TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP
TANG

chain reaction

JANUARY 87

The choice is no longer
between violence
and non-violence.
It is either non-violence
or non-existence.

MARTIN LUTHER KING

JAN 15

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.

ABUSE OF TRUST

Gather at 1pm. for a vigil at 2pm.
Come Wearing Blue
Bringa banner.....

FEB 28

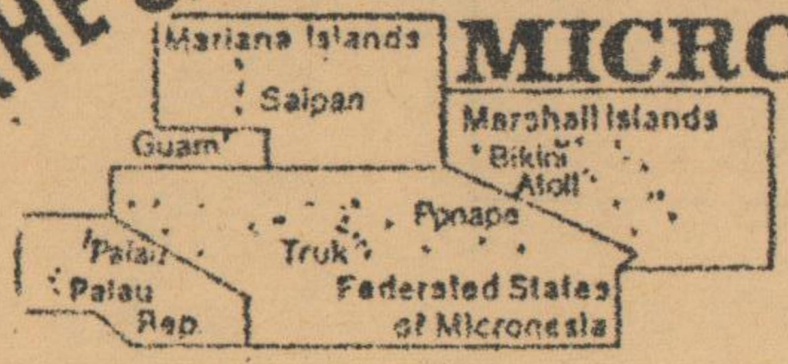
SATURDAY 1-4pm

A call for all women to Demonstrate

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Grosvenor Square
LONDON

THE U.S. IN THE PACIFIC



MICRONESIA

The presence of the United States Government in Micronesia continues to be the cause of many injustices, adding to the legacy of pain and suffering, neglect and political denial which the people have lived ever since they were first asked to leave their islands to make way for the atomic and hydrogen bomb tests in 1945.

Exile, radiation contamination, malnutrition, disease, poverty are the result for the Marshallese. Political pressure of a country committed to a nuclear free policy such as Balau is, prevents self determination and political independence. The building of military systems and military establishments, including the Kwajalein Missile Range where it is proposed that 'Star Wars' will be developed, takes away landowners rights and uses scarce land resources. All these commit the peoples of these countries to a life of military occupation.

To remove the burden of a trust which has never been implemented the Compact of Free Association has been drawn up by the United States to allow them to retain their military interests and remove the domestic responsibilities which were entrusted to them when the Micronesia was given to them as a trust Territory by the United Nations.

For too long the United States has continued to keep their activities and the consequnces for the Micronesians in the dark. FEBRUARY 28th will be an opportunity to act on our knowledge and oppose what is happening.

for more information cont ct
Lynda or Eve 0886 203

IT'S UP TO YOU, P.M.

Consider the following statements:

' The PM (Prime Minister) wishes to fight the next general election mainly on defence issues.'

' The PM (Peace Movement) wishes to see the next election fought on defence issues.'

'But the Labour and Alliance parties do not wish to fight the next election mainly on defence issues.' (This is despite the recently-launched Labour defence campaign).

Why is there such unusual and apparent agreement between the two PM acronyms? And why the non-agreement with the Labour party? There must be a catch somewhere.

The situation around which this paradox revolves arose particularly in the 1983 general election. At that time peace issues were to the fore in politics and the public eye. Now, however, the peace movement is concerned that nuclear weapons have been much less in the news.

At the time of the 1983 election the Labour party was very keen on unilateral nuclear disarmament. Unfortunately, Labour argued a poorly presented and ill-thought out case and instead let the jubilant 'one-sided disarmament' jibes of the Tories overwhelm them. Since then, Labour has tried hard to concentrate on domestic economic affairs.

The Alliance parties do not wish to be caught in the same selfmade trap, but in trying to walk the defence tightrope they are instead splitting their difference.

The Prime Minister recognises that upon which her opponents are divided, and also on which she thinks she can carry the electorate as before. Politically speaking, this seems good logic.

But why does the Peace Movement apparently agree with the tactic? Isn't it the road to another electoral setback?

PTO

Well, maybe. And there again, maybe not.

First of all, if defence was not an electoral issue, the voices of the Peace Movement would not be heard at all. It is therefore arguable that no publicity is worse than ill-informed critical publicity. (for example, Greenham Common is much less in the news now compared to the distorted headline era a couple of years or so ago).

