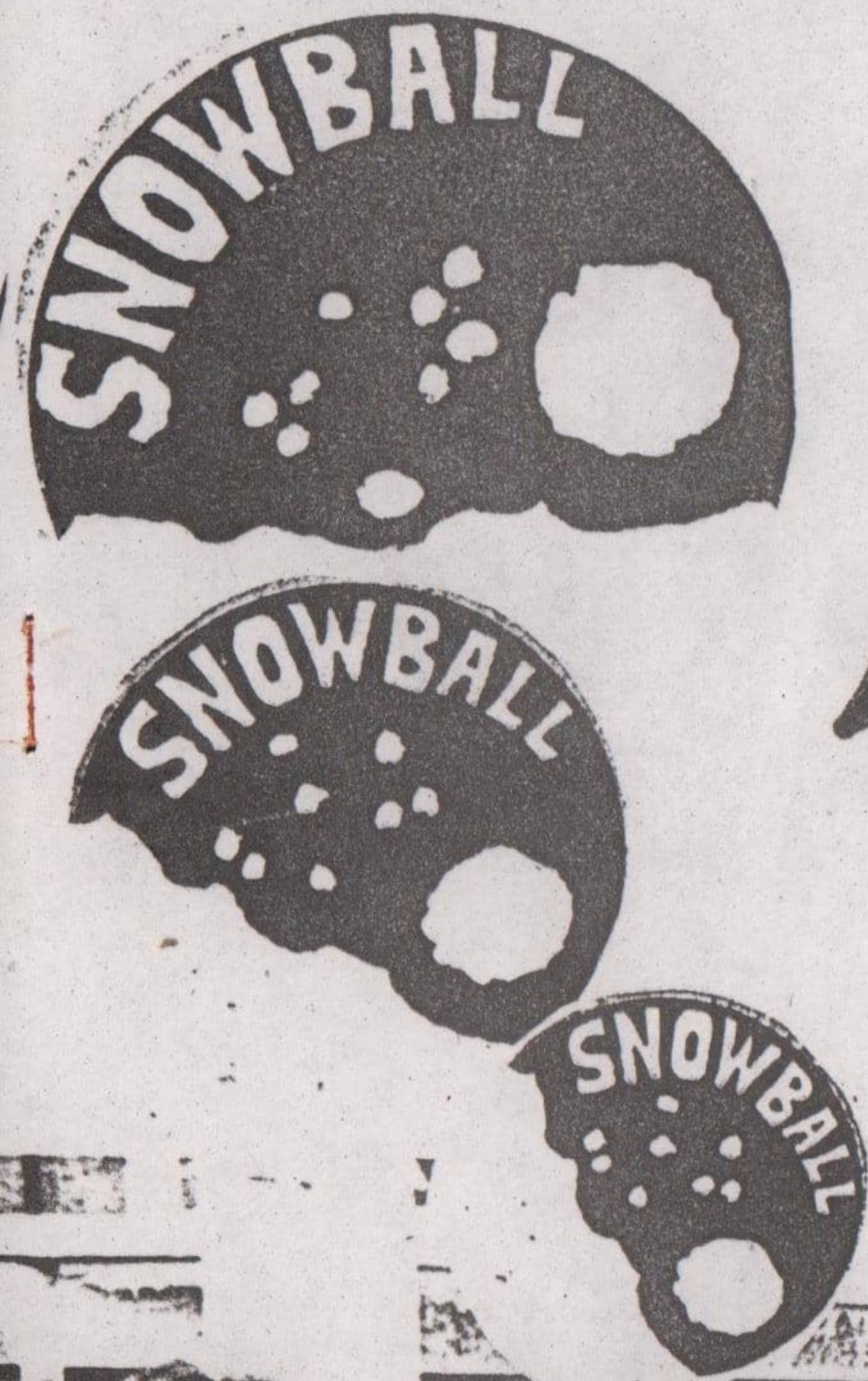


Capenhurst SNOWBALL NEWSLETTER NO. 9



Bill Stickers will ^{NOT} be prosecuted!



ENFORCE THE LAW



Genocide Act 1969

Genocide is 'the destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.

The implementation of British Nuclear Strategy would inevitably result in genocide in the event of war, thus violating the Genocide Act of 1969. Planning to commit this crime is a conspiracy which is also an offence.

Many laws and treaties were designed to protect innocent civilians and neutral countries and to protect the environment from irreversible damage in the event of war. They were formulated with the help of British Governments and they are all relevant today. They include:-

- Hague Conventions, 1899, 1907.
- Geneva Protocol, 1925.
- United Nations Charter, 1945.
- Genocide Convention, 1948 (The Genocide Act, 1969).
- Geneva Conventions, 1949 (The Geneva Conventions Act, 1957).
- Nuremberg Principles, 1950.
- Additional Protocol, 1977.

All of these laws are being broken by war-fighting policies, which rely on the use of weapons of indiscriminate mass destruction.

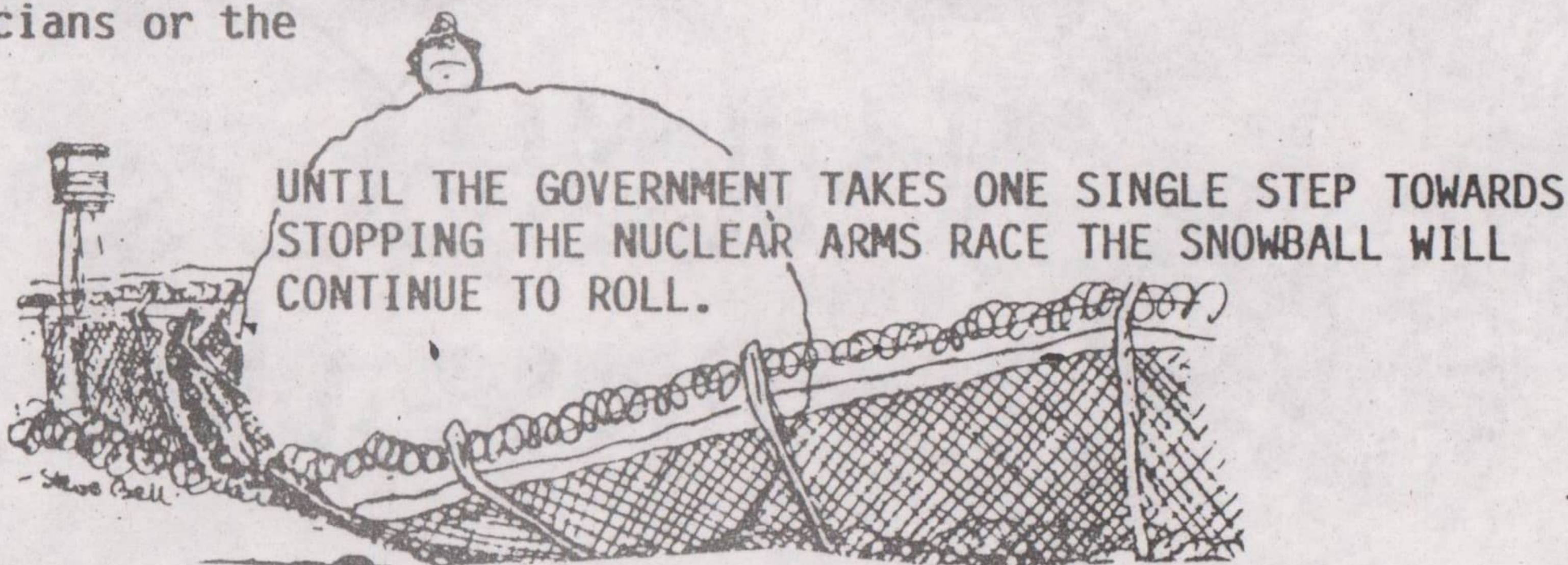
with ...

Snowball !

The Snowball campaign started in October 1984 with just three Snowballers, and now 14 stages later has involved over 2,300 people. More than 200 of which have eventually taken their protest to prison. Like a Snowball the numbers keep growing. Around 36 Snowballs now exist, linking the whole nuclear chain: from reactors to bases, to chemical weapons stores to communication centres.

