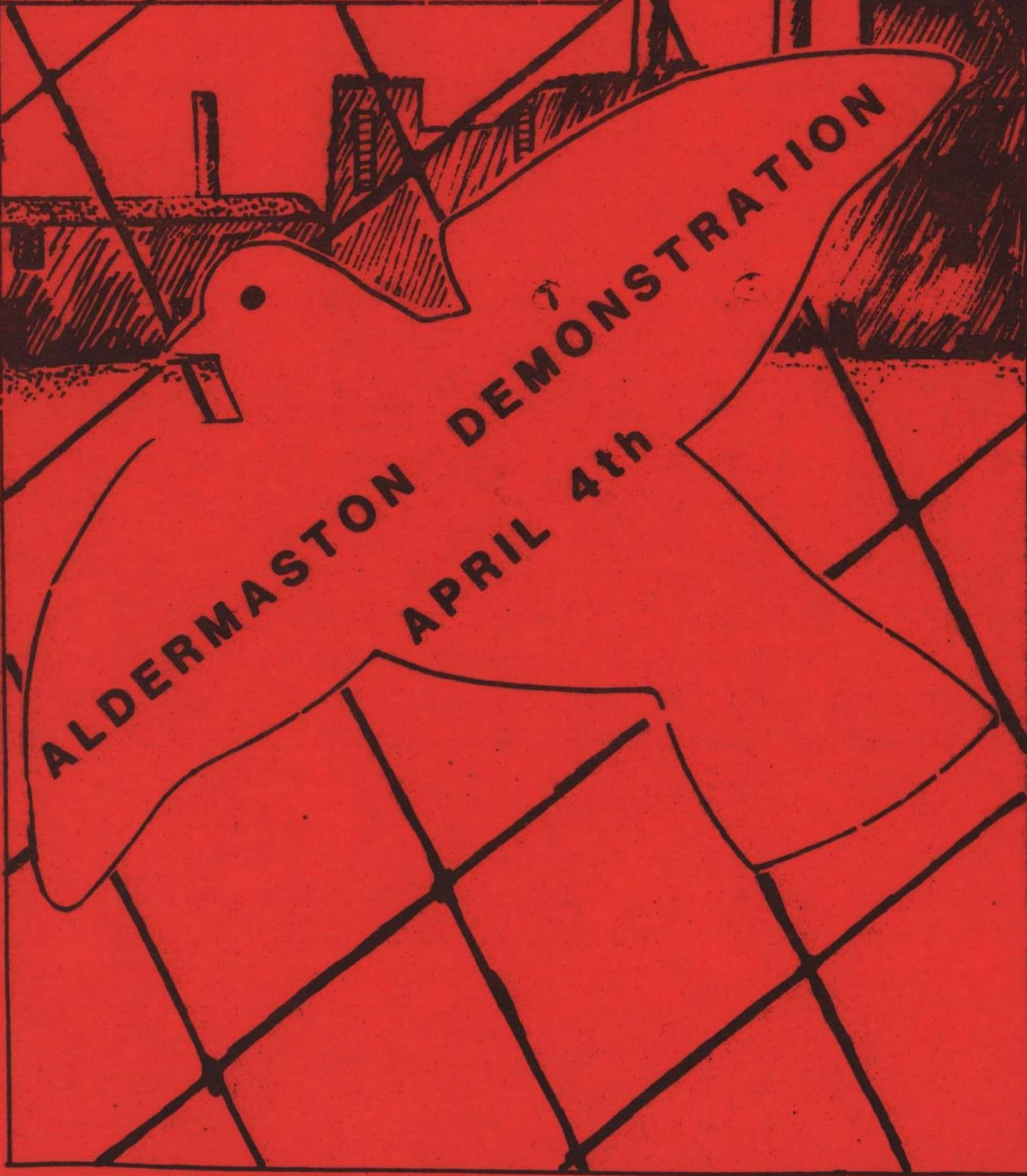




MARCH

NO. 85



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WHY ALDERMASTON

This Easter a series of marches will converge on the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston.

