

MARCH 1982.

CHAIR PEACE

N° 16

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI - NUCLEAR GROUP

SHROPSHIRE PEACE ALLIANCE

Thirty people attended the meeting on Saturday January 30th at Dawley Christia Centre. The main item on the agenda was the discussion of the value of local authorities declaring a Nuclear Free Zone. The obvious value of developing education on disarmament throughout schools and in a more general way, libraries, meetings and displays with full support of the local authorities. It offers opportunities to place disarmament as an issue into the mainstream of local political life and activity.

It was agreed to press Shropshire County Councillors to support the proposition that Shropshire should become a NFZ and to produce information for each councillor. Also to lobby at the County Council meetings in May, also to organise a petition to be presented on the same day.

The meeting also discussed plans for Peace week - April 4th-10th and agreed to develop an activity on a County basis supported by the Shropshire Peace groups. More details later on.

Next meeting of the alliance is in Shrewsbury at the Liberal club on Saturday afternoon, March 6th. Anyone is welcome.

A Call for Disarmament.

According to a Guardian report dated February 10th 1982, an unofficial peace movement is gaining strength in East Germany. Two hundred East Germans including clerics have signed a call for disarmament. The Berlin appeal as it is called, calls for the dismantling of nuclear weapons and for the withdrawal of foreign armies from East and West Germany. The church also demands for an alternative to military service for young men and an end to pre-military training of school children.

ANTI-CRUISE PICKETS WILL STAY

Despite instructions from Newbury District Council by leave by February 3rd the Womens Peace Camp is still outside the main gate of Greenham Common Cruise missile base. The women are now preparing to fight against eviction in the courts. Laws about common land are many and confusing, so it is not at all certain the the peace camp is illegal. One act even forbids the discharge of missiles on common land! Legal wrangles are likely to take at least two months. Passive resistance is planned if the police and baliffs come.

Complaints about the council's intention to evict should be sent to Brian Thetford, Chief Executive, Newbury District Council, Cheap St., Newbury, Berks. The women want to maintain as large a presence as possible at the camp while eviction is threatened, but they do not want men actually living there in case the council claims they are using violent resistance. Everyone is welcome to participate in the peace camp activities, which include festivities on March 21st (mothers day), when there will be events at the bases six gates.

In the evening the women will blockade each gate. Contact R.A.F. Greenham Common, Nr. Newbury, Berkshire. Tel. 0635 27541. People wanting to join a TANG contingent going to the festival should phone Micheal Davies, Telford 3947.

The chief argument of the opponents of CND lies in the claims that the bomb deters aggression and without it we would be subjected to foreign occupation.

An argument that is shown to be facile and superficial not merely by the almost continuous wars that have seen the world since 1945, but by the many instances throughout the world - on both sides of the Iron Curtain - of the big powers maintaining puppet regimes.

It needs little demonstration to show that the major threat to any country's freedom comes from its own armed forces. Military despotisms are common throughout the world, and though countries such as Greece, Spain and Portugal have in the last decade regained democracy, the military threat remains.

It is therefore of considerable interest to CND that at this moment the most well known world political events in both East and West are struggles against such puppet military regimes.

The newly imposed Polish military Dictatorship, and the struggles of Solidarnosc to resist it; is matched by the continuing efforts of the people of El Salvador to attain democracy. Two years ago, in an effort of the military regime in latter a new image, a new set of 'reforming' military men were brought into the government but no real differences were made and attacks on any democrat - by no means necessarily socialist - by the National Guard continues.

Thus though it is not directly an issue covered by TANG, chain reaction advertised the first meeting of the local branch of the Polish Solidarity Campaign - the organisation over here that tries most clearly to reproduce Solidarnosc's views, and does not (like Reagan and Thatcher) only support Tui: in other countries - and welcomes the efforts to set up local groups.

Peace Tax Campaign

A new campaign is being launched aimed at obtaining for everyone the legal right to divert the proportion of their personal tax payments which would go to Military spending, to a new peace fund.

The peace tax campaign, which urges that people should have the right to opt out, on grounds of conscience of paying for armaments and military preparations has appealed to religious, Trade union, Humanitarian and political organisations for support.

The letter has already been signed by David Mubb, conservative MP for Falmouth, Joan Lester, Labour MP for Eton and Slough, William Pitt, Liberal MP for Croydon North, Jack Jones former trade union leader, James Cameron the Journalist, the Rt. Rev Victor Guazzelli RC Bishop in East London, Dr. John Robinson the former Bishop of Woolwich and Kenneth Greet, former President of the Methodist Conference.

Address to write:- Peace Tax Campaign, 26 Thurlow Road, Leicester, LE2 1YE.

DIARY

- MARCH 4th - 7.45pm. The Arms trade and munitions work Jim Sanders. At the Madeley Centre for the unemployed.
- MARCH 6th - (Saturday) Shropshire Peace Alliance meeting at the Liberal Club, Shrewsbury, 2pm.
- MARCH 11th- 7.45pm. WEA/TANG Course Protest Strategies - speakers from TANG.
- MARCH 18th- WEA/TANG Course - open debate followed by a social 7.45pm.
- MARCH 21st- Greenham Common Peace Camp festival. People wanting to join TANG contingent going to festival please contact Micheal Davies Telford 3947

Telford Anti Nuclear Group
Secretary - David Smith
23 Telford Rd., Dawley.



Membership Secretary- Mark Stokes
Hill Top Garage, Dawley Rd., Wellington.
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June 6th.

National Demonstration
Greenham Common