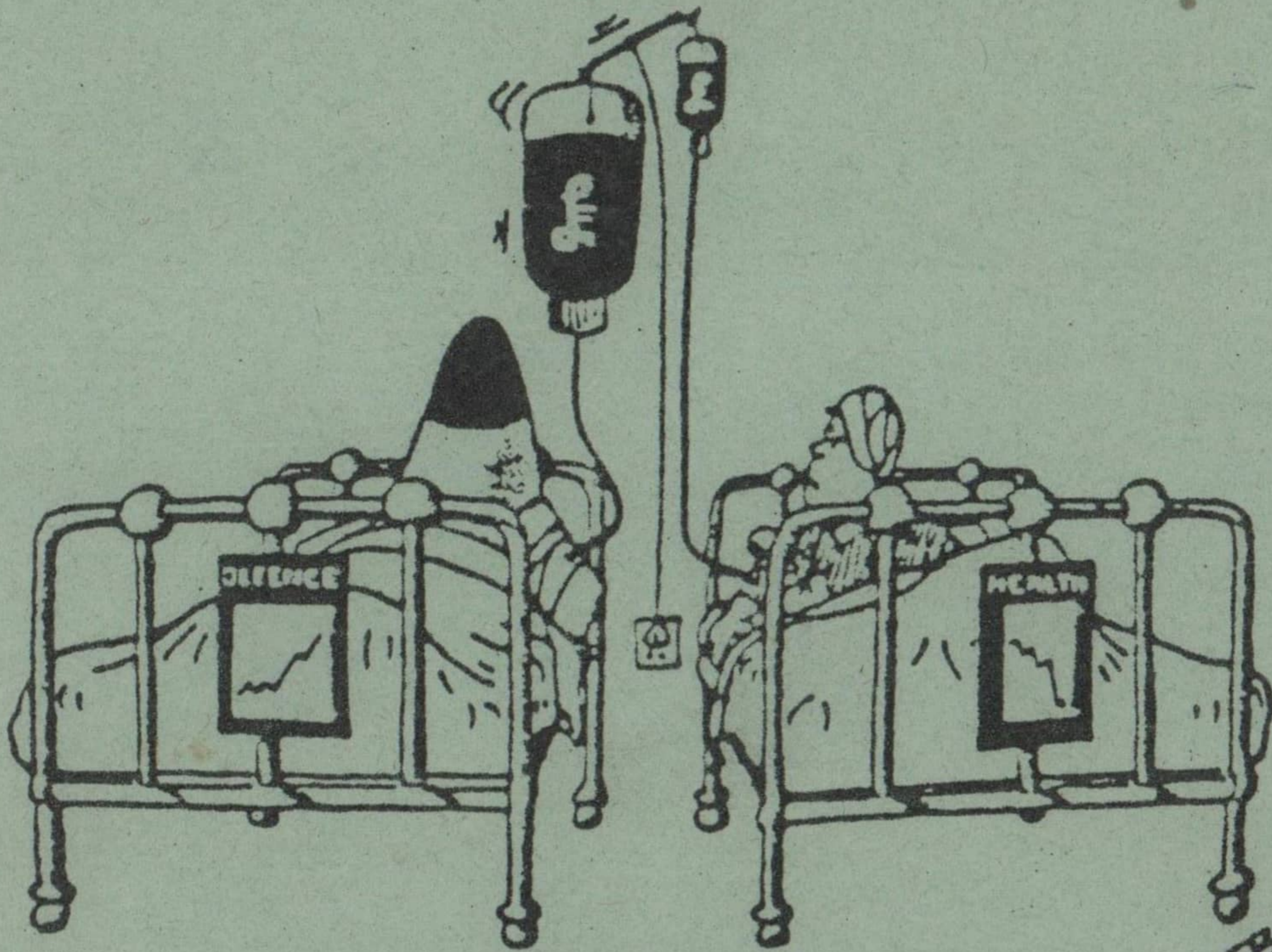


# CHAIN REACTION

MARCH 1987

## BEDS



BRICK

# NOT BOMBS

# BEDS OR BOMBS ?

It has now become common place to hear about the shortage of hospital beds, the long patients waiting lists, the closure of wards and of whole hospitals because of lack of funds. In some parts of the country there is a seven year waiting list for inpatient treatment (delays of more than two years can mean that treatment will never be carried out). Recent opinion polls have shown that over two thirds of the population believe that the present spending on the National Health Service is inadequate.

