

June 82

CHALIT PEACEBOUR

NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP.

SPONSORED Cycle Ride

Three members of TANG have been in training for the cycle ride to London. The event has been organized to coincide with the CND national demonstration on June 6th. & will, we hope, raise at least £200 for the group funds.

It has however turned out to be not only an important way of raising funds but a method of attracting public attention through the coverage in the local press. Members of the group have been provided with a means to approach others to support the campaign.

Three overnight stops have been arranged along the route to London. This obviously is an encouraging aspect to the ride. Meeting other people involved in CND & finding out from groups in Evesham & Oxford about their activities & organization.

For the future it may provide links through personal contact from one group to another & from this possible coordination for particular events.

The new WAR GAME - your chance to be a star.

At a meeting in Shrewsbury on May 21st., Peter Watkins, the Director of the War Game outlined plans for a new film which he is currently making. This film will be a follow up to the War Game, (which was banned by the BBC under pressure from the government.) Four scenes will be shot on location in Shropshire. TANG, in conjunction with other local peace groups will be instrumental in scripting, planning, casting, acting - indeed everything except filming - these four scenes.

We need help from all sympathizers & supporters of CND. This new film will be a major step forward for the anti-nuclear weapons campaign in this country. Central Television are providing finance & facilities for all the behind camera operations - the British Peace Movement is doing the rest. We will receive the benefits not only in the impact that the film will have upon audiences, but in financial terms. All proceeds will come back into the peace movement.

FALKLANDS

Governments - all governments - have, since time immemorial, tended to use the enemy at the gates to distract attention from discontent at home.

Those governments that have shewn themselves particularly callous in disregarding the needs of their own citizenry have been especially prone to this.

Governments which are prepared to spend enormous sums to enforce law & order against civil disturbance, but are not prepared to spend the lesser sums needed to tackle the causes of that disturbance are equally those governments with so little care for human sufferings that they do not jib at embarking on needless wars in order to bolster their otherwise flagging popularity.

The regime in the Argentine was - prior to the invasion of the Falklands - being rocked by massive demonstrations; while at the same time the Tories were widely expected to lose massively in the local elections in Britain.

The Galtieri regime now has almost unanimous support, (very vocal & demonstrative) of the Argentines; & the Sun openly boasts that Thatcher's response in sending the Task Force is responsible for the fantastic recovery of Tory fortunes at the Polls.

Therefore in addition to being suspicious of the bona fides of those who yesterday justified the sale of arms to the Argentine & now - as if they'd made a discovery - proclaim that country to be fascist & expect those of us who were aware of this before to suspend judgement in consequence. There are other grounds for suspicion.

If we held the conspiracy theory of history we would see a prime facie case that Galtieri's Junta & the Thatcher Government cynically regarding the cost in human lives, & eager to prolong the power of their own discredited governments colluded. That the invasion was previously agreed as a way of stirring up jingoism in each country & a way of describing all dissent or even questioning as unpatriotic.

We need:-

Actors: babies, old age pensioners, children, dogs, everyone - for a major refugee scene.

Helpers: for make-up, costumes, sets - anyone with an interest or skill.

There will be a meeting in Shrewsbury on July 9th. Anyone who wishes to take part must attend. Filming will take place in the week 16th. August.

For further information, contact:-
Barbara Lamplugh Telford 882225
or Simon Taylor " 580500

Make sure YOU up-stage that second rate actor, Ronald Reagan & his co-star, Margaret Thatcher.

ACT NOW.

US Civil Defence plan

The evacuation of the civil population of high risk areas in the event of a potential nuclear strike is not a new idea, for both Britain & the United States toyed with the idea a few years ago, as a part of their civil defence programmes. In the Soviet Union such schemes are still part of the civil-preparedness plans.

The Reagan administration has now resurrected the idea with the help of 4.2 billion dollars. This seems a rather strange move to make, seeing that the Office of Technology Assessment, who did a special study of the effects of nuclear war for the Government were highly critical of such plans.

