

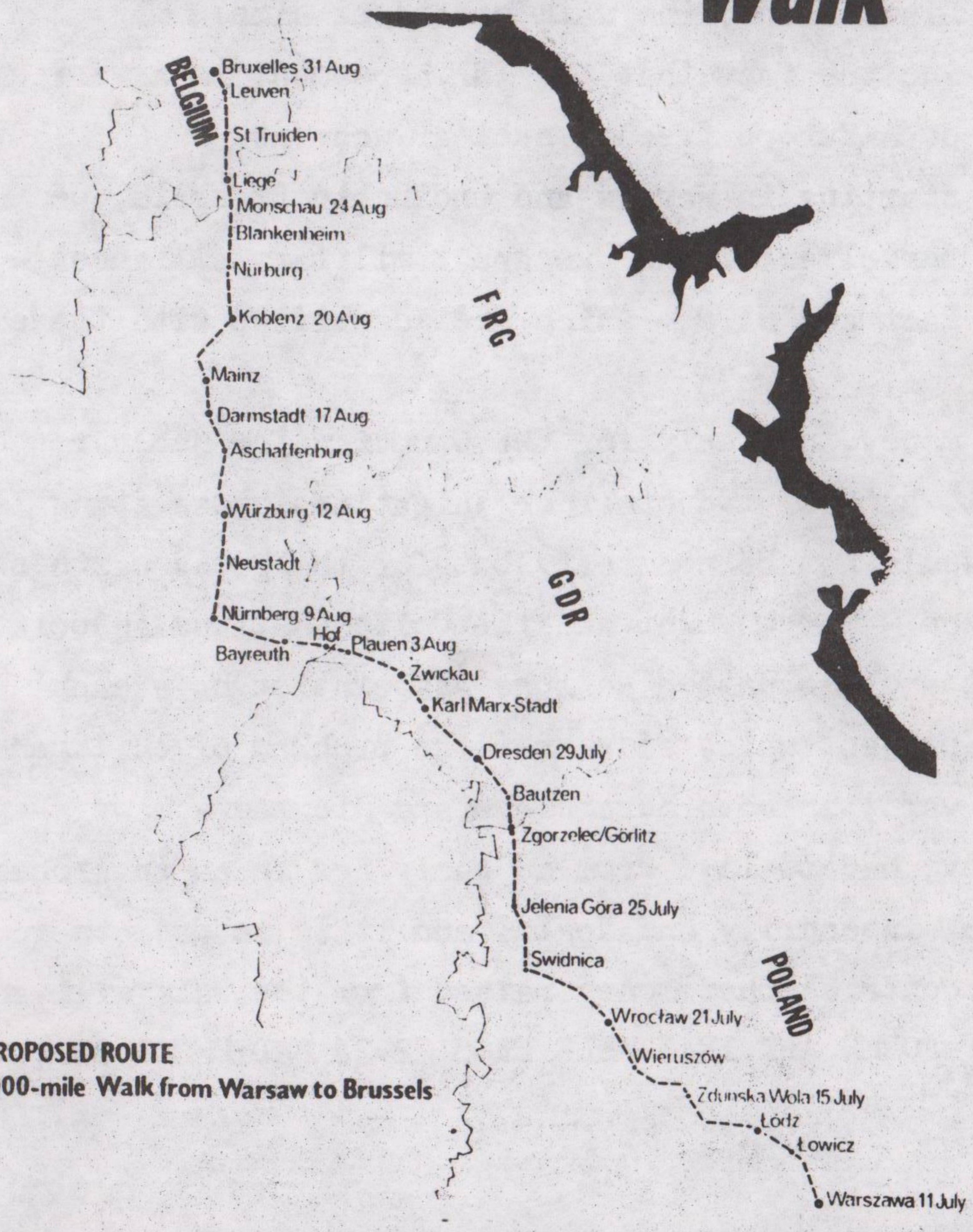


June /
July 1988

No 88

One World Walk

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ONE WORLD SPONSORED WALK

On July 11th Bruce Kent will set out from Warsaw Poland and walk over 1,000 miles across four countries, Poland, GDR, FRG, and Belgium. He will commemorate Nagasaki Day at Nuremburg on August 9th and arrive in Brussels on August 31st.