The Medical Campaign Against nuclear weapons (MCANW) has recently launched its Bed Not Bombs campaign. The campaign will highlight the absurdities of UK policies which gives greater priority to weapons of destruction than it does to caring for the ill and disabled. In its new leaflet Bed or Bombs ? It's a question of priorities, it says:

The choice between beds or bombs involves more than money, it is a choice between caring for the ill and disabled in our society or adding fuel to the arms race. Today the UK has some of the highest rates of death, disease and handicap in the developed world- yet we are planning to spend billions of pounds on more deadly nuclear bombs.'

For more information on the Beds Not Bombs campaign contact MCANW, Tress House, Stamford Street, London SE1 9NT. Tel 01- 261 1266.

Local MCANW contact Dr Eve Clevenger, 1, Wrekin Course, Wellington.



# THE REAL REASONS?

'Two thirds of the people in Britain do not want any more nuclear power stations built.'

So says a newly published Gallup public opinion poll commissioned by Friends of the Earth. This poll was taken after the recent Sizewell Report had been published.

But the government is still going ahead with the decision to build that new nuclear power station. Why is no notice taken of popular opinion? After all, a majority of public opinion against further development of nuclear power has existed since 1980.

Perhaps the government's real reason is that it would rather take a chance on nuclear power than take a chance on investing in alternative energies (wind, water, sun, conservation). It's probably also hoping that scientists will relatively soon come up with a means of making the nuclear power generation safer and to safely re-cycle nuclear waste.

Another reason is that the government may think that the miners or other labour-intensive power generation methods might 'hold the country to ransom' in the future. In contrast, the few nuclear power workers would be relatively easy to 'control'.

The real reason. Plutonium for nuclear weapons is also produced, essential for the continuation of Britain's 'independent' nuclear deterrent.



# IN BYGONE DAYS



In bygone days  
mankind walked soft upon the earth,  
each step a step in praise of life  
each breath communion with the air.

As seasons changed  
the friendship long enjoyed grew weak  
mankind the passive animal betrayed  
the life producing, life supporting earth.

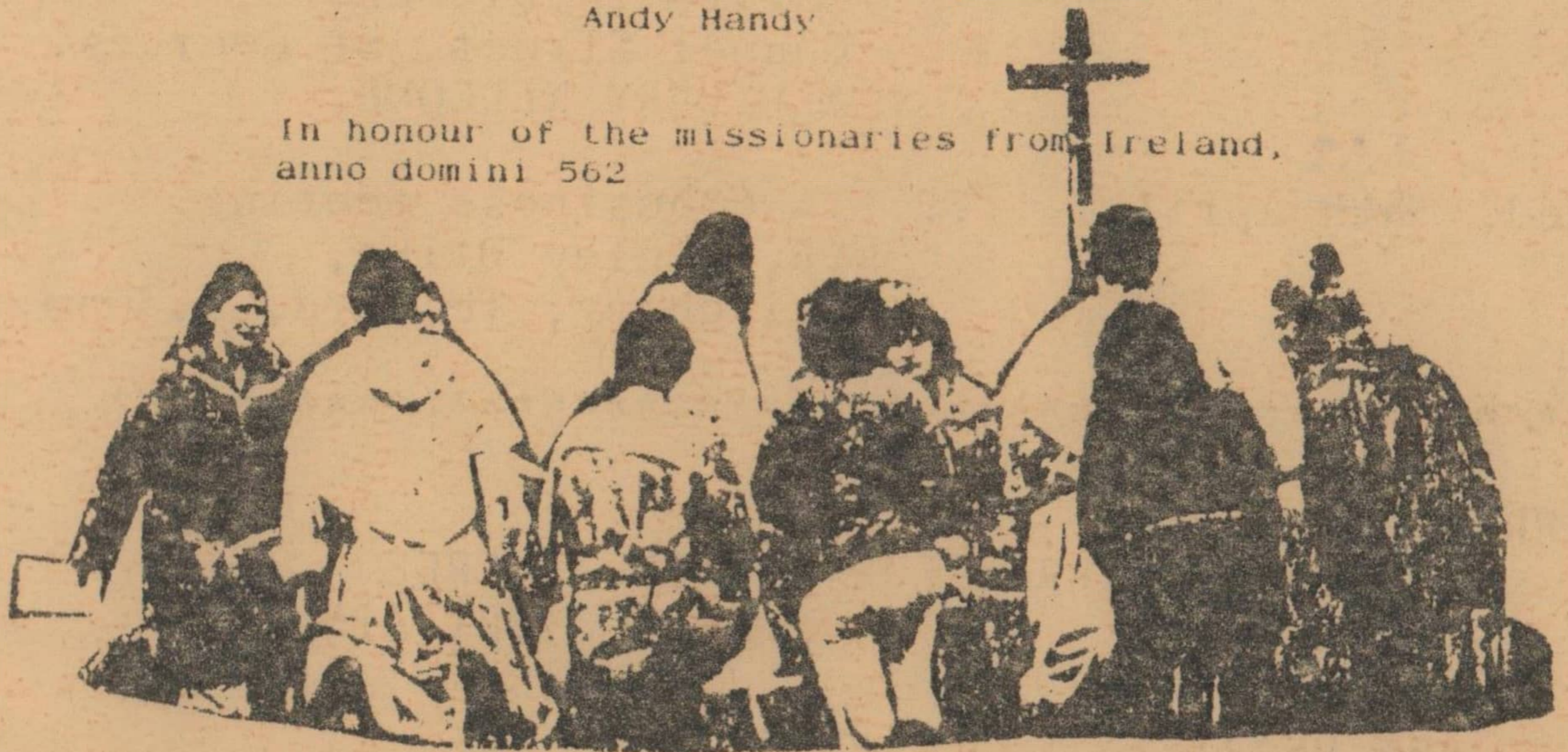
Seduced by power  
mankind no longer had time to spare  
to till the land nor tend the beasts:  
machines were made to do the work instead.

