

March 1981

CHAIN REACTION

No 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI - NUCLEAR GROUP.

World Disarmament Campaign.

Things are starting to move! The petition is to be publicly launched at Easter. But before then volunteers are needed in each area of the Wrekin constituency to act as distribution coordinators for the petition forms and lists of houses. This is important because the actual petition collectors need someone in their local area to get their petition forms for the house to house visiting.

There is a find-out-about-it meeting mainly (but not only) for these area volunteers on Monday 30th March at 7.30pm. at Dawley Christian Centre. It is a no obligation meeting and leaflets will be available on what the whole petition is about from the Petition Organiser.

The Telford Anti-Nuclear Group is actively organising the petition in association with the Wrekin Labour Party. A small group is doing the basic publicity and planning, but it relies totally on people to help carry it out.

Over thirty people have so far said they will help as petition collectors, but only one or two as area volunteers. Many more of both are urgently needed.

Contact the Petition Organiser: Peter Nias, 48 Victoria Road, Madeley (day Telford 619393 ext. 223) to find out more. Also Paul Wolfe (see Points of Contact).

Easter March

This Easter, CND in the Midlands will be marching on Rugby, the site of a powerful low frequency transmitter used for communication with Polaris submarines.

Action will culminate on Easter Monday (20th April) with a March into Rugby starting at 11.30 am and moving past the forest of VHF radio masts - leading to an open-air Peace and Music Rally in Rugby in the afternoon. Entertainment will include Rock, Jazz and Folk music. Speakers so far: Bruce Kent (National CND General Secretary), Mike Pentz (Dean of Science, Open University), Duncan Campbell (New Statesman).

We propose to organise at least one coach for Easter Monday and are producing banners on Thursday nights.

If you are interested in going on Monday or want details about the longer march from Wolverhampton, contact Brian Wakely 502978.

DIARY

- Every Thursday at 7.30pm, Workshop/meeting at 126 Withywood Dr., Malinslee.
- April 18th-20th CND Midland Festival and Rally.
- April, discovering and publicising candidates views on disarmament prior to County Council Elections.
- July 4th, Shrewsbury Peace Group event in Shrewsbury Market Place.
- Summer Open Air Peace Picnic.

War Game Triumph

A tremendous success was achieved locally in the argument for disarmament when 300 people saw the film 'The War Game' in Oakengates Town Hall on March 7th. Earlier in the week the film was seen by 150 people at Madeley Court. Following the Oakengates showing a panel of speakers answered questions from the floor. On the panel were Philip Braithwaite from CND; Brigadier John purser(Rtd), the Emergency Planning Officer for Shropshire; Warren Hawksley MP; and Councillor Phil Davis.

The MP and the Emergency Planning Officer were given a very rough time indeed by the meeting with every questioner calling for an end to the arms race. The MP was given a very clear indication of his constituents' demand for unilateral disarmament. Speaker after speaker poured scorn on the 'deterrent' theory and the pitiful civil defence envisaged. At one point the County Emergency Planning Officer admitted that, if there were to be a nuclear attack on Shropshire tomorrow we would be in a 'shambles'.

The Telford Anti-Nuclear Group would like to thank the Wrekin District Council for taking a constructive role in the nuclear debate and showing 'The War Game' to the public.

■ ARMS spending, per head of the population: (In dollars)



America	426
Russia	370
Latin America	17
Africa	15
South Asia	5

■ Spending on HEALTH, per head of the population: (In dollars)



America	218
Russia	70
Latin America	11
Africa	4
South Asia	1

(World average spending on medicine and public health per person, per year is 51 dollars)

■ Number of SOLDIERS for each member of the population:

Warsaw Pact: 1 in 77
Nato: 1 in 113



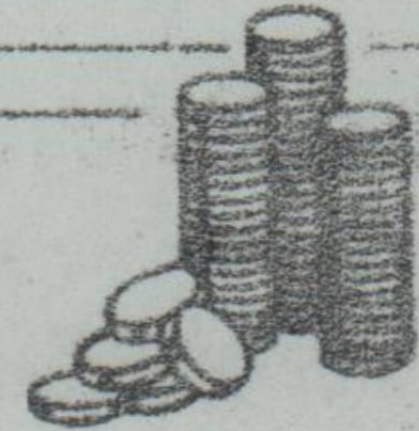
■ Number of NURSES for each member of the population:

Denmark 1 in 120
(Best world figure)
Bangladesh: 1 in 75,460
(Worst world figure)

■ Spending on ARMS for the year 1977: In Billions of dollars

North America	105.1
Latin America	5.9
Europe	232.9
Africa	6.1
Middle East	26.9
Australasia	3.0
South Asia	4.2
East Asia	50.4

TOTAL World spending: 433.9
TOTAL Nato spending: 164.7
TOTAL Warsaw Pact: 163.0



■ ONLY four countries in the world—USA, Russia, Japan and West Germany—had a higher gross national product than the total world expenditure on arms each year (433.9 Billion Dollars). Those four countries account for over half the world's GNP.

Britain's Gross National Product was 225.2 Billion dollars.

■ IN 1977 Defence expenditure by Warsaw Pact countries (163 billion dollars) was greater than the combined amount of goods and services sold in the top eleven African countries.

■ IN the same year, NATO military expenditure equalled the gross national product of the top 12 African countries.

■ TOTAL American economic aid to the rest of the world between 1946 and 1977 was 100.5 billion dollars, less than two thirds of NATO military spending in 1977.

■ OXFAM estimate that the money necessary to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing to every person in the world is 17 billion dollars a year. That's just four per cent of world military expenditure.

■ BRITAIN'S annual military expenditure could build 32,000 hospitals each year in the third world, and provide a good meal a day each year for 700,000 orphans in India.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

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Dawley. Phone 501218.

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