There are many reasons for their scepticism of crisis relocation:-

- (1) an adequate time must be given before an attack for evacuation to take place. This cannot be guaranteed.
- (2) the organization & transportation of people to relocation areas is a massive undertaking which could lead to tragic congestion, panic & perhaps bloodshed.
- (3) the build-up of evacuees in relocation zones could result in chronic food shortages, poor medical care, bad sanitation & hygiene, disease & the general break down in law & order.
- (4) to provide adequate shelter for the thousands of incoming people would be

However one does not need to believe in conspiracy to explain events. Governments do not need to conspire together. Those who wield such power - particularly those who wield it in that callous way - tend to think in the same way. Both Thatcher & Galtieri will have known that the other would welcome the chance to win easy support in this way; & both pursued a course of action designed to give the other the chance.

The immediate occasion of the invasion was the hurt to Argentine pride when a group of scrap dealers were unceremoniously expelled (they had raised a flag at their encampment).

The Guardian (May 17, page 2) had an interview with the head of the company. He had had a contract from the British Government, & permits to enter, dating back from 1979, & was subsequently given ratification. He showed permits to the reporter.

Even assuming - as the Guardian does - that only Government inefficiency caused the expulsion, it does not say much for Thatcher's war.

Arms ordered by/already supplied to the Argentine from Britain, taken from CAAT factsheet 32, (5 Caledonian rd., London N.1.)

Ships: 1 aircraft carrier
6 coastal minesweepers
9 (or 10) frigates

missiles: Seacat
12 Sea Dart
20 Tigercat
72 Sea Wolf

8 Lynx helicopters, plus numerous spare parts for all sorts of weapons & 100 machine guns.

the main other suppliers are France, the USA & W. Germany.

Lord Carrington replied to Mrs Rowland-Hughes of Llangollen, when she protested about this trade on March 1st.:

"A refusal to sell defence equipment in appropriate circumstances would be to leave ourselves open to the charge of discrimination against less industrialized countries & of ignoring their legitimate security interests."

US civil defence - cont'd

an impossible task. This would leave them vulnerable to heavy drifting fall-out from nearby ICBM targets.

- (5) A simple retargetting of a country's missiles means relocated populations could be new targets.
- (6) Crisis-relocation could increase the perceived threat of nuclear war & this might artificially precipitate the crisis.

As far as Britain was concerned evacuation plans for city populations were dropped & in their place the Protect & Survive "stay at home" advice was given (or should I say enforced). It dictates that no authority would shelter or feed people who had abandoned their homes.

The conclusion we must draw from both plans is that there can be no such thing as defence against nuclear attack for the civilian population, in the event of such an attack millions would die from direct blast, fire & radiation, while others would live on to suffer the more horrific long term effects. We must oppose the civil defence confidence trick; - now.

CONTACT POINTS:

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"Customers for British arms include communist & capitalist countries, military dictatorships, & even states which may end up using the arms against each other.

"Many unsavoury regimes get political support by buying British weapons, while people live in desperate poverty. Over two-thirds of British arms trade is to the Third World."

taken from the CAAT leaflet calling for a closure of the defence sales organization.

Greenham Common

Four members of the Peace Picket at Greenham Common were arrested as bull-dozers moved in to clear the site on May 27th.

A local county councillor deplored the "Argentinian methods" used.

TANG has not as Chain Reaction is prepared any further details but Mike Davies (Telford 3947) keeps in touch.

Diary

10TH June - T.A.N.G. business meeting 7.30, Dawley Info centre.

24TH June. T.A.N.G. Chain Reaction meeting 7.30 Dawley Information Centre.

8TH July - T.A.N.G. business meeting Dawley Information centre 7.30

10TH July - Peace Day Shrewsbury.

16-18 July - Christian Peace Conference - For more information contact

Dave Smith.