In berkshire green  
some women come to serve the earth anew  
to serve the earth, preserve its gifts  
that never rightfully were ours to take.

A time to choose  
to purge our lives of exploitative ways  
to put aside our greed (the cause of war)  
humility again put in our step.

Andy Handy

In honour of the missionaries from Ireland,  
anno domini 562



Pinch of Salt (issue 5)

# DIARY



Wed. 4th March..... TANG business meeting.  
16, Linley Drive,  
Stirchley, Telford.  
7.30p.m. ALL WELCOME.

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Sat. 14th March..... Leafletting in The  
Square, Wellington  
10.30 a.m. HELP REQUIRED.

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Sat. 21st March..... 1984- Abduction and  
subsequent death of Anti-  
nuclear campaigner Hilda  
Murrell

Sat. 28th March..... Public Meeting. Guest  
speakers from Greenpeace  
(LONDON). 7.30 p.m. at  
Environmental Centre,  
Chapel Street, St Georges.  
ALL VERY WELCOME.

Wed. <sup>1st</sup>~~8th~~ April..... TANG business meeting.  
16, Linley Drive,  
Stirchley, Telford. 7.30pm.

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APRIL 25th

DEMONSTRATE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE  
BRITAIN.

COACH FROM TELFORD.

See newsletter for details.

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## LETTER

As a member of the Green Party, I was upset to read the article " Election Prospects" in the last TANG newsletter. In it, L.O. all but condemned the Greens as closet-racists, on the grounds of what one man had said over ten years ago.

To me, it is obvious that the Greens are against racism, as indeed they are against all discrimination and prejudice. This is clearly stated in the Party Manifesto, and is continually reaffirmed at Party Conferences. Perhaps L.O. should take notice of these before he makes unjustified assertions, presumably based on his own prejudices.

As a member of the Peace Movement, I feel the Green Party is the only political party I can support. Not only does it demand immediate unilateral nuclear disarmament, and was the only party opposed to the Falklands War; but it also seeks the immediate withdrawal of Britain from N.A.T.O., an end to British involvement in the Arms Trade, and a huge cut in defence-spending.

The Alliance want replacement for Polaris; Labour Party want nuclear disarmament, but conventional armament. Only the Greens offer a real policy for peace.

Yours,

Tim Andrewes.

The quote was not an isolated opinion of one man but an whole section of a pamphlet published as the foundation document of the party in the early 1970s. L.O.

# PEACE PENTECOST

MAY 30TH OR JUNE 6TH.

THIS YEARS PEACE PENTECOST WILL BE HELD AT THE U.S. BASES OF UPPER HEYFORD AND CROUGHTON IN OXFORDSHIRE.

MORE DETAILS IN APRIL CHAIN REACTION.

