

# The Soviet Threat ?

Many people who want Britain to keep its nuclear weapons do so because they think that a non-nuclear Britain would be open either to a massive Soviet nuclear attack, or to an irresistible invasion of Soviet tanks across Europe. Our whole nuclear policy depends upon such a public view of the "Soviet Threat". In the British media it is rarely questioned.

Each year, particularly when the American military budget is about to come before Congress, we are subjected to a wave of information about new Soviet weapons. Assessments done by people with less of a vested interest than the Pentagon (such as neutral Sweden's Peace Research Institute) are not published.

## US Build-Up

When Kennedy was campaigning for the Presidency in 1960, he included the promise to build up America's nuclear arsenal to counter the Soviet Union's 50 new intercontinental missiles. After the election, he discovered that the Soviets actually had just 4 (compared with America's 40)! But the great build-up of American strength went on regardless, just as the Pentagon had wanted.

The same thing continues with America almost always leading in new developments of the nuclear arms race, justifying them by routine exaggerations of Soviet military capacity.

## Western Superiority

Today we are still regularly given disinformation. We have accepted American Cruise and



I never thought that were it not for our nuclear threat, Russia would have attacked America's allies and I do not believe that there was a time since World War 2 when the Soviets desired or planned an assault on Western Europe.

GEORGE KENNAN  
former US Ambassador to Moscow

Pershing missiles in Europe because of NATO's "weakness". But no objective comparison of the numbers of nuclear warheads targetted on the Soviet Union with those targetted on the USA can fail to show a massive Western superiority.

As to non-nuclear military strength, how could a country which cannot even win its war in Afghanistan on its own border hope to occupy Western Europe? And why should it want to? Marxist doctrine, which is so often referred to in this context, never envisaged the spread of Communism through military invasion, but through the

revolutions of peoples against their own governments.

We do not have to be supporters of that doctrine, nor of Soviet style government to recognise that its foreign policy, including its aggressive posturing, is much more understandable in terms of determined self-defence. The Soviets have an enormous land border to defend, hostile neighbours to the East, West and South of them, a long history of their country being invaded (4 times this century alone) and the loss of 20 million lives in the Second World War (compared with 300,000 Americans and 357,000 British).

They have allies in East Europe that they wouldn't be able to rely on in the case of a European war and neighbours to the West that have been targetting more and more American nuclear weapons on them ever since 1945 (no comparable Soviet threat has ever existed on America's doorstep). Is it surprising that rhetoric such as Nixon's "I can go into my office, pick up the telephone, and in 25 minutes 70 million people will be dead", or Reagan's reference to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire" brings about an aggressive response?

Western governments have encouraged a distorted and simplistic view of the Soviet Union which has prevented them from seriously seeking ways of escape from the fearful trap into which the nuclear arms race is taking us.

## Soviet Test Ban

In the past year it has stopped them from responding in any constructive way to perhaps the most important initiative for decades - Gorbachev's unilateral ban on Soviet nuclear tests (now more than a year long). The failure of the West to join in a mutual act of restraint that could have stopped the nuclear arms race in its tracks is nothing short of a tragedy.

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# Nottingham Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament



# RADIO-ACTIVE TIMES



AUTUMN 1986

NOTTINGHAM CND PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN NO. 2

20p



DR HELEN CALDICOTT

"It took me one year to finally decide that I had to leave the day-to-day practice of clinical medicine (to concentrate full-time on campaigning against nuclear weapons). Although I loved my forty patients with cystic fibrosis, I realised that I had a conflict of interest. What was the use of keeping these children alive for another five to twenty years by the application of meticulous and loving care, when during this time they could be vapourised in a nuclear war? Further, as a paediatrician, I also felt a sense of responsibility for all the children - present and future - on the planet."



"I'm all for Britain getting rid of its nuclear weapons because they kill when they drop - and kill for ever more. If anyone takes it into their minds to drop enough of them, they could wipe out the lot of us."

