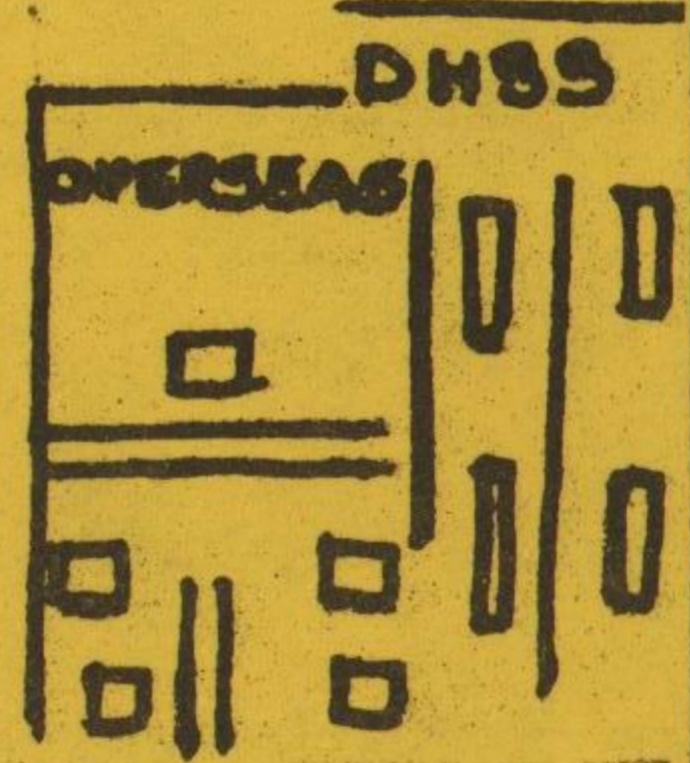
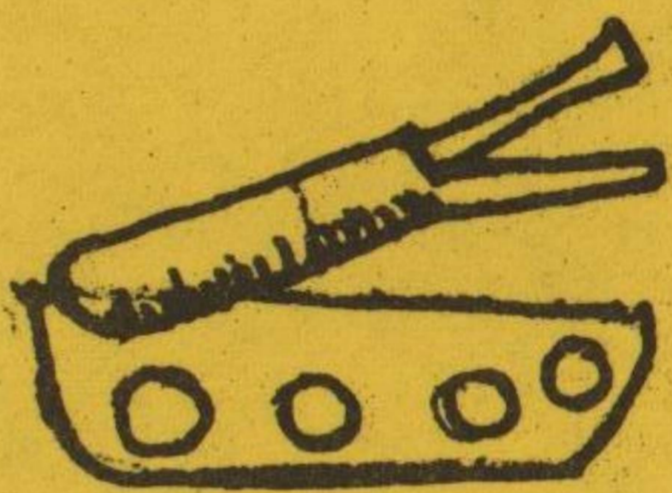
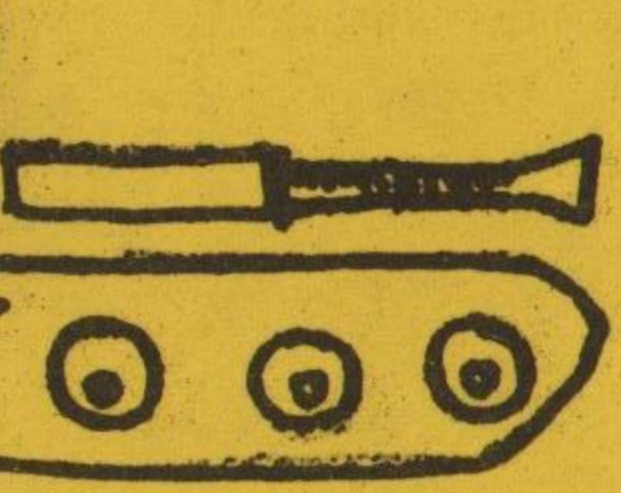
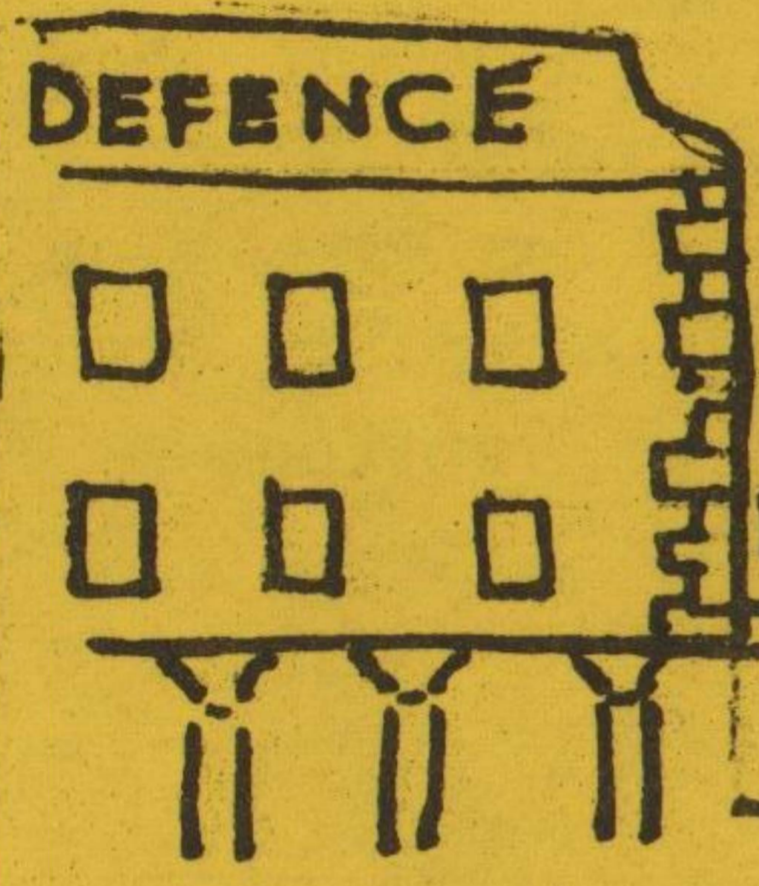