Second, and most importantly, the Peace Movement will have to move the debate, in the pre-election period, away from the jingoistic endorsement of nuclear escalation which presents only a 'silo vision' view of defence.

Instead, there needs be concentration on the opportunities for real disarmament. If the two superpowers can come closer than ever before to agreeing huge reductions in strategic nuclear weapons in the oh-so-nearly talks in Iceland, then surely we should emphasise the need for this to continue.

The fallacy of arms 'control' is still not properly exposed. In particular, the buying of Trident means an increase in British nuclear weapons by a factor of nearly 500% over Polaris. And Trident is a highly accurate silo-attacking missile rather than the blunderbuss nature (relatively speaking) of Polaris.

Furthermore, any conceivable Star Wars strategic defence system would only protect the superpowers from each other. It would not protect Europe from the USSR or vice versa because ground-hugging missiles like Cruise cannot be eliminated by a Star Wars system. (In fact, if the USA thought it could defend itself by a Star Wars umbrella at home, it may well consider redundant its troops in Europe. So such a system could result in US withdrawal from Europe!)

If the opposition parties in Britain place little emphasis on defence as an election issue, the Peace Movement will have to do so. Not on a party political basis of course, but to ensure that people realise that arms control and disarmament are empty words unless accompanied by actions.

P.N.

Laughed Out of Court.

The Home Secretary has withdrawn the promised rewrite of "Protect & Survive" admitting that if they published it, it would be "laughed out of court".

That is in itself an interesting admission. They cannot produce a tenable case for civil defence, anything they suggest would be dismissed out of hand by expert opinion, & ridiculed by everyone.

But more remarkable still the Government says it will dis= tribute Protect & Survive in the immediate prelude to a nuclear war. Distributing it will therefore be in itself an act of hostility, a declaration that was is expected and might justify a Soviet pre=emptive strike.

Apart from this they are saying that they intend to pre= pare the population for such a war by distributing at the last moment a pamphlet "survival manual" which is so inadequate by their own admission that if issued now it would be a mockery.

COPYDATE

The deadline for the next copy of Chain Reaction is January 21st. All contributions are welcome and should be sent to Mark Stokes, 7, Burton Close, Dawley, Telford. Tel 501263.

Our Record of Success So Far.

Shortly before the final decision on the deployment of Cruise and Pershing II missiles was taken by NATO, it was it was dismissed as " only political expediency and token-ism " by General Alexander Haig. But Haig was by no means the only critic of this decision. William Van Cleave, someone else who was later to serve under President Reagan, said:

" I do not regard these moves as modernisation at all" British defence secretary Francis Pym was able to persuade Labours Peter Shore that the proposed deployments were adequate. However, many of those close to Reagan were still not satisfied. One such was Richard Burt, who wrote in 1980:

" Clearly the 572 system (Cruise and Pershing II) we put in there is only the beginning."

The weapons system that Reagan's advisors wanted was to be known as the Longbow. It would have been a European based mobile system capable of delivering its warheads with very great accuracy. Haig and friends wanted to deploy a total of 2,000 such warheads in Western Europe and various studies were undertaken in persuit of this objective.

Today the Longbow missile does not exist, having failed to get off the drawing board. Few had envisaged the degree of controversy surrounding the decision to deploy the Cruise and Pershing missiles, and this is what lay behind the quiet shelving of the Longbow project.

However, the shelving of the Longbow is by no means our only success. The Cruise missile deployments were certainly very difficult. Those at Molesworth and in Holland should have begun by now, but have been delayed until 1988. Much to Michael Heseltines intense annoyance, the Dutch government finally only accepted its allocation if it could give up its current operation of U.S. nuclear capable aircraft

In April 1983 the Observer reported that the U.S. military had drawn up extensive plans to deploy Ground Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCM) in Japan and South Korea. Nobody can say for certain why these deployments have not

now gone ahead, but the growing controversy surrounding nuclear weapons is probably one principal reason.

