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20610

END FOR PEACE

No 14

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI - NUCLEAR GROUP

Snow on their Feet!

Those who attended the END meeting in Shrewsbury on December 11th. had to contend not only with the weather, but also the fact that that morning, Tech. College secretaries told people that the meeting was at 7.00 pm. not 8.00 pm., and that evening they announced that the meeting was cancelled.

Eva Quistorp (German Women for Peace) gave a heartening account of the upsurge of ND activity throughout Europe, flatteringly crediting the inspiration and strategy to Dora Russell and British CND women in the 50's.

Govert Van Oort (Dutch United Churches Peace Council - not specifically a unilateralist body) added to this picture. Both had referred to heartening signs in Eastern Europe, and shown that though the vast Roumanian demo was officially organised, the fact that it was severely critical of Russia, gave considerable promise to the non-aligned Peace Movement, but it was when Zbina Tominova (of charter 77) spoke that this point was fully made.

She remarked that when she came to Britain - a little over a year ago - not only was the ND movement in the West far smaller; but that it was inconceivable that movements of civil libertarians in the stalinist countries (such as charter 77) would have supported Western unilateral disarmament. Things there, as here, have changed; there is a growing understanding, manifested in Czechoslovakia by the fact that a major part of Charter 77 has now endorsed END, amongst libertarians in Central and Eastern Europe that the issues of peace and freedom are inseparable and that their movement and ours are natural allies; that their former illusions in Western powers were baseless.

Edward Thompson showed how from the inception of the Cold War the aims of Peace and Freedom have been unnaturally separated in

the minds of most people; because the West had reduced the idea of 'freedom' to an ideology, glossing over the Colonial Worlds, South Africa and elsewhere to point to the relatively greater freedom of Western Europe, to use this as campaigning propaganda against communism; while the military weaker Soviet block had similarly built a propaganda campaign on the issue of Peace. Only now was a movement arising combining the two aims and inevitably in conflict with the emasculated calls for peace or freedom without the other.

The whole tone of this, as other speeches rang with hope, even to one old enough to remember G.D.H. Cole presenting the same analysis and the same hope thirty years ago.

There were questions on:-

The extent European people invited the cruise, whether CND should take a position on the EEC, Financiers and the bomb, direct action, and tax refusal, how to prevent C.N.D. dying away as it did last time.

These led to interesting additional statements whether the actual questions were answered or could have been.

Diary

TANG WISHES ALL A
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

22nd Dec. Carol Singing in aid of TANG and Malinslee Childrens centre. 7pm outside St. Leonard's Church, Malinslee.

23rd Dec. Carol Singing around Dawley, meet at 7pm at Dawley Christian Centre.

Please note that TANG will not be meeting at Malinslee on Thursday the 24th December and on Thursday 31st December.

Next meeting on Thursday 6th January 1982

JUMBLE SALE

Wellington Scout Hut (by All Saints Church)
Sat. 30th. January 1982 10.30 am.

The Nuclear Question - Course.

An eight week evening course run jointly by the Telford branch of the WEA, and Telford CND. It will look at the many questions raised by the Nuclear debate and attempt to answer some of them by way of open discussions lead, in each, session by an invited speaker with particular knowledge of the area under discussion. With an open debate coming at the end of the course.

The course is FREE to any one who wants to attend. It will be held at; The Madeley Centre for the Unemployed, Madeley, on Thursday 28th January 1982. and for a further 7 Thursdays at 7.45pm.

JAN 28th HISTORY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The development of weapons of mass destruction and the categories and types of weapons which exist.

FEB 4th ARMS RACE East/West detente from a military and political perspective with an emphasis on the West's view of the Soviet Union

FEB 11th CIVIL DEFENCE Is civil defence against attack a futile exercise and are we being deceived by government publications?

FEB 18th EFFECTS OF ATOMIC WARFARE The physical and psychological effects on individuals and the damage to the community, environment and social fabric.

FEB 25th THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUCLEAR POWER AND THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS Is it possible to develop atomic power as a peaceful energy source or is there an integral link between the production of weapons and nuclear power.

MARCH 4th ARMS TRADE AND MUNITIONS WORK Does the bomb support employment and what happens if we disarm those who work in the armaments industry?

MARCH 11th PROTEST STRATEGIES Can a nuclear free zone be achieved in Europe? How can people become involved?

MARCH 18th THE OPEN DEBATE A wide ranging debate and discussion on the issues covered during the whole course. With speakers for and against.

If you wish to attend the course then please complete the form below and return it to: WEA office Dawley Information Centre, High St. Dawley.

Please reserve me a place on the course

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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During the WEA course our monthly meetings will be for business and will be held at 126 Withywood Drive, Malinslee at 7.30 pm. on the 1st. Tuesday of the month.

People before Parties.

One reason why CND is not - and cannot afford to become too much identified with any political party is demonstrated by the case of Peter Tatchell. Tatchell, an Australian conscientious objector to the Vietnam war, has been nominated by Bermondsey Labour Party to be prospective Parliamentary candidate. However, Michael Foot and the sub committee of the NEC object to an article he wrote advocating that Labour put more emphasis on demonstrations such as CND's and less on Parliamentary debates, since only when this majority intervene in politics can major reforms be won. Experience has shown that promises, whether to disarm or what, are most apt to be fulfilled when parliaments memory is jogged by demos, and experience of the Vietnam war underlines this. If views such as Tatchell's have to be suppressed, C.N.D.'s would obviously equally be!

Stop Press: Poland.

Since most of this issue of Chain Reaction was written, there has been, as everyone will know, a military coup in Poland (glossed over by the fact that its leader was already prime minister) as an attack on Solidarity. While those who support the Bomb accuse us of ignoring the evils of stalinism, and not being prepared to help Polish and other dissidents, it is clear that precisely because we have the Bomb there is nothing we can do to help the Polish people. This is why the Government has rushed to declare its belief in non-intervention. It is not for nothing that Polish Solidarity had voted its support for the END policy of a nuclear-free Europe; and that - as shown in the report of the END meeting on the 11th. Dec. - a significant section of Charter 77 in Czechoslovakia, has also so done. We echo Edward Thompson's thesis that the aims of peace and freedom are indivisible, and inevitably conflict with those who use either slogan as an ideological weapon against the other.

Due to lack of space in this issue, we are holding over the reports on our visit to the Shropshire Civil Defence H.Q., and Jim Garrison's talk last month, to the February issue.