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Chain Reaction

Pete Nias
48, Victoria Rd, No 10
Madeley

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI - NUCLEAR GROUP

Medics Join Fight Against the Bomb.

The guest at T.A.N.G.'s monthly meeting on Aug. 4th. was Dr. Elizabeth Williams, a G.P. from Birmingham. She outlined how the medical profession has recently entered the nuclear debate with the formation of the rapidly growing 'Medical Campaign against Nuclear Weapons', and then presented us with some of the medical effects which result from nuclear radiation. Put simply, radiation from plutonium and uranium ions attacks living cells. The faster they grow (e.g. in the foetus and babies), the more they are attacked and either deformed or destroyed.

It's difficult to conceive the scale of this destruction but she used these comparisons. The Atomic Energy Authority's permitted safe radiation level is 5 rads per year. The neutron bomb being built by both the U.S.A. and France unleashes 3,000 rads. 3,000 rads destroys brain cells. 600 rads destroys skin and white blood cells. 300 rads means death without medical aid. In the long term bone marrow diseases can occur 10 years after bombing, by up to 30 times the normal rate.

Tumours can occur 15 years after radiation. Genetic mutations can cause malformations in future generations.

Dr. Williams kept returning to this question of scale. Medical treatment in this country is now dependant on a very sophisticated and centralised back-up system which would almost certainly be eliminated in a nuclear attack.

The recent Home Office civil defence exercise predicted an enemy bombardment of

200 megatons for the whole country. That is 13,000 times more than the Hiroshima bomb. And yet the casualties from 7lbs. of explosive which killed 22 people in the Birmingham pub bombs exhausted the city's blood stock, called out all surgeons and disrupted the ambulance and other emergency services.

It is Government policy that in the event of a nuclear warning, 85% of all hospital patients would be discharged - to die. After an attack, radiated victims would dig their own and the dead peoples' graves. No attempt would or could be made to save them.

Those surviving burn and blast would immediately be deprived of water, heat, light, food and medical aid. Typhoid and cholera would occur later. The scale of both the short and long term effects of a nuclear bombardment would plunge the country into a psychological state most comparable with that following the European Black Death of the Middle Ages. There would be a total loss of reality with anarchy prevailing.

All in all a desperate picture, but the more it is painted the better equipped we are to protest against it.

At last the BMA have refused to be drawn into the Government conning and planning apparatus by declining to appoint a Medical Planner for the Civil Defence Machine. The meeting welcomed this initiative within the medical profession and thanked Dr. Williams for her vivid talk.

Stop the Neutron Bomb!

Hiroshima Week

On the evening of Thursday 6th August, the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, 36 paper lanterns (one for each year since 1945), were floated down the River Severn at Ironbridge by T.A.N.G.

Despite persistent rain, over 30 people turned up to watch the launching of the lanterns. All over the country, as well as Japan where it is a yearly event, similar ceremonies were performed by people who fear that the ever-escalating arms race will, if it is not halted lead to a repeat of the tragic events of August 1945, only on a scale hundreds of times greater.

Three days later, on Sunday 9th August, Nagasaki day, TANG held a protest demonstration and vigil outside C.O.D. Donnington. This action too was one similar to many others being held throughout the country at nuclear bases and army depots. The TANG banner and posters made an impression on passing motorists and the Shropshire Star printed a photograph of the protest the next day.

The picnic in the Town Park, which followed the demonstration was unfortunately very poorly attended despite good weather. Perhaps in future, readers of Chain Reaction could make more effort to support such activities or contribute their own ideas of what events they would be interested in and willing to support.

Diary

AUG 28th. Friday 6.30 pm. Jumble Sale at Fletcher Memorial Centre, Madeley. Please bring your jumble to any of the contact addresses for Friday.

AUG 31st. Bank Holiday Monday 1.00pm, TANG float and stall in Broseley Carnival

SEP 1st. Tuesday 8.00 pm. Monthly meeting, Elephant & Castle, Dawley. Slide show.

Every Thursday TANG meets at 7.30 pm. at 126 withywood Drive, Malinslee.

CONTACTS

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Barbara Lamplugh: 35 Simpsons Lane
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Slide Show

Our fourth monthly meeting at the Elephant & Castle, Dawley, will be on the 1st September at 8pm. It will include a slide show depicting the devastation of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and its implications for today's society.

HELP! We need your ££'s.

This is the tenth issue of Chain Reaction to be printed and distributed entirely free of charge. 140 people now receive this regular monthly newsletter and our readership is growing.

Due to the mounting costs of printing and postage, we regret that we can no longer afford to supply Chain Reaction free of charge. If you appreciate receiving a regular newsheet on the local anti nuclear movement, please donate whatever you can afford. We suggest an annual subscription of £2 for 12 issues, (£1 for non wage earners) is a reasonable sum. Tear off the slip below or write to Graham Marsden, 44 Victoria St., Madeley.

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