Youngsters arguing against nuclear weapons are campaigning for their futures. If somebody was going to dump rubbish in your back garden, what would you do? The same principal applies on a totally different scale over this issue."

BRIAN CLOUGH



# What is NCND?

## What are you trying to achieve?

NCND campaigns against nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We are working to make more people in Nottingham aware of the issues involved in the nuclear "defence" arguments. Ultimately, we believe Britain should decide, independently, to get rid of all nuclear weapons on its soil.

## How are you organised?

We are part of National CND but, in day-to-day campaigning, we make all our decisions locally here in Nottingham. NCND has many neighbourhood groups in different parts of the city and its outskirts. THERE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY ONE NEAR YOU. We have an office in the centre, at Queens Chambers, 3 King Street (3rd floor above Finlays in the Market Square).

## How do you make your decisions?

Each month we have a Coordinating Committee meeting, where representatives from all the neighbourhood groups come to sort out NCND's business. There is also a Monthly Members' Meeting where we try to combine a small amount of "business" with

discussion, or have an invited speaker. The Members' Meeting makes NCND policy and elects an Executive each year.

## How many members do you have?

It is difficult to tell exactly, because some people are members of their Neighbourhood Group and not of NCND. However, there are about 2,000 members at the moment.

## What sort of people are they?

All sorts. We have all ages from teenagers to pensioners. All sorts of backgrounds, jobs, political beliefs and religious convictions - lorry drivers, doctors, servicemen, solicitors, carpenters, vicars, magistrates, councillors . . . and of course many people at home with children or unemployed. The one thing that unites us is our common determination to get rid of nuclear weapons.

## Where do you get your money from?

Subscriptions mostly, along with donations from supporters and fundraising events like Discos and Jumble Sales. We also have received grants from the City and County Councils.

## What is NCND doing now?

From October to December we are running a Public Information Campaign about Britain's Bomb - it's so-called "independent" nuclear weapons. We are distributing thousands of leaflets as well as having billboard posters to advertise our message. On November 29th, a day of action will draw attention to the routes used by the convoys of nuclear weapons that travel our roads. That's quite apart from our regular stalls and meetings.

## How can I get involved in NCND?

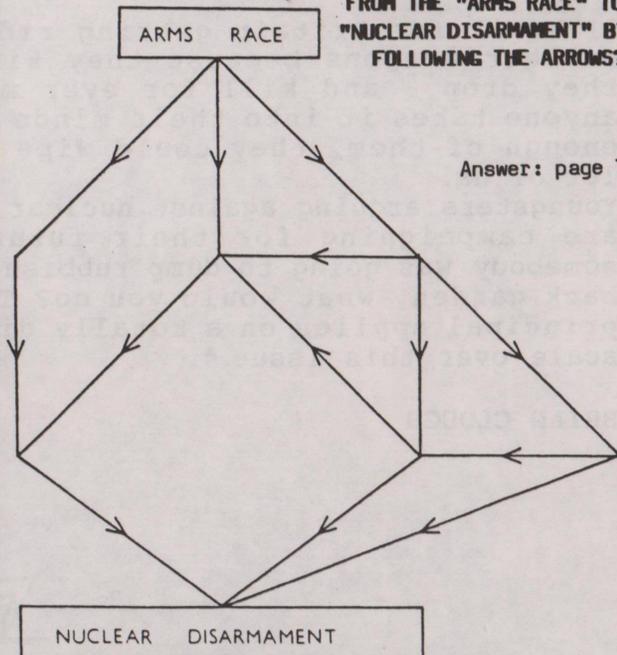
You can phone the office (472556) and ask to be put in contact with the Neighbourhood Group near you. Or just pop in and talk to us. The office is open most of the time between 10 am and 4 pm Monday to Saturday. We will be able to tell you about the details of what's happening at the moment. There are lots of ways to get involved in NCND: helping run our Saturday stall in Lister Gate; working on our regular monthly NCND Bulletin; joining the membership team, the office volunteer rota, the fundraising group .... Or you might want to just support us but not have the time to come to meetings or take on work. That's fine too. No-one is expected or forced to work in NCND. However you decide to involve yourself, we will try to make you welcome.