## ***SURPRISED ?***

T.A.N.G. recently wrote to Wrekins prospective parliamentary candidates, Bruce Grocott (Labour) and George Cook (Alliance) and also Warren Hawksley M.P. for Wrekin, inviting them to a public meeting on peace issues. Both Bruce Grocott and George Cook have accepted our invitation. Warren Hawksley in his reply said;

" I would be surprised if I could find the time on the run-up to the General Election to attend a meeting hosted by your group. I will be having plenty of meetings when my views on nuclear issues will be questioned and in any case I think that most of my electorate are fully aware of where I stand on this very important issue".



# MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

1987.

MAY DAY weekend

May Day celebrations will this year be in three parts:

FRIDAY, MAY FIRST, Wrekin Trades Council & May Day Committee is organizing a concert at Oakengates Town Hall centring round John Edgar, who will both sing & compere. Venceremos is among others invited.

Numbered tickets (for a draw) at £2.50 waged & £1.50 unwaged; (when printed TANG will be selling them, amongst others.)

SUNDAY, MAY THIRD, the TUC nationally is organizing an human chain across the country, to mark a protest against cuts and unemployment. Plans are not yet fully published. The Trades Council, the May Day Committee, & indeed Wrekin Council, are considering participation.

MONDAY, MAY FOURTH, the traditional May Day March, and subsequent speeches, (but this year not followed by entertainment,) will be in Wellington. Tam Dalyell M.P., will be one of the speakers. March assemble 10.30 A.M. for 11.00 at Belmont Hall.



**BRUCE KENT**

**DAWLEY TOWN HALL.**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 3rd**

**—TANG MEETING.—**

TANGs next business meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March at 16, Linley Drive, Stirchley. 7.30p.m. We will be discussing our leafletting campaign, CND national demonstration, Capenhurst Snowball & other national and local events. ALL VERY WELCOME.

## As we go to press

Two events made the news on the day of the Chain Reaction editorial meeting; one directly relevant, the other the disgusting & hurried attempt to deport the Tamil refugees. Remembering the CND slogan that nuclear weapons are the moral equivalents of the gas chambers we cannot afford to ignore the latter event.

Unfortunately we cannot believe that Glenys Kinnock is, as Edwina Currie alleges, the real leader of the Labour Party. (Some of us would be readier to vote Labour at the next election if she were.) But whether or not she is, the terms in which the allegation was made are such as to pander to the most bigotted male chauvinist prejudices.

The over-hurried rush to deport Tamil political refugees only differs in terms of degree from other such deportations. Those who have intervened on behalf of the refugees have said either that it wasn't done to Jews before the War; or that the Government has not considered all the relevant facts. To the eternal shame of Britain many Jewish refugees were refused entry to Britain before the War; & it is all too clear from recent Home Office actions, that the only relevant fact that the Ministry considers is the effect on the next election.

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# COPYDATE.

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The deadline for the next copy of Chain Reaction is March 18th. All contributions are welcome and should be sent to Mark Stokes, 7, Burton Close, Burton Street, Dawley, Telford. TEL 501263.

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# PUBLIC MEETING.

