

# Shrewsbury Peace Group



Newsletter Dec 1986

2. A.G.M. 25 November 1986

There were 14 members present at the Darwin Centre, Frankwell. In discussion it was agreed that;

1. Only when the group can afford it we should could continue to accept considerable more losses on coaches to demos, caused by subsidising the cost of unwaged tickets;
2. that efforts will be made to move the group a/c to a bank or building society that does not impose outrageous bank charges;
3. the County Council will be approached through Tony Freudman, to see if as an Nuclear Free Zone, they can assist us with the cost of rooms for meetings.

Membership 143 of whom 86 were fully paid up. Various suggestions were discussed to encourage regular subs renewal, and to increase payment by Standing Order.

Officers Jill and Chris to continue. Chris Fletcher to replace Mandy Weaver as secretary (thanked).

#### Report back from CND Conference

Di Randall, our delegate, gave us a full account (see page 15) which provoked much discussion. Di was thanked for the obvious work she had put in to give us a clear picture of what CND conference was like, or where CND is going.

Newsletter General satisfaction was expressed, but we asked to spread the load; so anybody who would like to become involved in writing, editing, or production in the future, please contact Susan Caroline (usually the job is done by a team of 3 so you can learn from the 'experts').

Planning Meetings

We have used Jill Bedford's home for 2 or 3 years (11 Underdale Road), so it was agreed to find a new venue as soon in the new year as possible. Much appreciation of Jill's hospitality was expressed.

Brainstorms were then held on last years activities (to cheer us up) and next years possibilities (to give us incentives).

The meeting was closed at 10.25 pm.



## Treasurers Report.

### INCOME

Balance on 1.11.85.....	254.75
Standing Orders.....	180.00
Subscriptions.....	399.74
donations.....	51.00
White Poppies.....	45.64
Jumble Sale.....	153.51
Coach Tickets.....	117.00
Peace Library Revenue.....	9.00
Sponsor Money.....	54.50
Badges.....	3.00
WFLOE.....	161.80
Xmas Party.....	185.72
Ceilidh.....	144.58
Poems and Pints.....	21.40
Films Collections.....	21.21
Coffee Morning.....	9.00
Social.....	69.75
John Edger.....	10.60
Survival Saturday.....	85.62
SPA.....	20.00
TOTAL .....	1997.82

