

CHAIN REACTION

April, 1984

NEWSLETTER OF TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP

Christian Peace Pilgrimage

Holy Week and Easter are at the heart of the Christian year. Through the cross and resurrection God redeems the world, breaks the chains of fear and evil. The Easter message has great relevance for our world today, caught in the grip of the nuclear arms race. This Easter a peace pilgrimage and peace camp have been jointly organised by several Christian peace organisations. Those taking part will pray and witness together for peace at a number of places in Southern England where there is active preparation for nuclear war.

The pilgrimage will start at Greenham Common base on palm Sunday, 15th April and continue throughout Easter week visiting bases such as USAF Baws Hill (Cruise control centre), RAF Molesworth, USAF Alconbury (intelligence centre), USAF Mildenhall and USAF Lakenheath, where it will finish on the 23rd April with a march and celebration from Mildenhall to Lakenheath (it is hoped that many more people will join at this point).

Pilgrims will travel by foot and peace bus and accomodation will be in church halls (bringing sleeping bags and air mattresses). For further information contact, Christian CND, 11 Goodwin Street, London, N4 3HQ.

Coping with nuclear casualties

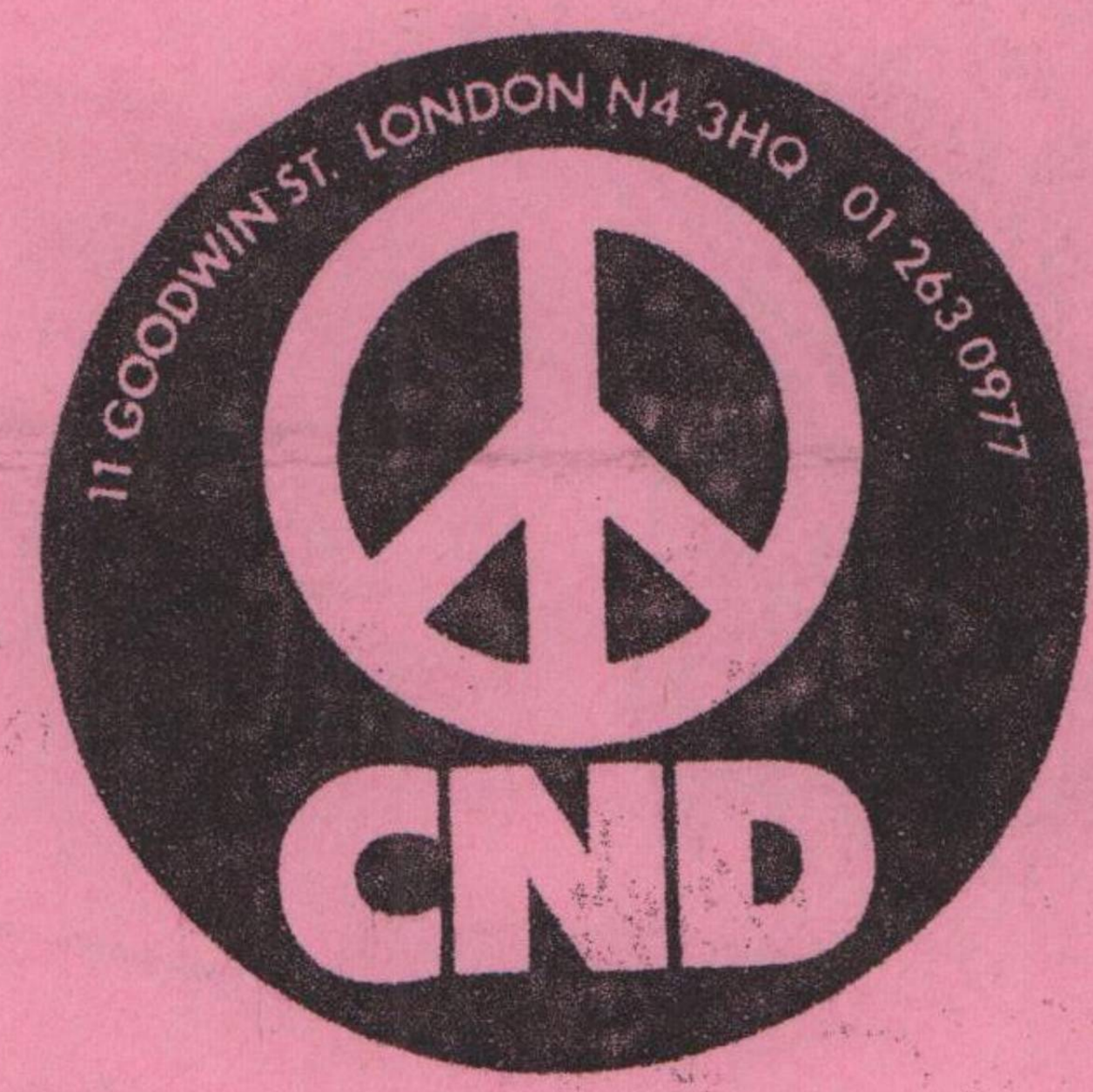
No health service in the world would be capable of dealing with the casualties of a single one-megaton nuclear bomb according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report.