First built in the 50s, Aldermaston is both a nuclear weapons laboratory and production facility it designs, develops and tests warheads for;

1. British submarines ie Polaris with its updated and costly Chevline warheads and Trident,
2. The RAF's nuclear capable aircraft
3. The Royal Navy's depth charges

In addition it;

4. Manages special collaborative arrangements for nuclear cooperation and transfers nuclear materials with the United States,

Britains first nuclear bomb was built in Aldermaston's AI building which is now being replaced by the new A90 weapons manufacturing complex at an estimated cost of £35,000. When completed the A90 building will consist of four bays. Two of these bays will be used for the making of plutonium billets for Trident warheads and these will be the first to go into production, possibly in the Spring/Summer '88. The third bay will be used to dismantle obsolete nuclear weapons and to recover plutonium for further use. The fourth will be used to design, develop and manufacture 'future' generations of nuclear weapons,

There have been many accidents and leaks at Aldermaston, only some have been made public. The most recent was in December 1987 when contaminated water was discharged into the Thames at Pangbourne.



NO NEW DEPLOYMENTS

Even before the ink is dry on the INF Treaty, NATO is discussing new deployments of nuclear weapons in Europe.

Three new generations of nuclear weapons are on NATO's agenda: a short-range cruise missile that can be conventional or nuclear armed; across the board modernisation of battlefield nuclear weapons and increased deployment of sea launched cruise missiles.

On April 26-27th NATO defence ministers will meet at the 'Nuclear Planning Group' in Kolding, Denmark. It is believed the group will give the go ahead for new deployments.

The European peace movement is in the process of organising its opposition. Peace groups in each NATO country will be lobbying their governments on new NATO deployments. Whereas in the past these sorts of decisions have been made behind closed doors, we shall force them out into the open.

Peace groups in each country will be circulating a letter of protest and gathering signatures from groups and individuals.

WHAT WE MUST DO

1) Circulate the letter overleaf and gather as many signatures as possible. Petition forms are available from CND and from TANG. We should aim to gather at least 500 names. Approach local organisations such as churches, trades unions, political parties. All petitions and letters should be sent to CND national office by April 15th.

no new deployments cont...

To the Rt Hon George Younger,
Secretary of State for Defence

We call on you to continue the process of disarmament started by the INF treaty signed by Reagan and Gorbachev by:

1. making no further nuclear or nuclear capable deployments of any kind in the NATO area, including at sea.

2. continuing negotiations to secure further zero-zero options covering other classes of weapons both nuclear and conventional, and troops and equipment (e.g. tanks, submarines).

3. opening up political frameworks and discussions to move towards a new common security for the whole of Europe based on demilitarisation and the dissolution of the bloc system that separates Europe into East and West alliances.

In particular, Britain should contribute in the short term by immediately scrapping the Trident programme and by refusing to permit any new deployments of nuclear weapons or nuclear capable vessels or aircraft in Britain.

We pledge to resist the remaining nuclear weapons in Europe and any new deployments, with the same spirit of protest with which we confronted the deployment of cruise and perishing missiles.

2) Help lobby the British Parliament and our own MP. It'll be hard to squeeze any concessions out of the Thatcher Government, but we can make them take their decisions more publicly and it's important to inform all MPs, whatever their party, about possible new deployments. Briefing papers are available from Underwood Street.

DIARY

- Weds. 2nd March TANG business meeting . 7.30 pm.
16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.
- Sat. 5th March RALLY ROUND YOUR HEALTH SERVICE.
A Demonstration in London. Also during
this month several rallies will take
place in and around Telford. Please see
details in enclosed leaflet.
- Weds. 16th March Chain Reaction meeting. 7.30 pm.
2 Attingham Close, Holmer Lake.
- Weds. 16th March Brooklands Anti-Nuclear group meeting
at 30 Stokesay Rd., Brooklands. 7.30 pm
- Sat. 19th March Donation Supper for Central American
8.00 pm. Week. Guest Speaker: Jean-Marie Simon
Photo-Journalist and Author of a book
on Guatemala. 1, Cound Close, Dothill.
Yvonne or Ollie Tel: 641104

Tang will also be showing a video on a Central American
theme during Central American Week - for details phone
Robert on 53705 , or Mark on 501263.

- Tues. 22nd March TRAIDCRAFT FASHION SHOW.
7.30 pm. The Buttermarket Shrewsbury.
Waged £3.50, Unwaged £2.50. For more
information contact Robert as above.
- Weds. 30th March Cloak and Dagger Revue.
7.30 pm. Labour Club, Shrewsbury.
- April 1st-4th National Demonstration at Aldermaston
See centre pages.
- Weds. 6th April Tang Business Meeting- as 2nd March.
- Thurs. 21st April Nightmare in paradise , talk and slide
show - see elsewhere in this issue.