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### Newsletter

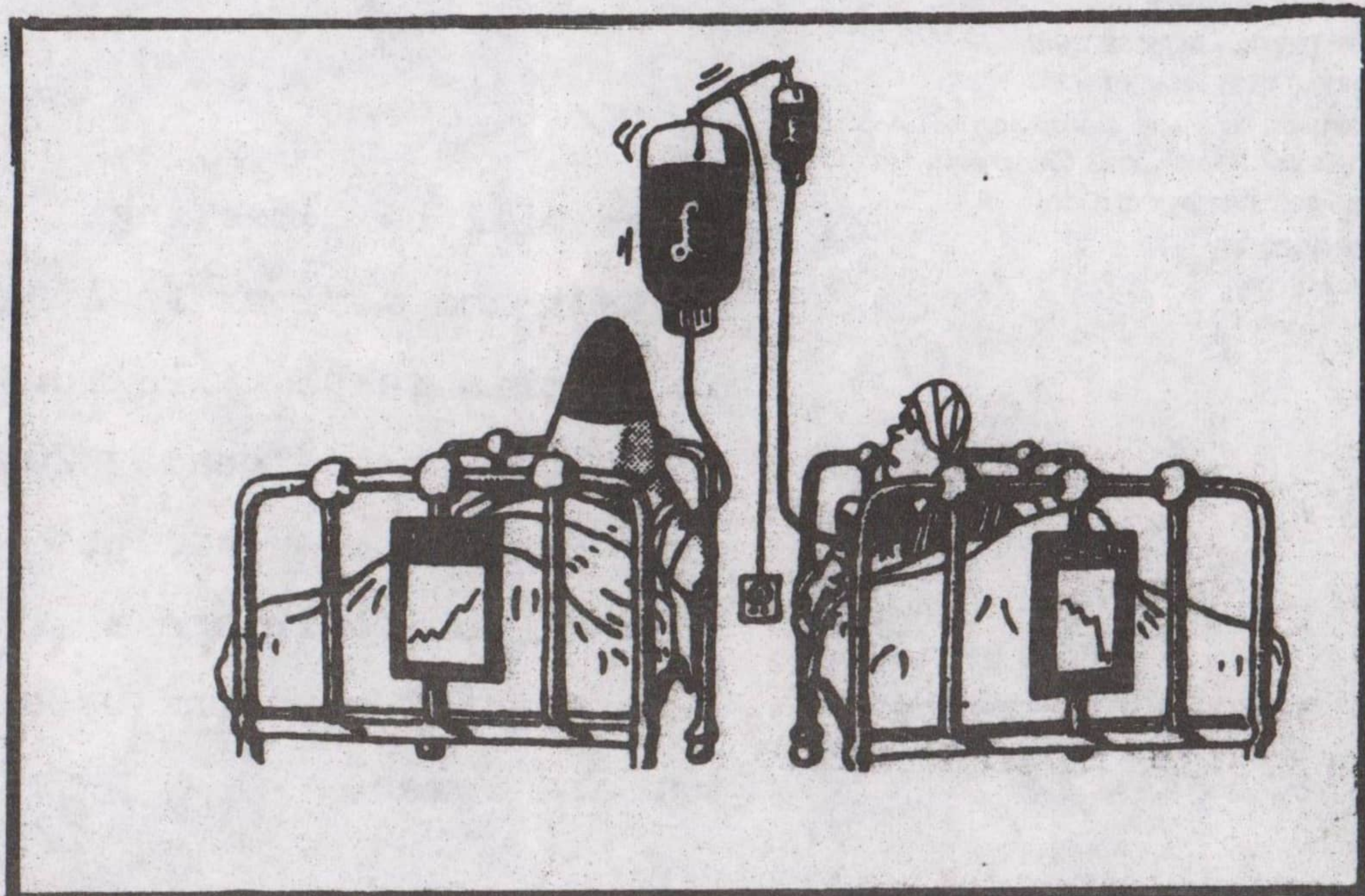
This issue was prepared by Jill Bedford and Chris Dean. We would like to get some new people involved, so please ring the co-ordinator Susan Caroline on Shrewsbury 271274 if you're interested.

Copy date for the next issue is Friday Jan. 9th.

EXPENDITURE

Standing Orders.....	133.00
Stationary stamps phone.....	105.19
Speakers petrol.....	33.58
Newsletter printing.....	168.22
White poppies.....	58.00
Badges and leaflets.....	104.90
Photocopy printing.....	50.70
Room hire.....	123.63
Adverts.....	16.00
Coach hire.....	396.00
Xmas party costs.....	45.00
Ceilidh costs.....	75.00
Bank charges.....	58.75
Affiliations/ donations.....	135.50
Molesworth expenses.....	67.14
Prayer for peace.....	20.00
Film hire.....	64.70
Banner .....	8.00
Billboards.....	40.00
Conferences.....	14.50
WFLOE.....	161.80
SPA.....	20.00
Petty cash.....	10.00
TOTAL.....	1910.11

The balance on 1.11.86. was £87.71.



## RAPE AT MOLESWORTH "PEACE" CAMP.

### Male violence

Rape at Molesworth peace camp (and similar occurrences have been reported at Greenham) must strike all male activists in the peace movement as deeply shaming news. As Viv Kendon points out, masculine aggression is the cause of both the world arms race and sexual abuse of women and children. That such offences may have been perpetrated by male supporters of Molesworth peace camp is doubly disturbing. These acts are a complete negation of all that Tolstoy, Gandhi and Martin Luther King taught and that the vast majority of us in CND are trying to practise. Apart from the injuries sustained, the fact that the victim has to live with this experience, which may well alienate her from half the human race makes this crime, in my view, worse than murder.