"But what can I do as an individual?" is a refrain I hear whenever I draw people's attention to the problems threatening our survival. My experience has taught me that democracy can still be made to work - that by exerting electoral pressure, an aroused citizenry can still move its government to the side of morality and common sense. In fact, the momentum for movement in this direction can only originate in the heart and mind of the individual citizen - each of us must accept total responsibility for the earth's survival.

Don't take no for an answer. It must be done. You're going to have to change the priorities of your life, if you love this planet.

DR HELEN CALDICOTT

HOW MANY WAYS ARE THERE OF GETTING FROM THE "ARMS RACE" TO "NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT" BY FOLLOWING THE ARROWS?

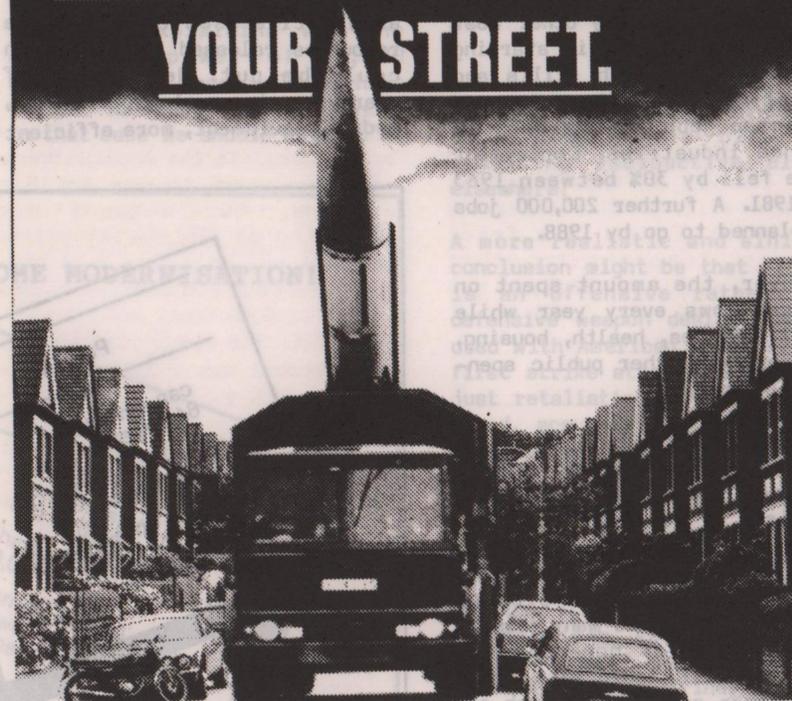


Answer: page 7



# The Bomb on Our Doorstep

**IT COSTS MILLIONS.  
IT KILLS MILLIONS.  
AND IT'S COMING DOWN  
YOUR STREET.**



If someone told you that nuclear bombs, with unstable and dangerous warheads, are regularly transported along the major roads in Nottinghamshire, you probably wouldn't believe it. Nevertheless it is true.

Though shrouded in secrecy, it has been discovered that Polaris warheads are routinely driven along the A1 between Worksop and Newark and the M1 between Mansfield and Long Eaton. And Nottingham is right in the middle.

## Faslane to Burghfield

These are the so-called "Polaris Convoys" which bring unstable nuclear bombs from Faslane in Scotland for refurbishment at the British Bomb factory at Burghfield near Reading. The convoys make their deadly journey about every two months.

## Accidents

The dangers are obvious! On Thursday June 20th 1985, a warhead carrier in a Polaris convoy crashed into another carrier when its clutch failed as it passed through Helensburgh in Scotland. Luckily no radiation escaped. But, as recent events have shown us, we can't always rely on good luck.

## Consequences of Accident

American military experts have calculated that a nuclear weapon accident of this type could cause a Chernobyl-type radiation cloud over 28 miles long and 2 miles wide.