FEB '89

No. 93

X  
 O  
 T  
 E  
 R  
 A  
 R  
 Y  
 X  
 Z  
 A  
 W  
 E



TURN YOUR HAND TO CHANGE  
**CND DEMO**  
 SUNDAY APRIL 2ND

## What does TANG stand for?

TANG stands for opposing militarism, specifically but not exclusively by demanding unilateral nuclear disarmament, and by opposing all military alliances based on weapons of mass destruction.

TANG is opposed to the destruction of the environment, seeing the threat from nuclear waste, nuclear power and nuclear weaponry as the greatest single element in that destruction.

TANG opposes imperialism, racialism, and believes that the metropolitan countries which have grown rich at the expense of the underdeveloped world have a moral duty to do more to feed the hungry ; we oppose the exploitation of such countries by companies mining for uranium, and see this as the latest example of imperialist attitudes.

TANG does not believe the Bomb to be an evil in isolation from others ; if there were not great social evils the Bomb could not have been made, as in most countries where it has been made this has been done without the knowledge or consent of the people. It has led to a growth of state power and a loss of liberty.

### THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

- 1) Write letter(s) to the 'prisoners for peace'.
- 2) Join in 'Repentance and Resistance' on Ash Wednesday.
- 3) Make a note in your diary of the Easter Demo on April 2nd, or even the march in the preceeding fortnight.



## Easter Demonstration 1989

This year's Easter demonstration is entitled *Turn your hand to change* and is on **Sunday April 2nd**.

The plan is for a rally starting at 12.00 noon at the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park in London SE1 .

This will be followed at 1.30 pm. by the symbolic handover of resources along human chains from the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall to the Overseas Development Administration in Victoria and to the Departments of Health & Social Security at the Elephant and Castle.

TANG will probably organise a coach, further details will be given in the next issue.

CND Cymru are planning a march from Wales to the London demo, they are intending it to last 14 days. Further details of this are available from Henrietta on 0267 87411.

## British Star Wars?

On Tuesday 3rd January The World at One announced and discussed a British equivalent of "Star Wars", an attempt to provide a ground to air missile screen , to "protect" Britain in case of an all out nuclear war. The discussion between the pundits was, as usual, solely in terms of the practicality of such a screen within its own terms. One is used to the fact that moral issues are not allowed to intrude into such discussion. What was perhaps more telling was that it was evident that what such a nuclear screen was supposed to protect was purely "our" military bases (and the prime minister's personal bunker), not the civilian population. I suppose we should be thankful that they have at least given up the cynical pretence that the weaponry is there for our protection.