I strongly support Viv's suggestion that CND groups should devote a session to discussing male violence. Furthermore, I urge all men, whenever they hear of such barbarities, to make a donation to the nearest Rape Crisis Centre. It is the least our sex can do.

Yours sincerely  
Norris Harvey  
Birkenhead

See also Conference Report, page 18.



There will be a meeting to talk and air our feelings about this issue at Belmont Youth Centre on Tuesday 20th Jan. 8pm. Do come and put forward your opinions as this subject concerns us all, men and women.

# Somersaults on the arms control path

HAVE WE SEEN the ultimate in defence politics gymnastics; the leaders of the major European Nato states finding space to attack President Reagan's arms control strategy from the right? This is the only conclusion to be drawn from the remarkable, semi-clandestine campaign being waged by Mrs Thatcher, Herr Kohl and Messieurs Chirac/Mitterrand to force the Americans away from a "zero/zero" deal on Euro-nuclear missiles.

The European attack on the kind of "non deal" which the super-powers claim they came so close to in Reykjavik, also involves pressure on the US to increase its short range tactical nuclear weapons held in Europe. Meanwhile the British and French have as good as made it clear that zero/zero deal or not, deep cuts in US/Soviet strategic missiles or not, they intend keeping their own "national" nuclear weapons.

In a complete somersault on earlier insistence that space testing of President Reagan's Star Wars project would conflict with the anti-ABM Treaty, the Europeans, led by the UK, now seemingly accept the American interpretation of that treaty's impact on SDI. In all of this it comes as no surprise that some West European Nato governments are reported to be considering developing a European version of SDI for themselves.



John Palmer

It is, perhaps, unfortunate for the new European Cold Warriors that their portrayal of a massive imbalance in conventional forces between NATO and the Warsaw Pact has been undermined so effectively by a recent report of the Institute of Strategic Studies. This shows that the imbalance in favour of Soviet conventional forces may be no more than 1:1.25 and even this leaves out of the equation the question of the quality and reliability of the Warsaw Pact Eastern European constrict soldiers.

What this does show is that those who wish to use membership of Nato to turn it into a non nuclear, "defensive/defence" and pro-disarmament alliance have got their work cut out without the Americans, let alone with them. The case for such political alchemy has been seriously weakened by the performance of the main European Nato governments ever since Reykjavik.



The Soviet state and its rulers do, in spite of the current liberalisation from which dissident and opposition groups are benefiting, represent all manner of threats to the East European client states. There is not, and never has been, any serious evidence of a Soviet intent to invade Western Europe and even less evidence of any Soviet capacity to conquer, let alone occupy it for any significant period.

For as long as the "Soviet threat" is the unchallenged bedrock of defence policy, it will always cut the ground from beneath the feet of those committed to genuine disarmament. The peace movement and campaigners for European non-alignment from the nuclear super-powers must now recognise that the main enemies of even a limited truce in the arms race are, at present, to be found at home rather than abroad.

## Local Initiative for World Development Movement

From events like "One World Week" one has the impression that there are not a few people in and around Shrewsbury who are concerned about world development, poverty etc.

We should like to start a Forum under the aegis of the World Development Movement, meeting regularly but not necessarily frequently, to think and talk about these issues, to plan ways of educating the public that there is more to it than collecting for charity, to put pressure on government etc.

If you are at all interested, would like to know more, or to join us, will you please contact me

Keith Johnson  
Greystone Cottage  
Birtley  
Church Stretton SY6 7DW (Tel. 722581)

### ANTI-APARTHEID MARCH - JANUARY 10th.

North Shropshire Anti-Apartheid group have organised a rally and march in Shrewsbury on Jan 10th, gathering outside Tescos at 10am, moving off at 11. The march will end outside Rackhams (owned by Lonro) about 1pm. It is intended to present the management of Rackhams with a copy of the Freedom Charter.

