

December 1980

20601

chain reaction

No. 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM FROM THE NUCLEAR THREAT.

Christmas is a time for peace and goodwill.

Don't take it for granted!

All over the world friends and families come together at Christmas in happiness and hope for the future. But is there hope for the future? A massive international arms race increasing world tension has caused many people to fear a nuclear war.

ESCALATING TENSION

This government has contributed to the escalation of tension by deciding to replace the Polaris force with Trident missiles. In addition, NATO plans to deploy part of its Cruise and Pershing missile force on British soil.

STOCKPILING

Between them the USA and USSR have at least 30,000 nuclear warheads. Less than 10% of this total would be needed to turn Europe into a radioactive graveyard. If the nuclear arms race continues it will inevitably lead to another war - a war to end all wars. Millions of pounds are spent on weapons of mass destruction. The expenditure and resources could be devoted to eliminate poverty, hunger, disease and homelessness.

PROTECT AND SURVIVE

In response to the fears expressed by ordinary people, the Government has produced a document called 'PROTECT AND SURVIVE', in which it outlines the steps it considers necessary for the public to take to protect itself in the event of a nuclear attack. The inadequacy of the suggestions disguise the full horrors of a nuclear war in which the mass of the population of this country will die, with no chance of medical treatment, and in terrible pain, with no escape or shelter from blasts, firestorms, and radiation. Millions more would die as supplies of food and water run out.

IS DESPAIR THE ANSWER ?

The answer is simply NO! We must organise effective resistance to these grave threats. If you oppose the Government's agreement to allow nuclear armed Cruise missiles, under American control, into Britain, unite with us to 'PROTEST AND SURVIVE'. For the sake of our children, we have a moral obligation to call for the removal of all nuclear weapons from Britain. This is the first step in making Europe a nuclear free zone.

meetings

Regular meetings are now being held every Monday, at the moment at 126 Withywood Drive, Malinslee from 7.30pm. Even after the Christmas event these will carry on to work on other projects, the newsletter or just to keep in contact - and save on stamps. Try and come along and join in activities - ring the contacts for any details.

letters

Thanks for 'Chain Reaction'; but one caveat, - we play the state's game by accepting the adjectives "highly controversial" for The War Game.

The film was a factual documentary prepared semi-officially for the BBC, which was then suppressed, because though it was initially intended as a part of government criticism of unilateralist policy and the farcical belief that civil defence is possible, it didn't prove their case.

Nevertheless though the Government did not like what they saw, the film consistently understates the anti-war case. It presupposes a level of bombing that would have been implausibly low at the time it was made, it avoids any real horror pictures like those in 'Hiroshima mon Amour' let alone the semi-documentaries from Hiroshima, it postulates the most favourable (to the survivors) climatic conditions - with less than probable upsets caused by the blast, and it is based on the assumption of far greater warning time than is ever seriously contemplated, with a large number of apparently uncontaminated or disturbed wardens & nurses rushing around being heroic with almost all their equipment intact.

The fact that despite all this it makes a unilateralist case is amazing.

Laurens Otter,
Wellington.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Paul Wolfe, Ivy House, Chapel St.,
Dawley. Phone 501218.
Peter Templeton, 125 Withywood Dr.,
Malinslee, Phone 503020.
Tony Edwards, 5 Cherrington, St-
rchley. Phone 590086.

season of peace and goodwill

A group of people have been involved in producing a leaflet and organising a public event in the Telford area prior to Christmas. The event continues for a period of three days:

Thursday Dec. 18th 6-8 pm
Town Centre

Friday Dec. 19th 6-8 pm
Town Centre

Saturday Dec. 20th 10.30-12 am
Wellington High St.

Saturday Dec. 20th 2-4 pm
Town Centre

We are hoping that as many readers of Chain Reaction as possible will assist and give time to the campaign. To attract attention, we have begun to make several structures with rainbow coloured ribbons upon which are written the word 'PEACE' in different languages. Christmas, being the season of Peace and Goodwill, is obviously the time to remind ourselves and express a sincere desire for peace, especially during this year in which we have witnessed increasing international tension.

We also hope to arrange a group of musicians and singers, and also to have a 'Silent Vigil' in the Town Centre. Anyone who could help with the singing please contact Annette Brown. We need as many helpers as possible. If you can give a hand even for a short period, contact one of the following:

Paul Wolfe - Tel: 501218
Annette Brown - 591017
Peter Templeton - 503020

A leaflet will be handed out, the main aim of which is to advertise a meeting at Dawley Christian Centre on Saturday January 17th at 7.30 pm. We hope to show a film and have an invited speaker from the C.N.D.

CUT ARMS SPENDING