## DIARY

### **EVERY THURSDAY**

7.30 pm

### **Greenpeace meeting**

34 Majestic Way, Aqueduct

Weds. 1st Feb.

7.30 pm.

Chain Reaction meeting.

6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.

Sat. 4th Feb.

10.00 am. -

4.00 pm.

Cost £2/£1

West Midland Socialist Conference.

Polytechnic, Priory St., Coventry.

Speakers include Betty Heathfield and

Jeremy Corbyn M.P. .

Weds. 8th Feb.

**Ash Wednesday**

Repentance and Resistance. Christian CND.

See details elsewhere.

Sun. 12th Feb.

2.00 pm.

**Peace Concert with Paul Tortelier.**

Birmingham Town Hall, tickets from

WMCND 021 643 4617

Sat. 18th Feb.

Contact Vicki  
Ironbridge 3069

Charity Gig to raise money for Anti-  
Apartheid. Lion Street, Cultural Centre,  
Oakengates

Mon. 20th Feb.

7.30 pm.

### **Special Meeting**

Janet Bloomfield, West Midlands CND

New Street Methodist Church, Wellington.

Weds. 22nd Feb.

7.30 pm.

TANG business meeting .

16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.

**All very welcome.**

Fri. 24th Feb.

8.00 pm.

Contact Yvonne  
Telford 641104

Telford Central America Group, donation  
supper. Steve Lewis, recently returned  
from El Salvador will give a talk with  
slides. 1 Cound Close, Dothill.

Weds. 1st Mar.

7.30 pm.

Chain Reaction meeting.

6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.