How long before a Polaris convoy has a serious crash somewhere along its route? We all know that accidents are always possible. And what if there should be an accident on a road in Nottinghamshire? It's us and our families who would suffer.

## Right to Know

Shouldn't the government have asked our permission first before exposing us to such dangers? Why are they so secretive? Isn't it crazy to drive around the countryside with unstable nuclear bombs on board? We live here and we have a right to ask these questions.

WHICH IS THE  
ODD MAN OUT?

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SAISUR

Answer: page 7



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

FROM NCND

Our office and our Saturday stall at Lister Gate stock a variety of Christmas cards, plus CND scarves, mugs, towels etc. as well as badges, stickers and information leaflets.

ALSO

CND CRAFT FAIR  
15th November  
Congregational Hall  
Castle Gate

# The British Bomb is Worse than Useless

Britain is part of NATO which is why we have American nuclear weapons based here. But, we also have our own so-called "independent" nuclear weapons.

Every day "Britain's Bomb" costs us around £5 million. That's nearly £2 billion each year. Money that could be spent on hospitals, homes, schools and jobs. And Trident, the American weapons system that the British government plans to buy to modernise its "independent" nuclear force, will push the cost up even more.

## We Can't Afford It

£12 billion will be spent on Trident nuclear missile submarines. It equals £32 million a day for the next ten years.

In this year alone Britain will spend £18 billion on "defence". That is more than any other West European country. It is starving industry of research skills and investment and doesn't even guarantee jobs for workers in defence industries. Employment there fell by 30% between 1963 and 1981. A further 200,000 jobs are planned to go by 1988.

Moreover, the amount spent on defence grows every year while social services, health, housing, transport and other public spending is cut.

On the other hand, a sensible cut of, say, one third of our defence spending, starting with the £32 million a day on Trident, combined with plans to create new jobs for defence industry workers i.e. conversion, could produce two to five times as many jobs in a wide range of non-military employment. It would also leave our defence spending as much as, or more than most of our NATO allies. We would be far from "defenceless" and in the process could dramatically improve the quality of life in Britain.

Conversion is neither a new or fanciful idea, but a practical proposition. After the Second World War, Britain went through a massive programme of converting from military to civilian jobs.

**It would be suicidal for us to threaten to use Trident against Russia. So, what is it for? It's a waste of money!**

FIELD MARSHAL LORD CARVER

In the USA, an Office of Economic Adjustment was set up following the withdrawal of forces from Vietnam and a largescale transfer of manufacturing resources from military to civilian production took place.

There is no shortage of alternative uses to which the resources released by conversion could be put. New forms of energy, environmental protection, medical equipment, more efficient

transport systems - these are just some of the areas that could be explored. Already workers in the armaments industry have identified a wide range of socially useful alternatives.

## We Could Never Afford to Use It

It is hard to envisage any circumstances under which Trident (or Polaris, the nuclear submarines which it will replace) could possibly be used without being an act of National suicide. It is supposed to be Britain's "independent" deterrent against the Soviet Union, but if America had decided not to use its nuclear weapons, it would be a crazy, suicidal act for Britain alone to attack the Soviets with nuclear weapons, whatever the provocation.

If it is intended for use against non-nuclear countries, our government should come clean and tell us, explaining why the explosive power of 20,000 Hiroshimas is needed. Or, perhaps Trident is meant to deter France? In that case we should have to be

## SOME MODERNISATION!

<p><b>Polaris</b></p> <p>can devastate 64 targets</p> <p>has a range of 2,500 miles</p> <p>carries an explosive power of 1,500 Hiroshimas*</p>	<p><b>Trident</b></p> <p>can devastate 896 targets</p> <p>has a range of 6,000 miles</p> <p>carries an explosive power of 20,000 Hiroshimas*</p>
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\*the bomb on Hiroshima killed 200,000 people

certain that the wind conditions were such as to blow the resulting radioactive clouds elsewhere!

A more realistic and sinister conclusion might be that Trident is an offensive rather than defensive weapon designed to be used with American missiles in a first strike attack, rather than just retaliation. Why else such speed, accuracy and large number of potential targets?

