

CHALLENGE REACTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI - NUCLEAR GROUP.

The Arms Race on and on

The U.S. Air Force has halved its order for air-launched Cruise missiles and is stopping all production in 1985. This is because the Soviet early warning aircraft now can spot the slow-flying cruise missiles soon enough to enable them to be destroyed in flight (presumably the missiles will still explode!?)

The implication is that the ground-launched cruise missiles due to come to Britain later this year will also be phased out in due course. But with one development in military technology comes another. In place of Cruise is being developed (in the U.S.A.) the radar-"invisible" Stealth system. How this actually works (and if it works) is secret, but the technology could doubtless be applied to the principle of cruise missiles.

Then the Soviets will probably develop a further weapons system to try to counteract this new one. And so we go onand on.....and on.....

Coaches to Greenham Common

The next mass demonstrations at Greenham Common will be at the Easter Weekend. It should make a substantial increase on the 30,000 who take part in December. It is not limited to women.

There will be a Non-Violent blockade on Maunday Thursday at Burghfield Ordnance Gactory (about three miles from Greenham) and a mass demo on Good Friday when it is intended to have a Peace Chain linking Greenham Common (Air Force base and missile site) Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Establishment) and Burghfield (whose Ordnance Factory makes Nuclear warheads)

continued

Telford Anti Nuclear Group is taking coaches down for the Friday demo (so far two are booked) but if enough wish to come we may book more) cost £3.50 (£3.00 unwaged) Phone Laurens Otter Telford 54728 to book.

Picking up times Wellington Cock Hotel 8.50

Dawley Lord Hill and Oakengates by -pass Greyhound Round-about 9.00

Stirchley - Brookside Roundabout 9.05 Madeley (Centre) and Shifnal (Library) 9.15;

Iron Bridge (Robin Hood) 9.20; Broseley (Centre) 9.30.

Folk Concert

A concert has been arranged and the singers have kindly agreed to perform free of charge. The event has been organised to raise money to subsidise the coaches to Greenham Common on the 1st April (Good Friday). The funds raised will enable TANG to keep the charge for unwaged people as low as possible. Come along and bring your friends and a tin of food for the camp.

BENEFIT FOLK CONCERT

PRICE £3

GREENHAM COMMON PEACE CAMP.
TUES . 1ST MARCH . 8.30 p.m
MALT HOUSE - IRONBRIDGE

An underground 'radio communications centre' on top of Grinshill Hill now appears to be nearing completion. The most impressive visible feature of the installation is a two metre square concrete slab with a metal access hatch in the top and the air intake of an audibly working ventilation plant set in one side. Nearby are three more metal hatches. A pole carrying a red light and other electrical hardware is also on the site.

The local R.A.F. base at Shawbury have admitted the centre belongs to them. Their explanation is that Grinshill Hill casts a radio shadow, impairing communications with aircraft. The radio communications centre will overcome this. It is underground, they say for environmental reasons.

Now it has to be noted that Grinshill Hill has been near Shawbury for quite a long time. Why did the R.A.F. put up the radio shadow until the 1980's? Perhaps their environmental scruples held them back from putting a radio relay on Grinshill Hill before that.

However another explanation of the communications centre is possible. We have received a report that the Western District Military H.Q. at Shrewsbury would move to Shawbury before a nuclear war, sharing an Armed Forces H.Q. with the R.A.F.

This would be the AFHQ for Home Defence Region 9 (West Midlands). Such military bolt-holes need good communication links. Shawbury is 2 miles from a British Telecom Microwave tower. The tower was built as a 'spur' on the 'Backbone' microwave system which was constructed from the mid 1950's onwards to provide telecommunication in an atomic war. As Duncan Campbell revealed in his recent book 'War Plan U.K.' the tower is at one end of a remarkable British Telecom cable which goes to Cowyn Bay, passing an underground tunnel complex at Rhydymwyn earmarked as a special site for wartime central government. From Colwyn Bay the cable goes underwater to Heysham and Lancaster, thus bypassing the Liverpool/Manchester area which would be devastated in nuclear war.

The military are dissatisfied with existing war time communications arrangements.

A VHF radio network called Mould is being built in 1982-3 at the cost of £7 million for the benefit of AFHQ's. Is the Grinshill Hill Installation anything to do with this? In the absence of convincing evidence to the contrary peace movement activists are considering further (Non-violent) action.

Trade Union C.N.D.

For too long TANG has not been effective in the Trade Union Movement. In Telford we hope to rectify this later in the month. A meeting is being arranged and a letter circulated to as many trade unionists as possible to discuss ways of supporting the campaign for nuclear disarmament in the Telford area through local trade union branches and work places.

One of the most important aspects will be a discussion of alternatives to the armaments industry. The meeting takes place on Monday 21st March 7.45p.m. at the Forrester's Arms, Union St., Hadley. We hope that as many trade unionists as possible will attend.

For more information contact:-

Paul Wolfe Tel. 501218

Peter Templeton Tel. 503020

There is now a Wellington C.N.D. group - Wellington Anti Nuclear Group. The founding meeting was held on the 18th February at 130 Watling St., Wellington. The next meeting at the same place (7.30p.m.) on the 16th March

The peace camp at Greenham is being evicted and is in need of assistance - they require blankets and sleeping bags. Any offers please contact a member of T.A.N.G.

Diary

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| March 1st. | Shropshire Alliance meeting
College Hill House. 7.45p.m. |
| March 1st. | Folk Concert. Malt House
Ironbridge 8.30p.m. |
| March 8th. | TANG meeting
Dawley Info. Centre 7.30 |
| March 12th. | Non-Violent Direct Action
Training Day - Berrington
Hall Crosshouses Nr.
Shrewsbury. Tel. Shrews.64157 |
| March 18th | Public meeting Mike Pentz
Main Hall, Shrewsbury Tech.
London Rd. 8.00p.m. |
| March 21st. | Trade Union meeting Forrester's
Arms, Union St, Hadley. 7.45p.m. |
| March 22nd. | Chain Reaction 7.30p.m. 20 Calcott
Stirchley. |
| April 1st | Coaches to Greenham Common.
Contact L.Otter. Tel.54728 |