

CHAIN REACTION



MAY

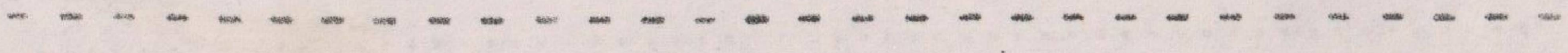
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LATE NOTICE

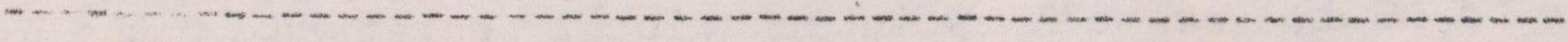
The May TANG meeting will be held on the 15th (Wednesday) not on the 14th as previously stated. It will be held at College Farm House, Wellington as the Dawley Information Centre will not be available.

Tam Dalyell will be speaking in Shrewsbury, (at the Morris Hall) on the Hilda Murrell affair, & obviously most of those Chain Reaction readers who do get to meetings will want to hear him, which is why we have changed our date so as not to clash.



Apology

We are rushing this issue of Chain Reaction out in the absence of Mark, (whose work has greatly improved CR in recent months,) in order to get it (CR) out in time to help advertize the May Day March, - by accident not mentioned in last month's **Diary**, though it was in the March one, - & to have it available for the March. We are sorry that production is unlikely to be up to the standard Mark has achieved.



We hope to include in this issue copies of the "Bread not Bombs" leaflet that we have ordered from the Campaign Against the Arms' Trade, & will be delivering, but it is not certain that they will arrive in time. We therefore include in our texts extracts Mark has taken from this year's & last's.

April 30. ... future programme/planning sub-committee
7.30, @ 7 Burton Close, Dawley.

May 6th. ... May Day March
assemble ... 10.30 forecourt of Lord Hill
return ... 12.00 Dawley Town Hall, food &
drink available
speeches ... 1.15 (or earlier) for a little
over an hour.
music and more food throughout afternoon

May 14th ... Tam Dalyell speaks at the Morris Hall in
Shrewsbury on the Hilda Murrell case, (it
is organized by Shrewsbury Labour Party.)

May 15th ... TANG monthly meeting, @ 7.30
College Farm House, Wellington

May 28th ... Chain Reaction editorial meeting, followed
by FoE speakers at the Elephant & Castle,
Dawley.

June 1st. ... Midlands Ecology Party (details given
elsewhere in Chain Reaction).

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Jerry Corbyn, M.P., who is one of the speakers for the May
Day demo used to be chairman of the Wrekin Young Socialists
- & a **very** active unilateralist up here - fifteen years
ago. Judging from the denunciations of him in the Media,
he is still a socialist & an unilateralist, even though he is
an M.P.

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Elsewhere in this CR, Peter speculates on who may succeed Msgr.
Kent as CND General Secretary. My own (L.O.) hope is that
Tony Smythe - who has been Director of MIND, & General Secre-
tary of NOCL, as well as international secretary of the War
Resisters' International - will apply and be selected.

from the Molesworth base, agreeing with Mr Heseltine that such people are an unrepresentative minority, although I did point out that (as indicated by several opinion polls) they represent the majority of the British people.

On the highly topical subject of phone-tapping/interception of mail, to quote one of Mr Hawksley's letters to me:

"I do believe that each case of telephone tapping & mail interception must be dealt with on its own merits. It would not surprise me were the powers that be convinced that some people involved with CND might be a security risk".

In the course of our meetings I have argued around the issues outlined above & explained my views to the M.F., who in turn has put his. Such conversations have led into other issues which I hope to relate at a future time. An article specifically on my role as parliamentary monitor will appear in the next issue of Chain Reaction.

WESTERN PEACE MOVEMENT NOT TRUSTED

Ann Pettit of the 'UK Trust builders' told TANG a group of women from Greenham Common found themselves at odds with the so-called official peace committee in the Soviet Union.