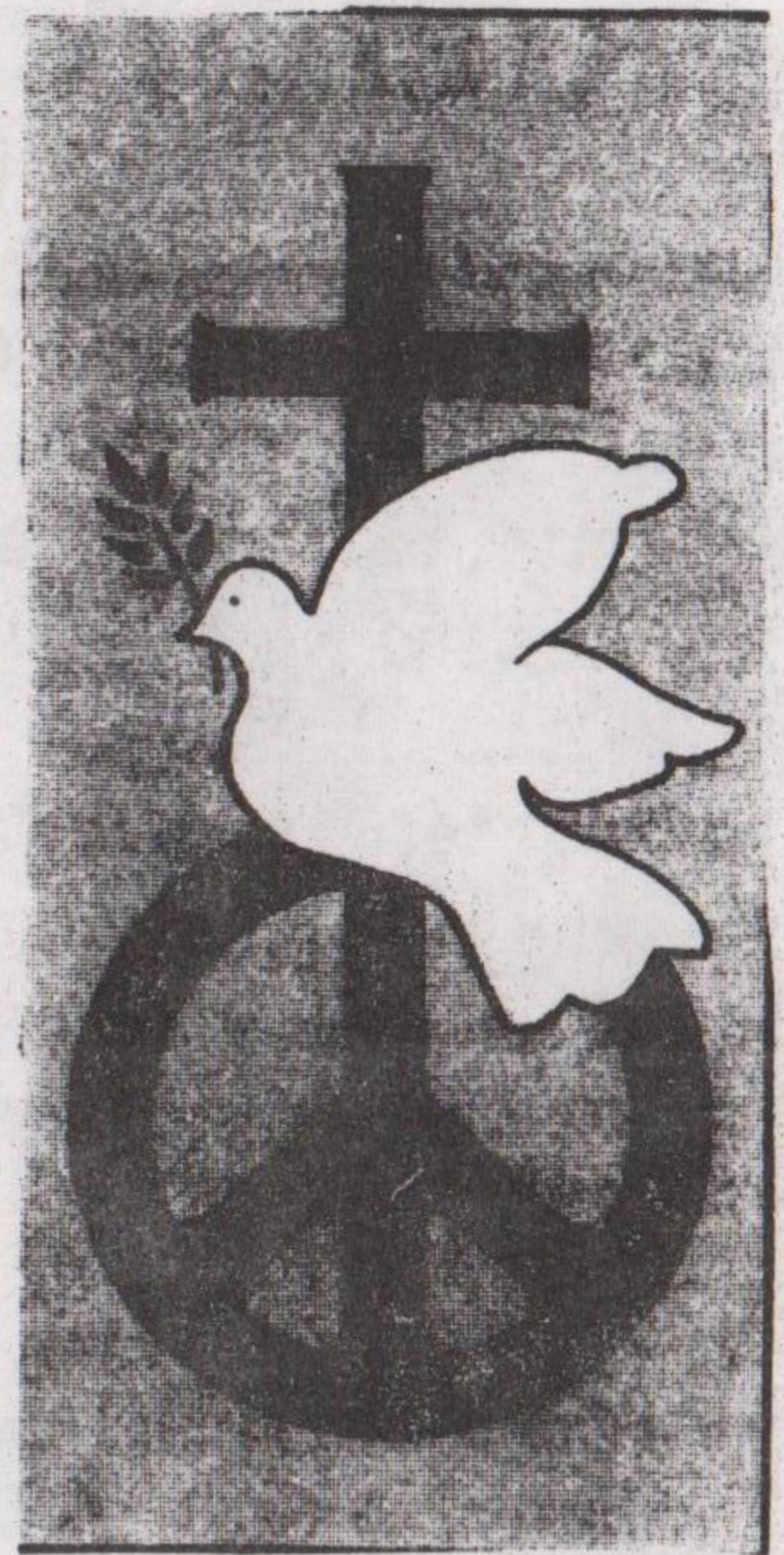


## **AN INVITATION TO REPENTANCE AND RESISTANCE**

**Ash Wednesday 1989,  
February 8th**

**We invite you to join us on Ash  
Wednesday, 8 February 1989, in  
one or more of the following  
ways:**

1. Join us at the ecumenical service at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue at 10.30am.
2. Walk with us to the Mo'D' Whitehall, London and join the vigil.
3. Wherever you are on that day give us prayerful support. Contact us for a copy of the liturgy for use in your own church.
4. Send a message of support.
5. Prepare for nonviolent civil disobedience. Preparation and training are essential. For those joining the London witness a training day will be held on 14 January. If you are considering this option please contact us as soon as possible for a briefing pack.
6. Organise your own local witness in solidarity.



### **Ash Wednesday Wednesday, February 8th**

For the last six years actions of repentance and resistance have taken place at the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall. Started by Catholic Peace Action, these actions now are jointly sponsored and organised by four Christian peace organisations – CPA, Christian CND, Pax Christi and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Actions also take place at MoD establishments around the country.

The organisations calling the action have agreed upon guidelines to reinforce the nonviolent nature of the event, and preparation in affinity groups is important for those wishing to risk arrest on Ash Wednesday. Last year 66 people were arrested for marking the walls of the MoD with blessed charcoal. There will be a preparation day in London on January 14th – full details and a

## How Glorious was it?

A number of well-meaning political reformers (a curious combination of former New Left critics of "reformism" & "Democrat" critics of "socialist dogmatism") have launched Charter 88. The expressed intention & aim of creating a democratic structure which would not permit particular governments to set aside basic civil liberties is altogether admirable, but the means tend to be naive.

The Charter is inspired by the supposedly Glorious Revolution of 1688; (those who know Northern Ireland may not be completely convinced of the glory;) & its Bill of Rights. A Bill which made Britain the first modern state to have such a basic democratic constitutional statute.

But herein lies the fallacy; there was, certainly, a Bill of Rights passed. Amongst its provisions was an article outlawing the maintenance of armed forces in times of peace; (a term which included police and MI5;) & since the Bill was not long, this was not a provision merely lost in the small print.

That Bill lay on the Statute book for centuries, indeed opinions differ as to whether it has now been repealed, because it was never enforced and was therefore nonsense, or whether it is still the basic law of the country but just cannot be enforced.

Charter 88 would only be meaningful if its compilers could also devise some method whereby, if it were passed, such a Charter could be enforced against the power of Government. Something that would distinguish it from the former Bill of Rights. The only thing that has so far been suggested is the judiciary. The judiciary as the champions of human rights & civil liberties, it makes a good joke, but hardly good political reform.

But there is another major aspect of Charter 88 policy. That is to stress the need for a change in the electoral system. An understandable desire, though it is a little less clear why people wish to change the way the House of Commons is elected, & yet say little or nothing about the unelected House of Lords.