Each Snowballer writes a statement to the police and where possible insists on arrest. They take their legal case to court to help gain publicity, and to Snowball the information about how the Government is breaking the law - by threatening to use Nuclear weapons

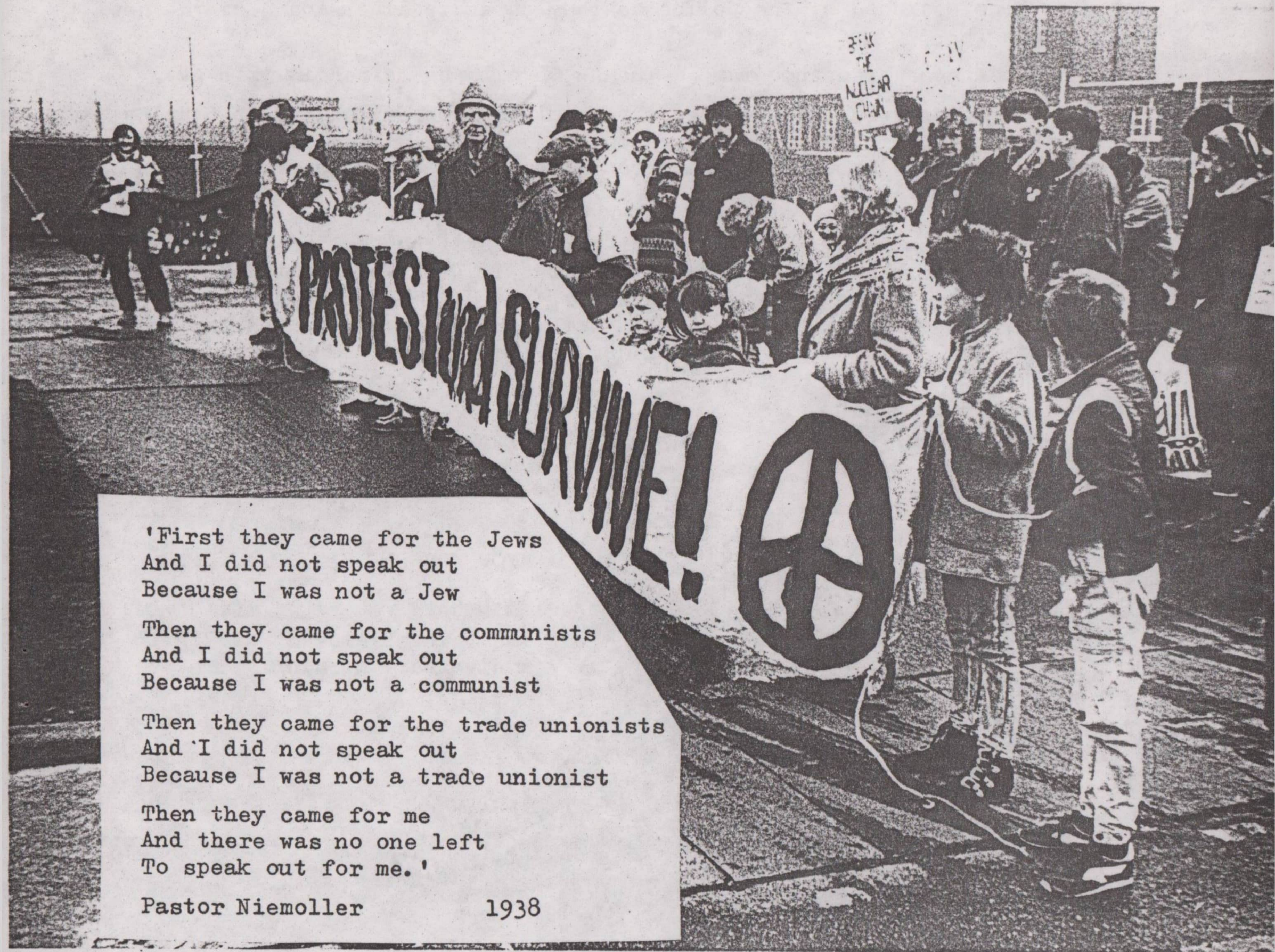
Each also writes at least three letters, explaining why they are taking part, either to friends, politicians or the press.



The CAPENHURST SNOWBALL Action of 16 January 1988 celebrated the signing of the INF Agreement between the USA and USSR with a NO "CUTTING" action. Instead Snowballers decorated the fence with balloons, paper doves, placards and statements. BNF and the Police had been told why there would be no "cutting" this time, but with over 50 police on duty it was obvious they were not quite sure whether they could trust us!

Snowballers then left Capenhurst for ELLESMERE PORT in order to alert the people there to the dangers of nuclear weapons. This was done in a number of ways including displays, leafletting and petitioning, but the Snowball Campaign's essential "legal" action was an intensive fly-posting of all the public buildings in the town. Fly-posting is deemed to be illegal under normal circumstances, but the police clearly recognised Snowball's legal defence and no arrests were made. In fact the police showed great interest in the posters which asked "IS BNFL BREAKING THE LAW?" and which gave details of BNF Capenhurst's disregard of the Genocide Act of 1969. Having read the posters, the police then invited the Snowballers to paste them up on the POLICE STATION notice board!

The front cover shows PATRICIA, SUE COPPELL and GORDON NASH busy fly-posting.



'First they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for the communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a communist

Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.'

Pastor Niemoller 1938

4

TRESPASS AT BNF CAPENHURST ON JANUARY 8

and.....

FURTHER SNOWBALL ACTION!

At 7.10 on a dark and rainy morning, ten people climbed into BNF Capenhurst to trespass in support of the GREENPEACE activist HANS GUYT who was serving a three month sentence in Pentonville Prison for his part in blocking the Sellafield pipeline. He had been ordered to pay £125,000 in compensation to BNF.

Our Action was also to emphasise our continuing opposition to BNF and its part in the arms race.

Once inside the fence we scattered into three parties. Three people climbed onto the roof of an office block complex near the NW gate; four on a similar block a few hundred yards away, and three climbed on a high tower near some fire engines. We all displayed banners echoing our concern, and, although we were able to stay on the roofs and tower for over half an hour - because of a shortage of police personnel - the NW gate had to be closed to traffic! This resulted in a lengthy traffic jam - in both directions - with each car being very thoroughly checked before it entered the main gate. The whole site had to be searched, and three supporters walking near the railway line and carrying mock bolt cutters were also searched by the police as they caused a diversion near the new building.

There was good press coverage. Thanks to all who helped in this way.

The ten of us were taken three or four miles from Capenhurst to Stanlow Oil Refinery where we were ceremoniously dumped on a grass verge. We proceeded to walk back to Capenhurst - soaked to the skin - but reasonably pleased!

On that same morning at 11 o'clock, Ken Worthy from Rhyl, carried on the action he began at the Snowball "cuts" in December and tried to get arrested for "Going Equipped". However, the UKAE police would have none of it, so Ken had to make the "cut". He was taken to Chester Police Station and charged with criminal damage.

from JAN SEAR



"NOW YOU SEE ME"

Jan being "removed" at Vigil Anniversary morning!

5

M E S S A G E S

THANKS from Eirene Jones to all those who supported her during her recent stay in Risley following non-payment of Snowball fines.

Thanks and love from Helen Ellis to all those who sent "get well soon" wishes to her in hospital recently. Helen says that although she was unable to recruit any new Snowballers in hospital, perhaps she has sown some seeds that will in time germinate. Helen says she hopes to be back with us in person soon, and meanwhile sent a poem to the last Snowball action which was read out by Michael Pulham.

SNOWBALLERS AT CAPENHURST by Helen Ellis

We have not come to cut today
Just to shout one loud hooray
Because INF a start has made
To gain success for our crusade

But we can't sit back and take our ease
While Trident is fuelled to roam the seas
So we'll be back, the wire to sever
Till this devil's cauldron is closed forever

We'll stop if we can, this threat to man
Nuclear fuel and weapons BAN BAN BAN
And tho many sneer and scoff
Our cry is still - N U C L E A R O F F !



Thanks to all those who have sent items for the newsletter - please keep sending them! Thanks to Lib Rowlands-Hughes for more wonderful cartoons and cuttings and thanks to the Worthy's for more brilliant photos.