This follows the British Medical Association report in 1982 which said that the British medical resources could not cope with one nuclear bomb.

The WHO report was compiled by an international committee including doctors from Britain, USA and USSR. They concluded: "it is not for the committee to say how the threat (of nuclear weapons) can be removed, but mankind cannot be secure until that is done."

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week, 14-19 May, will soon offer us the opportunity to help others less fortunate than ourselves. This year, the theme of the week is 'good works', concentrating our minds on the good works of Christian Aid. Anyone who wishes to offer their time and energies, however little or great, or to accept posters, car stickers, please contact your local church or Robert Saunders, 24 Gladstone House, High Street, Hadley. Works tel 44321 Ext. 340.



Fuel for the arms race

Britain does help the USA to make American nuclear weapons by exporting specially made plutonium. This admission by the USA's Energy Secretary was made last week. It follows denials by Britain over a number of years that this had taken place.

This gives the lie to the policy of 'Atoms for Peace' which has been presented by our government ever since the first nuclear power station was opened by the Queen at Calder Hall in 1956.

The British Department of Energy said that they had no knowledge of this and said that the USA were not supposed to use the plutonium for nuclear weapons.

But the energy spokesman did not say whether the exports would now be stopped. Watch this space!

Peace education

Recent public statements by Keith Joseph have been timed with the publication of a booklet by the National Union of Teachers entitled "Education for Peace". It contains a wide ranging look at peace education across the school curriculum and suggests activities for teachers within their locality and school. Listed at the end of the booklet are addresses of contact organisations involved in peace education. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy, contact Paul, 501218.



copied from Socialist Worker

NATO out of Britain! Britain out of NATO!

Are you aware that there are over 100 U.S. military bases in this country? Britain has become a virtual aircraft carrier flying the United States flag. There are more potential targets per square mile in Britain than in any other country. Each government has allowed this small island to become embroiled in the superpowers' race for superiority in weapons of mass destruction.

On Saturday, April 14th, a week before Easter, peace groups up and down the country will be highlighting the extent of American control over Britain's defences, showing the degree to which Britain has become a major centre of strategic nuclear forces and a base for medium range nuclear weapons.

We are planning to organise a coach with other peace groups in Shropshire to "surround the base" at Burtonwood (USAF base) near Warrington on April 14th. For details of the coach, contact Paul, 501218.

Down on the farm

Horses would be a valuable asset following a nuclear war says Farmers for a Nuclear Free Future. There would be a complete lack of fuel, pesticides and fertilisers.

The farmers held a conference in Oxford recently and concluded that merely being in the countryside would not ensure long-term survival. A nuclear war in summer would destroy crops and livestock much more than in winter, thus making the ensuing nuclear winter even more desperate.

The farmers were uneasy about this prospect. "We had all our stock destroyed because of foot and mouth," said one dairy farmer, "and thought that that was the winter of our greatest trouble, but it was nothing to what you suggest may happen."

Discussion meetings

Chain Reaction meetings which used to be solely for editing the newsletter are to be renamed Campaign meetings. We will concentrate on learning campaigning skills and facts, building resource packs as well as editing Chain Reaction. The title for discussion on 1st May will be "Women in the peace movement".

If you want to put something in Chain Reaction, news or a letter, please get it to Mark Stokes 7 Burton Close, Dawley, before 1st May.

Demonstrate - No Nuclear Weapons!

We are organising transport to the regional demonstration & rally on 26th May, to be held in Coventry. The broad theme of the demo is "No Nuclear Weapons in Europe - East or West".