Taking place in the year of the Third United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, the walk has three aims:

* To underline the fact that the INF agreement is a very small start towards a Europe free of nuclear weapons.

* That, by starting in Warsaw and ending in Brussels, we should rid ourselves of the two great military alliances - the Warsaw Pact and NATO - which are identified with these places.

* To raise money, not only for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, but for two other organisations whose struggle for funds would not be necessary but for the gross waste of the arms race - War On Want and the United Nations Association. War on Want and the United Nations Association have each selected a project which addresses the problem of children damaged by war ; in both Mozambique and Nicaragua many children have had to live from an early age in an environment of violence, insecurity and death, and it is to projects in these two countries that money raised from the walk will go.

SPONSORSHIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 22-24 UNDERWOOD ST.
LONDON N1 7JG.

NELSON MANDELA

Freedom at 70

NELSON MANDELA 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

SATURDAY 16th JULY

DAWLEY TOWN HALL 7.30 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT BREAD AND CIRCUSES THEATRE GROUP

MARIA TOLLY

BAR

PLUS MORE

BIRTHDAY CAKE

TICKETS £2

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM
LAURENS OTTER, COLLEGE FARM HOUSE,
MILL LANE, WELLINGTON. 641852

MARK STOKES, 7, BURTON CLOSE,
DAWLEY, TELFORD. 501263.



NELSON MANDELA

DIARY



- Weds. 8th June TANG business meeting .
6 Myford Cottages , Horsehay.
Note temporary change of venue
(Tel: 507040)
- Sun. 19th June **Forest Alert**
Guided walks through the woods on the Wrekin
or on Haughmond Hill.
Contact Kate Evans, Shrewsbury 65260.
- Sun. 26th June- BREAD NOT BOMBS WEEK.
Fri. 1st July Contact Mark Stokes (501263) for details of
actions planned.
- Weds. 6th July TANG business meeting .
7.30 pm. 16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.
All very welcome.
- Mon. 11th July- **One World Walk.** Bruce Kent's 1000 mile walk.
31st Aug. See centre spread.
- Sat. 16th July **Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Party.**
7.30 pm. Dawley Town Hall. See elsewhere.
- Weds. 20th July Chain Reaction meeting.
7.30 pm. 6 Myford Cottages Horsehay.

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 July

Should we change our name?

The impact of the Donnington Fire made us at the May TANG meeting wonder whether TANG ought to change its name.

We have been for years committed by a statement passed as a basic constitution in the 1980 AGM (but of which none of us now has a copy,) to more general involvement in Green & direct actionist Leftist issues than is suggested by our name.

Those who founded TANG were all agreed that unilateral nuclear disarmament can only be achieved in the context of far-reaching other social changes. Most of those who have been active in TANG, were, before the 1979 CND revival, active within the Wrekin FoE; (as well as War on Want, Wrekin Against Racism, Anti-Apartheid, et alia.)

Our constitutional policy document proceeded from the belief that unilateral nuclear disarmament is the most important single issue, of all issues that beset our world; but that it cannot be isolated from a number of other issues, and would be a meaningless abstraction if it were so isolated.