This action is to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress. Maximum support is needed, you're urged to swell the numbers, please spread the word.

Advert - Crabapple have a limited number of copies of an amazing ANC '87 calendar with excerpts from the Freedom Charter, well worth a look.



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THE ISLAND

The Island certainly lived up to its description as a powerful and passionate play. The two actors, Yulisa Amadu Maddy and Ntuthuka Nyembezi gave a unnervingly believable picture of life in long term imprisonment. The scene was South Africa but it could have been any country that imprisons people for little reason and treats them as semi human.

The play asked the question of what right has the state got to play god and deny people their rights, the answer could only be none at all. The message came over all the clearer as the parts were played with sympathy and humour. The plays realism was undoubtably helped by the experience of both actors of imprisonment and political harassment. Ntuthuka Nyembezi spent 13 months in solitary in South Africa for anti-government activity. Both now live in exile.

The Island brought home to me how lucky we are, though I'm certainly not saying our system is perfect, and how important it is to work to end apartheid in South Africa and racism wherever it occurs.

Thanks to Theatre Foundry, look out for them around the West Midlands they're well recommended, and thanks to all who came we even made some money!



# THE WOMEN'S THEATRE GROUP

## **OUR LADY** (A BLASPHEMOUS THRILLER)

**Our Lady** is set in the 20th Century, in a church, amid the sounds of gun shot and dogs barking.

Three women, two black and one white, from different cultures and experience of life all claim to be Our Lady. They are brought to trial for heresy by the Holy Inquisition, whose representative has been summoned from the 15th Century.

Each woman presents herself for interrogation, the questions are ambiguous and complex. She must decide who to make alliances with and who to betray. In thriller form using the device of a trial, the truth emerges and atrocities continue to reveal themselves. This is a story of three women, what happened to their children and the bargains they made with the world in order to survive.

The play examines the role of the interrogator and interrogated, the cult of the Black Madonna (mostly buried or denied by white Christians) and most importantly our need for spiritual nourishment irrespective of century or culture.

December 13th. at Belmont Youth Centre, 8pm.  
Tickets available from Crabapple or the  
Information Centre, £2 or £1.50 unwaged. Only  
a limited amount of tickets available.

- Dec 13th. "Our Lady" a play by the Womens Theatre Group. At Belmont Youth Centre, Dec 13th at 8pm. Tickets from Crabapple or the Information Centre, £2 or £1.50 unwaged.
- Dec 16th. Peace Studies at Belmont Youth Centre, 7.30pm.
- Dec 20th. Xmas Party; at the SABC Social Club Chester Street. 8 till late. Guest appearance by John Edger. Tickets from Crabapple, £3 or £2 unwaged. Disco and other entertainment.
- Jan 6th. Planning meeting at 11, Underdale Rd. All welcome.
- Jan 10th. Anti-Apartheid March, see page 8.
- Jan 13th. Peace Studies at Belmont Youth Centre, 7.30pm.
- Jan 20th. "Male violence in the Peace Movement". 8pm at Belmont Youth Centre. See page 6.
- Jan 21st. Leafletting in the Mount and Frankwell. Contact Chris Fletcher on 68571 if you want to help.
- Jan 27th. Peace Studies at Belmont Youth Centre at 7.30.
- Feb 3rd. Planning meeting at 11, Underdale Rd. All welcome at 8pm.
- Feb 10th. Peace Studies at Belmont Youth Centre, 7.30.
- Feb 24th. Peace Studies at Belmont Youth Centre, 7.30.
- March 3rd. Planning meeting at 11, Underdale Rd, all welcome start at 8pm.
- March 10th. Peace Studies at Belmont Youth Centre, 7.30.
- Easter Monday; National CND Demo in London. There will be a 4 day march ending with this demo.