INF LETTERS CALL

The Northern Friends Peace Board has suggested that groups or individuals could write to key senators or state/national U.S. newspapers asking them to ratify the INF Treaty. Ratification seems fairly certain but one never knows.

Letters should be written from your own experience and can include instances of local or national action against the siting of Euro-missiles in Britain etc.

It is suggested that you stress your hope that the INF negotiations have set an important precedent etc., and perhaps congratulate the US administration on its efforts to date.

People in the U.S. know very little about the European Peace Movement and the sustained opposition to Cruise and Pershing deployment in Europe. Demonstrations or actions which they have heard about have often been presented as anti-American. It is important to point out that our position is anti-nuclear not anti-American.

There is a very large constituency concerned with peace issues in the US which regularly takes up peace issues with their Senators. The following information lists US Senators who have been identified as being so called "swing voters", that is who are undecided on the issue. Two key Senators are Sam Nunn from Georgia who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Robert Dole from Kansas who leads the Republican Party in the Senate. Information on Peace Groups within states can be obtained from : Rae Street, People to People, Calder Cottage, Hare Hill Rd., Littleborough, Lancs., OL15 9HG.

Address: United States Senate, Washington DC 20510, USA.
Christopher S. Bond - Republican-(R). Robert Dole -(R).
Ernest F. Hollings - Democrat (D). Richard G Lugar-(R).
Don Nickles-(R). Bob Packwood-(R). Warren B. Rudman-(R).
Also Sam Nunn(D). He is already voting favourably, but he could be very important in helping to swing other votes, and should be written to and encouraged.

It could also be effective to write to a national or local newspaper; a local paper would probably regard it as a rare event and be likely to print your letter.

Centres of Resistance



In November last year about 30, people from various parts of England came together to discuss the possibility of setting up a network of Christian 'Centres of Resistance'. What brought us together was the conviction that, with a Conservative Government elected for a third term, there should be a nationwide witness against an ideology that puts competition and the selfish pursuit of wealth above the justice, freedom and love of neighbour called for by the Kingdom of God. There are plans to organise an event on this theme on Good Friday in Birmingham, Sheffield, Hereford, Southampton, Bristol and London. For more details contact Rosemary Palmer, 16, Lindore Rd, London SW11 1HJ. Tel 01-228 6522.

CHAIN REACTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, letters etc. are always welcome. These may be typed to fit into our page directly, typed roughly, or hand written legibly. Please send or give to any of the following:

Mark Stokes,	7 Burton Close, Dawley.	Tel: 501263
Tot Dawes,	6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.	Tel: 507040
Stephen Cupitt,	258 Burford, Brookside.	Tel: 594825
Laurens Otter,	College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington.	Tel: 641852