Ann was telling of the experiences of a visit to Moscow and Leningrad which included seeing ordinary peace protesters as well. She said: "We thought that we would be welcomed at the official level, but when they realised we were talking with women in the banned peace movement, they were not pleased."

"We were followed quite obviously. If I sat down in a cafe, three burly men sat down right next to me. It was quite intimidating."

"Evidently," Ann said, "western peace women are not well received if all they want to do was to see the genuine and unofficial peace movement."

'We found it ironic to think that we get accused of being Soviet dupes when at home, but when we go to the Soviet Union they don't trust us one inch either!

It can't work both ways.

Any Chain Reaction reader who has read the reports in the National Press of the Easter demo at Molesworth, & is used to allowing for Media bias will have a fairly good idea of what happened. Are own impressions are largely of mud. There was a thrill - as usual - about the moment when we all started ringing bells or otherwise noisily making our presence felt. Those who have visited since the village was expelled & not been able to approach the wire without suspicion from the police found being able to plant penants against the wire easy - if not having a great impact.

As to numbers it is impossible for anyone to know how many there were, we were all crammed in a fairly limited space & noone - in such flat land - could see beyond the hundred or so people around them. The only possible guide would be that there were at least two stretches, some three & an half miles long, given over to coach parking, not to mention several miles of cars, despite the Media, CND groups cannot afford to run empty coaches to national demos.

Incidentally, TANG's coach to the demo was not quite full as - after we had turned some people away - some people cancelled the evening before we went. This was because Shrewsbury's coach was cheaper. It was in fact the first time ever that TANG has taken enough money in fares to pay the cost of the coach - though even then it did not cover posters & other advertizing. We have to charge more than Shrewsbury because we have in Telford a far higher percentage of unemployment. We usually have at least as many unwaged going on demos as waged, (one early demo to which we took five coaches, there were all together only 8 people paying the full fare,) which is not the case for Shrewsbury.

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Friends of the Earth speakers

At the next meeting following the end of May Chain Reaction editing, Val Stevens of Birmingham FoE, & Philip Pool of Shrewsbury FoE will be speaking.

May 28th at the Elephant & Castle, Dawley, Chain Reaction meeting starts at 7.30.

They will be talking of FoE's proposals on nuclear waste, on other major FoE campaigns & local (Slop.) activity.

Readers of Chain Reaction may have been surprised to see that in the May Day Message instead of an original article from TANG there was a reprint of an article already carried here. Some may have been worried that we did not consider the May Day demo sufficient to merit writing an article. This was not the case.

The editor of the Message, (one hopes through a temporary oversight,) has overlooked Hiroshima & Nagasaki, & the Great Power carve-up of the world in 1945, & wished to devote the issue to a commemoration of the peace & alliances between Russia & the Western powers that existed forty years ago.

Apparently feeling that nuclear disarmers might raise embarrassing questions, he tried to dictate who should write our contribution, eventually nominating a non-TANG member, then when we objected he cut the space allotted us by half, & finally refused to print our contribution, substituting the reprint, which was incidentally much longer than the article he refused from us.

The editor's actions make ironic sense of the fact that the back page carries an article entitled peace & democracy and the editor indeed claims to have devoted the issue to the two principles. It will be interesting to see if in four years time he is equally anxious to record the fiftieth anniversary of an earlier Russian alliance.

MAY DAY MARCH : Assembles Lord Hill
forecourt Monday May 6TH 10.30 - 11.00 am.
Speakers and music after the March (1.15 pm)
in Dawley Town Hall.
TANG - as usual - will have a contingent on
the march, and a stall in the hall.
Come and join us and make certain the
unilateralist message is heard!

Face to Face with an M.P. by Robert Saunders

As a CND Parliamentary Monitor, I have been, for some 15 months in regular contact with our M.P., Warren Hawksley. I dare say he needs no introduction but I will report exchanges with him. My early letters concerned the involvement of the Commonwealth Development Corporation in setting up oil palm plantations in the Phillipines, & the proposed £1,000 deposit for Parliamentary elections, (a subject which soon extended to the issue of proportional representation.) Mr Hawksley agrees with the increase in the deposit an adjustment paying some regard to inflation since the introduction of the deposit.