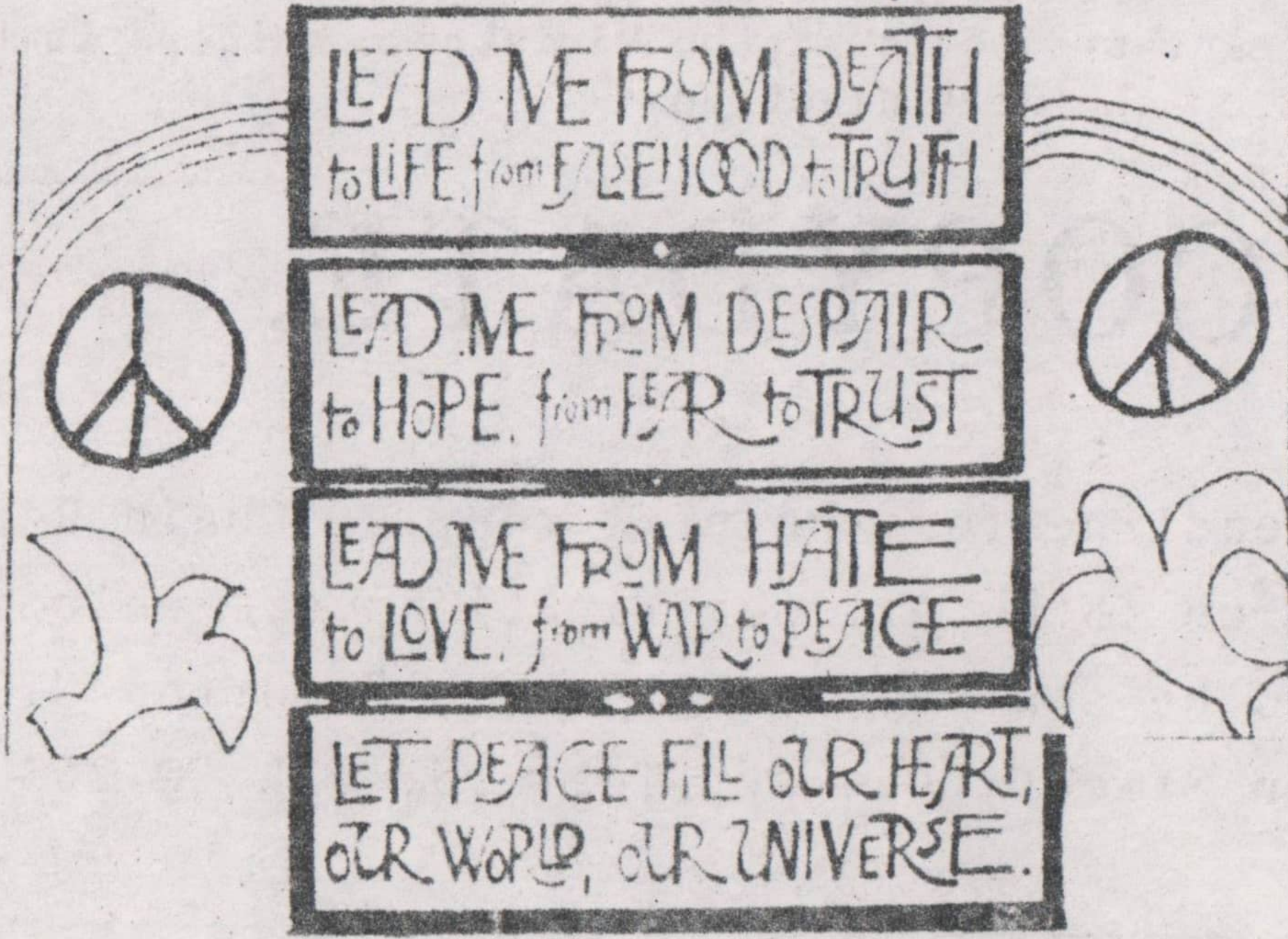
SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CENTRE, CHAPEL ST.,  
ST GEORGES, TELFORD. 7.30 P.M.

On Saturday March 28th, TANG has organised a public meeting with speakers from Greenpeace (London). If you would like to know more about the group and the actions it organises why not come along.