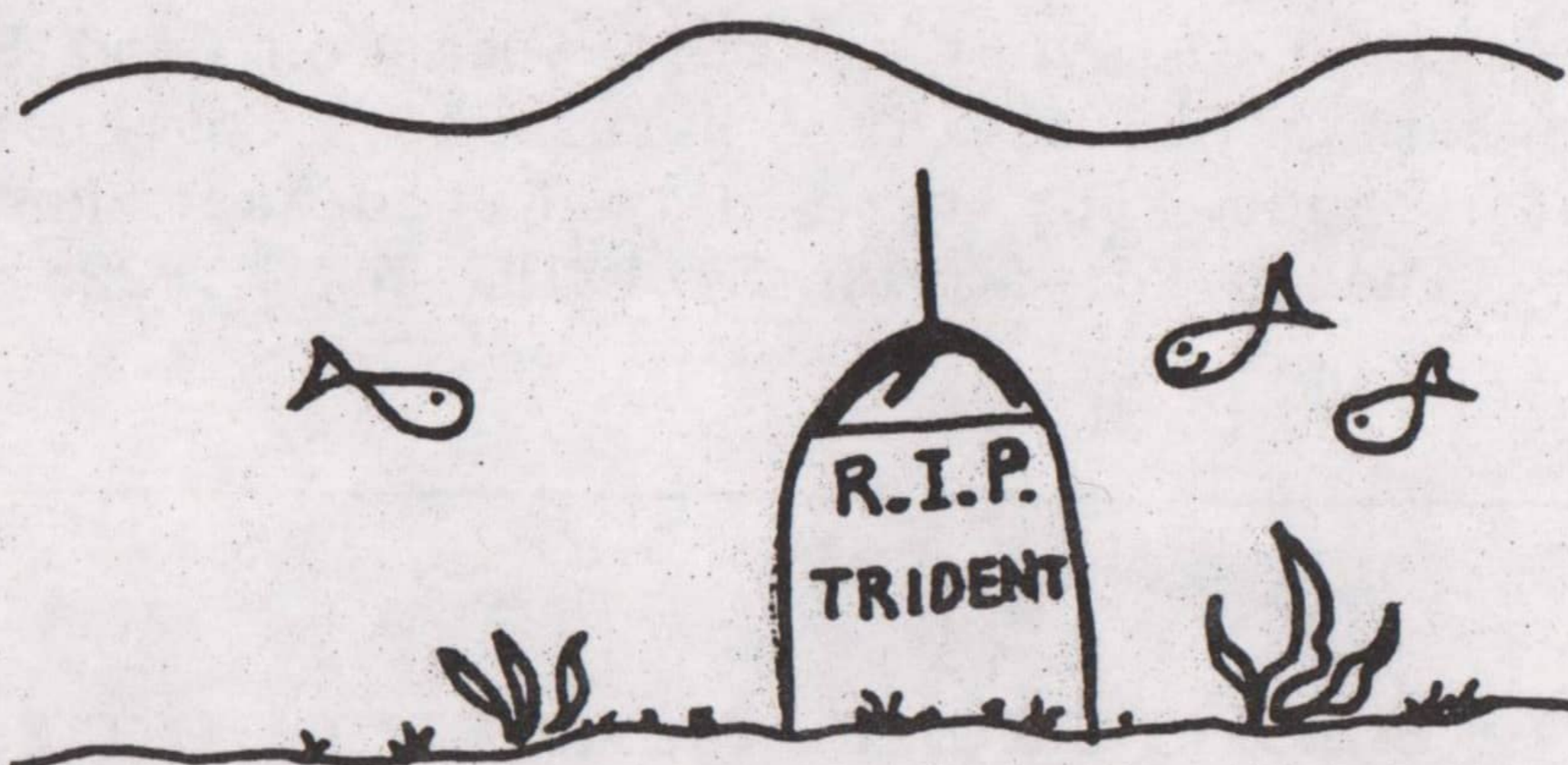
Deadline for next issue: 16th March.

Extra help with editing, typing etc. always appreciated. In particular word processing training and experience could be provided to a competent typist who would like to learn this new skill!

TRIDENT - RIP

Production of the Trident system seems to be hitting a few problems.

In the United States, test firing of the missile recently resulted in a spectacular failure when it exploded in mid-air. Meanwhile in Britain production of the warhead components is way beyond schedule. The most recent mishaps to befall the system happened in two consecutive days last month when two sections of the submarine hull fell off their cargo ships and sunk off the coast of Scotland. The MOD is now busy trying to find the best way of salvaging the £1.5 million worth of components. Our hope is that they remain in their watery grave to Rust In Peace.



Capenhurst Snowball

On the 16th January the 9th Snowball took place at BNFL Capenhurst, supporters from as far afield as Anglesey, Sheffield and Derby attended.

The next cut will take place in April. a workshop has been organised for March 6th at Bishop Lloyds Palace, Watergate St, Chester. 2-6pm.

For more information contact Patricia. 18 Shavington Avenue, Hoole, Chester. Tel 350966.

Back in December in Chain Reaction Peter Nias wrote about the military games in Shifnal. Following this the Shropshire Star (feb 13) has given a report of a secret army organised by a former member of the British Movement in the Stafford area.

The "flowering" of militarist groups, - a flowering the dangers of which ought to have been illustrated by Hungerford events is characteristic of the social attitudes that underly Thatcherism, what was sown at Goose Green was reaped in Hungerford.

DID YOU KNOW ?

AT THE PRESENT RATE OF US BUILDING OF CRUISE, NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT AND SUBMARINE LAUNCHERS THEY WOULD INCORPORATE ALL THE INF AGREEMENT NUCLEAR WARHEADS WITHIN ONE YEAR IN THESE NEW MISSILES (SUCH AN INCORPORATION IS NOT PREVENTED BY THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT) AND VICE VERSA

UK REFUSES TO INCLUDE ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN DISCUSSIONS AND NEW TRIDENT WOULD INCREASE OUR STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY 6-14 FOLD. THESE MISSILES ARE ONLY ON LOAN TO US FROM THE USA AND THEY ONLY HAVE FIRST STRIKE POTENTIAL.