Items for next newsletter to me (Julia) - address on back page.

I have been asked to give the references of origin with all press cuttings etc so please make sure refs. accompany if pos. Also if you want me to send anything back please mark RETURN. Finally, please send your name and address with any personally written items, poems etc. I don't feel comfortable dealing with anything anonymous!

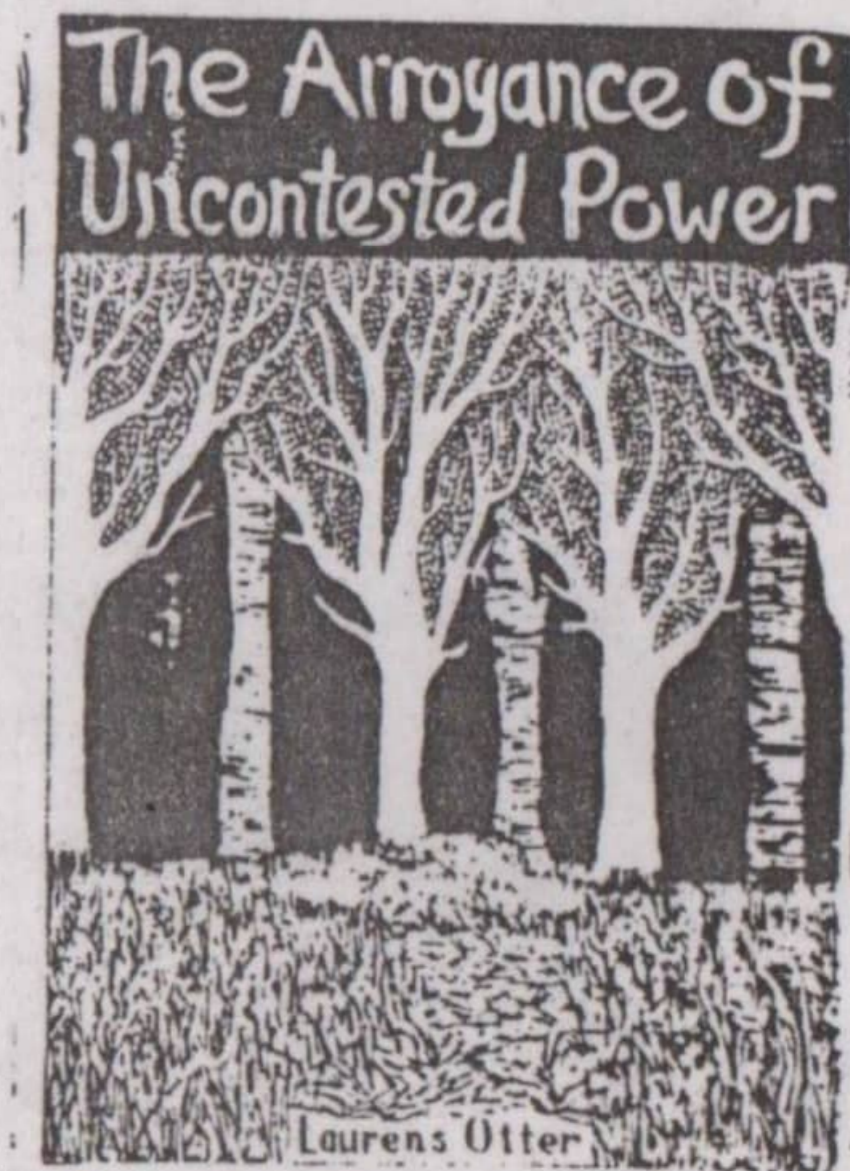
R E V I E W

It is four years since the murder of Shropshire rose-grower and anti-nuclear campaigner Hilda Murrell. The murderer has still not been identified. Many of those who campaigned with Hilda believe that she may have been murdered by the security services. Already two books and a play have been written about Hilda Murrell and other publications are on the way. Recently I came across a pamphlet written by long-time peace campaigner/prisoner Laurens Otter who, in THE ARROGANCE OF UNCONTESTED POWER, puts the continuing mystery of the murder of Hilda Murrell into the context of other contemporary scandals concerning state security functions and state abuse of power.

Laurens Otter is a man of strong opinions and his style is undisciplined, but his attention to detail is positively virgoan and this makes fascinating but chilling reading.

THE ARROGANCE OF UNCONTESTED POWER

by Laurens Otter is available from
Wrekin Libertarians, College Farm House,
Mill Lane, Wellington, Shropshire TF1 1PR
(price 50p)



Nuclear protest: month's jail for woman



Dearbhaile Bradley — cut a strand of wire

By David Greenwood

AN anti-nuclear protestor from Llanllechid was behind bars this week.

Dearbhaile Bradley, who works for the Gwynedd Drugs Advisory Service as a counsellor, was arrested at her home, 8 Mountain Road, on Sunday for refusing to pay fines of £102.

Ms Bradley had taken part in the Snowball campaign of non-violent direct action at the Capenhurst nuclear site last year when she cut one strand of wire on the perimeter fence.

She appeared at Chester Crown Court where she was fined and then again at Bangor magistrates' court in November for failing to pay the fine.

Dreaded

Magistrates told her that she would have to pay in 28 days or go to prison for 30 days.

Before her arrest and imprisonment at the weekend, Ms Bradley admitted that she dreaded the thought of going to prison.

"But it is more important to me that people become aware of the way in which nuclear weapons and the production of nuclear waste threaten all our lives," she said.

"We as ordinary people

can do something about it. I believe that the severity of the sentence is intended to discourage other ordinary people like me from daring to stand up and say no to nuclear weapons," she told the Mail.

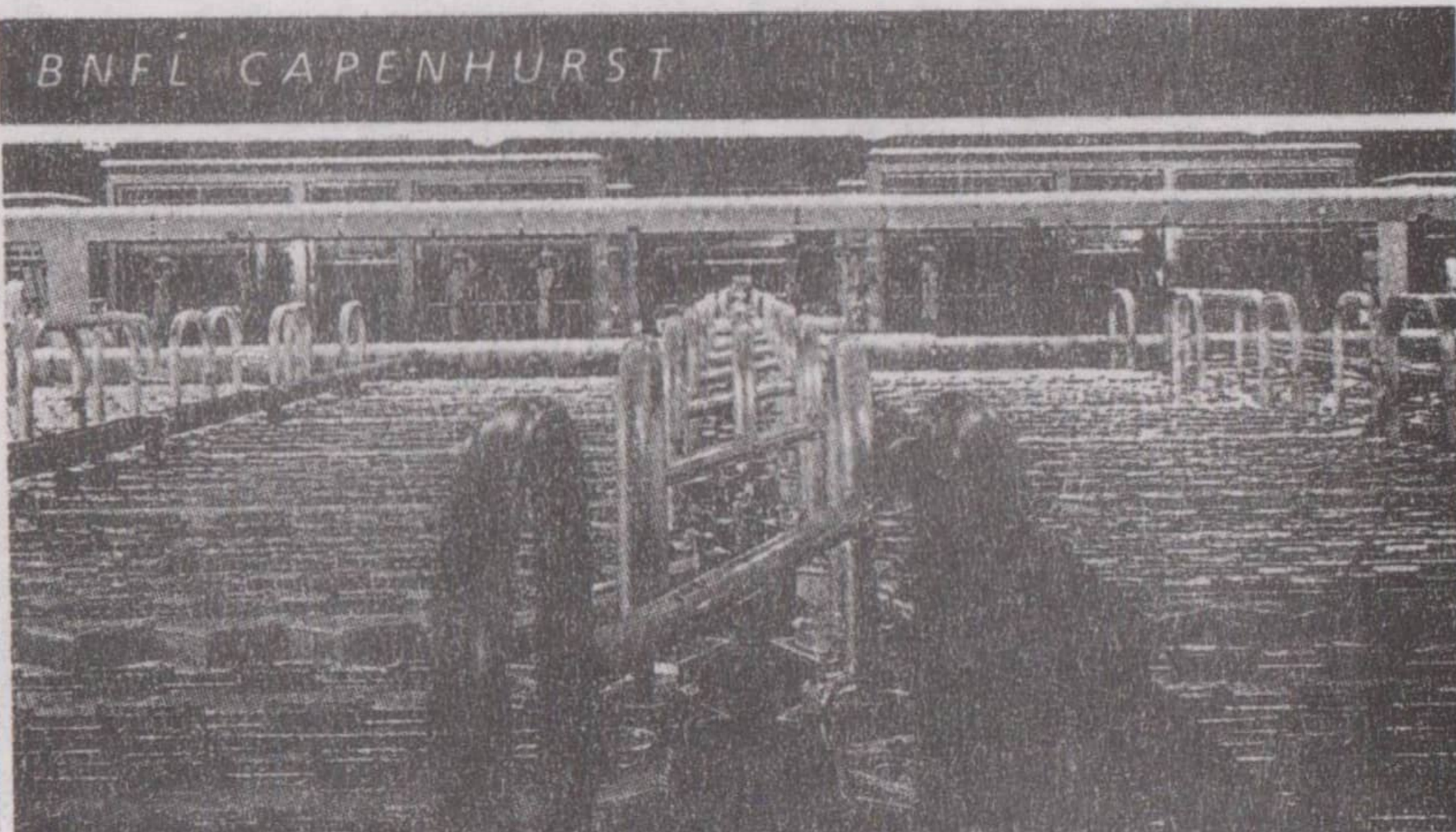
Another Snowball campaigner, Jean Oliver from Gaerwen, who spent a week at Risley for non-payment of fines in October, visited Ms Bradley at Bangor Police Station on Monday.

