

CHAZZ REACTION

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No 29

MAY 1983.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUPS.

Alliance Report.

Reports were heard from representatives of the nine groups present. Most of the groups had been involved in the Easter activities at Greenham and seven coaches organised with within the county.

Most of the groups were making plans for a general election - contacting the candidates and making arrangements for public meetings. A short discussion took place about the Freeze campaign which Shrewsbury had proposed to the C.N.D. national council. It had been passed. It was agreed to discuss more fully the concept of a Freeze campaign, when the views of each group could more fairly be represented. It was also agreed to discuss the structure of the alliance at the next meeting in May, date and venue to be arranged.

Nuclear-Free Wrekin Again?

One of the political party manifestos in the the Wrekin District contains a substantial number of anti-nuclear weapons proposals:

- 1) Continuation of Wrekin as a Nuclear Free Zone.
 - 2) Develop stronger relations between trade unions and Nuclear disarmament.
 - 3) Encourage local initiatives in campaigning against Cruise and Trident.
 - 4) Oppose civil defence preparations except those for dealing with natural disasters.
 - 5) Consideration of a peace memorial in the Town Centre area.
 - 6) Possible creation of a peace scholarship.
- Quite a formidable list. Guess which political party is offering it?

Local Elections Survey

TANG has been asking all the Wrekin District Council election candidates for their views on the nuclear issues. A postal questionnaire asking if candidates were for or against Cruise and Trident, if they wanted multilateral and unilateral disarmament, and whether Wrekin Council should continue to refuse to make civil defence preparations in case of nuclear war.

The replies are still coming in. One clever so-and-so sent back the unanswered form without a stamp. So far it seems that candidates in favour of having nuclear arms are not answering. Is this because they think that the pro-nuclear weapons stance is a vote loser? A press release will be issued before election day to enable the results in general to be put before the public.

Jumping for Joy.

Anyone interested in taking part in a sponsored parachute jump for Greenpeace? It will take place at Montford Bridge near Shrewsbury on the 28/29th May (although other weekends will be available) For further details or offers of sponsorship contact - Dave Hopkins Telford 502466

May Day

TANG has been involved in the planning of the celebrations in Dawley, we will be 'Cruising' down the High Street, joining in the march and Simon will be speaking at the rally. It will be an opportunity to sell literature to many sympathetic Trade Unionists and members of the Labour movement. Any help will be most welcome. contact - Paul 501218

Direct Action Training
Sunday 8TH May
Peoples Centre High Street
Dawley. 11am - 5pm.

FREEZING THE COLD WAR?

Groups around Britain are starting to argue that we should adopt the idea of a British unconditional freeze on nuclear weapons, and make this the aim of our campaigning', according to the latest issue of Shrewsbury Peace Group's newsletter. Certainly the arguments for doing this need examining.

The chief reason for adopting a freeze campaign seems to be the probability that Labour, with its stated commitment to unilateral disarmament, will not win the next election. What should the peace movement do then? Many of us would say we should have a massive determined campaign of peaceful direct action, civil disobedience and non-co-operation to make it politically impossible for first strike weapons to be based here. However according to a freeze campaign discussion document:-

"Such direct action divorced from wide public support would finish C.N.D. In the event of another five years of Tory rule, sanctioned by the electorate, it will be even more important to unite a broad base of opposition behind a realistic policy which could be widely accepted"

However I think it is clear a unilateral freeze would not, in fact, be accepted by significant numbers of conservative or Alliance M.P.s. An unconditional British freeze would involve telling NATO it could not base Cruise missiles. EF-I-II s

or any other new nuclear systems in this country. The Tories, and the Alliance's leaders, would not dream of defying the wishes of NATO. Furthermore if cruise missiles etc are brought in the Freeze campaign would presumably have to call for their removal. A Tory government would not be very sympathetic towards this request. In contrast the U.S. Freeze movement has influential supporters in both main political parties because it is only demanding America should negotiate a bi-lateral freeze with Russia.

But perhaps the Freeze campaign would get a 'broad base of support' among ordinary people. Recent opinion polls have shown a about 60% oppose Cruise, while only about 25% support unilateral disarmament. However it would be unwise to build too much on this. People oppose Cruise because they are afraid, rightly, that it increases the danger of nuclear war. But imagine the position say five years from now if cruise

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is deployed this year. Either there will have been a nuclear holocaust (which would prove first strike weapons are dangerous) or there will not, in which case those who believe in a Soviet threat and the need for 'nuclear deterrence' will have become use to having cruise as a deterrent (although they might be worried about stealth weapons, EMP bombs and whatever else the US might be planning' in response' to the new weapons Russia may have introduced 'in response' to cruise, Pershing 2 and the rest)

These are not arguments against a unilateral freeze. We need one now. But we will not get it by toning down talk of unilateral disarmament, taking around a freeze petition, trying to win over politicians who are against us on basic principles, and relying on support from people who haven't been convinced of the need for a non-nuclear defence policy.

Telford Anti Nuclear Groups:

Liaison Secretary: Dave Smith,
23 Telford rd., Dawley.

Shifnal Peace Group: Libby Foster,
49 Haughton Lane, Shifnal.

Broseley CND: Barbara Lamplugh,
35 Simpsons Lane, Broseley.

Wellington AN Co.: Mary Brickett,
130 Watling St., Wellington.

we hope to form Dawley & Madeley groups soon, contact Dave Smith.

DATES

May 1st Sun. TANG will be joining in the MayDay march-see details overleaf.

May 3rd Tues. Christian CND initial meeting. New Street Methodist Church, Wellington. 7.30 pm.

May 10th Tues. TANG meeting at Dawley Information Centre 7.30 pm.

May 8th Sun. Direct Action Training: Peoples Centre, Madeley High Street, 11am. - 5pm. All welcome. Free.

May 24th Tues. Chain Reaction production at 20 Calcott, Stirchley.

June 1st Wed. Upper Heyford Demo.