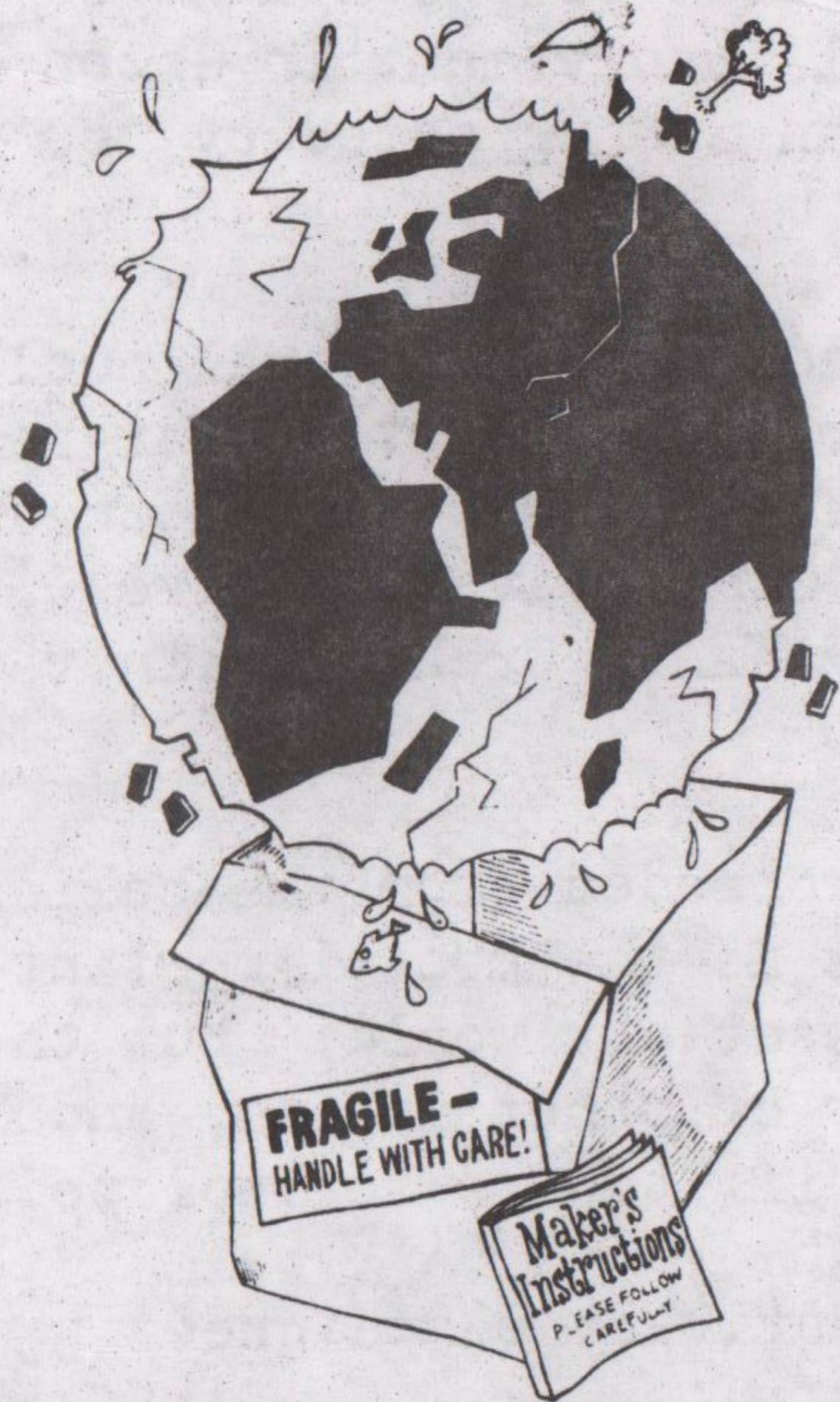
We affiliated to Green CND, and we actively campaigned about the 1983 Donnington Fire because of this prior commitment. But there were members who felt TANG had no right to be involved in the Donnington business as TANG, (though they, themselves were active with other groups on the issue;) and there were others outside our ranks who did not understand what business it was of ours.

So should we change our name to cover this? Or does the fact that we believe unilateral ND is the all-important issue, justify our keeping our present name while being active in many fields?

Some will argue that if one wants to be active in more than one field one should join a political party; - a number will be suggested. (I might myself argue that if one wants to be active over a wide field, one should shun all political parties.) The plethora of candidate-organizations stresses the need for an united front campaign, as which CND serves in its field.

So what do readers think?

One World Week



MAKING PEACE WITH THE PLANET

October 23-30
1988

Bored with the bad news?
Want a change for the better?
but not sure where to start?

Then One World Week is
just what you need

MAKING PEACE WITH THE PLANET is about calling a truce in the smash and grab raid we are carrying out on our own home.. Let's look together at ways of saving rather than spending; respecting not exploiting; sharing not competing with our neighbours for the limited resources of planet Earth. There is a choice!

As we celebrate the riches of the planet and its peoples, we will be joining hands with many others, in this country and throughout the world, who recognise the urgent need to reconcile justice with the preservation of the Earths life-systems and resources.

Telford One World Group are already looking at possible activities for One World Week, if you would like to join us or have any ideas please contact Robert Saunders, Telford 53705.

