

JANUARY 1984

Chain Reaction

N° 37

NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP

CND Conference report

Time and time again at Conference, discussion on serious matters was curtailed because there was not time. Yet conference, having begun (in theory) at 9.00, took 1½ hours for lunch and adjourned at 3.30 on the Saturday. It would have been possible to have had almost twice as much time.

The two issues TANG considered all important; rejection of the Freeze and opposition to Nato were resolved the way we would wish (though unfortunately an amendment delating criticism of the Executive for not implementing a similar resolution earlier and insisting that we campaign on "Britain out of Nato - Nato out of Britain" was accepted by the movers and not referred to the floor.

However the shortage of time meant that a lot of important issues were referred to Council (which is often a way of killing resolutions), which meant that conference tended to pass platitudes, for example sympathising with the NGA, but avoiding a call to work for industrial action against the bomb.

Indeed Conference almost ran away in sheer terror from any serious attempt to form CND sympathising groups within the armed services; even though the movers disclaimed all intent to subvert those forces.

The conference was also openly deferential on the matter of the Executive's suppression of the elected committees of Labour CND and Youth CND. We are in no position to know whether the Executive's claims of undemocratic procedure within these were justified. Even if elections were rigged, why weren't new ones called? We cannot see that the imposition of non-elected committees of CND sections can be justified.

Another shock was when the treasurer announced, apparently with no mandate from Council, that CND was to raise over £2 million to pay for a new central office. Surely we have more important things to spend that sort of money on

T.A.N.G. local contacts

Secretary, 23 Telford Road, Dawley
BROSELEY- Barbara, 2225.
WELLINGTON- Laurens, 54728.
MADELEY- Peter, 587532.

Letter - Non-nuclear NATO?

Following a comment in the last Chain Reaction the promotion of the above has nothing to do with 'playing power politics'. It arises from a sense of political realism. As a lover of peace I would like nothing more than to live in a country without weapons. History (including the easily aroused emotions during the Falklands tragedy) shows this ideal state to be far off.

Grated objectives are necessary. CND's aim is first of all NUCLEAR disarmament. The present set-up of NATO is not immutable; recent debate in European countries shows there is concern at the U.S. dominance of NATO policy. The many U.S. bases are the sore thumb which CND is already spotlighting and current international behaviour by the Pentagon and the Administration doesn't increase their popularity.

I can see that for reasons of geography & Britain's bias against neutrality some kind of alliance with Northern America is probably inevitable, but it doesn't have to accept US nuclear weaponry within such an alliance. Canada is also in NATO but non-nuke, also Norway.

Sound proposals have been put forward, after study of their efficacy, for alternative defence policies. It only remains for sane governments to be persuaded to take them up.

Perhaps CND's endorsed resolution on withdrawing from NATO will have some effect, concentrating the political mind on some positive thinking. Let us hope so!

L. Horton

Chain Reaction welcomes letters such as the one above which do not necessarily agree with the policies of the group as a whole. Please try to keep letters brief and to the point and get them to Mark Stokes 16 Telford Road, Dawley before each Chain Reaction meeting.

More work on nuclear power

At the A.G.M. we resolved that we needed to campaign more on nuclear power, particularly in view of the proposal to put a P.W.R. in Ironbridge. Linked with this, we will at the next meeting be considering affiliating to Green CND and/or inviting them to send a speaker for a meeting on the issue in February.

Workers' power not
Nuclear power!

Following the discovery of radioactive seaweed on the beach and official warnings that people should keep off 25 miles of the Cumbrian coast, a mass meeting of workers at Windscale nuclear reprocessing plant unanimously declared that they had no confidence in British Nuclear Fuels who run the plant.

The declaration by 900 AUEW members whose jobs depend on the plant, is a clear indication of concern over the danger of the nuclear power industry. Windscale separates plutonium from other radioactive material and lies at the heart of the British nuclear weapons programme.

Along with the boycotting of sea-dumping of radioactive waste by the National Union of Seamen, it is clear that the trade union movement has the potential to bring the whole nuclear cycle to a standstill.

Olga Medvedkova

Anne Pettitt (the originator of the Greenham Common camp) had a letter in the Guardian (Dec. 19) announcing that Olga Medvedkova - a woman member of the Moscow Group of Trust-the-unofficial Soviet Peace Committee has just been arrested. Allegedly for injuring a policeman. Unfortunately Olga Medvedkovas address was not given - otherwise (as with the Turkish,,imprisoned, peace-activists)Christmas card support, even belated, would be the least we could send

Ann Pettitt, Women for Life
on Earth.
Llanpumsaint, Carmarthen,
Dyfed.

Diary of local events

- Tuesday, 10th Jan 7.30 TANG monthly meeting
Dawley Information Centre.
- Tuesday, 17th Jan 7.30 One World meeting
Dawley Christian Centre.
- Tuesday, 24th Jan 7.30 Chain Reaction
Dawley Information Centre.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank
Address

Raising money is always difficult, and a regular monthly income would enable T.A.N.G. to campaign more effectively.

If you feel that you could spare £1 or more it would be much appreciated. Please make standing orders forms payable to: Co-operative Bank 33 Market Street Wolverhampton. for the credit of T.A.N.G.

Please pay	BANK		BRANCH TITLE (NOT ADDRESS)		SORTING CODE NO.	
For the credit of	BENEFICIARY'S NAME				ACCOUNT NUMBER & TYPE	
The sum of	AMOUNT IN FIGURES		AMOUNT IN WORDS			
	£					
Commencing	DATE AND AMOUNT OF FIRST PAYMENT		and thereafter every	DUE DATE AND FREQUENCY		
	*now £					
*Until	DATE AND AMOUNT OF LAST PAYMENT		*Until you receive further notice from me/us in writing. and debit my/our account accordingly.			
	£					
Quoting the reference						
This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the beneficiary under this reference.						
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS						
ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED				ACCOUNT NUMBER		

Signature(s)

Date