Unfortunately what is generally referred to by British reformers as proportional representation, (the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies,) is probably the only system in the world which is likely to produce a result that is even more unfair than that produced by our present one. (It has several times achieved this remarkable result in Ireland.) & it is also unfair in by-elections when the second elected candidate is being replaced.

/continued

How glorious was it?

.....continued

It is unfortunate from a CND point of view that most ideas for electoral reform, would produce more or less permanent coalitions of what is called the political centre; while a Bill of Rights that could be enforced would inevitably depend on such Establishment institutions as would ensure that they were either conservative or of the centre. Whether or not Charter 88 could ever ensure that Britain never again has another government in the Thatcher mould as its advocates suggest is debatable. It is equally debatable whether under any electoral system a government could agree to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

But most assuredly Charter 88's proposals would reinforce the formidable existing barriers to our policy, being implemented within anything approaching the present system. Not that most unilateralists expect our policy to be implemented by the mere fiat of a government elected by a narrow majority (let alone a minority, allowed in by a divided opposition,) of the population. Unilateral disarmament involves a basic challenge to the apparatus of power, & its implementation will necessitate a far more conscious majority support than elected governments need, and probably need the active intervention of those supporters.

*Laurens Otter*



## New Format Meetings

Janet Bloomfield (West Midland CND Organiser) will be speaking at New Street Methodist Church, Wellington on Monday 20th February at 7.30p.m.. Her theme will be "Are we really succeeding? ..... our next steps".

This is the beginning of a new pattern of TANG meetings. Besides the two monthly meetings we now have (for general business and Chain Reaction editing), and our occasional public meetings with outside speakers, it has been decided to hold quarterly special meetings.

This is in response to a feeling of the A.G.M. that we are holding too many meetings in members' houses, and that this could be off-putting to new members (or to currently inactive old ones).

We cannot afford to hold all our meetings in hired halls; so we have decided on "Special Meetings" which should be a half-way house between Open Meetings and TANG business ones; not as localized as the latter, more limited to CND affairs than the former.

---

BRUCE KENT/GEORGE RICHEY DEBATE chaired by Jack Turner at the Shirehall on Friday 6 January.

Well over 200 people packed the hall for the meeting, which was recorded by Shropshire Radio and later broadcast on Monday, and videoed by Peace Through Nato, who can afford to do things like that. Their government grant in 1986 was £74,000. Naturally, we felt we won the debate hands down. Whether the other side agree on that point, I'm sure they wouldn't dispute that the three questions they mustered for Bruce revealed a very limited knowledge of the issues.

Some CND members expressed the view afterwards that PTN hadn't adjusted to the Gorbachev era. By trying to keep the Cold War alive, and clinging to the 'enemy' image of the Soviet Union, they were being left like stranded whales on the beach. Thrashing about, but not getting anywhere.

At the end of the debate however, everyone was very generous, and £143 was collected for the Armenian Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO SHREWSBURY GROUP



## Church Washes its Hands

A recent Church of England report *Peacemaking in a nuclear age* was debated by the C of E General Synod on Nov. 9th. It again raised the issues of war and nuclear weapons, but sadly failed to reach any major decisions and back tracked on earlier resolutions. (A study guide of the report will be available in the future. Christian CND are to produce some resources to help in its use at local level.)

As with the 1983 report *The Church and the Bomb* (available on loan from TANG), it continues the acceptance of nuclear deterrence. It fails to reaffirm the 1983 decisions on 'no first use' and rejection of mass destruction in war.

It would appear that, while the possibilities for disarmament increase, the church gets more timid about standing out and being a prophetic voice. It wasn't all negative, the resolution (see below), limited as it is, poses serious moral questions to a government sensitive to Church of England criticisms. There were also several very good speeches including one from the Bishop of Salisbury who talked of the moral anguish of deterrence and reminded synod that this meant the willingness, if necessary, to use nuclear weapons.

The debate does illustrate that major work is required in lobbying churches. Anyone wanting to be involved in this work, not only with regard to the C of E but also other denominations should contact Christian CND, 22-24 Underwood St., London N1 7JG.

Resolution passed on 9th November 1988, by General Synod.

1. That the report *Peacemaking in a nuclear age* be received.

2. That this Synod, welcoming the more hopeful relationship between East and West, urges Her Majesty's Government to take the initiatives necessary to achieve major reductions in nuclear and conventional armaments; including:

(a) working for an agreement between the nuclear nations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and

(b) urging what influence it may have to encourage both superpowers to disengage from programmes leading to Strategic Defence Initiatives and the general militarisation of space.