NUCLEAR QUIZ

Put a mark by the answers you think are most ridiculous. This ensures top marks. In the event of nuclear war, keep the quiz in a safe place.

1. Compared with Hiroshima bomb, a medium sized nuclear weapon:

will be no problem for the emergency services  
would not be fired at targets near me  
is 70-80 times more powerful

2. First indication of nuclear attack will be:

party political broadcast by Conservative Party  
dispersal of cruise missiles  
nuclear attack

3. In event of attack we may assume that missiles will:

arrive between 9am and 5pm weekdays only  
land precisely on their targets  
not be launched in weather which hampers emergency  
services

4. If nuclear war starts tomorrow, I will:

start to build a shelter  
complain to my MP  
catch a train to Thurso

5. 'Square Leg' exercise assumed nuclear bombs on:

Tory constituencies only  
Lord's cricket ground  
US bases, main towns and cities, nuclear power stations

6. If war occurs, I will be governed by:

nobody, and left to fend for myself  
my local council  
trained scout and guide leaders

7. If I had a nuclear shelter, I could:

Have a fortnight's break before returning to work  
Sit in the dark till I came out to sit in the dark  
get irradiated a fortnight later than everyone else

8. My County Council is taking steps to protect me by:  
Building a nuclear bunker for selected staff  
using my rates for staff training  
telling me as little as possible what might happen
9. People exposed to heat flash of a nuclear weapon  
detonated less than 7 miles away would:  
be dazzled  
wonder why the deterrent didn't work  
roast, and melt
10. 'Fall out' is:  
an invisible poisonous dust after nuclear explosion  
something invented by peace movement to scare you  
a hazard affecting people in high buildings
11. Caesium 137 is:  
a laxative additive in breakfast cereal  
a long-living radioactive isotope which concentrates  
in the food chain  
a punk rock group
12. The main purpose of Civil Defence is:  
to secure the United Kingdom against 'internal threat'  
to safeguard 'key personnel' who will rebuild our  
country  
to supply survivors with tea and buns
13. Nuclear war will have been worthwhile if:  
it leaves a world compatible with Western values  
it proves our resolve to use our deterrent  
there are a few survivors

.....

(The quiz is an abridged version of one devised  
by Ken Veitch, Peace Search Publications, 27 Dig Lane,  
Wybunbury, Crewe, Cheshire)

THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO DESTROYING CIVILISATION.

JOIN CND AND FIND OUT ABOUT THEM.

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Please send a card to a Political  
Prisoner.

In the past 7 years Quakers all over Britain have " befriended " 500 political prisoners in 12 countries, many of whom have been tortured. 200 have since been released.

Although Quaker Peace and Service claim no credit for this result; they do know that letters received gave the prisoners strength to endure. In particular, the shower of cards at Xmas have brought great joy to many.

So please send a card; write a brief greeting in English and send it by Air Mail at the beginning of December. Any enquiries to;

QPS Prisoner Befriending Service,  
c/o D Birtles, 57 Wharton Rd, Headington,  
Oxford.

EDUARDO PIZARRO ARRIAGADA  
Centro de Readaptacion Social  
Valparaiso, Chile

MARGARITA GODOY PAREDES  
Centro de Orientacion Feminino  
Quillota  
Chile

HECTOR RINALDO VEGA RISSO  
Centro de Readaptacion Social  
Valparaiso  
Chile

CND Conference 1986: report by our delegate  
Di Randall

Nuclear Power

Conference was called upon to affirm its opposition to the nuclear chain, i.e. the proven links between weapons programmes and "civil" work. This composite resolution called on CND to undertake an "urgent, major" campaign for the planned phasing out of nuclear power beginning with the closure of military reactors, progressive closure of older reactors based on published safety reviews, conversion of Sellafield to a "Centre of Excellence" in decommissioning nuclear facilities; halting work on T.H.O.R.P.; redirecting investment into secure dry waste storage until acceptable disposal methods are developed. The campaign should co-operate with Unions and political parties and raise funds to highlight the issues of - health risks: civil liberties: the weapons link: economic costs: proliferation and the nuclear chain: job creation in decommissioning alternative employment: and conservation.