Another major setback for militarists concerns the MX. This 10 warhead first strike ICBM gained its final politic al endorsement under President Carter and is allowed under SALT II. So much for arms control ! Strong opposition from the people whose states were to be carved up to make way for it, and the later opposition of the Peace Movement have resulted in a planned deployment now of just 50 missiles. It was to have been 200.

We can see some cause for optimism in Eastern Europe where the USSR did experience considerable difficulties in deploying SS-21 and SS-23 short range missiles. East Germany and Czechoslovakia acted as a moderating influence on the Soviet Union whilst Hungary refused to accept any such missiles at all.

CONCLUSION

These examples clearly highlight a very considerable degree of success for the peace movement. The scale of protest has substantially slowed down the arms race. The task now is to reverse it and this can only be done by YOU. By delivering leaflets, discussing the matter with friends, by writing to Downing Street and to your M.P. A recent poll of MP's showed that they DO take notice of letters.

PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN.

" Nobody ever made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."
Victor Hugo

A.B

MoD BLOCKADE

On Friday January 23rd there will be a five-and-a-half-hour blockade of the MoD headquarters in Whitehall London.

For those who can't take part there will be a simultaneaus telephone blockade of the MoD switchboard.

The number to ring is **01-218 9000**

For a briefing pack for the MoD blockade as well as Snowball stickers,balloons,badges,t-shirts,exhibitions, video and leaflets contact Tigger, Greenhouse, 48, Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk. Tel Norwich 631007.

ADVANCED NOTICE

APRIL 25th LONDON DEMONSTRATION FOR A NUCLEAR FREE BRITAIN

MORE INFORMATION IN FEBRUARY CHAIN REACTION.

DIARY

Sat. Jan 3rd..... Brooklands Anti-Nuclear Group Social. £1.00. More details contact Trudi 3947 (between 6pm-8pm)

Wed Jan 7th..... TANG business meeting. 16, Linley Drive, Stirchley. 7.30 pm. ALL VERY WELCOME.

Thurs 15th..... MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.

Wed. Jan 21st..... Chain Reaction Meeting. 7,Burton CL. Dawley, Telford. 7.30p.m. ALL WELCOME.

Fri Jan 23rd..... BLOCKADE THE MOD WHITEHALL,LONDON. See newsletter for details.

Wed. Feb 4th..... TANG meeting. 16, Linley Drive, Stirchley. 7.30p.m.