"She was in good spirits and felt she was doing the right thing. It is likely that she will serve half of the sentence imposed by the magistrates," she added.

"We hope that members of the campaign will visit her at Risley and later at another prison when she is transferred," she added.

"Being in Risley wasn't as bad as I anticipated but you must be prepared to leave your pride behind at the gate," said Jean.

I found this awful PR advert (below) in Cheshire Vista magazine - Feb 1988
Does anyone want to write to Cheshire Vista and give them the rest of the story about BNF Capenhurst?



Fancy a spin around Capenhurst?

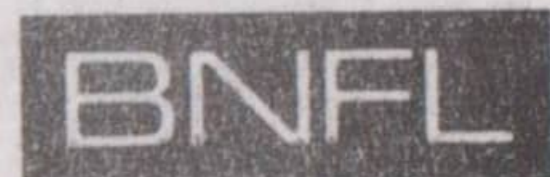
Here at British Nuclear Fuels Capenhurst we specialise in the enrichment of uranium. A highly sophisticated process in which we spin our uranium in a series of high speed centrifuges (rather like a domestic spin-dryer) separating the valuable uranium atoms out.

The final product will be used for Britain's second generation nuclear power stations.

British Nuclear Fuels, as supplier of all the fuel for Britain's eighteen nuclear power stations is investing a staggering £3.7 billion in new plant, and new technology. At Capenhurst, where we employ many local people we have a forward order book worth in the region of £1 billion.

For local community groups or organisations we offer a talks facility as well as guided party tours of the plant.

If you'd like to find out more about Capenhurst contact:
Geoff Paddock, Information Services,
British Nuclear Fuels plc,
Capenhurst Works, Chester,
Cheshire CH1 6ER.



LATE EXTRA: It is said that the new plant at Capenhurst, which is nearing completion, has now been mothballed because the levels of stockpiled uranium have exceeded projected requirements!



'Scuse me — where would you folks like your radioactive waste?'

I also pointed out that the Government (and previous governments) were breaking the law by contravening the Genocide Act of 1969, (copy enclosed) and I said that I believed I had a moral duty to speak out as loudly as possible against this terrible nuclear threat to our planet. I would be guilty if I did not speak out but kept silent as many people had when they had learned of the evil Nazi genocide being perpetrated in their midst.

When I was convicted by the Stipendary Magistrate in Chester of criminal damage I intended to pay the fine. By the time I had come before the Court the Arms Reduction Talks were in the preliminary stages between Reagan and Gorbachev. An Agreement seemed likely, and, with the removal of Cruise missiles from Greenham Common the Snowball campaign's "demand" for a first step towards nuclear disarmament would be met. Thus direct action would become unnecessary, and I could return to the method of formal parliamentary lobbying to encourage further and future reductions in the nuclear arsenal.

However, as soon as the arms reduction treaty was signed, Mrs Thatcher warned that there would need to be a modernisation of the remaining nuclear weapons in this country if the land based Cruise missiles were removed.

After doing some research into what Mrs Thatcher meant by "modernisation" I became alarmed. She clearly intends to increase the numbers of nuclear weapons which are sea launched and air launched. Thus the arms race begins to escalate again. Not only is it immoral to threaten genocide with nuclear weapons, but the production of yet more weapons will demand yet greater sums of money from the public purse. The NHS is collapsing for lack of funds. A little girl near here who required a life saving heart operation is having it paid for partly from the contributions placed in a sweetie jar on the counter at the local bakery.

After hearing Mrs Thatcher's statement made after the Nato summit, I do not feel that I can continue to pay my fine. I think that to do so would negate all the campaigning I have done to date for an end to the arms race and a reduction in nuclear weapons.

I understand that the Court has a number of options to choose from when deciding how to respond to a refusal to pay a fine. One option is to send the "refusnik" to prison. Another option is to cancel the fine altogether and I respectfully ask that I may be granted the opportunity to request the magistrates to remit the remaining £20 of my fine.

It may be helpful for the Magistrates to know, when considering what action to take about my refusal to pay, that a Mr George Crabbe was acquitted by Magistrates at Cardiff of the very same charge as myself and citing the very same defence as myself after he had taken part in a Snowball action at the Atomic Warfare Establishment in Cardiff in July 1987. Mr Crabb is a 62 year old former gunner in the RAF who served in the last war on a Lancaster bomber and who was decorated for his bravery.

I wait to hear from you regarding my request for the Magistrates to remit the remaining £20 of my fine.

Yours sincerely

Julia G

Miss R E Smith
Clerk to the Justices
Justices' Clerk's Office
PO BOX 3
Market Drayton
Shropshire
TF9 1PQ

Dear Miss Smith

Thank you for your notification of transfer of fine order.

You will be unaware that this fine relates to a Peace Conviction viz my having taken part in the "Snowball" direct action campaign in which an individual visits her/his nearest nuclear establishment and makes a protest against this Country's possession of nuclear weapons.

I made my protest at BNF Capenhurst because this particular facility enriches uranium hexafluoride which, when it leaves Capenhurst, eventually becomes the plutonium which is used in nuclear weapons. (Some of this enriched uranium is exported to Europe, USA and USSR and is used similarly in their civil nuclear power programmes eventually becoming plutonium used in their nuclear weapons - including the Russian ones facing us!)