A three pronged march with 3 themes:
NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE!

Unemployment / Build for peace.

Friendship / International understanding.

Speakers at the rally include Joan Ruddock, Alan Bleasdale, E.P. Thompson and Kurt Vonnegut. In the evening there will be a rock concert.

For details of transport, contact Paul, 501218 or Una, 590307.

Diary of events

10th April, TANG meeting, Dawley Information Centre, High St., Dawley. 7.30.

12th April, One World Week meeting. Dawley Christian Centre. 8.00.

14th April, Burtonwood demo. Contact 501218.

14th-23rd April, Christian Peace Pilgrimage.

14th-19th May, Christian Aid Week.

1st May, Campaign meeting, Dawley Info Centre 7.30.

New secretary for T.A.N.G.

The new TANG secretary is Una Chesters, 14 Hinksay Road, Dawley, phone 590307.

Other TANG local contacts - Barbara, BROSELEY 88 2225, Peter, MADELEY 587532, Maria, DAWLEY 594842, Laurens, WELLINGTON 54728.

Letter - The Miners, Workers' power not nuclear power!

The Tory government and the National Coal Board are systematically butchering the coal mining industry to give them the excuse they need to go ahead with the 15 more nuclear power stations they plan to build in the next two decades.

The Central Electricity Generating Board has juggled figures and deliberately lied about the true cost of the nuclear power programme in comparison to the cost of alternative energy. A House of Commons select committee on energy described the figures as "highly misleading" in claiming that nuclear power produced cheaper electricity than coal. In reality, nuclear power is nearly twice as expensive.

The government is prepared to pour millions of pounds of taxpayers' money into the development of nuclear technology because it has two main advantages for them. Nuclear power provides a cheap and steady supply of weapon-grade plutonium for NATO and it provides a "security" excuse to destroy workers' organisation (as they did at GCHQ).

The government claims that the coal industry is "uneconomical" and "highly subsidised". In fact, Britain produces the cheapest deep-mined coal in the world and half the "subsidy" goes on pit closure costs and interest payments to the banks. Meanwhile, the C.E.G.B. is going ahead with two new reactors at Torness and Heysham at a cost of over £900 million - the most expensive nuclear power stations ever built in the world. The electricity they produce will cost nearly three times as much as coal-generated electricity. After twenty-five years of building nuclear power stations at a cost of £20,000 million, they still only manage to produce 1.5% of the energy we use. Despite all this, the government has deliberately pushed up the prices of other energy - coal, oil and gas - so that electricity remains "competitive" even in areas where it is wasteful and expensive.

Of course we would rather see more investment and research into "renewable" energy sources that do not involve the filthy and dangerous work of coal mining, but this is not what the government has in mind. If they succeed in defeating the miners now, it will be a green light for them to destroy the coal mining industry and proceed with its plans to build more inefficient, dangerous nuclear reactors. This will mean more unemployment, higher fuel bills for the poor, more attacks on civil liberties and trade union rights and more plutonium for Thatcher's bombs.

Support the miners' strike and in doing so, make sure

Support the miners' strike and in doing so, make sure that people understand its importance in fighting the nuclear programme. Send donations and letters of support to the National Union of Mineworkers, St. James Ho., Vicar Lane, Sheffield.

David Smith



Letter - Authoritarianism & the police

Increasingly during the past few months we have seen a more authoritarian approach to dealing with Trade Unions, groups and individuals in society. Hand in hand with this alarming development has been the increased action of the police and courts in dealing with 'criminal' action. Civil liberties and the rights of individuals are being eroded step by step.

Larger numbers of women have been arrested and sentenced in courts in Newbury during the last few months and only last week a six month sentence was imposed on Sarah Tisdall for the leak in information concerning the date of deployment of Cruise missiles. This was vindictive and brutal.

Recent attacks on Trade Unions - the bribe offered to workers at GCHQ is one sign of the trend, so are the laws pertaining to Trade Unions. Last week, police turned back miners at Dartford tunnel. Two coachloads of miners were ordered out of their vehicles on the M6 at Cannock and the drivers ordered to return with empty coaches to South Wales, leaving the passengers stranded. Police have been contacting coach owners in South Wales in an attempt to dissuade them from taking bookings from miners.

