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NOTTINGHAM CND NEWSLETTER

February 2003

Future Events

National Demonstration February 15th. Buses leave the Salutation Inn at 8am.
Tickets (£8/£6) ring Diane on 981 2034.

Silent Vigils every Sunday 12.30pm to 1pm outside the Council House

If war is declared meet from 5.30pm on the day outside the Council House.

Stop the War meetings every Wednesday at the ICC on Mansfield Road at 7.30pm.

East Midlands CND inaugural AGM on 22nd March, refreshments available.

Stall dates. We haven't had these confirmed by the City Council yet but don't worry we'll be out looking for volunteers fairly soon.

Advance Notice Scottish CND and British CND want to organise the biggest blockade ever at Faslane on Easter Tuesday 22nd April 2003

Nottingham CND Activity

Belated New Year greetings everyone. As we start the new year thoughts of peace and nuclear disarmament become even more relevant especially with the threat of war in Iraq becoming more likely. In Nottingham we have worked alongside the Stop the War group getting the anti war message across to as many people as possible. We are also encouraging as many different groups and individuals to work with us in which ever way they feel they can. This includes helping out on stalls, writing to your local MP, informing the media, joining in the weekly vigils or going to the regular Stop the War meetings every Wednesday. Details above.

At the moment we are trying to get as much support as possible for the National Demonstration in London on February 15th - again details above.

Members of Nottingham CND have helped to organise stalls in local areas such as Arnold and West Bridgford as well as joining other members of the Stop the War group in the City Centre handing out leaflets and selling tickets for the buses to the demonstration. We have had a good reception from the public and no one has argued that war is the only option.

We have also been down to the Chetwynd Barracks in Chilwell with others to protest. Our presence had a lot of response from passing cars who were asked to hoot if they agreed with us and we felt that it was well worth the effort even though it was very cold and we managed to get off the bus at the wrong stop. It was good exercise!

For now we feel that it is most important to put most of our energies into opposing war on Iraq especially as the USA is accusing Iraq of having nuclear weapons while Britain and the USA see no reason to get rid of their weapons and are going ahead on the Star Wars project and the use of Fylingdales.

I do hope you can join us in whatever way you can to prevent an attack on Iraq and thank you for the support you have given. It has been really encouraging to see so many CND members involved.

I am sorry to have to report that Roger Rawlinson died in January. He campaigned tirelessly for CND from the beginning. Our thoughts go out to Vivienne and family.

Diane Lunzer Secretary

The CND Legal Challenge

In a unique action, CND challenged the UK Government's right to go to war against Iraq. You may have read about it in the press or heard National CND Chair Carol Naughton and others talking about it on the radio.

CND asked for a legal opinion from a QC on whether or not the UK Government would be justified in going to war with Iraq under the authority of the latest United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441.

The opinion was that the Resolution did not give automatic authorisation to go to war even if the weapons inspectors found 'material breach of Iraq's undertaking that it already had weapons of mass destruction.

CND's solicitor wrote to the government asking for a written undertaking that it would not go to war without further recourse to the Security Council. The letter further said that if no satisfactory reply were received CND would apply for permission for the case to go to a Judicial Review.

Following the reply that the matter was an issue for international not domestic law papers asking for such permission were lodged with the High Court on Thursday November 28th.

At a preliminary hearing the next day we won the right for the case to be heard and made legal history by getting the costs capped before the case started. The judges even awarded the costs against the government so they had to pay to take themselves to court.

Sadly we lost the next stage and were blocked from getting the full case heard but we certainly won the moral arguments and no one, not even the government, contested our legal opinion. We managed to raise all the issues in court and our team of four lawyers were magnificent. All of them put an enormous amount of time, energy and personal emotion into this case and it showed in court.

Going to court is very costly. The case is supported and promoted by Mark Thomas the comedian but even he cannot, on his own, raise all the money required. Nottingham CND has donated £500 pounds but if any of you feel you can spare a bit more please make your cheque out to CND Public Information and send it to CND, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ

Notice of Inaugural Annual General Meeting of East Midlands Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Queens Walk Community Centre, The Meadows Nottingham
Saturday 22nd March 2003 at 11.30am

East Midlands CND began its life after the resolution on Support and Development proposed by Kate Hudson (vice chair National CND) at the 2001 National Conference. After further discussions, a group of activists from Chesterfield, Leicester, Lutterworth and Nottingham groups together with individual National members met last September to form a steering group with the aim of setting up an East Midlands region of CND. The group has now met on three occasions and agreed an East Midlands CND constitution at its January 11th 2003 meeting. Also a questionnaire sent to 583 National members obtained responses from nearly a hundred members supporting the setting up of East Midlands CND.

In the East Midlands we have many National members who are not close to a local group but who would like to get involved and feel less isolated. With the help of members of existing groups it is hoped that we can support members who live near each other to get some activity going in their area. So far we have made a promising start in Boston.

The climate of international relations, especially in the Middle East, is deteriorating. There is the threat of an ever widening drive for 'war on terror'. Blair is determined to support Bush regardless of public opinion and it seems certain that we will be committed to war in Iraq and the US on Missile Defence system by allowing the US the use of Fylingdales and British bases in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

CND completely opposes Blair's approach and asks all supporters in the East Midlands to build an organised, vigorous protest against the war on Iraq and both Missile Defence and UK/US nuclear weapons systems. Will you participate in the structures devised by EMCND to help widen this protest and make peaceful change a key element in British foreign policy?

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM (refreshments will be provided) but if you are unable to attend you can still put yourself forward or nominate people and get a postal vote if you ring up and ask for one.*

[Redacted] Queens Walk Community Centre contact me or Margaret Tuck on 0115 - 920

Yours in peace

Tom Cuthbert

You will see from the letterhead that we have, as yet, no logo. If you have any suggestions for a logo please send them in.

If you have an email address please let us have it as it cuts down on mailing costs leaving us with more money for campaigning.

* To obtain a postal ballot paper and a [Redacted] Nottingham CND members should contact [Redacted] nents on [Redacted] and address [Redacted] out in early March.