night questioned whether more spending was justified: "Now that the Cold War has ended, just who would these missiles be aimed at?"

Summarised from the Daily Telegraph 16 October 1997

civilian leadership and nuclear forces in Russia. It is also believed to include China and plans for pre-emptive strikes on it in the course of a war with Russia. The directive also required plans to be made for strikes against specifically listed rogue states with prospective access to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

"We're no longer thinking about prolonged nuclear war," said General Habiger, commander of US Strategic Command. "Nuclear war is so horrific, the implications to life as we know it so profound, that it is unthinkable."

William Arkin, a consultant on arms control, said: "In theory, this could free up a lot of resources and brain power." But he added: "As long as we remain wedded to the option of taking out all of their strategic forces and nuclear command systems with a hair-trigger attack posture, then we haven't really adjusted to the post-cold-war period."

From The Guardian, December 1997

BBC Songs of Praise Causes Outrage

BBC Songs of Praise has caused a furore. In January, an edition of the popular religious programme was broadcast from Helensburgh and featured strongly the Trident submarine base at Faslane.

The programme included interviews with sailors on board the submarines and the front rows of the congregation were taken up with Royal Navy personnel. Some local ministers refused to take part in the programme and suggested to researchers that they contact some of the many opponents of Trident in the area for their views.

However, the BBC decided against this and broadcast the programme, with a spokesperson claiming that "There is

nothing to suggest that the programme is coming from Faslane". This despite the fact that in all of the pre-publicity for the programme, both in magazines and on the BBC website, the only thing mentioned was the base. Even the trailers on the BBC featured footage of a Trident submarine and nothing else.

Many people called for the programme to be cancelled and it was condemned by a number of church groups and individuals with Lord Soper, Canon Paul Oestreicher and Maxwell Craig (General Secretary, Actions of Churches Together in Scotland) describing it as 'blasphemous'.

Taken from 'campaign', CND newsletter, February 1988

Press Snippets

Trident costs more - official *campaign Feb 98*

Lord Carver asked the question. Lord Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence Procurement and the MoD's Spokeslord, provided the answer. You can forget that old stuff about Trident costing £200 million a year. The new official figure is £1 billion. This includes all sorts of things that they'd unaccountably overlooked before - like the cost of Aldermaston and Burghfield for instance. Bit by bit, kicking and screaming, the true costs are being forced out into the open. Only another £500 million to go and they'll be in agreement with CND.

UK supports laser ban *Guardian 4.2.98*

Britain has pledged full support for a United Nations ban on laser weapons that cause permanent blindness - only the second time, the Red Cross says, that a weapon will have been prohibited before reaching the battlefield. The protocol takes effect in six months' time following ratification by Hungary, the 20th country

to do so. The Foreign Office said yesterday that it hoped to complete its own ratification shortly. Military lasers are now commonplace for range-finding and precision bombing and there has been widespread international concern that they will be developed eventually as anti-personnel weapons.

Aids link to Nuclear Tests? *Guardian 11.2.98*

A blood sample from a Congolese man taken in 1959 shows the Aids virus originated there shortly before that, Nature reported last week. Ten years ago, Ernest Sternglass, professor of radiology at Pittsburgh University, speculated that weapons tests could have damaged the human immune system so much that Aids could have been caused as a mutation. The highest fallout from the tests in the 1950s was in the Belgian Congo. Sternglass said that if his theory was right he would expect the origins of the disease to be traced back to the Congo. He was, of course, ignored.

An Ethical Foreign Policy? - Roger Rawlinson

Nick Palmer, the MP for Broxtowe, spoke to the Nottingham Society of Friends (Quakers) on 25 January. About thirty people were present. The following represents the substance of what he said about peace and foreign policy.

He began by spending some time explaining how difficult it is to achieve one's ends in Parliament. A government can start off with hope but the gap between what it would like to achieve and what is possible in practice can be greater than one may imagine. With regard to foreign policy he spoke about the sale of arms to countries with an unacceptable record on civil rights. The government wants to cut down on arms sale to countries like Indonesia and to encourage British firms to produce other goods than arms for export. He emphasised that long term contracts for arms had to be honoured otherwise the government would be obliged to pay compensation to arms manufacturers, i.e. the tax-payers would be subsidising the manufacturers. Someone in the audience suggested that during the 2 to 3 years remaining for these contracts the government would come under pressure to renew them. Nick agreed but hoped the government would put greater

emphasis on diversification from arms into other products and he intended to press for this.

I told Nick that I had joined with others in lobbying the workers of Heckler & Koch, who make sub-machine guns for export, to influence the firm to diversify away from weapons. I expressed surprise he had not mentioned the nuclear weapon issue. He replied that negotiations to ban nuclear arms should continue. Regarding the Gulf situation he warned that if Saddam Hussein were to continue building up a store of chemical weapons and developing a nuclear capacity, a very dangerous situation would arise.

I was disappointed that Mr Palmer did not develop further his views on the nuclear issue. When interviewed by Mark and Sally Ramsey before the general election he said he no longer saw Trident as a deterrent. "Labour was committed to a defence review in which he would favour reduced defence spending..."

NB Indonesia owes Britain £800 million for arms deals including armoured cars used to put down pro-democracy demonstrations as well as Hawks that may have been used in occupied East Timor.

New Thinking for the 21st Century - David Lane

Rethinking Defence and Foreign Policy, an important authoritative book which has just been published, tackles the new problems faced by Britain and the international community in the 21st Century, particularly in the fields of defence and security. It poses, and answers, questions such as: Where does Britain stand in the world? What are the threats to Britain's security? Should Britain keep the Bomb? What can Britain do to prevent internal conflicts like Bosnia and Rwanda? Does

Britain need to sell weapons?

It claims that the defence and foreign policies of Britain and other countries are still based on assumptions warped and hardened by the power conflict of rival blocs and a string of hot and cold wars, and it shows how to break out of this mould. The content is written by many experts in all the fields under discussion. The book is edited by John Gittings and Ian Davis and is published by Spokesman at £10.00.

World Court Project UK

The World Court Project succeeded in its initial aim – in 1996 the International Court of Justice (or World Court) gave an advisory opinion confirming that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is illegal in all conceivable circumstances under current international law. WCP is now working towards the implementation of this Opinion in co-operation with other anti-nuclear groups, with its emphasis on lobbying government and lobbying for anti nuclear United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

Since 1996 it has produced a Declaration of Public Concern leaflet which citizens are asked to sign and send to their MP to ask why the government is not complying with the World Court Opinion (the

CND stall has some if you wish to sign one).

In December 1996 the UN General Assembly voted on a resolution backing the World Court's decision and calling for swift negotiations on a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. This was passed easily with a number of western countries voting for or abstaining, and only the nuclear weapons states and their cronies voting against. In a vote on the paragraph supporting the World Court decision the UK, amazingly, abstained, splitting it from the 'no' votes of the US and France. So the UK is moving in the right direction but more is still needed.

Mark Ramsey

Raise Your Banners - A Festival recalled by David Lane

Taking place late October & early November last year, this was the second festival of Political Song, the first having been two years ago. Both were organised by the Sheffield Red Choir, and centred on Hallam University in the city's centre.

The Liberation struggles in Africa, the revolutions in Cuba and Nicaragua, the Popular Unity period in Chile, the Civil Rights movement in USA, the Anti-Apartheid campaigns in South Africa – each of these great upheavals has produced its own unique music. Songs of lament, protest and celebration ... music that can cross the boundaries of language and culture – how often we ignore that which is produced in our own country and throughout the world.

Choirs came from Leicestershire, London, Cardiff, Bradford and elsewhere. Cabaret was performed by Claire Mooney, Ian Saville (the Socialist Conjuror) and Rod Johnson. There was time also for

workshops, children's events and films. Other artistes included Judy Small, Janet Wood, Frankie Armstrong, Leon Rosselson and Roy Bailey.

The 18 listed workshops of all kinds included headings such as 'Does political music work?', 'Women's struggles expressed through music', 'Radical Opera – you must be joking'.

If you want to 'Raise your banners', find out how to attend the next festival by writing to Raise your banners, PO Box 44, Sheffield S4 7RN

The Nottingham CND Stall needs YOUR help

The stall is our chief visible face in Nottingham but to have it out every fortnight we need people to staff it. If you can help please contact Nottingham CND.

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

CAAT is planning a protest in London on April 4th as President Suharto of Indonesia is in town. He has presided over Indonesia whilst it has invaded East Timor, and killed over 200,000 of its people. CAAT also organises protests at the British Aerospace AGM, this year on April 29, encouraging supporters to buy one BAe share so that they can attend the AGM. If you are interested in either of these, contact CAAT on 0171 281 0297.

Following the leafleting of the Heckler & Koch factory here in Nottingham last November, CAAT held an open meeting in Nottingham last month. Will McMahon,

CAAT coordinator, spoke about arms exports and Labour's supposedly ethical foreign policy. Another speaker talked about the genocide that Turkey is inflicting on its Kurdish population (said to be worse than that of Kurds in Iraq). Both speakers pointed out that Heckler & Koch supply rifles and sub-machine guns to Indonesia and Turkey. There will soon be a meeting to plan protests against Heckler & Koch - if you wish to be involved in the planning or the protests please contact Christine Cu

Nottingham Real World Coalition

Sometimes campaigners are unfairly caricatured as 'People Against Something Or Other'. It might make a good T-shirt, but fails to convey the shared aims – justice, progress, sustainability.

In 1996 Michael Jacobs wrote 'The Politics of the Real World'; it was published by Earthscan. He presented detailed arguments for a new approach to politics. The book coincided with the formation of the Real World Coalition, comprising many groups campaigning on issues of development, democracy, community and environment. All were signatories of the Action Programme for Government, which outlined 12 key policies which the next government should adopt for progress to be made towards social justice, democratic renewal, community regeneration, care for the environment and the relief and eradication of world poverty.

Locally, too, groups became involved with the formation of Nottingham's branch of the Coalition. Christian Aid, Charter 88, Churches Environment Network, CND (to quote just the C's) were among about 20 groups sending representatives. BRAVE

(Beeston Residents Against Vandalism of the Environment) had the most contrived acronym.

A Nottingham Conference early in 1991 established constituency groups, and lobbying proceeded during the General Election campaign; after the election it was decided to adopt a monitoring and advisory role in conjunction with MPs. The National Coalition is now working on the first Annual Sustainability Report; when complete it will survey the Government's progress in the 12 key areas. Nottingham Coalition constituency groups are working on issues including transport, housing and planning; during the Euro election campaigns, Real World will raise these and other topics from the groups' perspectives.

A 'group of groups' could easily have degenerated into a talking shop; Real World Coalition instead acts to bridge campaigners with councillors and MP's, involving the public at every stage. Campaigning for change shouldn't preclude working with our elected representatives.

Jeremy Jago