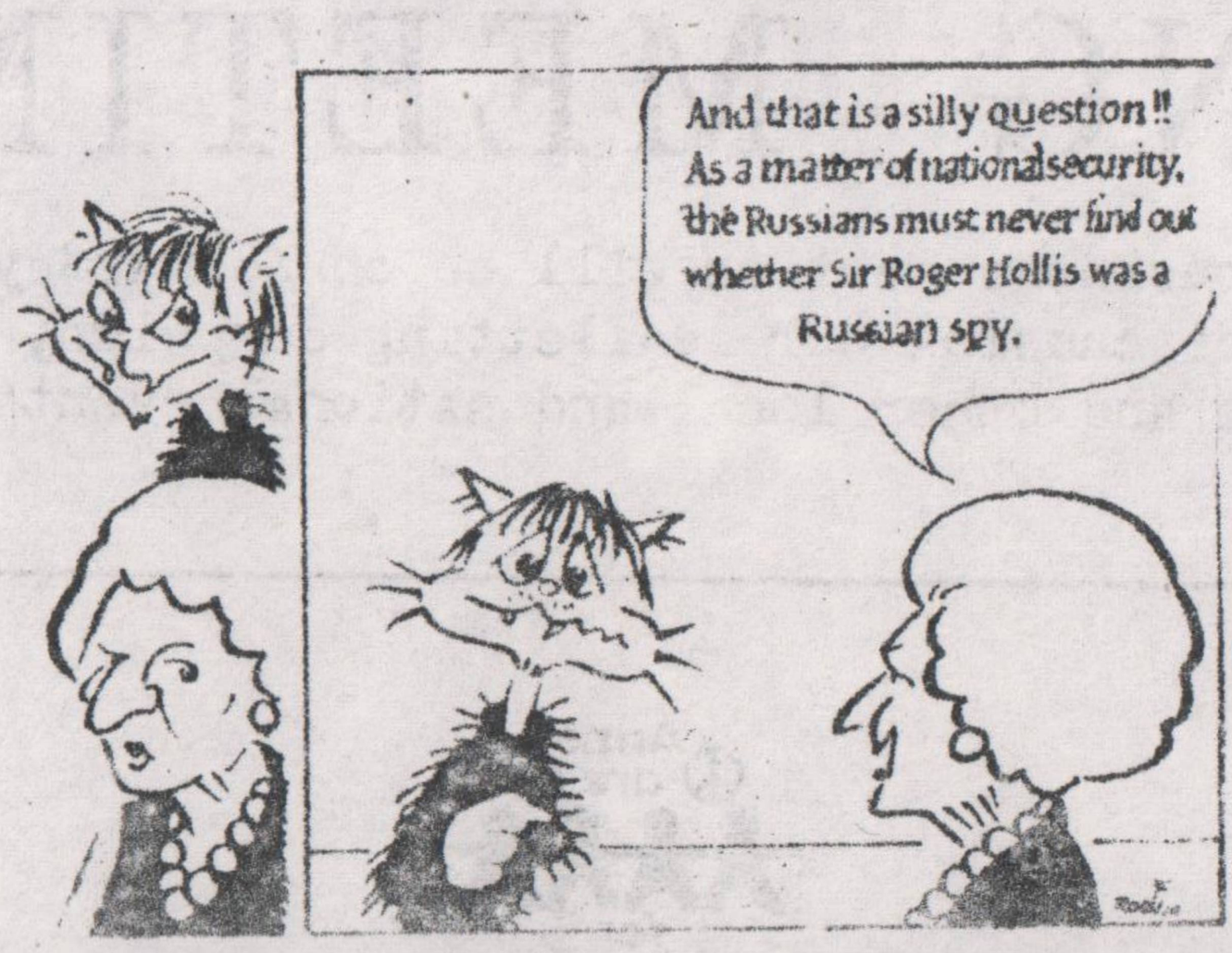
TANG MEETING._

TANGs next business meeting will be on Wednesday 7th Jan. We will be discussing our leafletting campaign, door to door questionaire and other local and national events.

Arms are for Linking

'The sign of the nuclear age is the bomb. The sign of Christ is the Cross. The bomb is the countersign to the Cross; it arrogantly threatens to undo the work the cross has done. In the cross, all things are reconciled; in the bomb, all things are destroyed. In the cross, violence is defeated; in the bomb, violence is victorious. In the cross, evil has been overcome; in the bomb, evil has dominion. In the cross, death is swallowed up; in the bomb, death reigns supreme.
WHICH WILL HOLD SWAY IN OUR TIMES ? '

Jim Wallis



PEACE CHEQUES DIVERTED.

Supporters of the Peace Tax Campaign who are attempting to divert their portion of taxes that go for military spending to more constructive and peaceful purposes are coming across new problems. Despite making their cheques out correctly to the accounts of the Overseas Development Administration or the National Health Service, their cheques still end up in the Inland Revenue account. Such embezzlement on the part of the IR amounts to maladministration at best, yet protests to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration Anthony Barrowclough QC has only resulted in denials of maladministration by the Inland Revenue.

source of information
Peace Tax Campaign Newsletter
Nov/Dec 1986.

A Game with World Survival.

The SDP-Liberal Alliance has just come up with its new policy on nuclear arms. This would seem to be that Britain should have enough nuclear weapons to threaten and therefore provoke nuclear war; but having that should not not have enough to do more.

This is reminiscent of a small child that plays "chicken" by challenging a larger child to fight reckless of the fact that it could do nothing about it. It would seem the height of folly to play this sort of game with world survival.

Laurens Otter

JOIN TELFORD

ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP

I would like to join TANG. Please find enclosed my subscription; £3.00 waged *
£1.50 unwaged

I understand I will now be put on the mailing list for 'Chain Reaction', the newsletter of TANG.

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BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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TEL. .....

signed .....

Date .....

☐

If ticked subsciption due

* send subscriptions payable to Telford Anti-Nuclear Group to

MARIA WAKELY, 15, FELLOWS CLOSE, LITTLE DAWLEY, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE.