

CHAIR REACTION

September 1984.

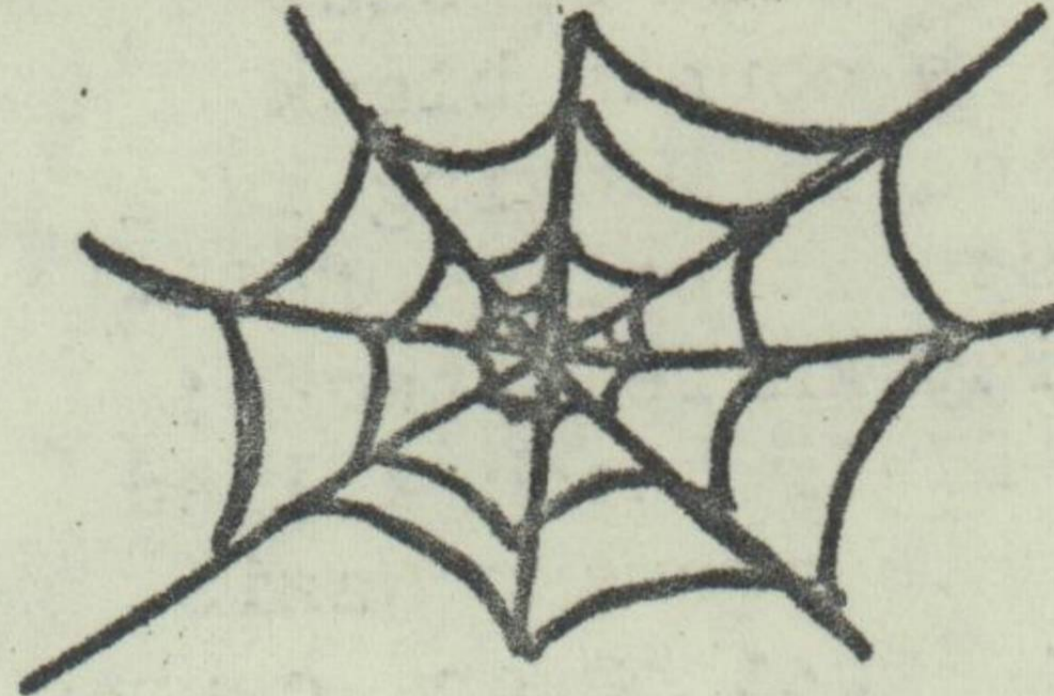
NEWSLETTER OF TELFORD ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP.

Broseley CND Ban.

As usual over the past few years, Broseley CND booked a stall at the town's carnival on Bank Holiday Monday. It was booked two or three months ago and we had hired a gas cylinder and bought 200 balloons and 20 kites to sell on the stall.

Then, the day before, we were informed by the Chairman of the Carnival Committee that we were to be banned from the field because we might antagonise some sections of the community. It later transpired that he had received a phone call threatening violence if CND participated in the carnival.

We argued that as a local organisation we were as entitled as anyone else to take part, that we were not using the carnival for political propaganda but merely to sell balloons and kites to those that wanted them, that we had paid out nearly £50 on the strength of being told a stall would be available to us, and that our canvassing and street actions had showed that the majority of the community were sympathetic to our aims. All to no avail however. Such is the prejudice and paranoia about us by those with power in this small community, that a little bit of intimidation is sufficient excuse to exclude us from Broseley's main event of the year.



SEPTEMBER 20th - 30th
GREENHAM COMMON

10 MILLION WOMEN..... 10 DAYS

Cruise missiles and all nuclear weapons must go.

War is a failure.

We must succeed in finding a better way of living together on this small planet. Direct action and social change will help create a world we can all live in together.

A gathering/action will take place from September 20th - 30th which will hopefully involve 10 million women (body and/or spirit) from Britain and abroad who will come together to share in the vision of a world free from war.

"Seeing the vision of what these 10 days to gether can be, is the beginning.... then.... believing in the sort of world we want..... a world without war!"

If you are a woman and involved in a group or organization, that isn't a peace group, but is never the less working for a fairer more peaceful world... (i.e. womens rights, black rights, opposing racism, opposing nuclear power, community improvements, lesbian rights, trade union, Greenpeace etc etc)

Please come in September and illustrate the links. Represent your work in the in the struggle for social change and survival.

WOMEN COME***** September 20th - 30th***
GREENHAM COMMON (near Newbury, Berkshire.

Posters available from Greenham web poster c/o B'ham Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Queensway B'ham. If you want one or more please write and send a stamp or donation to cover costs.

A DESPAIR AND EMPOWERMENT
DAY WORKSHOP.

SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER

DAWLEY CHRISTIAN CENTRE

10am - 5.00pm
all welcome

The Para-military Organization Linked to the Conservatives (Police).

Unfortunately Shirley Williams was wrong when she said that Sean Downes was the first person to be killed by government forces, (after a well-ordered demonstration had been transformed by an arbitrary governmental ban) since the massacre of Peterloo.

Whether one counts striking miners who died as a result of police or scab actions; whether one counts black youth beaten up in cells & dying as a result after protests at police failure to prevent racist knife attacks; whether one counts Blair Peach killed while demonstrating to prevent Nazification of blacks; whether one counts the CND member pushed by the police under a lorry on the A 30, East of Salisbury, in the early 60s during a vigil round Porton; the list one way & another is fairly long.

The fact that Mr. Garvin is an American who advocates violence can surely hardly be a reason for a Government which has just welcomed Ronald Reagan to these shores to have a sudden conversion to non-violence & claim to be banning all such advocates. While if the government was so converted & going to set such a high moral tone, enforcing a ban on an advocate of violence with plastic bullets is somewhat contradictory.

One can assume therefore the justification advanced by Mr Prior & others was pure hypocrisy. The ban on Garvin speaking was not made because he was no pacifist. There would have been no ban on someone who had come to praise the British army. It was made because he is on the other side.

Hardly surprising, governments do not generally favour those who sympathize with their enemies. Had the Tories the honesty to put it that way, were they prepared to acknowledge the political roll played by the police, one could hardly object, however much one might sympathize with the friends & relatives of Sean Downes.

It is the same hypocrisy that governments show when - while building ever more weapons - they claim to be multilateralists & as such "true disarmers". Also incidentally, the same hypocrisy as that the Government shows when it claims to be democratically responsive to the wishes of the Ulster majority in maintaining a partition which was artif-

icially designed to ensure a perpetual majority for one side.

L. Otter.

NATIONAL C.N.D. CIVIL DEFENCE CAMPAIGN WEEK (SEPT 17TH - 23RD)

Civil defence has always given us an issue with which we can campaign locally by building alliances between C.N.D. and the nuclear free zones authorities. The recent research and findings on the nuclear winter has provided new material for use in campaigning and it comes at a time when the government is to force local authorities to implement new civil defence regulations.

The C.N.D. campaign week has two primary aims

- (1) To publicise the short, medium and long term effects of nuclear war. Particular prominence will be given to the idea of the nuclear winter.
- (2) To generate public awareness of the opposition to the civil defence regulations.

During the week a military exercise will be taking place in Europe. Code named 'Operation Lionheart' the exercise is to test plans for reinforcing the British army on the Rhine and is being used to publicise and test out the role of the TA and reserves so as to "help to undermine the arguments of those who claim that the governments commitment to nuclear weapons has been at the expense of our conventional forces.

The exercise will only act out the early stages of a military conflict so the exchanges remain conventional. However in all previous N.A.T.O paper exercises conventional war in Europe has inevitably turned nuclear. C.N.D. during the campaign week will comment on the Lionheart exercise and point out how misleading it is in giving the impression that war in Europe would not go nuclear, as N.A.T.O strategy and force structures would guarantee it.

T.A.M.G will be campaigning through the week and will be showing the S.A.N.A video on the nuclear winter in several venues throughout Telford. Please see the next issue of Chain Reaction for details.

Mrs Thatcher is fond of comparing herself to Churchill, & of holding him up as a paragon & a model. One of the actions for which he has been most acclaimed, (though it is not one on which she is frequently vocal,) is that he used his former Admiralty position to contact a senior civil servant and find out from him the true facts about the state of British armaments.

(One should stress - since this is a matter so frequently misreported by groups such as the Coalition for Peace & Security - that it was in no spirit of pacifism that the then Tory Government had allowed Britain's military forces to become run down. It was just that too many of the financiers who support the Tory Party had their hands too deeply in the till; & so though Britain spent more money between 1935 & 39 than did Germany [which had started from nothing] she had less to show for it at the end.)

The Admiralty civil servant (& an associated naval officer) both of whom had of course signed the official secrets act passed Churchill documents of the highest security classification. None ever suggested they should be tried. They were indeed given 'honours' and they have gone down in the histories as heroes.

Their exposure of governmental duplicity (& - be it noted - there was an even larger Tory majority then than now) is universally praised. Their courage in taking the risk, & going to someone to leak that they knew is held up as an example. It is generally accepted that the then government put its own narrow political interests above the truth, that it deceived the nation, & worked against the nation's interests.

I can imagine few Chain Reaction readers who will have failed to notice certain parallels whether with Sarah Tisdall, who was penalised for revealing that Heseltine was engaged in a dishonest cover-up, or with Clive Ponting who is now charged with revealing that Mrs Thatcher was similarly engaged.

I wonder whether, when she is denouncing leaking as unpatriotic, Mrs Thatcher ever remembers the Churchillian parallel. It would be nice to think that she is only lying to us, that she is sufficiently honest to herself, if not to others, to remember the precedent; to think that she is hoping like mad that others don't think of it. But that would presuppose a residual element of honesty that is unlikely.