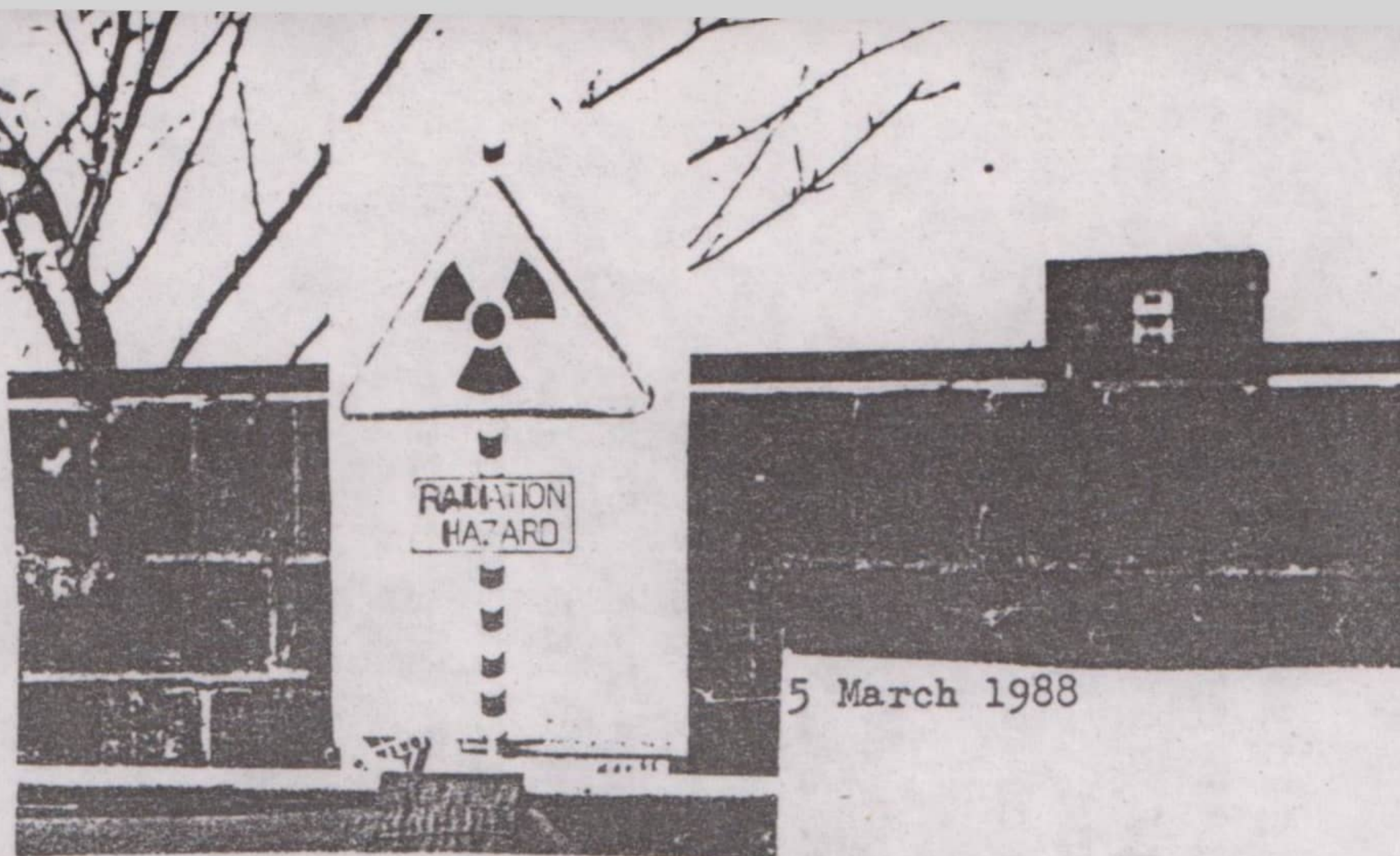
I made my protest - along with over 50 others similarly protesting at Capenhurst that day - by making a scratch on the plastic coating of the wire fence surrounding the Capenhurst complex. To make this single scratch I used a junior hacksaw blade.

I chose to "mark" the fence as a symbolic act performed in remembering those women at Greenham Common who, enraged by the Government's infringement of Common Rights there by the enclosure of that land for the exclusive use of the American military, cut down those fences and exercised their right of entry. The removal of fences at Greenham Common by women has continued, and many women have been arrested for trespass, many have suffered abuse and beatings from both civil and military personnel - British and American - and a number of women have been imprisoned.

The special bylaws introduced at Greenham by Michael Heseltine (at that time Defence Secretary) which forbid the public any access to the now enclosed common land, were recently overturned by Judge Lait in Reading Crown Court who said that Mr Heseltine's bylaws were invalid because the 1892 Military Lands Act states that no bylaw made under that Act shall authorise the Secretary of State to take away or prejudicially affect any right to common land. The Greenham women convicted of trespassing on this land are now seeking to have their convictions quashed and claim damages.

My fellow Snowball protesters and I however, did not seek to remove the fence at Capenhurst, but merely wished to make a symbolic "cut". We were all arrested and most of us were charged with criminal damage.

I pleaded not guilty to this charge, on the grounds that I was seeking to protect my own and others property by drawing attention to the danger behind the wire and therefore had lawful excuse.



8

THE DANISH PEACE FOUNDATION

I had heard from Patricia a little while ago that the Snowball fund crisis had been considerably eased by another generous donation from the Danish Peace Foundation. I knew that Hazel Lawson had brought the gift back following a visit to Denmark so I wrote and asked her about the trip.

Hazel wrote back enclosing a copy of the thank you letter to Toni Livingsage of the Danish Peace Foundation in which she passes on some interesting "snippets" to show just what we are up against in this country.

Hazel and her husband David had attended the DPF Summer School at the International Peoples College in Elsinore. The course title had been "Towards a Non-violent Society". Hazel and David hope to attend again this year when the course title will be "Preparing to Live in a Peaceful Society." Hazel says that the Danish Government gives a grant towards the cost of this summer school which helps to keep the costs low. Just imagine us getting funds for such a summer school from our xenophobic Tory mob!

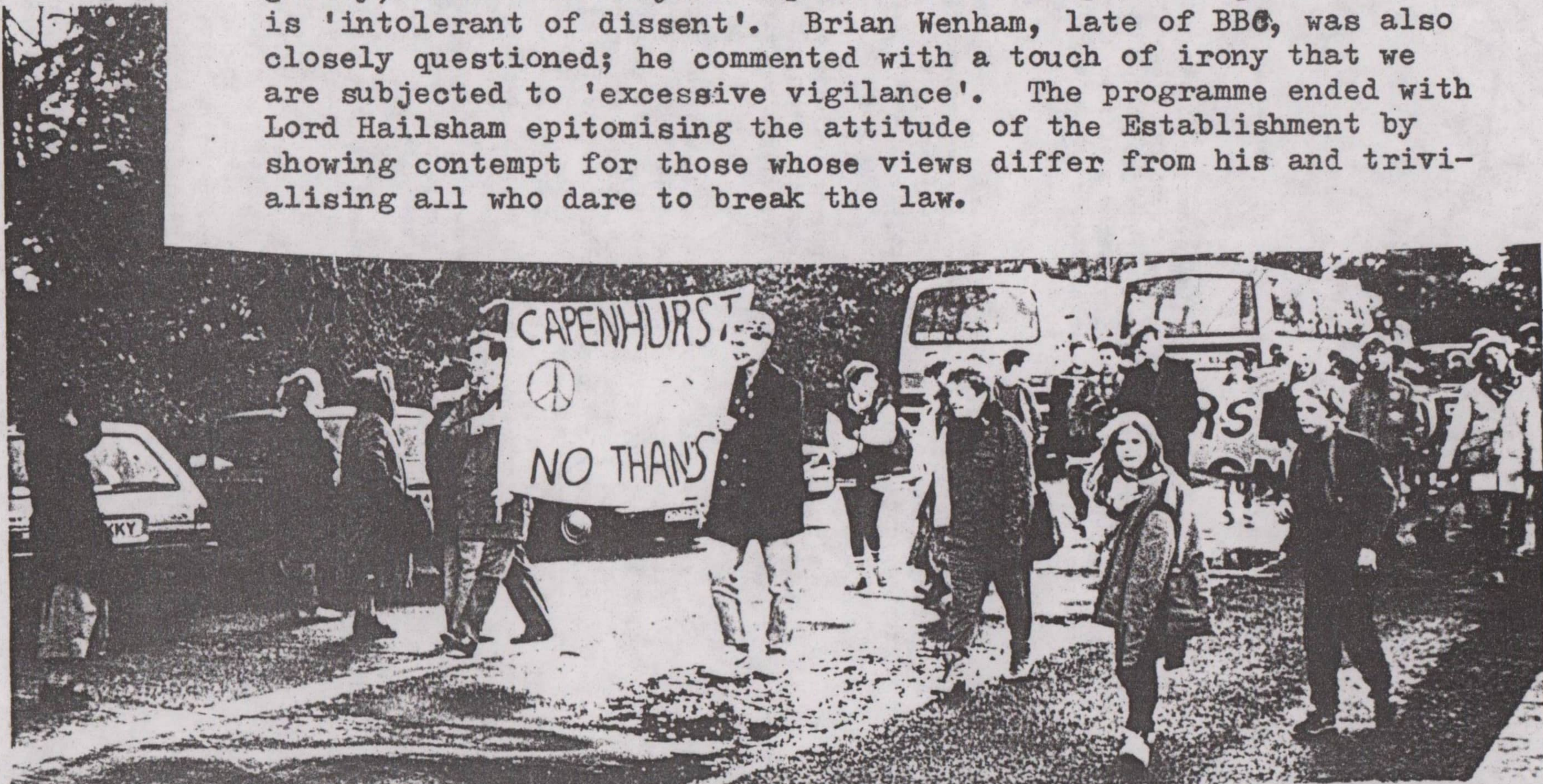
Hazel says that she and David are the only British people attending the Summer School but it is all in English! She says they have made some great friends there and one morning sat next to a Russian woman at breakfast whose great-uncle had been at university with Lennin and together they had planned the Revolution! It's a small world

Here is Hazel's thank you letter to the Danish Peace Foundation:

Dear Toni,

I recently watched a TV programme on Channel 4 entitled "How Free the Press?" and it recalled your talk to the Summer School last year. Your title was "Civil Disobedience or Uncivil Obedience", wasn't it? I hope your book, "From Ghandi to Greenham" has by now been translated into English and is prominent in the college library.

