

NOV 1982

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CHAIN REACTION

No 23

Looking back on '82.

During the past twelve months the group has been involved in various events and activities which have enabled us to develop the campaign for nuclear disarmament in the Telford area. TANG has been in the forefront of the Shropshire Peace Alliance and in the campaign for a Nuclear Free Zone in Shropshire.

Obviously organising a campaign in an area of high unemployment, shortage of money and poor public transport presents us with particular problems. By developing groups in different localities it may be possible to overcome some of these and to involve more activists.

The New Year presents us with an opportunity to encourage discussion about unemployment and arms production - attempting to raise the debate and the awareness of the need to develop realistic alternatives to the arms industry. Alongside this we must increase our links with Trade Unions in this area, particularly in respect of COD Donnington.

FINANCES!!!!!!

From a position of owing £350 at the inaugural meeting of TANG in November 1981, the group will reach a position of break-even by the 1982 AGM. This recovery was due largely to the efforts of Paul, Maria and Simon on a sponsored bike ride and those who raised the sponsorship money. However to consistently finance the group it is vital that funds be raised regularly. Recruiting new members will be vital not only to the task of broadening the campaign but also to the task of financing our work.

B - CND gets off the ground

The new Broseley group, formed after the showing of the 'War Game', has decided against the rather apt acronym B.A.N.G. and will be known instead as Broseley CND. TANG's aims and tactics were discussed and as opinion was divided on the issue of nuclear power, it was resolved to concentrate campaigning against the siting of nuclear weapons - hence the name. TANG's list of aims was amended accordingly, to form the BCND manifesto. A letter is being sent to all local organisations, churches, political parties, prominent individuals (?!) etc asking for support for the group.

Future plans include a fund raising party on November 20th at 8 pm at 42 Church St. Broseley (Tickets at £2.00 including food and drink), staging of the Hard Luch exhibition in the town with leafleting in the High st., making a banner and preparing a tape/slide show on the Bomb.

BCND is not confined to Broseley. Those from surrounding areas of Ironbridge, Coalport, Jackfield etc are welcome any time.

Contact Barbara Lamplugh
Tel. 882225.

DATES

- 6 November - Bonfire Night.
Burn Trident & Cruise at the Incline, Coalport. from 4pm.
- 9 November TANG Business meeting Dawley Info Centre 7.30 pm.
- 15 November TANG AGM (see details)
- 16 November 'How we Stop the Bomb' a talk by Pete Bins for Telford SWP. Madley Peoples Centre. 7.30pm.
- 23 November TANG Chain Reaction Meeting. Dawley Info Centre. 7.30pm.

Planning for '83.

Next year will be crucial for the Peace movement in this country. At the end of 1983 NATO plans to deploy cruise missiles at Greenham Common. Before then, it is likely that a General Election will be called - and it is possible that one major party will be committed to a policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Clearly TANG cannot make detailed plans for 1983 yet. But we do need to know your views about next year's strategy. So at the AGM there will be the chance to discuss, and vote on a number of possible actions. Here are three suggestions:

1. If the scheme is given the go-ahead, TANG should help with the 'Ballot for Survival'. This would be a door to door canvass aiming to record the opinions of a significant percentage of the electorate on CND's main campaigning issue - the rejection of Cruise, Trident, and American nuclear bases: plus the adoption of a non-nuclear defense policy. This would impress the importance of CND on politicians before the General Election

2. During an election campaign TANG should maintain a non-party stance, but should stress the importance of 'voting for survival' in a mass campaign. We should secure and publicize pledges on key issues from individual candidates. A 'vote against the bomb' should make itself heard at election events.

3. TANG should support non-violent direct action and demonstrations organised by CND at major nuclear installations, eg symbolic blockades of Greenham Common and Aldermaston, to show that CND could mount a mass civil disobedience campaign in the event of cruise missiles being installed. TANG should aim to provide several trained participants to the West Midlands contingent, and arrange transport facilities to and from the bases.

All these suggestions are in line with the CND Project Committees' ideas as outlined in a recent discussion document. But it is not necessary to accept them.

It is equally possible that CND's annual conference on November 26th-28th will reject these, and support instead a programme of large-scale direct action or support of the Labour Party.

continued.....

Whatever happens, TANG's strategy must reflect the views of its own supporters. The AGM will be held on 15 November.

TANG AGM - Agenda.

8.00 pm Elephant & Castle,
Dawley. 15th november.

1. General Annual Report.
2. Treasurer's report.
3. Local group reports, plus a discussion on group organisation.
4. A Way Ahead for 1983.
5. Election of officers.

this will be followed by a social.

Please come along - it is vital that as many representatives as possible contribute, especially those from our new local groups.

p.s. We can have a good time too!
Have a laugh
Before you go!

Shifnal Peace Group.

In September TANG brought the 'War Game' to the 'Union' pub in Shifnal. There was an enthusiastic response, and since then the Shifnal Peace Group has met twice: the first time to establish the group and to elect unofficial officials, and a second meeting to listen to Dave Smith of TANG and Hilary Cheval from the Bridg north Peace group who spoke on the history of the peace movement during the last two years and what was happening in local groups. Because few of us have much knowledge of the ways in which a peace group expresses its aims, we found these talks helpful and stimulating. Our project at present is not only to raise money but to get to know each other, and to get to know others in Shifnal who are interested in our aims by arranging a disco.

TANG has a stall on December 4th at the Phoenix Christmas Fayre - we need cakes to sell on that date. Please bring gifts to the AGM.