I supported the composite and an amendment, both of which were passed by conference. The amendment deleted the words "urgent and major". I think that with a general election near, campaigns against nuclear weapons are CND's priority.

Conversion Research and Development

This rather similar composite specifically emphasized the re-channelling of nuclear R&D into socially useful production, and high-lighted the need for co-operation with local T.U.s and TU-CND. It rejected involving British R&D facilities in S.D.I. I voted for this, and it was passed.

Non-Nuclear Defence and Foreign Policy

This composite was also passed with its amendment which required CND to recognize the imperative need to campaign for a non-nuclear, peaceful and autonomous foreign policy. Although campaigns had begun in this direction, more work was needed (another election reminder I think). The specific demands were 1: the urgent setting up of a commission including politicians, peace activists and scientists to study the precise methods and consequences of a disarmament policy

6 and to produce a report with specific disarmament policy measures to bring about a nuclear-free Britain; 2: public hearings should be held; and 3: academic bodies, T.U.s etc should be invited to prepare papers, and Sanity should commission articles. The amendments successfully deleted a call for the 1987 END conference to be used as a setting for launching demands 1. and 2. I supported the amendments because (a) CND's membership is much wider than END's. and (b) strategically, now that there should no longer be divisions between uni- and multi-lateralists (largely thanks to the initiatives in the last 18 months by the USSR) the issues confronting us are wider than the issue of European disarmament (although that has its own specific problems)

Constitutional Amendments

(which need a two-thirds majority)

A resolution, from CND National Council calling for a biennial conference was soundly rejected, thank goodness; the development of CND policy cannot be left to Council for two years without accountability to the members at conference.

Another amendment was referred back because it was only re-inforcing existing guidelines. It stated the main business of conference to be the plenary sessions of delegates for reports, elections and debates. I would have voted for this because I was not happy with the distribution of time. We were allocated only a total of 3 hours 50 minutes for debates in plenary session, as opposed to 6 hours 45 minutes for workshops (of which there were over 100 to choose from). To me, workshops are for education, planning, propaganda etc, and are of much more use in local areas than at conference where only 1700 people can take part. The plenary work of this conference could have been done in one day, with much expense spared.

#### U.S. Bases

I supported this resolution calling for campaigning for withdrawal of U.S. bases, and publicity for British withdrawal from NATO.

#### Soviet Disarmament Proposals

This resolution supported the view, which I share, that the soviet initiatives on disarmament in 1985 and 86 have put the ball in our court.



Some people in the peace movement were arguing that Britain must operate unilaterally only, as the USSR would not "climb down"; well the USSR has. The resolution called on CND, 1: to incorporate the positive aspects of Soviet proposals in our campaigning; 2: ensure that/calls for an end to nuclear weapon testing feature more prominently; 3: acknowledges the USSR's extension of its moratorium on testing and the agreement to on-site verification. It calls on the USSR to show its intent by taking further unilateral initiatives, (which it did on the eve of conference by withdrawing some missiles from the Slovo Peninsula); 4: demand that our government makes a positive response to the Gorbachov proposals.

How long the USSR will go on making unilateral proposals and actions I don't know - especially when Reagan and Thatcher are pressing on full-steam-ahead with S.D.I. I think it's time for us to deliver some goods.