The TV debate on the press included an interview with the investigative journalist Duncan Campbell. He handled his critics gently, with a low-keyed complaint that the present government is 'intolerant of dissent'. Brian Wenham, late of BBC, was also closely questioned; he commented with a touch of irony that we are subjected to 'excessive vigilance'. The programme ended with Lord Hailsham epitomising the attitude of the Establishment by showing contempt for those whose views differ from his and trivialising all who dare to break the law.





We continue our non-violent action as the recent Snowball Newsletter shows. Thanks again for the generous help from the Danish Peace Foundation. Fines of £200 can bruise the morale; it's at the psychological level as well as the practical level that we appreciate your support. We hear that Danish aid goes to hospitals in Zanzibar, to victims of torture and to many other projects, so thank you for including the Snowball Campaign among your commitments.

When I feel crushed by the world's problems, 'The Gates of Greenham' is a powerful antidote. Have you heard this brilliant exposition of nuclear protest? We have sung it three times in the UK and each time it has been ignored by the media, or dismissed as 'subversive propaganda'. Leiden, in the Netherlands is preparing to sing it, in English, on May 7th/8th and the news has just reached us that the TV cameras will be there! Both the Danish and the Dutch are a joy to know, and this week even the Crown Court in Reading changed its mind in favour of the Greenham women!

It's a thankless task monitoring the amount of uranium hexafluoride that trundles through our busy streets en route for Capenhurst, representing another link in the nuclear chain which eventually leads to Trident. There's a dedicated group who keep vigil every Friday morning. The lorry drivers who read the banners and the leaflets often give the impression of being totally unaware of British Nuclear Fuels. In a 'democracy' where there is 'intolerance of dissent' Snowballers are required to be 'excessively vigilant' of government policy.

In peace and friendship

HAZEL LAWSON

Hazel's letter is dated 28 February 1988 and her reference to Reading Crown Court relates to Judge Lait's ruling that the bylaws relating to trespass at Greenham Common air base introduced by Michael Heseltine were unlawful because they took away common land rights. Hundreds of women may seek to have their trespass convictions quashed and claim compensation if the ruling is not overturned. Watch this space!

Julia.

STATEMENT TO THE COURT 4.ii.88 CREWE

Your worships, I am an ordinary woman who longs for children but will not betray an infant to life in this terrifying Nuclear Age. I have not been able to pay the fine because the court which imposed it chose to align itself not with the British Genocide Act 1969, the Criminal Law Act, the Nuremberg Principles, the U.N. Charter 1945 or the Genocide Convention 1948, but with Govt. policy committed TO species genocide thereby demonstrating a political allegiance which subverted their own authority & the rule of law.

The Acts & Principles I've quoted make nuclear weapons & the threat to use them ILLEGAL - every thinking person is well aware that they are also immoral & idolatrous.

I've not yet paid the fine because had the Laws I've quoted been upheld, my symbolic act, of marking the plastic coating of one strand of the fence around our local Death Factory at Capenhurst, would not have earned the sad misnomer "Criminal Damage" but would have been recognised as an act of fidelity to the laws against nuclear weapons - indeed as an act of CIVIL OBEDIENCE!

Your worships, I've not yet paid the fine because I am she who cries, "Thief!", "Rape!", "Murder!" & curiously am sought out for punishment while those who steal our health, damage the genes of our children & threaten the very life of our planet are not even investigated although British & International law is being breached.

I come here, your worships, after almost 10 yr. of study, prayer & meditation on this issue. I've not paid the fine because it has come to me that non-violent action in our sick society is a means of resisting & reversing the idolatry of nuclear & economic strength. The world is poised for nuclear disaster & in the midst of famine; while weapons are being "modernised" in stockpiles, I see the mountains of food in the privileged west. I've not paid the fine because in such times as these we are called to extraordinary means to witness for Peace & Justice, to call our country & others back from the brink of annihilation & to protect Earth & the future of the yet unborn.

I've not paid the fine because I know no guilt. NOT to witness for Justice & Peace would carry guilt. By the same token, your worships, the response of this court can help exonerate it from complicity in the horrors of nuclear death or implicate it in them.

I appeal therefore to your courage, your consciences, your higher selves, - to that of God in you - & invite you to join me in this witness.

This court can remit the fine but on grounds of morality & conscience I shall never be able to pay it.

He

Heather appeared before Crewe Magistrates on 24.3.88 requesting them to remit her £50 fine as she was unable to pay it on moral grounds. Heather was given a one day sentence - deemed to have been already served partly whilst in custody immediately after her arrest - and partly whilst waiting at the court from 2.15 pm till she was heard at 4.45. Heather and her 12 supporters were all home in time for tea!

A plethora of clear clues and the dogs didn't bark

ONE of the Conan Doyle stories hinges on the strange fact that the dog which ought to have done, didn't bark. I have forgotten quite why but I remember that its silence was the one that led to the solution of the case. Sherlock was no fool.

As I see what is happening to the law in this country I keep wondering why the dogs do not bark. I cannot even decide which dogs ought to bark. Local government and the trade unions have in the last few years been taught their lesson. Have the churches lost their voice? Are the journalists silenced or part of the Murdoch club? Are university professors too busy fighting for their institutions?

Something rather sinister is going on and the dogs, if not silent, are certainly not making enough noise. I suppose I woke up before most people because I had to. Several years ago now there was the clearest evidence of government malpractice in relation to CND. Phones were being tapped, letters were being intercepted and office espionage was going on.

The evidence came from a brave official who was responsible for ordering some of these activities but who became disgusted with what was going on and, at great personal risk, spilt the beans. But the Government just said that everything was in order and whatever had been done was done in the name of national security. No dogs barked. After all it was only CND.

Since then a series of odd events have come to light. The *Spycatcher* saga has become a bore. As a result of the Government's paranoia everyone with the mildest interest in politics has read the book and the author has become a millionaire. His is a story of lawlessness. "We burgled our way across London", he says.