Fortunately, largely due to intense lobbying by members of the Ecology Party, the government has amended the proposal to £500. (A sum which still undermines British democracy, such as it is.) Regarding the electoral system he opposes proportional representation, believing "that the present system has served us well & I support it". (Thus today the Tories are encouraging "greater democracy" in trade unions, yet simultaneously they are stifling national & local political democracy, through the increased deposit & central control of local authorities.

Last Autumn I formalized earlier correspondence, volunteering to be the CND Parliamentary Monitor in the Wrekin Constituency. The 'job' being basically to lobby the local M.P. on nuclear & related issues. In this capacity I have met the M.P. several times at his local 'surgery'. One of the first matters raised was Mr Edward Leigh's Bill, intended to stifle Peace Studies in schools. Mr Hawksley voted for that Bill, although it was later lost because the House did not give it time. Our M.P. was worried by the "possibly biased portrayal by teachers of the issues of peace & disarmament".

Mr Hawksley did not wish to discuss the Trident missile program in detail because he is not particularly knowledgeable about this weapon, "leaving such debate to the experts" in the government. He fully supports the British independent nuclear deterrent while hoping for multilateral disarmament to be achieved through negotiation & verification. Mr Hawksley dislikes the high cost of Trident but sees it as a necessary expense.

Regarding the actual use of our nuclear weapons he can see no likely situations arising. (This I believe largely undermines the credibility of the nuclear deterrent.)

BRUCE KENT'S SUCCESSOR?

Applications for Bruce Kent's job as General Secretary of CND had to be in by April 19th. Writing before any decision is announced, here is a speculative shortlist.

Another cleric? A good chance if only because they are used to low pay (all CND employees in London receive £7932 p.a.).

The Bishop of Salisbury (of Church & the Bomb fame) is as unlikely as Canon Paul Oestreicher is likely. At present an elected vice-chairperson of CND, Canon Paul would continue the clerical, pacifist tradition which is arguably essential to the leadership of a strongly moral campaign.

Prof. Mike Pentz is another elected vice-chair of CND. However, he is tarnished in the media by former communist sympathy.

(Any elected positions would naturally have to be relinquished if appointed as a paid employee of CND).

Perhaps if and when Joan Ruddock's term as chair person ends she will be replaced by a man. If that happens, and knowing CND's preference to balance the sexes, it could mean a woman replacement for Bruce Kent.

A Greenham woman? Dr. Lynne Jones is a possible candidate, although it would go against the grain for a 'leader' to emerge from the Greenham philosophy.

What about promotion from inside CND, either from HQ or from one of the regional offices? Or a secretary from one of the 1000+ groups across the country? No name obviously springs to mind.

Whoever it might be, an essential personal ingredient required is to have character and flair. An anonymous hard worker will only ensure a softly, softly demise of the campaign. It needs a mix of a good media person who is interesting to the wider public.

"The Death of Deterrence" shows how nuclear strategy has developed into policies for fighting & winning a nuclear war. The Reagan administration is investing billions in new nuclear weapons designed specifically for fighting nuclear wars.

Available from PAX CHRISTI, St Francis Centre, Pottery Lane, London W. 11.

New Zealand's Prime Minister David Lange is coming under increasing attack for his party's New Zealand nuclear free zone pledge. The pledge restricts any nuclear armed vessels from entering New Zealand harbours.

The United States is furious over the move and has not only threatened to withdraw from previously agreed military agreements but may introduce economic sanctions against the country.

Our congratulations go to Premier David Lange and his government for putting into practice his party policy.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO,
David Lange, Prime Minister, Executive Wing
Parliament buildings, Wellington, N.Z.

NZ Labour Party, Private bag, CPO Wellington, N.Z.
NZ NFZ Committee. PO Box 18541 Christchurch 9. N.Z.