UK (TOGETHER WITH US AND FRANCE) HAVE REFUSED TO SIGN THE 1985 TREATY RESTRICTING THE TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE PACIFIC, EVEN THOUGH AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND AND THE USSR HAVE SIGNED IT.



ALDERMASTON DEMO



TANG is organising a coach to the Aldermaston demonstration on Monday April 4th, Details as follows;

Waged £5.00 Unwaged £3.00

Pickup points

Madeley (F.LCOCKS)	8.30a.m.
Dawley (Lord Hill)	8.40a.m.
Wellington (Cock Hotel)	8.50a.m.
Telford Centre	9.00a.m.

To book seats please contact one of the following
Laurens 641852 Mark 501263 Barbara 598452
or write to John Harrison, 43, Prince St, Madeley
Telford.

Anybody interested in joining the London to
Aldermaston march (April 1st - 4th) contact
Peter Nias tel 587532

The people of Shropshire deserve a better health service

Telford Trades Council calls for the following demands to be met:-

* Telford Hospital which is long awaited must be fully opened on time.

* No cottage hospitals should be closed as they provide a vital service in rural areas for the elderly and those who are immobile.

* Improve pay and conditions for all nurses which will attract and maintain staffing levels

* Shropshire requires increased Government investment to provide better health services.

TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS

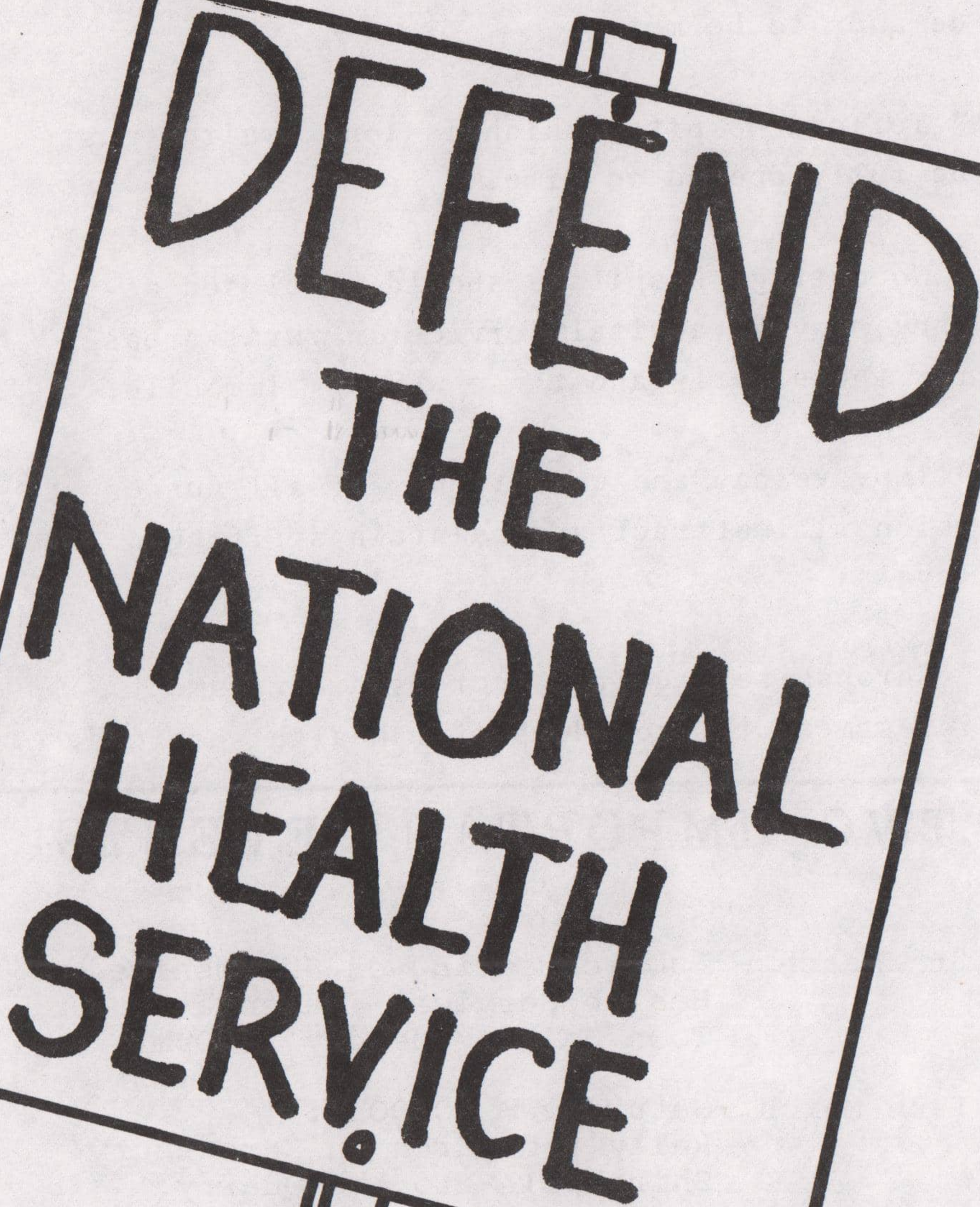
8th March - Public Meeting on Shropshire Health Service - Oakengates Town Hall - Tuesday 7.30pm.