As for this British Bomb's so-called "independence" - Like Polaris, Trident's targets will be chosen by NATO planners in America. Its accuracy will depend on American satellites, its missiles will be bought from America. Its submarines will be serviced in America. Some independence!

## So Why Have It?

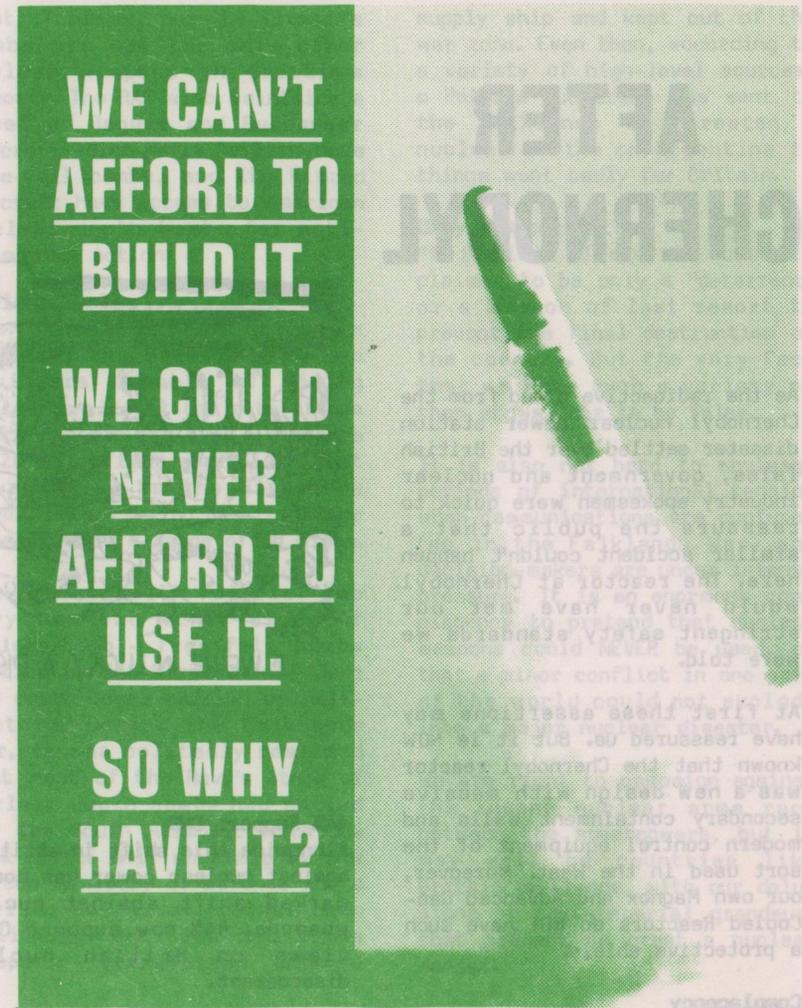
Few strategists really believe in any MILITARY reason for Britain's

Bomb. There are better ways of defending Europe than by making it radioactive. Nuclear weapons are seen rather as a key to POLITICAL influence, a way of a Britain in decline claiming that it is still important.

The shame is that, if it chose to be, Britain could be important in much more truly independent and constructive ways than by membership of the nuclear club.

Scrapping Trident would be the first step in halting a major escalation of the arms race. It could also improve the chances of successful international disarmament negotiations.

An abandonment by Britain of the nuclear part of its defence force would be a realistic and sensible response both to the increasing dangers of nuclear war by miscalculation or accident, and to our desperate need for jobs and services at home.



**WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BUILD IT.**

**WE COULD NEVER AFFORD TO USE IT.**

**SO WHY HAVE IT?**

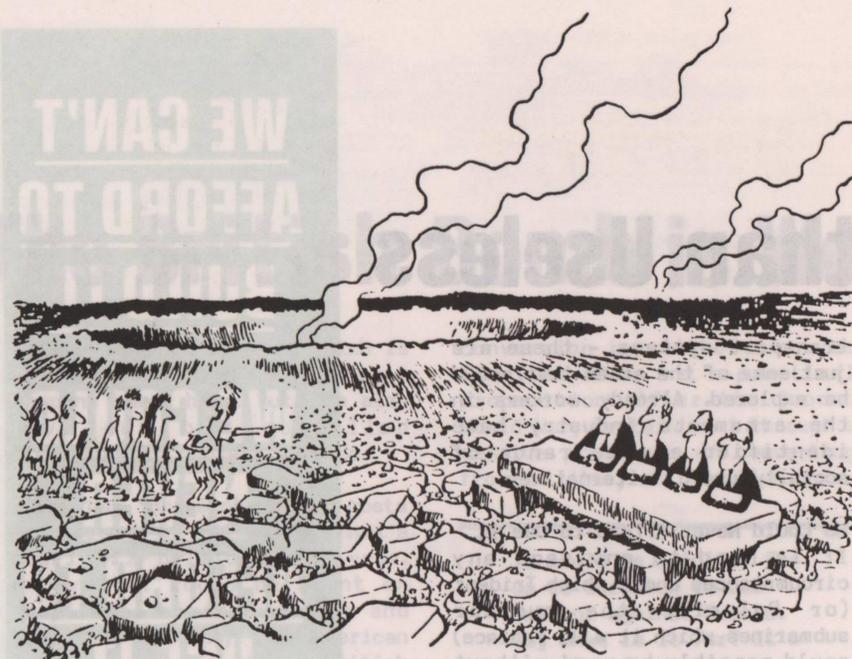
# AFTER CHERNOBYL

As the radioactive cloud from the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster settled over the British Isles, government and nuclear industry spokesmen were quick to reassure the public that a similar accident couldn't happen here. The reactor at Chernobyl would never have met our stringent safety standards we were told.

At first these assertions may have reassured us. But it is NOW known that the Chernobyl reactor was a new design with massive secondary containment walls and modern control equipment of the sort used in the West. Moreover, our own Magnox and Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactors do NOT have such a protective shield.

## Complacency

The complacency of official attitudes towards the safety of nuclear power matches that towards nuclear weapons. It has taken a disaster on the scale of Chernobyl to rock the boat and to open up the whole can of worms about the British nuclear power industry's leakages and potential for major accident. 56% of people now favour scrapping the nuclear power programme.



"WE'RE IN LUCK! A DISTINGUISHED PANEL OF EXPERTS!"

*Engelhart*

## 44% Support CND

Alongside this shift in attitudes against nuclear power has come a marked shift against nuclear weapons. 44% now support CND's views on British nuclear disarmament.

The changes of public attitude on both issues are connected. If we didn't know it before we now know the potential for catastrophic accident. No-one can yet say exactly what the total effect on this country of the Chernobyl accident will be. Risk estimates vary from 75 to 100 fatal cancers. Compared to other European countries Britain got off lightly.

## Public Concern

But we now view our own nuclear reactors with apprehension and are rightly concerned about the transport of nuclear materials, both civil and military, on our roads and rails, not to mention overhead (such as the flights of plutonium dioxide fuel rods between Sellafield and Dounreay in Scotland).

What is also brought home to us by Chernobyl is the senselessness of our threat to use nuclear weapons. Our weapons are targetted on the Soviet Union. Could we put up a shield to stop the resulting radioactive clouds coming back to haunt us?

TAKE NOTE: The radiation released at Chernobyl was roughly equivalent to the explosion of a one-kiloton nuclear bomb. Current NATO battle plans involve first use of nuclear weapons up to 1000 kilotons over Germany if the Soviet Union launches a conventional attack on Western Europe!

Available from NCND:

**CHERNOBYL, RADIATION and  
NUCLEAR POWER**  
THE FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW  
Ecoropa Information Sheet  
no. 15 Price 10p

# Britain's Other Bombs

**QUESTION:** What costs over £20 million, is 54 feet long, weighs 25 tons, travels across many parts of Britain at seven miles a minute at a height of 250 feet, can carry nuclear bombs and is based just 25 miles from Nottingham?