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## WORLD PEACE PRAYER



LEAD ME FROM DEATH  
to LIFE, from ENEMENHOOD to TRUTH

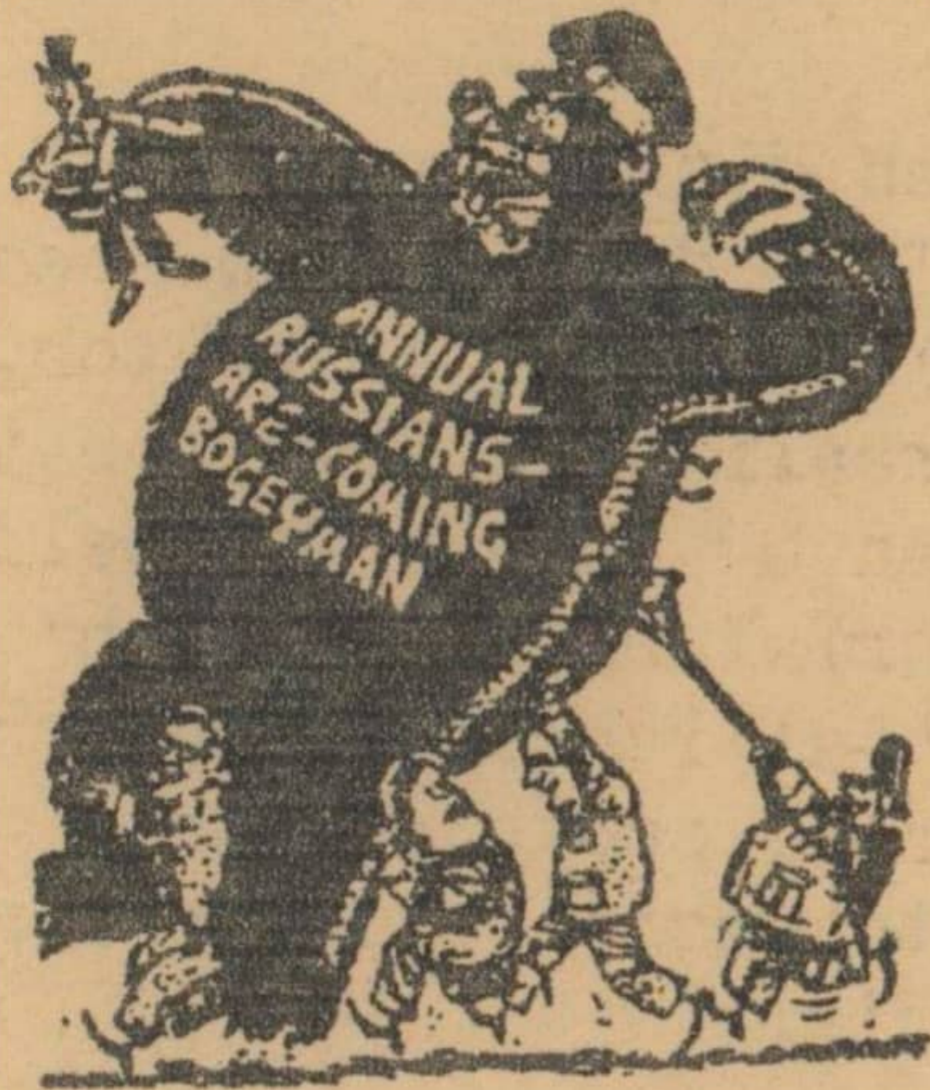
LEAD ME FROM DESPAIR  
to HOPE, from FEAR to TRUST

LEAD ME FROM HATE  
to LOVE, from WAR to PEACE

LET PEACE FILL OUR HEART,  
OUR WORLD, OUR UNIVERSE.

# THE TRUMAN

## DOCTRINE



" In order to make people bear the burden we have to create an emotional atmosphere akin to war-time psychology. We must create the idea of a threat from without".

- John Foster Dulles

Forty years ago this month President Truman made his famous 'Truman Doctrine'. It's significance is vital to anybody who wishes to avoid a nuclear holocaust. However, it also shows just how narrow in the political spectrum in the U.S.A. and how ridiculous is the claim by Denis Healey and others that the Reagan administration is somehow maverick and that all will be well when he has left office.

" We pledge our support for free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." These are the most crucial lines of the Truman Doctrine and refer to Greece. In its decline from the position of a great power, Britain was by now insufficiently strong to shore up the brutal and corrupt Greek government of King Paul and Queen Frederika. Thus the U.S. was called in using the pretext that the popular Greek rebellion was being orchestrated by the USSR. A brutal counter insurgency campaign was soon launched in which many thousands of Greeks were killed and which ended with Greece becoming a reliable client state of the U.S.A.

Another victim of the Truman Doctrine was the Moscow Peace Conference set up to discuss the future of Germany.

" Molotov ( the Soviet Foreign Minister) proved uncommonly conciliatory in the opening discussion...right on top of the conference burst the bombshell of the Truman Doctrine...it sounded like an ultimatum to be with us or to be counted against us."

( Quote by commentator Howard Smith in Hugh Higgins, " The Cold War" p45).

To be fair to Truman, his 1947 speech did not represent the opening verbal shot in the Cold War. That distinction goes to Winston Churchill for his 'Iron Curtain' speech at Fulton, Missouri in March 1946. The sinister reality is that the term 'Iron Curtain' had originally been used by Joseph Goebbels Hitler's head of propaganda in an editorial of 'Das Reich' in February 1945. Churchill called for an alliance of English speaking people against the USSR. He also spoke of their 'natural supremacy'. Stalin was soon to describe it as a new race theory to supplant that of Hitler's.

The unprecedented U.S. control over Western Europe with which we should all now be familiar had been planned out by U.S. strategists of the War and Peace studies group of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. According to Noam Chomsky;

" Their geo-political analysis attempted to determine which areas of the world would have to be 'open'-open to investment, the repatriation of profits, access to resources and soon-and dominated by the United States".