3. That this Synod calls on Her Majesty's Government to make moral rather

than commercial criteria the primary factors in determining policy for the sale and transfer of arms, especially to areas of Third World conflict, and to renew efforts to secure a worldwide ban on weapons of chemical warfare including international agreement on effective measures against those countries which use them.

4. That this Synod commends the report *Peacemaking in a nuclear age* for discussion in the Dioceses and supports the strategy set out in GS842 for its study and implementation, especially the encouragement of exchange visits at every level.

(The amendment to (2) deleted a ridiculous phrase calling for HMG to redouble its efforts in seeking disarmament. It was pointed out, to much laughter, that as its efforts were zero, double zero was still zero! Synod seemed to agree and the section of the resolution was toughened up by Paul Baker's amendment).

## Prisoners for Peace

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

### GREECE

**Thanasis Makris.** Imprisoned for conscientious objection.  
Address: Military Prison Avlona, STG 902 D Attiki 19011.  
Arrested on 12th April 1988, sentenced on 26th May to 5 years imprisonment. Has been twice on hunger strike. On 18th October his sentence was reduced to 18 months.

### SWITZERLAND

**Pierre Lambert.** Imprisoned for conscientious objection.  
Address: J. de Hochberg 3, 2000 Neuchatel.

### F.R. GERMANY

**Uwe Wesselbaum.** Total resister imprisoned on 6th September 1988.  
Address: JVA Dusseldorf, Ulmenstra Be 95, 4000 Dusseldorf 30.

\* If you don't know a prisoner's address, send the card c/o the relevant embassy in your country and ask them to forward it;

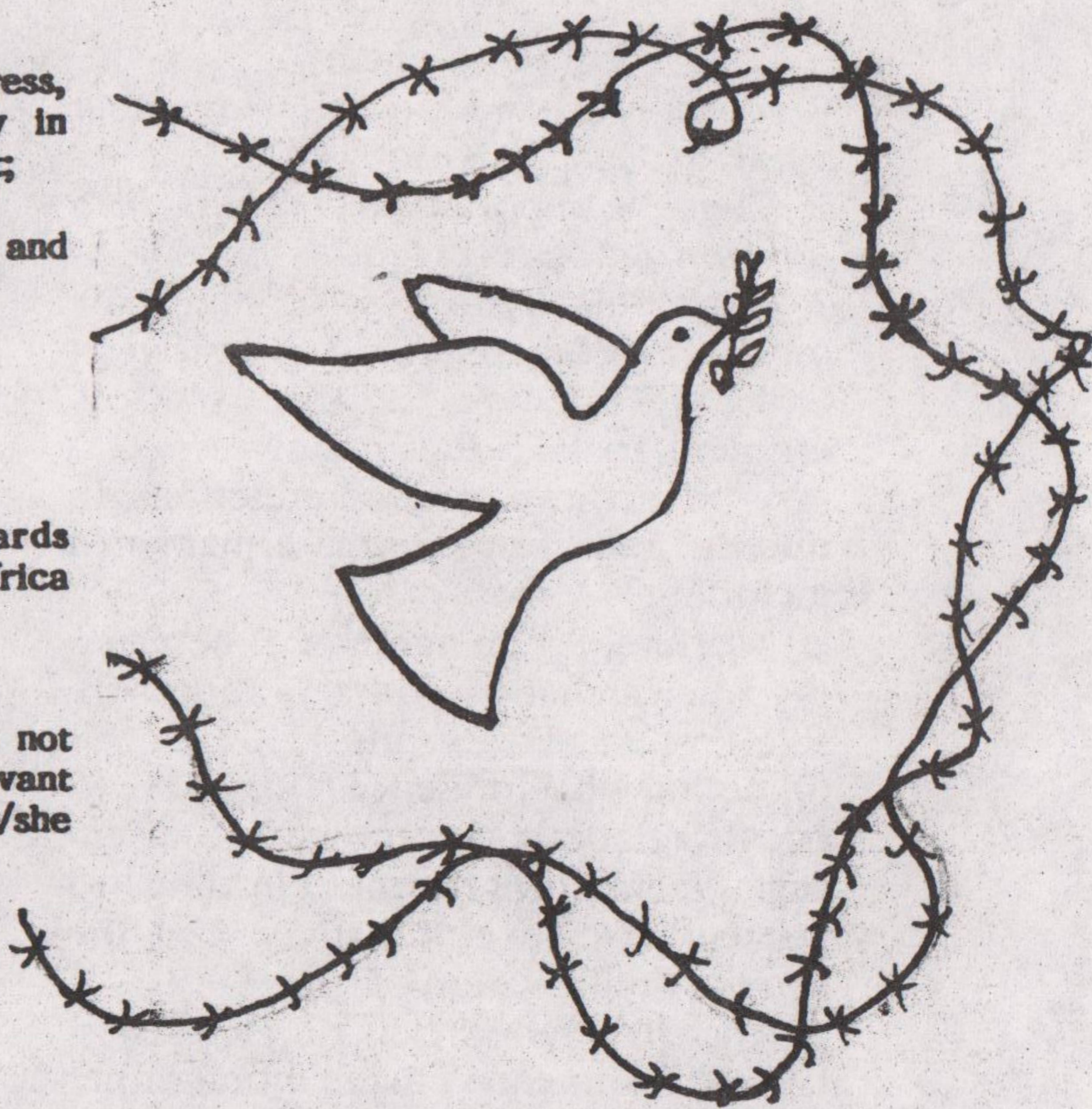
\* Write names and addresses clearly and in capital letters on envelopes;