**ANSWER:** The Panavia GR1 TORNADO AIRCRAFT, of which the RAF will soon have 220 in service in Britain and West Germany.

Most people think of "Britain's Bomb" as simply Polaris (and possibly its proposed replace-

ment, Trident), but the Tornado's bombs are not the only other nuclear weapons in Britain's armoury. The RAF also maintains a fleet of Jaguar and Buccaneer aircraft which carry British-made free-fall bombs, and its Nimrod aircraft have access to American nuclear depth bombs for anti-submarine action.

## Nuclear Shells

Then there is the army. In Germany, the British army has howitzers capable of firing nuclear shells at the rate of one every two minutes over a distance of 20 miles. Each shell is almost as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb. The army also has the Lance missile with a range of 70 miles.

Not content with Polaris, the Navy has two other types of nuclear bomb - free-fall bombs carried by Sea Harrier Jump Jets and depth bombs carried by helicopters. During the Falklands war, it was belatedly realised that most of the Navy's stock of nuclear depth bombs had sailed for the South Atlantic with the Task Force. Only an almighty row in the Ministry of Defence and a hurried political, rather than military, decision had those weapons transferred onto a

supply ship and kept out of the war zone. Even then, according to a variety of high-level sources, a Polaris submarine was sent to the Falklands to threaten a nuclear strike on Argentina if things went badly for Britain.

## Only a Deterrent?

"Britain's Bomb" is usually claimed to be only a "deterrent" or a weapon of last resort to prevent the final destruction of the country. But the very fact that we have such a variety of them shows this to be false.

It is also not hard to envisage periods of international tension when communications are confused (as in the Falklands War) and decision-makers are under intense pressure. It is an enormous complacency to pretend that nuclear weapons could NEVER be used, or that a minor conflict in one part of the world could not explode into a major nuclear disaster.

We are right to campaign against the insane nuclear arms race between the superpowers, but it may well be countries like Britain or France, with our delusions of post-imperial grandeur, that present as great a nuclear danger.

## Answer to "odd man out" puzzle:

SWEDEN, because it does not have any nuclear weapons. AMERICA, CHINA, RUSSIA, FRANCE and BRITAIN are the only countries in the world which have nuclear weapons. A few other countries, such as Israel and South Africa, have the materials and knowledge to assemble nuclear weapons quickly (this is called "nuclear capability"). The majority of countries in the world do not possess their own nuclear weapons.

## Answer to "How many ways" puzzle:

8 ways. Most people agree that the world would be a better place without nuclear weapons, but there is some disagreement about the best way to go about this. Some people think lots of negotiation between the countries that have nuclear weapons, but this hasn't made much progress so far. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament wants Britain to get rid of its nuclear weapons without requiring all the other countries to get rid of theirs at the same time. Of course CND wants all nuclear weapons to be dismantled and it sees a nuclear free Britain as a useful initiating step in this process.

## Nuclear weapons could cost us the Earth. We're better off without them.



I wish to join Nottingham CND and enclose:

### EITHER:

£7.75 (waged)  
 £5.50 (unwaged)  
 £8.50 (family/household)  
 as a donation

TOTAL

### OR:

£3.75 (waged)  
 £1.50 (unwaged)  
 £4.50 (family/household)  
 as a donation

TOTAL

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ADDRESS:

To receive copies of the NCND Bulletin PLUS 12 monthly copies of National CND's magazine SANITY (normally 65p a copy).

To receive monthly copies of the NCND Bulletin only.

Cheques payable to NCND please.

TEL:

Return to NCND 3rd Flr. Queens Chambers, 3 King St. Nottingham

**56% IN FAVOUR OF SCRAPPING THE NUCLEAR  
POWER PROGRAMME**

**44% NOW IN FAVOUR OF BRITISH NUCLEAR  
DISARMAMENT (in 1984 it was 20%)**

source: Gallop Poll September 1986