One can begin to see an authoritarian trend that has wider implications for the peace movement. The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill now passing through Parliament will give the police extra powers to detain, search and control, which clearly threaten the freedom of individuals and have serious implications for organisations like T.A.N.G. who are actively involved in questioning government policy.

Paul Wolfe

FINAL EVICTION OF GREENHAM WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP

MARCH-APRIL 1984

This is the most urgent Greenham Appeal so far. There is a Court Injunction for the final eviction of the camp from March 22nd till April 2nd.

The signs that this country is on a war footing are becoming increasingly obvious. After stripping G.C.H.Q. Workers' Union rights from them, Thatcher's Government is now depriving the people of their basic democratic right — the means of effective protest. Heseltine has repeatedly declared that the existence of the G.C. Women's Peace Camp is proof of, and a tribute to British democracy. This has been no more than softsoaping before the iron heel descends brutally in the last week of March.

We are appealing urgently for all women to support Greenham at this desperate time. Please come for as long as you can from March 22nd, but particularly from April 2nd, when the eviction is supposed to be completed.

Your response to this appeal is crucial. The survival of Greenham hangs in the balance. Thousands of women are needed to support our sisters, who have endured enough already. Together we must prove to this government that women are saying NO! to Nuclear Weapons and to Military Dictatorship.

**THE SURVIVAL OF GREENHAM
COULD DEPEND
ON YOUR PRESENCE**

STOP CRUISE LAUNCHERS

AMERICAN WEAPONS & TROOPS ARE OUT ON BRITISH ROADS.

CRUISE LAUNCHERS COME OUT OF GREENHAM COMMON ON A REGULAR EXERCISE.

IT MEANS EVERY TIME THIS HAPPENS WE COULD BE 4 MINS. FROM A HOLOCAUST.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!!

IF THE RUSSIANS DETECT MOVEMENT FROM GREENHAM ON THEIR SATELLITES WHAT CHOICE WOULD THEY HAVE? HOW WILL THEY KNOW WHEN IT'S FOR REAL? WE ARE LIVING IN A WAR SITUATION EACH TIME THE LAUNCHERS COME OUT. WHAT CAN YOU DO NEXT TIME THEY PRACTISE FOR WAR?

Go To GREENHAM IF NEAR

AIR BASE 0635-46263

ENCIRCLE M.O.D. WHITEHALL 01-219-9222

BLOCKADE AN APPROPRIATE PLACE IN YOUR OWN TOWN

TAKE THE MEDIA ON ANY LOCAL ACTION. GET THE MOST OUT OF PUBLICITY.

IF YOU ARE HOUSEBOUND YOU CAN:-

PHONE YOUR LOCAL COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICE & EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE & LOCAL COUNCILLORS. ETC. COLLECT THESE NUMBERS IN ADVANCE. DON'T LET THEM SLEEP.

PHONE AMERICAN EMBASSY 01-499-9000 AND RUSSIAN EMBASSY 01-229-6412

PHONE NEWBURY POLICE 0635-31000, NEWBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL 0635-42400 & ANY RESIDENTS THAT SHOULD KNOW

PHONE YOUR M.P. AT HOME PREFERABLY OR THE HOUSE OF COMMONS 01-219-3000

IF ANY OF THESE PEOPLE OR PLACES TAKE THE PHONE OFF THE HOOK CHALLENGE THEM PUBLICLY.

PHONE NATIONAL & LOCAL NEWSPAPERS RADIO & T.V. BBC 01-743-8000 ITV 01-637-2424

PHONE YOUR LOCAL POLICE

YOUR IMPORTANT TEL. NOS.

PHONE LOCAL A.A. & R.A.C.

AS TELECOM HAVE THE MEANS OF DISCONNECTING ALL OUR PHONES AT THE FLICK OF A SWITCH, IN AN EMERGENCY THIS COULD HAPPEN. THAT MEANS IT'S THEN TIME TO GET OUT IN THE STREETS USING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.

TELFORD WOMEN VISIT GREENHAM! TRANSPORT DETAILS CONTACT BARBARA- 882225

CONTACT UNIONS, ESP. FIRE BRIGADES, T.G.W.U., U.C.W. (TELECOMS)

GREENHAM STILL NEEDS NIGHT WATCHES. MORE ♀♀ NEEDED. PHONE PENNY 0273-671878

PLEASE KEEP THIS BY YOUR PHONE.