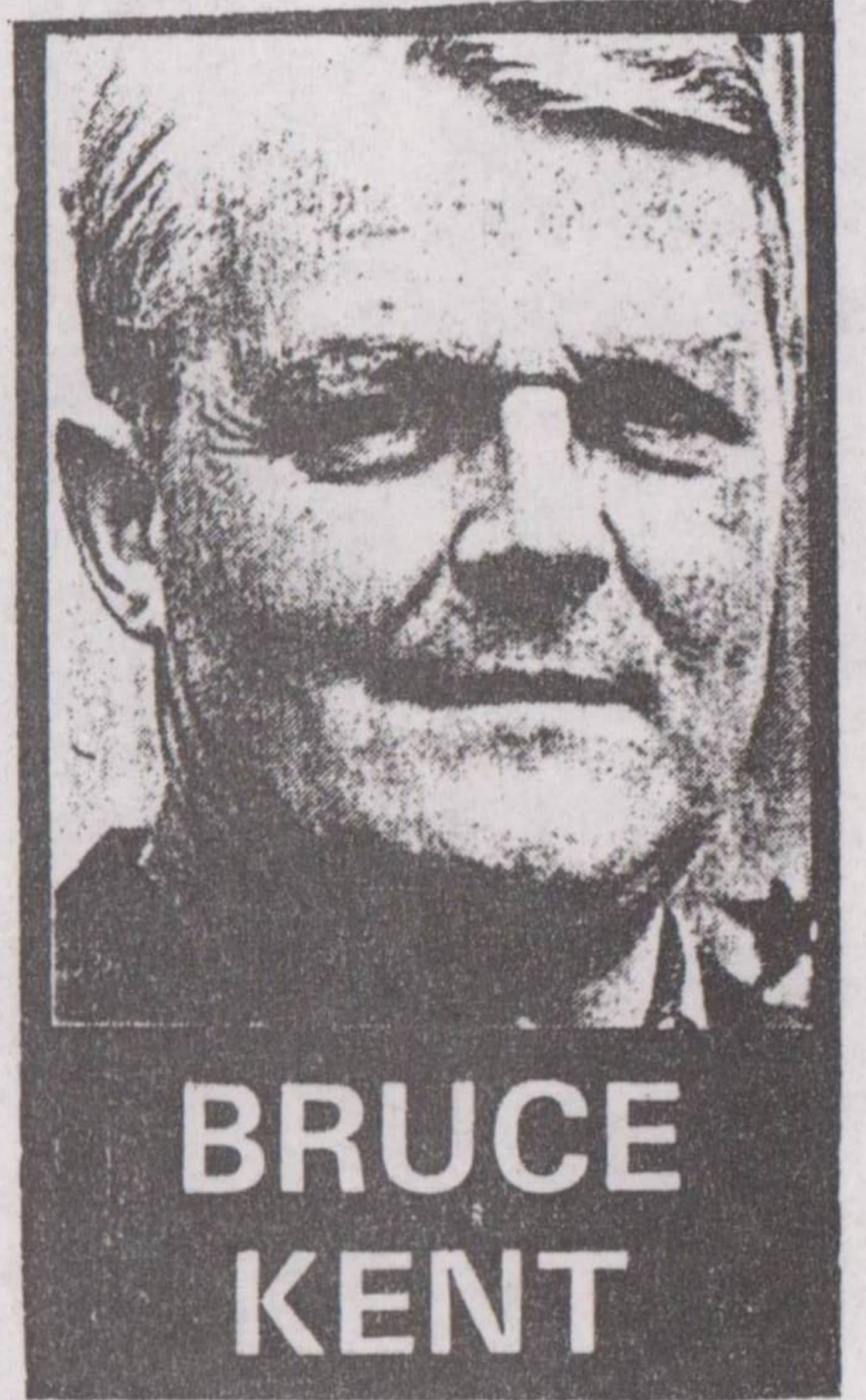
He has revealed a world of real power operating behind and sometimes against democratically elected governments. The case for a public inquiry is overwhelming. But there is not going to be one. The Government does not want one. And the dogs do not make much noise.

Then comes the Stalker affair. I do not know if there was a "shoot-to-kill" policy in Northern Ireland, but considering what has already gone on there I would not be in the slightest surprised if, at one time, there was. But that there was a cover up and an effort to stop Stalker getting to the truth is as plain as the fingers on my hand.

Cover-ups by officials are illegal but the Attorney General says that no one is going to be prosecuted. It would not be in the national interest. And the dogs do not bark.

Then we hear about an extraordinary trio. You may have already forgotten them since they shot so rapidly in and out of our papers. Their leader was apparently a Mr Larsen who, after various lies turned out to be a Norwegian. They were in possession of false police passes and other documents to which they had no right.

It seems quite probable that they were engaged in a conspiracy to kidnap political refugees possibly on behalf of South Africa. They claimed MI5 connections. At least for the false documents and for lying to the police they ought to have been prosecuted. But they were not. All of a sudden a deportation order was rushed through and away they went out of the country. And the dogs did not seem to notice.

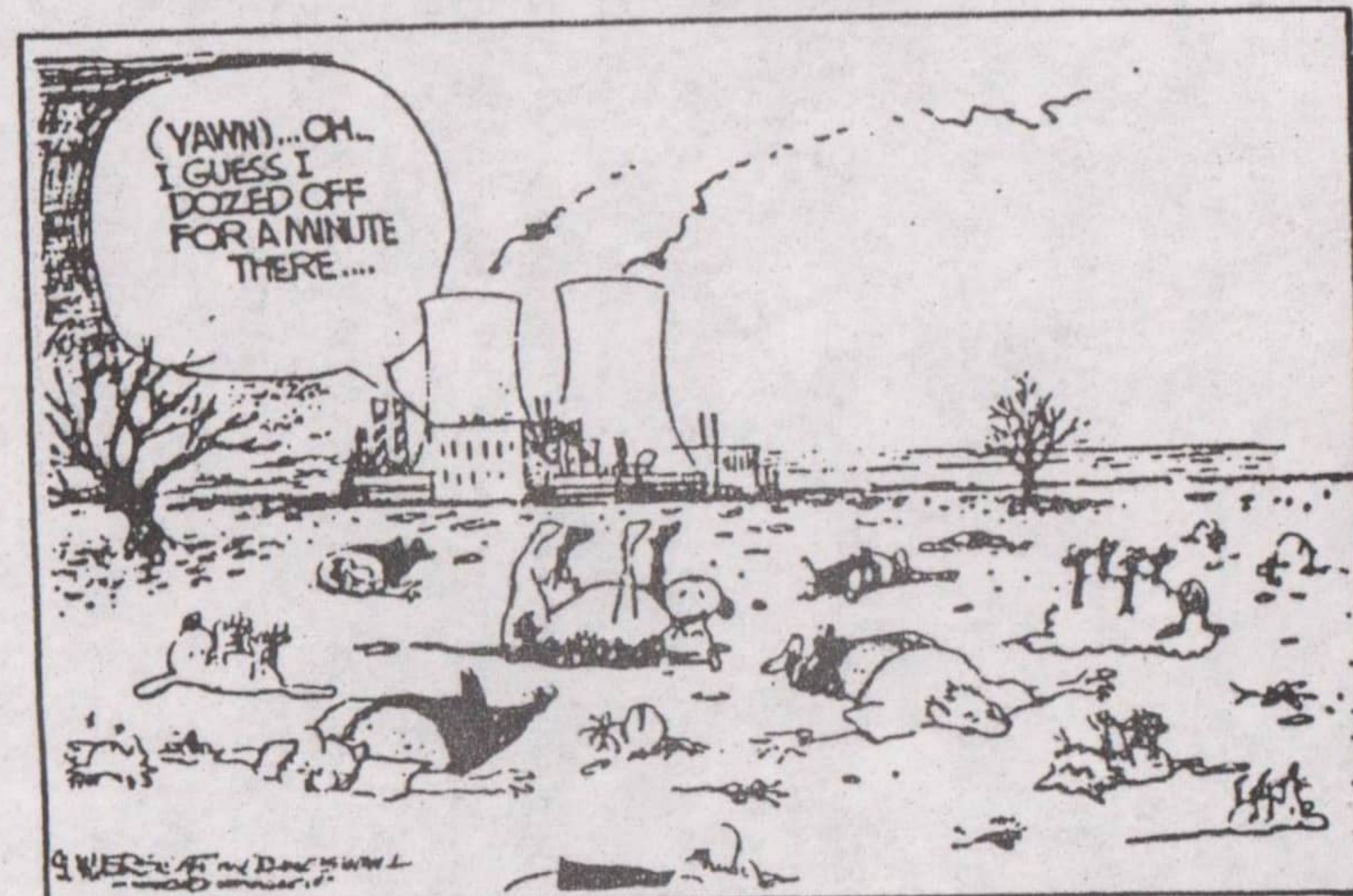


Finally, though the list could be much longer, comes the judgement of the Appeal Court in the Birmingham bombing case. In terms of justice it is inexplicable. The new evidence was overwhelming. These men were beaten into confessions and convicted on the basis of quite inadequate forensic tests. But the Appeal Court operated the Old Boys Stick Together principle and innocent men (if one is still innocent until proved guilty) stay in prison.

"National security" used to be the justification for doing some very nasty things to people in the Argentine and elsewhere. Are we moving in that direction I wonder? Do not forget what Thomas More had to say about law in *A Man for all Seasons*

"This country is planted thick with laws from coast to coast—mans laws not Gods — and if you cut them down . . . do you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then?"