The local NFZ movement is spreading rapidly throughout the world. There are now 1666 NFZs declared by towns, cities or counties. The latest figures we have are: Argentina 2, Australia 89, Belgium 281, Canada 64, Denmark 7, Britain 175, Greece 1, Ireland 117, Italy 53, Japan 108, Netherlands 71, New Zealand 95, Norway 176, West Germany 94, Spain 323 and the United States 80.

source nuclear free zones
bulletin, Jan 85

"The weapons industry is the worlds no.2 industry after oil. Roughly 70% of its investment comes from the North. But the third world share is growing fast. Military spending doubled between 1974-1984."

"Military expenditures of developed countries are now 30 times larger than aid budgets"

"They ask for bread and we give them a recoilless rifle"

Barbara Ward



The 100 billion dollars or so now spent by developing countries on weapons is three times what it would cost to provide essential health care, medicines, vaccinations, clean water and sanitation for all.

Green CND is not committed to any one section of the Green movement but obviously both in it & in TANG there are those who are:-



Politics for Life

Green politics may well be new to many of you, & yet we're just one part of an international movement that's rapidly taking shape. The last few years have seen a groundswell of new ideas, new initiatives, renewed commitment. More & more people are refusing to accept the despair & dishonesty of today's political wasteland. With its promise of renewal & hope, the arrival of green politics signals the end of that wasteland - & not before time.

On Saturday, 1st June, in Telford, there will be an informal gathering of members of the Ecology Party in the West Midlands Region. Members of the public interested in green politics are very welcome to attend. For details contact:-

Robert Saunders, 24 Gladstone Ho., High St., Hadley
or Martin Scholes, 4 Clun Close, Brooklands, Wellington
tel.:(0952) 56728



TOES

Referring to the last Chain Reaction, here's an article about The Other Economic Summit. 'Which is a public-media-oriented steering committee promoting Alternative Economics. The writer attended the public rally, which promoted the forthcoming conference, the imperatives of a New Economics and their actions to the "Governmental" Economic Summit in Bonn in May.

Each of the speakers, all of eminence, had a deep and emotive story to tell to the 300 or so who attended. The discussion ranged on both macro and microeconomics, considering change points and "present" policy effects.

The motions of TOES deserved a better response from the world at large - where many acknowledge that there IS an alternative. The writer hopes that the TOES handbill can indicate the directions which are actionable.

further information contact Keith Riley,
29 Preston Grove, Trench.

* send subscriptions payable to Telford Anti-Nuclear Group to
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Shropshire.

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WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



Scottish Home Guards have found a novel way of showing their assistance to the Molesworth Cruise base. Each month they send a piece of the perimeter fence to Mr Hestline and Mr Reagan with the following letter.

" Return to sender: Please find enclosed part of the brand new £3 million security fence at U.S.A.F Molesworth. As well you know, the great majority of the British people do not want Cruise missiles in this country. we are therefore delighted to be able to tell you that you will continue to receive sections of this fence, absolutely free of charge, in regular instalments over the coming months and years. However you can if you wish , end your subscription at any time, simply by cancelling the Cruise programme."

Membership

As you may have noticed in the last two issues of Chain Reaction we have included a membership form for TANG and a box has been printed in the bottom left hand corner to indicate when subscriptions are due. The response to renewing membership has gone well and is perhaps a good indication that people like the new layout of the newsletter.

Chain Reaction has always played an important role in disseminating news on local and national disarmament issues and allowing ordinary people to voice their opinions and ideas on the local campaign.

We know send out over 300 newsletters, printing costs and postage use an enormous amount of our scarce financial resources. Therefore we ask for your continuing support for the newsletter by way of renewing you memberships.

During the next couple of months we hope to deliver as many Chain Reactions by hand as possible so that we can meet other members of TANG. It will give us an opportunity to find out what you think about the newsletter (whether we can make any improvements) and what you would like to see in the local campaign.