



APRIL

NO. 86

SUPPORT



PEACE

PRISONERS

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RESISTANCE GATHERING

CND has agreed to sponsor a gathering for everybody involved in Non-violent resistance to the nuclear state.

This will take place on the weekend of April 30/May 1, possibly in Coventry. We want as many people as possible to be involved in this: peace campers, Cruise Watchers, Nukewatchers, nuclear train spot t ers, NVDA groups, nuclear ship monitors, Christian CND activists... In short anyone involved in non-violent protest against whatever branch of the nuclear state.

The purpose of the gathering will be to share experiences, build on our strengths, look at what we might be doing wrong and to move to build a strong non-violent network for the future. For more information contact: Martin Jones, Martin Mollusc or Barbara Eggleston at CND 22-24 Underwood street, London N1 7JG.



Chain Reaction goes to the press as news comes through of Honduran bombing of a Nicaraguan airfield, just after American troops were sent to Honduras after an alleged Sandanista incursion.

A quarter of a century ago a similar small incident in the Bay of Tonkin was the excuse for American involvement in the Vietnam war. Now even American government historians concede that the story was manufactured. Even if there were hot pursuit across the border, America has excused this when South Africa has advanced far further into her neighbouring states.

Fourth Anniversary

There are some Whodunnit writers, of whom one knows that if in the first chapter they establish for one character a cast-iron alibi, show that he or she was unacquainted with the deceased and can have had no possible alibi, and anyway was physically incapable of the deed; that it will emerge in the last page or so that this character by means & for reasons not previously disclosed, was the culprit.

Presumably on this basis the orthodox view has now been for nearly quarter of a century that Lee Harvey Oswald murdered President Kennedy; and West Mercia police have similarly relied for four years on the Whodunnit readers learnt tendency to assume that whoever apparently couldn't have committed the crime must be the culprit.

The fictitious casual burglar who broke into Miss Murrell's house four years ago, took some small change, then dragged her upstairs to tie her up, and then down again, leaving jewellery & other valuables; drove at the height of the rush hour through the centre of Shrewsbury, turning right frequently across the line of traffic to abduct her and then a few days later dumping the body in a wood East of Haughmond Hill might have thought a little 'over the top' even for the worst Whodunnit writer, but is nevertheless a worthy successor to Oswald.

In these circumstances, it was with sorrow not unmixed with amazement, that I saw that in the New Statesman, (which three years ago had published some of the earliest independent research on the murder,) Duncan Campbell, of all people, in, inappropriately, a review of Stalker's book, chose to give credence to the police story; without producing any evidence whatsoever to make this story less incredible.

However, going to press, as we do, a week before the fourth anniversary of Hilda's abduction and subsequent murder, it provides another occasion to stress that at the very least if the police story has any truth in it whatsoever, then they show themselves to have been criminally negligent; & the fact they cannot catch an obviously incompetent burglar-murderer doesn't inspire confidence. It is more probable that they are covering up something, for someone.

DIARY

Fri. 1st April London to Aldermaston march begins.

Mon. 4th April **ALDERMASTON DEMONSTRATION.**
Coach from Telford.



Weds. 6th April TANG business meeting .
7.30 pm. 16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.
All very welcome.

Weds. 20th April Chain Reaction meeting.
7.30 pm. 2 Attingham Close, Holmer Lake.

Thur. 21st April Nightmare in paradise , talk and slide
7.30 pm. show - see elsewhere in this issue.

Sat. 23rd April Dawley Day. TANG will have a stall, help
10am - 4pm. appreciated.

Fri. 30th April- NVDA Gathering- see elsewhere in issue.

Sun. 1st May

Mon. 2nd May May Day March and Rally. Donnington.
Assemble 10am. Speakers: Bruce Grocott, Anti-Apartheid,
N.U.P.E. . For further details 'phone
Paul Wolfe, 501218.

(May Day Message available from Mark Stokes, 7 Burton Close
Dawley, on receipt of an A4 S.A.E.)

Weds. 4th May TANG Meeting as on 6th April.



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.

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.

The Soft Sell- afield

The nuclear power industry wants to spend £400,000 on women this year. This is because their surveys have shown that more women are against nuclear power than men (two-thirds of women are against, compared to half of men).

The money is going on advertising. This will be geared to telling women that nuclear power is a good idea.

In fact, according to a leaked (!) report, people in general saw the nuclear industry as 'devious and secretive'. Apparently the old adverts saying how safe everything was had had the opposite effect of making everybody feel nervous.

So what will these new adverts for women say? Probably not that Sellafield radiation emissions can be measured as far afield as Spain and Poland. Perhaps instead there might be 'women to women' adverts?

Whatever is done, it'll be worth keeping an eye open for this latest attempt to influence an already nuclear-tainted world.



An article in World Watch magazine by Christopher Flavin, a senior researcher at the WorldWatch Institution in Washington DC, suggests that three new 'chernobyls' can be expected to occur by the end of the century.

World Watch Jan/Feb 1988

WORKING FOR THE FREEDOM OF A PEACEWORKER IS A WORK OF PEACE!

Prisoners for Peace

In last month's Chain Reaction Robert Saunders , in his article "The Ultimate Blasphemy" , expressed admiration for those within the peace and justice movement who feel called to take part in actions which are in breach of the law.

As someone who has taken part in non-violent direct action, and has served time in prison as a result , I know that the price for such action is high, not only for oneself , but for one's family.