( Chomsky, Steele, Gittings "Superpowers in Collision"

So in actual fact the U.S. was operating clearly out of self-interest in Western Europe. The idea of a Soviet threat to Western Europe was a non-starter but sewed as a pretext for U.S. action. Michael Evangelista argues that U.S. intelligence reports stated that the USSR would be incapable of fighting a major war for at least 15 years. As late as 1949 the CIA reached similar conclusions. But subsequent intelligence reports "exaggerated Soviet capabilities and intentions to such a great extent that it is surprising that anyone took them seriously".

("Stalin's post-war Army Re-Appraised" in International Security magazine Winter 1982/83).

In 1945 the Red Army stood at 11.5m but by 1947 was down to 2.9m. Following the Truman Doctrine the USSR halted its demobilisation programme.

U.S. plans for atomic warfare with the USSR began in Sep. 1945 and such plans included the idea of seizing airfields

in Britain for this purpose !

( Joint Chiefs of Staff documents JCS 1496/3 and JCS 1518). Daniel Ellsberg, the former Pentagon nuclear planner lists four known nuclear threats against the USSR from 1946-55.

Having successfully provoked the Soviet Union into a ruthless clampdown in Eastern Europe and an attempt to force the Western Allies out of West Berlin, the time was now right to form NATO. The Soviet response was to re-mobilise and by 1955 it had 5.75m men under arms.

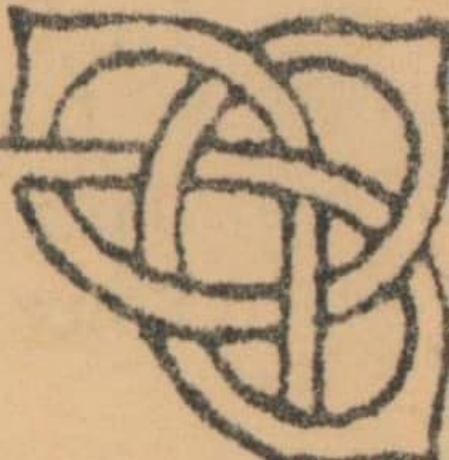

1949 was a crucial year because the formation of NATO but also because of the surprise fall of China to the Communists and the first atomic test by the USSR. The events persuaded some U.S. planners to push for big increases in military strength at both the conventional and nuclear level in order to protect U.S. economic and political interests abroad. Such a high level of military spending would also help avoid a return to the unemployment levels of the 1930s without redistributing real wealth to the ordinary people of the United States.

The document known as NSC-68 was reported to President Truman in 1950 and called for an increase in the military budget from 13.5 billion dollars a year to 50 billion. In addition it also called for the " fomenting and support of unrest and revolt in strategic (Soviet) satellite countries" and the "fostering of the seeds of destruction within the Soviet system". To this end the U.S. dropped supplies and agents into the Ukraine and other parts of the USSR until at least the early 1950's. All with little success.

One of the major figures behind NSC 68 was Paul Nitze, currently an advisor to President Reagan. Whilst his views have changed little over the years he is now regarded as 'too flexible and insufficiently hardline by many in the Reagan administration.



A.B.

**'Star Wars' is a load of Ballistics!**



“The choice has been forced back so that we have to make it now **BEFORE** war comes. In the past, we had to decide not to become war criminals. Today, we have to decide to become peace criminals or else become war criminals by default.”

*Nicholas Walter, 1963.*



# **END Convention**

## *Coventry—July 15 to 19*

The sixth annual convention for European Nuclear Disarmament will take place in Coventry from Wednesday 15th July to Sunday 19th July. The convention will bring together peace activists, political party representatives and trade unionists from all over Europe--and beyond--at the largest international disarmament convention ever held in Britain.

More details in April Chain Reaction.



" We travel together, passengers on a little space ship, dependent on its vulnerable reserves of air and soil; all committed for our safety to its security and peace; preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and, I will say, the love we give our fragile craft."