Disclaimer

Ever since 1960 C.N.D CONFERENCE

Ever since 1960 C.N.D conference has regularly voted that unilateral nuclear disarmament involves refusal to remain within any military pact based on nuclear arms. That we are therefore opposed to continued membership of N.A.T.O and would equally oppose the Warsaw pact (the only reason that there was no vote before 1960 was that Canon Collins prevented it going on the AGM agenda.)

Conference has regularly rejected as dishonesty the claim that it is possible to have a non-nuclear N.A.T.O. N.A.T.O was formed before Britain got its independent-deterrent and existed from the beginning to extend America's nuclear "protection over Europe". It was never conceived in any other terms.

Curiously, despite this regular and overwhelming vote, despite equally end regular AGM demands that C.N.D headquarters point out-N.A.T.O leaflets, and use the columns of Sanity to campaign against N.A.T.O - there has never been a national campaign on the issue. Even more curiously the editor of Sanity (though he has never published an article in support of C.N.D policy on N.A.T.O.) has seen fit to publish, in the August issue an article arguing that C.N.D should not oppose N.A.T.O but that a unilateralist Britain should try to reform N.A.T.O so it would become non - nuclear.

The editor justified this, in national council with the specious arguments that he believed that both sides of the argument should be published. If he ever published the view expressed by conference that might be fair. Though as the national media are constantly putting the case for N.A.T.O it is hardly a minority view not given fair expression.

The arguments for unilateralists supporting N.A.T.O is that otherwise other European countries might allow themselves to be an even more belligerent alliance with America. This of course might happen, but it makes nonsense of the basic C.N.D case that a dramatic gesture by one country is necessary is to reduce tension and inspire peace action elsewhere. There is no dramatic act of trust in giving up the negligible British 'independent deterrent' and reverting to sheltering behind the U.S bomb.

Danger N-Power.

The advocates of nuclear power stations often appear to want to be able to argue both ways, but the latest example is more blatant than usual. Normally when it is pointed out that there has been a leak, that this amount of radiation could cause 'x' people to get cancer; they reply that there is not yet any irrefutable evidence of one person getting cancer in the area, & therefore they say that the theoretical possibility should be discounted.

However they are now using the reverse tack. Statistics - from way back in the 50s - show an increased leukemia rate in the Wind-scale (Sellafield) area far higher than their own theoretical rate for the cause of cancer. Larger, by something like a factor of 100, & so they now argue that the observed empirical data must be ignored, because it does not conform to their theoretical predictions.

No doubt if one is going to continue to ignore theoretical predictions of cancer, because at the time it is too early to have observed results; & to ignore codified observed facts, because they don't conform to earlier preconceptions as to results; it will be possible to go on insisting that nuclear power brings no dangers.

This may make us cynical when we hear that tests have shown that there is no danger from leaks after the shipping crash wherein one ship was carrying radio-active material. It has come out that the crew were ordered to tell no one about the cargo, which does not assure us we would be told

if the tests had produced a different result.

Local Contacts

T.A.N.G Secretary - Una Chester, 14, Hinkshay Road, Dawley, phone 590307
other T.A.N.G local contacts,
Barbara, Broseley 882225, Peter, Madeley 587532, Maria, Dawley 594842, Laurens, Wellington 54728.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 8.00 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHIREHALL ABBEY
FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY.

Beyond The Blocs Alternatives to the arms race.

A PUBLIC MEETING WITH -
DAN SMITH. (BRITAIN) CO. - AUTHOR OF
' PROTEST AND SURVIVE! CND & END

NATIONAL COUNCIL

CHIARA INGRAD (ITALY) FROM COMISO PEACE
CAMP.

TURKISH PEACE ASSOCIATION speaker =

EAST EUROPEAN speaker

jointly organised by E.N.D and Shrewsbury
Peace Group.

Diary Dates.

Saturday 8th September - super saturday
T.A.N.G stall, Peace Pledge Union van
and street theatre.

Monday 10th - One World week meeting
Stirchley All Saints Centre 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 11th - T.A.N.G meeting, Dawley
Information Centre, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 19th - Anti - Apartheid group
meeting, Malinslee House, 7.30.

20+ 21st September - Wrekin
District Council showing the S.A.N.A film
about the nuclear winter " Achange in the
weather" . Malinslee House **Thur - 2.30-4.30**
Fri 7.3-9.30

Saturday 22nd - leaflet in Wellington sq.

Tuesday 25th - T.A.N.G campaign meeting
Dawley Information Centre. 7.30pm.

Wednesday 3rd October - Beyond the arms
race'. A public meeting, Council Chamber
Shirehall, Shrewsbury. 8.00pm.

ADVANCED NOTICE

C.N.D NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST TRIDENT.

BARROW-in-FURNESS
SATURDAY 27th OCTOBER.