12th March - Saturday - 10.00am.
Rally and March in Shrewsbury Shirehall - to the Quarry.
Coach from Telford watch press for details.

Printed by madeley peoples centre

published by Telford and District Trades Council

Telford and District Trades Council



DEFEND
THE
NATIONAL
HEALTH
SERVICE

APRIL 4TH EASTER MONDAY

**ASSEMBLE AWE ALDERMASTON FROM 12 NOON
TO ENCIRCLE THE BASE AT 2pm**

**BRING PEACE SYMBOLS TO TIE TO THE FENCE AND MUSIC
TO SURROUND THE BASE WITH NOISE**

On Easter Monday we plan to encircle Aldermaston, covering the fence with peace symbols. There are military bye-laws in force at Aldermaston which prohibit putting things on the fence. We consider such bye laws to be an attempt to silence our protest and will be making our intentions perfectly clear to the police when discussing our plans for the day.

We are not encouraging other forms of action because Aldermaston is a very dangerous place, highly radioactive in some areas.

There will be plenty of activity in the form of music, street theatre and singing around the perimeter of the base during the day. Instead of everyone frantically trying to get to one rally site, we propose having a number of mini rallies and/or moving the speakers around the base. Each gate at Aldermaston will have a particular theme.



PEACE SYMBOLS

In this copy of 'Chain Reaction' you will find enclosed a *PEACE SYMBOL* on which you can write your message. Please send your symbol back to us (to Laurens Otter, College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington, Telford***) and those of us who are on the march will fix it to the fence.

Or even better, come down to Aldermaston and put it on the fence yourself.

You don't need to send a donation with it, but if you are able to do so it will be much appreciated.

*** This may be a good opportunity to send us your subscription to 'Chain Reaction' if you have not already done so!!!.

PUBLIC MEETING

NIGHTMARE IN PARADISE

Thursday April 21st

A talk with slides about the damage done to the Pacific and its inhabitants by nuclear testing.

Let know

at
the Environmental Action Centre
Chapel St.
St. Georges
at 8.00 p.m.



" WE ARE DYING SLOWLY, VERY SLOWLY, OF NUCLEAR RELATED DISEASES. AND OUR WOMEN ARE AFRAID OF PREGNANCY. SOME GIVE BIRTH AFTER NINE MONTHS TO BABIES LIKE JELLY FISH THAT BREATHE THEN DIE."

Chailang from the Marianas Islands, speaking in the UK, March 1985.

Regretably its nothing new but two items of early February news demonstrate just how hypocritical the claims of the Cold Warriors of both sides; (that "their bombs are for imperialist aggression, our bombs defend Democracy/Socialism";) are.

After the Bophutswana military, which had been trained by South Africa, is officered by people chosen by South African officials, had - for whatever reasons - turned against that country's puppet President; South African forces were sent in to quell the insurrection.

It turned out that South Africa and the "independent" Bantustans have an agreement whereby South African forces will intervene to protect the general good. Readers will recall learning of a similar agreement by the Warsaw Pact countries in 1968, - (or at least those readers who are old enough to remember Czech events in that year.)

Though nowadays it is common, even for Thatcherites, to pay lip service to opposing Apartheid one can assume that criticism will be less raucous from Tory benches than it was when Russia invaded Afghanistan. But equally, though Gorbachov has made it respectable for apologists for Russia to deplore the invasion of Czechoslovakia, they will, nevertheless, fail to see the parallel.

Meanwhile the U.S.A. is allowing itself to be partially diverted from hounding the Sandanista, in that it has found a new hate figure in Central America. General Noriega, trained as he was by both the Pentagon & the C.I.A., might seem a surprising bogeyman for the Americans; (but then after all Colonel Gadaffi was also helped to power by the C.I.A.)