Support

What sustained me during the time of the court case and prison sentence was the enormous support I received from family , friends and fellow peace activists. During my four days in prison, I received 14 letters and cards of support, which not only raised my spirits considerably but led to the prison authorities (who read the correspondence before hand) and my fellow inmates being made aware of the support outside. In other cases , especially abroad, such support could save the life of a 'Prisoner for Peace', who may in ordinary circumstances be subject to brutal treatment from the prison authorities or from the police.

MARK STOKES

See suggestion for action on next page.

Prisoners of Peace

Cape Town doctor Ivan Toms is to stand trial for refusing to serve in the South African Defence force. An anti-apartheid campaigner of long standing and a committed Anglican his objections to military service are rooted in his religious and political beliefs.

He is one of a group of 23 young men who in August last year collectively announced they would not serve in the army because it defends apartheid. All could receive sentences of up to three years.

* Personal messages to Ivan, c/o Ms Pat Orpen, 28 Bell Rd, Kenilworth, 7700 Cape Town.

* Send messages of support to the End Conscription Campaign, PO Box 537, Kengray, 2100, South Africa (tel: 337 6796, telex 4-86519 S.A.) - this is the new address for ECC nationally.


The Committee on South African War Resistance (COSAWR, BM Box 2190, London WC1N 3XX) has produced a range of materials - informative leaflets (£1 per 100), posters (£2 per 20), an information pack (£5.50), and a 16-minute video interview with Ivan Toms, recorded three weeks before his trial (groups can buy this for £17).



The Violence Around Us

In last month's chain reaction we drew attention to the flowering of militarist groups in and around Telford. We related this to a general increase in violence.

This month has given us no solace. First there was the Stalker/Samson report on the reputed 'shoot to kill' policy. Then in this last week there were the events in Gibraltar. The shootings themselves, in which people were shot by casually dressed men, who may or may not have issued a challenge, were enough of a cause for concern. In addition the almost unanimous approval in parliament and in the press, and the lack of a vociferous lobby calling for a full enquiry, leave us wondering about the increasing acceptance of violence. In particular we note the growing confidence of the state in resorting openly to force.

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St Thomas More Centre - Southwark Archdiocesan Justice & Peace Office

DANIEL BERRIGAN is a Jesuit priest, writer of prose and poetry, and long time worker for peace and justice. He works with the poor and the marginalised in New York City at the Catholic Worker and at hospices where the impoverished die of cancer and AIDS. His radical commitment to nonviolence has involved him in hundreds of acts of resistance to war and nuclear war preparations.

For a brief time during the Vietnam war he was exiled by his order to Latin America for his outspokenness against the war. In 1968, with eight others, he was imprisoned for napalming draft card records in Cantonsville.

"We have assumed the name of peacemakers, but we have been, by and large, unwilling to pay any significant price. and because we want peace with half a heart and half a life and will, the war of course, continues because the waging of war, by its very nature is total - but the waging of peace, by our own cowardice, is partial."

In 1980, with seven others, he entered a General Electric nuclear weapons factory, poured their own blood over, and used hammers to destroy, Mark 12-A nuclear warheads. Currently his conviction and prison sentence of ten years is temporarily suspended due to an appeal to the US Supreme Court.

"And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up swords against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4.)

"In confronting G.E. we choose to obey God's law of life, rather than a corporate summons to death. .. In our action we draw on a deep rooted faith in Christ who changed the course of history through His willingness to suffer rather than to kill. We are filled with the hope for our world and for our children as we join this act of resistance."

In 1984, he spent several weeks in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

"Into the sunlight that strikes one blind.

Into terror. Into gun sites and the pits of the gun barrels of the killers for whom killing is a momentary break from boredom.

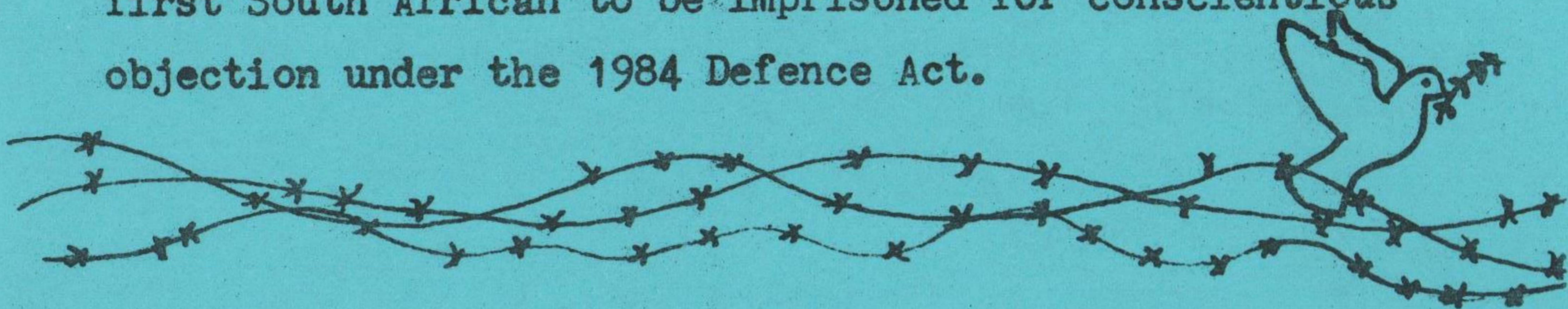
I came because I wanted to learn from strangers, from Jesuits and peasants and students and anyone who would tell me how one lives with death. It was as simple as this."



IVAN TOMS:

21 months in prison

Following TANGs article on peace prisoners in this months Chain Reaction we have received the news that Ivan Toms was sentenced to 21 months in prison for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force. Ivan is the first South African to be imprisoned for conscientious objection under the 1984 Defence Act.



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: 20th April

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!

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