Today it is the Government and its agencies that are doing the cutting down in the name of national security. It is time for us all to bark very loudly indeed.



RECENT LEGAL INITIATIVES AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1 GERMANY Last January, 20 judges demonstrated outside the cruise missile base, Mutlangen, in Germany. They were arrested, along with other demonstrators, but they were there to demonstrate against the illegality of the base, which one of them has described as "planned nuclear genocide". At the preliminary hearing, this judge also challenged the prejudice of the judge presiding, a legal procedure possible in Germany. Their trial was set for November 5 but was postponed. Their action received widespread publicity and support in Germany. Contact: E Rottka, HeiligendammerStr 10, 1000 Berlin 33, West Germany.

2 NEW ZEALAND A suggestion was made earlier this year that New Zealand should take the question of the illegality of nuclear weapons to the World Court. The suggestion was supported by 3 of New Zealand's jurists to the World Court and a previous Attorney General. A public appeal has been launched. Contact: H J Evans, 53a Hackthorne Rd, Christchurch, New Zealand.

3 Switzerland Geneva. International Peace Bureau have published an appeal to lawyers everywhere to sign a declaration that nuclear weapons are a violation of international law and a crime against humanity and human rights. 50 international lawyers signed this before publication and their names are published on it. The Law Society of Scotland was asked to publish this in their journal but have refused. Contact: International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, Geneva, Switzerland.

BRITAIN The Snowball Campaign (who have "official" fence-cutting actions to try and draw the court's attention to laws being broken) have now started a register of people who wish to declare their belief that laws are being broken for which they are responsible. It applies to civilians and armed forces and is directed at the judiciary and Government. Contact Angie Zelter, Valley Farmhouse, East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk.

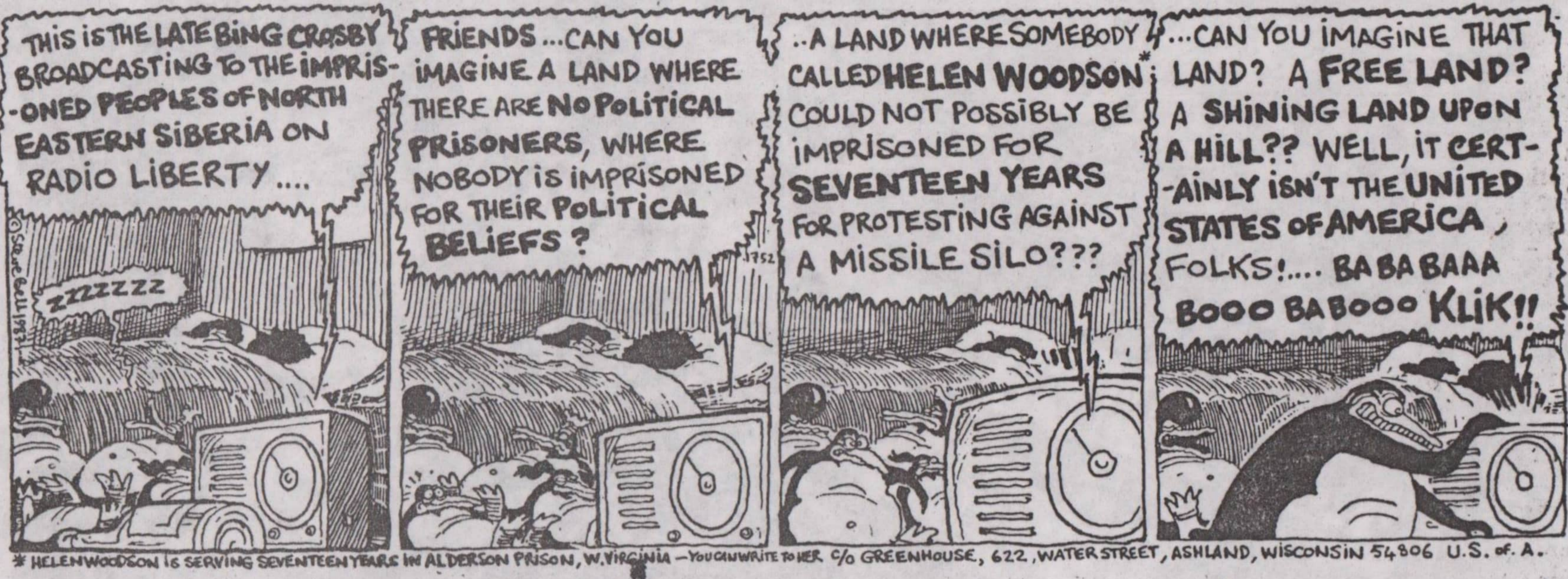
We hope there will be a Scottish version very soon; held at the Peace and Justice Resource Centre, Edinburgh.

Pax Legalis This is a group of 4 men living in Wales, who found evidence that nuclear weapons violate many laws and decided to act as ordinary citizens should and get legal advice. They were advised that there was a serious case which could be brought of conspiracy to commit genocide under the Genocide Act and the Criminal Law Act, so they did so. The Attorney General has to give permission for such a case to be brought and he refused (June '87). Their final appeal is due on 14 December. So far this has cost them roughly £5000. Two of the four members are visiting Scotland on December 2 and 3 to speak about their experience and future plans: See Diary of events. Contact (and contributions) to:

Pax Legalis, 3 Llys Famman, Pantymwyn, MOLD, CLWYD.

Any news of similar initiatives in other countries?

Reprinted from PAX LEGALIS' newsletter of 31.12.87.



Imprisoned in a place where peacemaking slumbers on

THE Steve Bell cartoon in which I was featured as a "political prisoner" has brought forth hundreds of letters. Almost all have referred to my 17-year imprisonment for the disarmament of a Minuteman II missile silo as a "plight," often preceded by "terrible" and "dreadful." I assure you it is neither. Civil disobedients seek arrest.

When I complete this sentence, I will have spent 17 years 9 months in prison, and I will be 59 years old. In the same 59 years I will have spent 19 3/4 years in bed, fast asleep. Surely it is not too much to ask that we give peacemaking equal time with slumber!

Were I to be released tomorrow, the threat of nuclear war would not have been diminished in the slightest. What manner of justice is a light sen-

tence from the same court which legalises nuclear annihilation? What manner of freedom is early release when this necessitates collaboration with a criminal government arming for the end of the world? My children deserve better than this, and so do I.

In every society, those who commit street crime are predominantly poor, uneducated, unemployed and of racial minorities. The decision systematically to deny a segment of the population its most basic needs is a political decision, as is the decision to punish instead of reconcile the "offender" to the community. Thus, all prisoners are political prisoners who have no one to champion their cause.

Helen Woodson.
c/o 622 Water Street,
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806, USA.

Guardian cartoonist Steve Bell paid tribute to American peace prisoner Helen Woodson by drawing a strip to publicise her 17 year sentence.

Patricia Pulham wrote a letter to the Guardian in acknowledgement.

and now Helen herself has responded from prison in West Virginia.

Reprinted from the Guardian.

**KEN'S
LONG
SENTENCE
from
The Guardian**

ONE WONDERS if, when the Ministry of Defence is looking through the Geneva Conventions they will find the numerous international conventions outlawing weapons of mass destruction and will then warn the Government that they are acting unlawfully in being prepared to use nuclear weapons and being prepared to accept storage of US binary nerve gas weapons.

K. Worthy.
57 St Asaph Road,
Dyserth, Clwyd.

CORSHAM

(Government Bunker)

WANTED

FOR CONSPIRING TO COMMIT WAR CRIMES
AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY



REWARD

THE CONTINUATION OF LIFE ON EARTH.

WAR IS MURDER FOR PROFIT

Who was it said "People used to be hanged for treason - now we make them Prime Ministers. " ?

OPEN DAY

APRIL 23rd

Snowball CAMPAIGN

For details of Corsham demo please contact Patricia Pulham,
18 Shavington Avenue, Hoole, CHESTER.

Items for next Newsletter please to: JULIA GALLACHER, The Mosslands,
Tilstock Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire. SY13 3JQ Telephone: 0948 2681

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