\* 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;

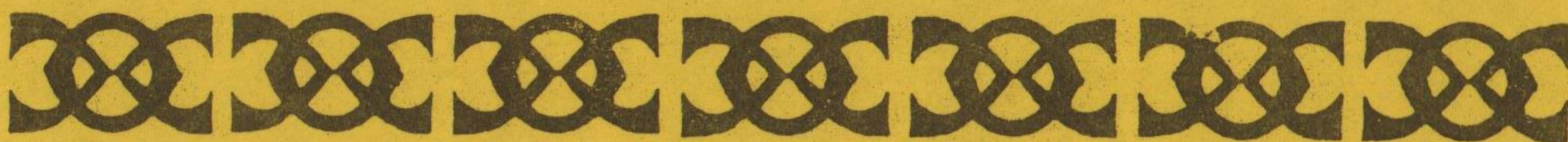
\* If a card is returned, please do not send it to the WRI but to the relevant Ambassador with a request that he/she forward it.



## The debate that was, and one that wasn't.

Those who secured tickets for the Bruce Kent debate report that he spoke well and impressively and easily won the day, although they may be just a bit biased! No vote was taken; , it would have been a pointless exercise as each side was allocated half the tickets. Rumour has it that Peace through Nato didn't use all their allocation and that Shrewsbury Peace Group were able to distribute the returned tickets to some of those on the waiting list.

Just before the Christmas holiday, John Biffen, Tory M.P. for Oswestry surprised everyone by coming out with a clear statement to his fellow Tories arguing against reliance on nuclear weaponry. The full statement in fact was by no means as radical as the radio and Guardian reports might have made it appear; but certainly the M.P. has taken the first step in a direction which, if followed logically, should bring him into the unilateralist camp. As secretary Laurens wrote to John Biffen to congratulate him on this step and to enquire whether he'd be prepared to come and discuss his views with us some day, or whether he would like us to host a debate between him and Bruce Grocott on how to obtain a sensible nuclear policy. He sent Laurens a copy of his full statement but declined any public meeting.



### **CHAIN REACTION CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please send us **your** contributions to make these pages more varied. Don't worry if you can't type it, we will do that. (An Amstrad disc containing a locoscript file (any version) would be ideal, discs would, of course, be returned).

Please send or give your offerings in whatever form to any of the following:

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

**Deadline for next issue: 1st FEBRUARY 1989**

**MAKE SURE OF YOUR NEXT  
COPY OF  
CHAIN REACTION**

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

*Waged £3.00*

*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**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Tel .....

Signed .....

Date .....

**Please send subscription NOW DUE payable to Telford  
Anti Nuclear Group to:**

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

**ONE WORLD**

ERRATUM

Change

ERRATUM

Change

The February TANG meeting, (Wēdnesday the 22nd.,) will not be held at 16 Linley Drive, Stirchley, but at 48 Victoria rd., Madeley.