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# Cruise Reaction

No. 25

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP

## Tories against Cruise!

The opinion polls are showing a steady increase in the numbers of people against Nuclear Weapons as a whole, as well as against Cruise and Trident.

Since last year the number of people in favour of Britain giving up all Nuclear Weapons has increased from a quarter to a third.

Those against Cruise and Trident are now a clear majority of the population, having increased from just over 40% last year to just under 60% now.

This increasing trend is shown right across the political spectrum. There are even 39% of Conservative voters against Cruise now.

(All information from published Gallup and Marplan polls).

Use these facts whenever you can.

## Alliance Report

There are now thirteen peace groups in Shropshire. Representatives of five of those groups attended the meeting and discussed the national conference in Sheffield. Encouraging reports from groups with ideas for 1983 activities was followed by agreement on the structure of the Alliance:-

- Quarterly meetings.
- Newsletter (Whats on column)
- Shropshire speaker. Lists to be compiled.
- Telford to be responsible for finance.
- Elections of the following positions were agreed:-
- Allan Day (Shrewsbury) regional executive
- Allan Tucker (Oswestry) national council
- Paul Wolfe (Telford) Shropshire co-ordinator.

## C.N.D. conference

A coherent and credible set of proposals to prevent the installation of cruise missiles was adopted at the C.N.D. conference in Sheffield. It was decided that C.N.D. supported the use of non-violent direct action; against the missile bases, and the National C.N.D. would co-ordinate such action when necessary. The next major C.N.D. action is due at Easter. There will be direct action at Greenham Common led by women, followed by a march from Greenham to Aldermaston, the nuclear installation which is to produce warheads for Trident. There will be a simultaneous demonstration against Trident in Glasgow. The C.N.D. Projects Committee has recommended that local groups organise direct actions from Easter onwards to increase pressure on government. National C.N.D. has organised a non-violent direct action training network, and a legal aid fund to help those arrested will probably be set up.

Conference recognised the need to also involve those who do not want to overstep the law. A "Peace Canvass 83" scheme was approved. This is a slightly modified form of the earlier "Ballot For Survival" designed to take C.N.D.'s message to the people on their doorsteps. However 'Peace Canvass '83' was only approved after heated debate and a card vote. A meeting of C.N.D.'s South-East region had unanimously rejected the 'Ballot for Survival' Another proposal adopted was the 'Greenham Pledge' a campaign to get people to take part in C.N.D. mass picketing at the missile base. The conference backed a Labour Party/T.U.C. day of action but, despite one speaker's forceful demands that C.N.D. should 'fall into line behind Labours' conference insisted the day should be open to participation by other political parties, churches and organisations. There will also be the traditional C.N.D. demonstration in London, provisionally scheduled for October 22nd.

# Conference report continued . . . . .

The basic plan that emerged for 1983 is to create a steadily escalating program of protest, expressed through the peace canvass petition, demonstrations, pickets, industrial action and civil disobedience, which will make any government that is elected afraid to go ahead with Cruise or Trident. The new C.N.D. National Council which includes E.P. Thompson, Pat Arrowsmith and Helen John, Simone Wilkinson, Fran De'ath, Jo Nockles and Sue Lamb from the peace camps seems very well qualified to lead the campaign to victory.

## Greenham Common

Two coaches from Telford went to Greenham on Dec 12th and joined the 30,000 strong demonstration encircling the U.S. base - a hands around Cruise, following the 'hands around the Wrekin'. Over 100 people on two coaches from Telford area attended the spectacular Greenham Common demonstration on Dec. 12th. Women joined the human chain encircling the U.S. base while the men offered support including running the creche. The emphasis of this particular demonstration encouraged women to participate who would perhaps not normally attend. The atmosphere of harmony and commitment has served to encourage us in developing the campaign in the new year.

TAKE THE  
TOYS FROM THE  
BOYS!



- Tuesday 11th Jan. : T.A.N.G. meeting:  
1983 Programme Dawley  
Info. Centre. 7.30
- Friday 14th Jan. : Shifnal Peace Group:  
Disco at Shifnal Village  
Hall.
- Saturday 15th Jan. : Drt. Lynne Jones speaking  
on Medical Effects of Nuclear  
War. Union pub. Shifnal;
- Tuesday 25th Jan. : Chain Reaction, production:  
20 Calcutt Community Centre  
Stirchley 7.30.p.m.

# Welfare not Warfare

The last issue of 'Chain Reaction' included a heading saying "Support the Health Workers- Scrap Nuclear Weapons", and it is important that the the peace movement makes such links between arms expenditure and the way vital services are starved of funds. Every day we see on the news where ordinary people, local councils and public services are asked to tighten their belts because of 'lack of money' and at the same time we see more and more being spent on the war machine. However, much of the peace movement often fails to make these links, possibly because it is afraid of being "too political and alienating some supporters. But we are surely losing far more support by not making those links.

Every person who is unemployed is a potential C.N.D. supporter, because the issue of unemployment is directly linked with the issue of warfare. Workers who are told to take a cut in their wages are also potential C.N.D. supporters because our society sees it as more important to make war than to give people a decent living. But because we so often fail to show the links clearly the people most affected by the situation - the unemployed, the homeless, workers on low wages etc. - often look to other ideas such as racism and nationalism to explain their troubles.

The C.N.D. National Conference decided to organise a Labour/T.U.C. day of action next year and back industrial action in support of C.N.D. But this is not enough, if we expect trade unionists to support C.N.D., then we must be prepared to support trade unionists in their struggles. When people are on strike, we should support them by taking our banners to their picket lines and leafleting about the economics of nuclear weapons and war.

Every time people fight for a better standard of living, it is a C.N.D. issue and we should treat it as such by giving them our full support.

David Smith (Personal Capacity)

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