Star Wars

This composite (which was passed) calls for CND publicity from now on to give a high profile to the risks inherent in SDI, particularly the militarisation of outer space, and the threat to existing treaties (NB, Salt II broken this week by the USA), and equally to the first strike capacity implicit in SDI, which can escalate the arms race. U.K. involvement has increased without the promised economic spin-off. The resolution also notes that the demands of SDI on scientific institutions further diverts them from socially useful aims, and calls for the active support of TUCND in the muti-party coalition against Star Wars

General Comments

I found the General Secretary's statement a complete waste of time, bearing in mind the time given to policy making; it was all in the pre-conference printed material, and she used 15 of her 50 minutes on sympathy for the accident of one Roger Spiller. Much impatience was felt by many delegates.

- Officers; Meg Beresford remains general secretary;
- Paul Johns remains chairperson
- Elena Llever, Helen John, Dan Smith and Bruce Kent vice-chairpersons.

8 The Emergency Resolutions were debated in plenary session at the end of conference. Not all could be heard because of the time problems.

### Reykjavik Summit

This resolution blamed the USA's continued testing and development of SDI for scuppering the possibility of agreement. It called for the UK government to respond to the obvious desire of the British people by 1:- supporting the removal of all USA and USSR medium range missiles from Europe, and stop placing obstacles in the way of this; 2:- pressing both leaders to reconvene urgently; 3:- pressing USA to keep within the ABM treaty; 4:- stopping all nuclear weapons testing and supporting demands for a comprehensive test ban treaty. It called for a priority CND campaign to persuade our government to declare a UK moratorium and work for a test ban treaty; abandon SDI and withdraw from the Memorandum of Understanding

### Easter Demonstration

Conference decided that CND should try to set the perspective of defence debates during the general election; to this end there will be a four day march at Easter culminating in a major event in London on Easter Monday, and mobilisation of groups in advance for the crucial year of campaigning.

I think this resolution was in part a reply by conference to a suggestion from Meg Beresford of some sort of demonstration possibly on the anniversary of Chernobyl. My feeling, and that of much of conference was that we should not commemorate nuclear accidents, i.e. other people's misfortunes; and that in election year we should be clear and sharp in our demands for disarmament, and not be sidetracked into a confused and diffused campaign.

### Molesworth Rapes

Arising from the rape of women at Molesworth by three peace campers, this debate was heard in a charged atmosphere. Paul Johns stepped down to allow Elena Llever to chair; she admitted her inexperience but allowed no men to speak in the debate. The resolution was in three parts, to be considered and voted separately; (1) CND should withdraw support from Molesworth peace campers at present; (2) CND should encourage positive action in dealing with

male violence within the peace movement to ensure that the rapes at Molesworth do not become a forgotten issue; (3) CND should support further actions, whether mixed or women only, at Molesworth, to stop the arrival and operation of Cruise. The first part was rejected by the delegates, and the other two were passed. I supported these decisions.

Conference rejected withdrawal of CND support on the basis that we should not allow peace camps to be closed down; Greenham and Molesworth are international symbols of peace, and we must continue to support them just as we should Cruisewatch, NFZ's, etc. Obviously some of the women who had spoken in support of this proposal were very distressed and felt rejected by the delegates, but I do not believe any of us rejected the plight of the rape victims or were lacking in sympathy. The emotional level of the debate was very high, and an anti-male position was expressed by many speakers.

Rape is a serious issue - especially at a peace camp. I feel that CND (the largest constituent of the peace movement) has to take a collective responsibility for the protection of women at peace camps in the same way as peace activists provide food, blankets etc, and treat the issue of rape with sensitivity and thought. During the debate I reminded myself of the harassment and isolation peace campers are subjected to; but also that CND is a "broad church", and it must not be deflected from its single issue campaign. Rape is obscene and must be dealt with, but CND's job is to help rid the world of the most enormous obscenities of our time, and we cannot be diverted from this task.





If the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary's Private Secretary has an "X" in his brief case, then your sub. is now due. Please send £5 (or £2) to Chris Dean, 46 Canon St, Shrewsbury;

.....and a very happy Christmas to

all our readers.