Of course the denunciations appear to suggest that the U.S.A. has suddenly learnt that he is a dictator; (which is rather like Margaret Thatcher suddenly learning that her fellow monetarist and trading partner, General Galtieri, was a fascist) but as he and his predecessor, General Torrijos, have maintained a dictatorship in Panama, for about a quarter of a century, with only a very brief previous American objection, ("coincidentally" at the time of Torrijo's replacement,) this seems unconvincing.

Alternative accounts claim that America has learnt that General Noriega protects, (& takes bribes from,) drug smugglers. Again what is new? Quite apart from the fact that the Panamanian economy has been linked since the war to the drug trade, and the U.S.A. has known this, & been happy to see its people thereby diverted from any political involvement; America's international role on drugs resembles that of Britain in the days of the Opium Wars with China.

In Nicaragua, in Kampuchea, & in Afghanistan, the U.S.A. subsidizes guerrillas ("freedom fighters") whom according to her own Congress investigations are heavily involved in heroin traffic.

The Iran-Contragate investigations have shown that at the very time that the Reagans were supposedly launching a campaign against drug abuse, "say no to..", national security officials were deliberately turning a blind eye to the import of drugs to Florida, both by Nicaraguan Contras, and by anti-Communist Cubans.

So why can't General Noriega have his share of the cake?

Panama was created as a separate country so as to allow control of the Canal area; control that is financially highly profitable. Consequently from its inception, - created by an externally-funded revolt demanding secession of the region from Columbia, just at the time when American engineers had decided that it would be too costly to implement their previous planned canal, (ironically through Nicaragua,) - Panama has been a puppet ruled by people loyal to the U.S.A.

Every so often, international pressures convince one such that his country (or he personally) would gain more by a less one-sided commitment. Each time that happens, America suddenly awakes to the fact that there is something less than perfect about Panamanian Democracy. The last time that happened was when General Noriega - with CIA support - overthrew Torr-ijos.

The Ultimate Blasphemy— conclusion

In January's Chain Reaction I wrote 'The Ultimate Blasphemy', a report on the public meeting with Father Alfred Willetts as our guest speaker. Now I write the sequel to that article concluding my report and thoughts on the evening.

Alfred compared the conveyer belt of death for the Jews, and others, in Nazi Germany, with the nuclear weapons programmes of the nuclear states today. There are indeed similarities.

An extensive industrial effort was required to supply all the equipment, material and services for the concentration camps and their machinery of death. Many hundreds of companies and many thousands of people were involved in this supply, with greater or lesser awareness of the end-result of their labour. Some people spoke out and were punished accordingly. Most passively accepted the situation.

Today, are we not in a similar situation? There is an intensive industrial effort in manufacturing nuclear weapons; supplying components, materials, services, the nuclear material, and also maintaining the bases where they are stored, the aircraft, ships and launchers of various kinds. Again hundreds of companies and thousands of people are involved. Perhaps we have a greater knowledge today of the end result of these activities and our role practically in them. In addition, nearly every one of us is financially involved in paying for the creation and maintenance of these nuclear weapons.

Who will speak out today?

Many have spoken out, through letters to the press, to MPs, by attending demonstrations, going on marches, supporting the women at Greenham Common, and in many other ways. But is this not relatively easy? By doing so we need fear nothing like the consequences which befell those in Nazi Germany.

....over

....the Ultimate Blasphemy cont.

Should we be doing more? I know I am frightened of breaking the law and being arrested, for a variety of reasons. Today we are quite affluent in Britain generally and so believe ourselves to have much more to lose. Consequently I envy those with the courage to break the law because of their commitment to peace. Future generations may condemn us as previously others were condemned in the Nuremburg trials for obeying orders.

Alfred spoke of the Marines creed, stating how he and his rifle are one, united as a killing machine. I believe this was featured in Stanley Kubrick's film, 'Full Metal Jacket', on the Vietnam war. It is part of a process soldiers undergo in training to make them kill others without hesitation and with a clear conscience. This strikes me as being truly evil. From a Christian perspective the Bible states 'Thou shall not kill' and Luke quotes Jesus saying 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who ill-treat you.' Whether the Russians are our enemies is open to debate.

Alfred spoke of the despair and pessimism he found in young people today. this reflects the apathy apparent across all generations. It may be that apathy can be seen as a force of evil and conversely action as a force of good.

Robert Saunders



Some occasional readers of Chain Reaction have criticised TANG's cool welcome to the I.N.F. deal. Saying that cynicism is only the reaction of a minority, & that the mass of people welcome it, implying that it should be accepted that such mass good sense must be right.

Apart from the fact that those who argue this way are somewhat selective; - they don't generally assume, fortunately that because Mrs Thatcher won the elections we should all troop over to the Tory Party, & starve the N.H.S. & the education system; nor that because the Sun is widely read that radical papers should feature page 3 girls; - our critics haven't looked at the news.

The Observer reports that already the Western powers have introduced more nuclear weapons, (allegedly to replace those that will be abolished by I.N.F.,) than will be - if the I.N.F. is ever actually completed and ratified - abolished by the treaty.

But it is not only in this respect that brinkmanship continues. Chain Reaction, at the time of the Gulf of Sidre affair, stressed that that sort of display of big power arrogance could easily spark off a war. Far more so when American ships insist on sailing through Russian territorial waters in the Black Sea; (one has only to think what American reaction would be to similar Soviet naval incursions into, say, Apalachee Bay;) near Russian military ports. That is deliberately provoking a risk of war, & hardly testifies to a spirit of detente.

The Guardian (Feb. 15) has a picture of a Nicaraguan Contra leader called Commandante Hitler. Remembering that Reagan insists on calling the contras "Freedom fighters" & argues that money for them is essential to the free world, that too is a demonstration of brinkmanship; if Reagan believed any of his own case, he would have insisted that the contras (at least partially) clean up their image; that one should boast of his admiration for Hitler is reminiscent of a stage in the Vietnam War, when Vice-President Cy did the same. It doesn't suggest that the world leaders want to make peace.

State Insecurity

"The Arrogance of Uncontested Power", (25p, available from TANG) a Wrekin Libertarian pamphlet by Laurens Otter, attempts to put the continuing mystery of the murder of Hilda Murrell into the context of other contemporary scandals, - such as Spycatcher, Stalker, - concerning state security functions.

"People used to be hanged for Treason, (& still can be.) Now we make them Prime Ministers."
(Anon. 1939.)

Treason in conventional politics in this country is the most serious charge that can be made. It is made, advisedly, in this document. We all know that there is one law for the rich and one for the rest; it delineates another divide, - one for government & one for the people, - not claiming this as original, but as one which of late has increased by leaps & bounds.

Revelations of duplicity come in in an ever more rapid flow. The Secret Services, the suppression of information, withholding facts from Parliament on nuclear weapons, silencing individuals and the Media by courts, threats & foul deeds.

The Intelligence Services, in particular, are seen as out of control; yet whether their misdeeds are known or not, the government has attempted to draw a ragged cloth of denials & injunctions over events. Occasionally some slip through - Clive Ponting & Peter Wright - others are less fortunate - Sarah Tisdall & Hilda Murrell.

Hilda Murrell knew too much & was a thorn in the flesh. More important she was seen as part of a threatening wider movement, challenging the state. Someone decided she had to go, not just because of herself, but 'pour décourager nous autres'. Hence the deliberate questions left unanswered concerning her unsolved murder.

Governments claim to be the judge of national interest, - though one might note that the theoretical distinction between a democracy & a dictatorship lies in a qualification - but what happens when they are also in the dock? Peter Nias



Of Presidents and Present Dangers

A conference on US imperialism in the 1990s, including the American global military strategy and Third World militarisation is being held in Sheffield in April.

Organised by Ankie Hoogvelt, speakers will include Tariq Ali, Tony Benn MP, Duncan Campbell, Hassan Sunmonu, Teresa Hayter, Federico Castilblanco, Paul Sweezy and Kees v.d. Pijl. The conference will bring together some 500 political activists and concerned scholars from across the whole spectrum of contemporary struggles and liberation movements, solidarity campaigns, peace movements and development organisations.

The Conference aims to put US imperialism on the agenda in this, the presidential election year. It is a good time to examine the entire structure and scope of the American Empire against the backdrop of potentially monumental shifts in geopolitical relations.

The conference will be held at Sheffield University, and an exhibition, bazaar, film season and educational video will be available. Details and registration forms are available from Ankie Hoogvelt, Conference Organising Committee, 302 Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN.



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Please send subscription payable to Telford Anti Nuclear Group to:

Laurens Otter, College Farm House, Mill Lane,
Wellington, Telford, Shropshire.