Donnington Fire

As said in the last issue, we hadn't time to write a full report. TANG members did however manage to make our views heard in the media; both local papers, both local radio stations, Midlands and Central T.V., have all been contacted; & carried mentions of our views in the matter.

Peter contacted Bruce Grocott, sending him a copy of the report we did last time, as also the Guardian; the Observer and other papers subsequently also receiving copies. People who were not previously in contact with TANG have made contact as a result.

This time there was much more widespread desire for a public inquiry; even the Tory-dominated Wellington Civic Society has demanded one; BANG & Brooklands Labour Party got out a petition to strengthen Grocott's hands; The Trades' Council also have become active in the issue. But we remember that the last time members of the Labour Party who started well suddenly went quiet - presumably not wishing to offend Labour-voting Donnington workers.

We are therefore pressing Wrekin Council to hold its own community inquiry, (since it is obvious that the Government will not agree to an official public one.) There are a number of ex-base workers in the area, who could be contacted by the council, and who (despite the Official Secrets' Act) would be prepared to comment on matters of public safety. The council could elicit far more than we did last time, and we believe that what we found out was worthwhile.

One such ex-worker, (who has over the years worked in both the buildings now burnt,) has promised us - for our next issue - an article on fire hazards, on industrial relations and on decision making at the base; which might suggest that the wonder is that there have not been more fires. No doubt if Wrekin Council decided to move in the matter there would be far more evidence of this than we can amass.

Donnington fire- continued.

I recently came across a piece in "The Digger" recalling that in '83 it was suggested that arms had been stolen from Donnington, and that the evidence had been destroyed by the fire.

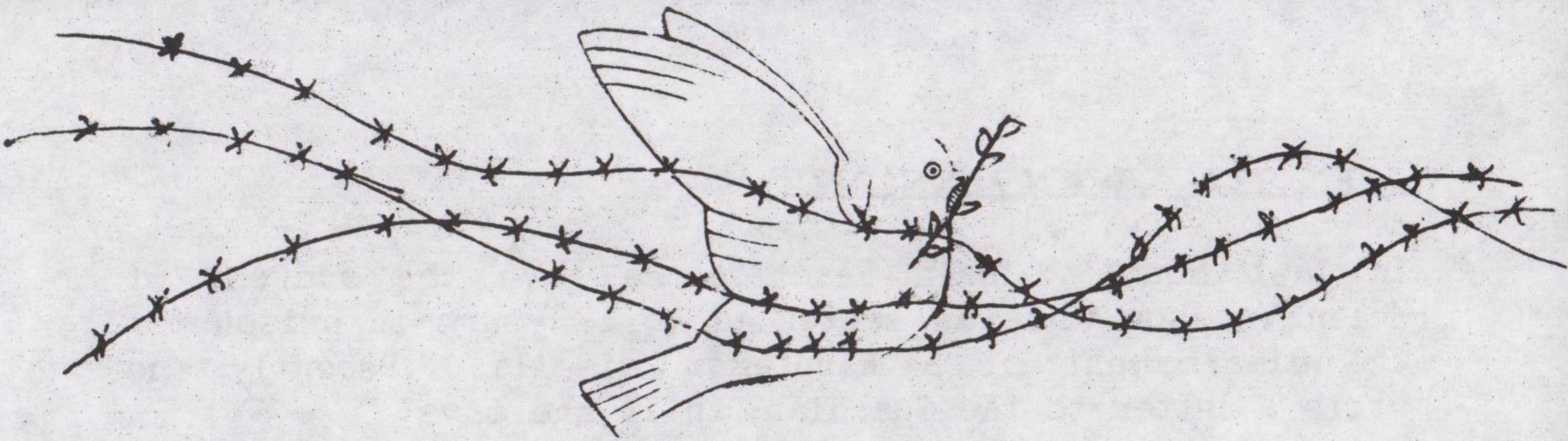
I only hazily recall the story, if I'm right it was a series in Private Eye, and I only saw one of the articles. Chain Reaction readers may recall that there was a prosecution of an arms firm based in Wiltshire, with a partner up this way, which was reported fairly extensively (inter alia on Radio, in the Grauniad and in the Observer.) PE (I think) said that only part of the case came to court, because it was suspected the arms came from Donnington, with the connivance of fairly senior military men, but that this could not be investigated as the evidence was destroyed by the Donnington fire.