Adlai Stevenson

## **CAPENHURST SNOWBALL.**

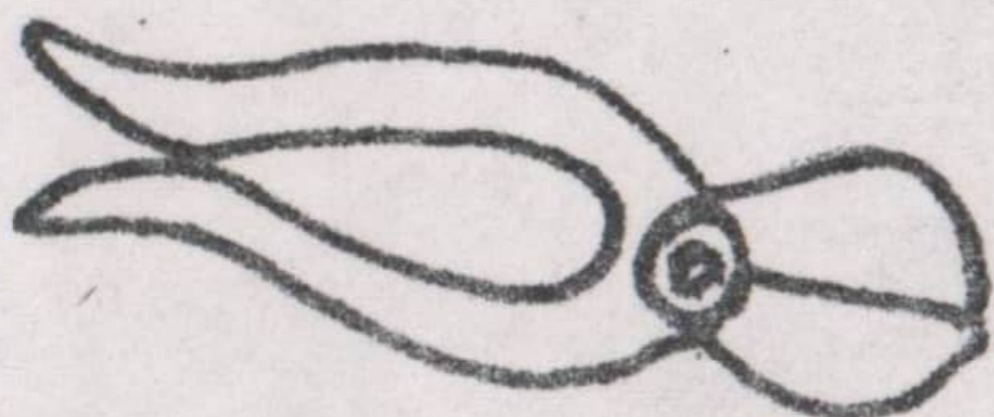
**SAT. APRIL 4TH.**



The April Snowball at the British Nuclear Fuels plant at Capenhurst will take place on Saturday April 4th. For this cut 100 cutters are needed. There will also be a spring festival complete with speakers, stalls and lots of music. Are you willing to be a cutter or supporter? Can you prepare refreshments, organise a play or a band or have any other skills suitable for a Spring festival Contact Chester 350966 OR 051 722 5389.

ANYBODY WANT TO GO FROM TELFORD ?

Contact Mark Stokes 501263.



P.T.O.

# THE SNOWBALL CAMPAIGN

Capenhurst



The Snowball Campaign is a non-violent action but it means breaking the law. Each of the Snowball protesters cuts a single strand of the perimeter wire fence at a local nuclear facility or base.

With this action they are saying:

**LIFE ON THIS EARTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE - EVEN THEIR LIBERTY.**

The Snowball started with three people cutting the fence at USAF Sculthorpe, Norfolk, then nine, then twenty seven, then eighty one. The numbers grow and grow.

Each of the snowballers goes to the police and hands in a statement explaining why s/he cut the fence. Each protester also writes three letters- either personal, or to a public figure- explaining why this action was taken. Each promises that the Snowball will stop if one of three simple requests is answered.

- 1) THAT BRITAIN STARTS VOTING IN FAVOUR OF MULTI-LATERAL DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AT THE U.N. REGARDLESS OF HOW THE U.S. VOTES, AND SUPPORTS A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY.
- 2) THAT BRITAIN PUBLICLY SUPPORTS THE NUCLEAR FREEZE PROPOSALS.
- 3) THAT BRITAIN TAKES SOME INDEPENDENT STEP TOWARDS A FREEZE OR REDUCTION IN ARMS SUCH AS ABANDONING TRIDENT, SENDING CRUISE BACK OR REJECTING U.S. PROPOSALS TO STORE CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THIS COUNTRY.

## " MONEY NEEDED AT GREENHAM

→ Women at Greenham are subject to eviction at all times; early in the morning, late at night; weekends and weekdays. This has been the situation now for over a year and still the peace camp continues.

For any of the camps around the perimeter to survive, a roadworthy vehicle is a must. In this bedding and other essentials can be kept from the bailiffs.

In order to monitor movement of Cruise convoys a camp is needed at all possible exit points and this the women have achieved. At the moment however none exist at Indigo or Blue gates, although women are keen to be there, since transport is needed and funds do not exist for this purpose.

Money is needed urgently to help buy and maintain at least one vehicle: at least £500 is required. If you think that the Womens Peace Camp and its contribution to Cruisewatch is important, will you send some money to help them; Peace Camp Acc, Newbury Building Society, 17, Batholomew Street, Newbury, Berks".

# 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.....

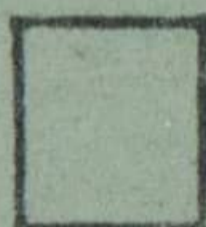
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TEL. ....

signed .....

Date .....



If ticked subscription due

\* send subscriptions payable to Telford Anti-  
Nuclear Group to

LAURENS OTTER, COLLEGE FARM HOUSE

MILL LANE, WELLINGTON, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE.

WHY WE CANT  
DO ALONE  
WE CAN DO  
TOGETHER