American investigators have come up with the fact that Ollie North applied to Mrs Thatcher, asking that Britain send the Contras American-made rocketry. Direct export of arms to Nicaragua was blocked by the Senate and sale by Britain, or anyone else, was forbidden by Treaty. It could be that there was incriminating evidence, (or rather lack of things that should not have been missing), this time.

Therefore while the desire to replace buildings at Donnington with 'super-duper' new computerised ones would hardly constitute a likely motive for arson; (whatever other government-funded enterprise Thatcher might starve, she's hardly likely to deny the military what they want, for all that Keith Speed might want yet more), coupled with a desire to cover up missing weaponry for which the Senate might want an account, it might amount to a motive.

Laurens Otter





Prisoners of Peace

We publish some names each month of people who have been imprisoned for their actions in the cause of peace. We are sure that your letters would be very much appreciated should you feel able to write.

Ilkka Tapio Silo

c/o Union of COs, Peace Station, Veturitori, 00520 Helsinki, Finland. Imprisoned for conscientious objection to military service.

Piotr Bednarz

81-361 Gdynia, Ul. Msciwoja 9 m.3., Poland. Imprisoned for conscientious objection to military service.

Helen Woodson

141242, M.C.F. Shakopee, Box 7 Shakopee, Minnesota 55379. Plowshares activist imprisoned until 11 November 1996. USA. From last month- see next page.

When sending cards.

Write names and addresses clearly and in CAPITAL LETTERS on envelopes.

Include your own name and address.

Send your card in an envelope.

Don't add extra messages on cards going to Eastern Europe or South Africa but just sign them.

If a card is returned please send it to the relevant ambassador with a request that he/she forward it.

HELEN WOODSON

In last month's Chain Reaction we gave the address of Helen Woodson who was sentenced to 17 years in prison for the disarmament of a Minuteman missile. Recently she wrote a letter to the Guardian, in it she says:

"When I complete this sentence, I will have spent 17 years nine months in prison, and I will be 59 years old. In the same 59 years I will have spent 19 2/3 years in bed, fast asleep. Surely it is not too much to ask that we give peacemaking equal time to slumber.

Were I to be released tomorrow, the threat of nuclear war would not have been diminished in the slightest. What manner of justice is a light sentence from the same court that legalises nuclear annihilation? What manner of freedom is early release when this necessitates collaboration with a criminal government arming for the end of the world? My children deserve better than this, and so do I.

In every society, those who commit street crime are predominantly poor, uneducated, unemployed and of racial minorities. The decision systematically to deny a segment of the population its most basic needs is a political decision, as is the decision to punish instead of reconcile the "offender" to the community. Thus, all prisoners are political prisoners who have no one to champion their cause."



SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

gathering

SATURDAY JULY 2ND

10am - 5pm in
Southwark, London



Anyone interested in the possibility of a Ploughshares action/movement in Britain is invited to the above day.

- OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATION - available Fri/Sat upon advance notice (free)
- CHILDREN WELCOME - crèche available - please contact if needed
- WHEELCHAIRS - access to door, but steps down to meeting room (people present to give assistance 9.30am - 10.15am)
- VEGAN LUNCH - cost: a donation, or even bring some food to share
- VOLUNTARY FARES POOL - we can't guarantee redistribution of wealth, but we'll give it a go.

During the day a video of the trial of the AVCO Plowshares will be shown. In the evening there may be a walk to, and picnic in, a nearby park.

If interested please contact: Jan Drezze, c/o 69c DeLaune St., Kennington, LONDON SE17 (tel 01 735 4907)

DONATIONS TO COVER THE
COST OF THE DAY WILL BE
APPRECIATED ON THE DAY

FOR SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES THE HAMMER HAS TO FALL



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I would like to be put on the mailing list for chain reaction. Please find enclosed my subscription for the next year's issues:

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Unwaged £1.50

I have no objection to my name and address being stored on a computer purely for the purposes of addressing chain reaction to me.

BLOCK LETTERS: PLEASE

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Please send subscription payable to Telford Anti Nuclear Group to:

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

