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THE WALL

15

DOWN



FEBRUARY 1990 NO 103

sheira reastron

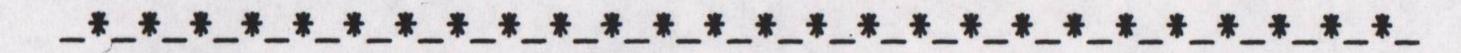
The Destruction of the Wall

We, like the majority of the West's population, welcome the recent events in Eastern Europe.

It is important to be willing to counter the reaction that this, and the recent manifestations of detente, were achieved 'despite' CND.

We have not been 'left behind', been 'proved wrong', or rendered 'irrelevant' by these events.

We still believe that unilateral nuclear disarmament is the correct course for the United Kingdom and that world disarmament would be achieved more surely and certainly sooner if all countries adopted it.



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.

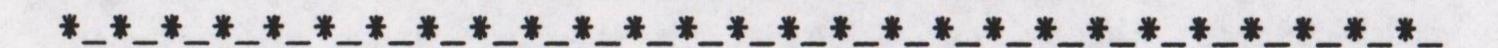
New Pattern Of Events

At the January business meeting we are hoping to produce a programme of practical projects for the year (ranging from items like painting a bus shelter to items like research into the use of military metaphors in everyday language).

The list, which can be added to at any time, should appear as an insert in this copy of Chain Reaction.

These items will be the principal subjects of discussion (or action!) at monthly meetings. We will keep discussion of other "business items" to a minimum at our meetings.

Please come to the meeting on 28th February (at 16 Linley Drive, Stirchley) and make your contribution.





THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

- 1) Phone Laurens and tell him you want to come to Criggion on March 31st. SEE DIARY
- 2) If your Chain Reaction is hand delivered and you haven't paid a subscription recently, do so now. (Waged £3. unwaged £1.50)
- 3) If you prefer individual action (e.g. letter writing), please tell us what you have been doing, either for publication or otherwise.

The Turn of the Wheel

Three years ago Ceausescu was being given a knighthood by the British monarch (the palace has subsequently leaked the story that she was unwilling to give it, nevertheless give it she did, & who insisted?)

A year ago, the new American President-Elect, George Bush, publicly described him as the "good Communist Leader".

Last month British and American right-wing forces criticised Moscow for being unwilling to send troops to oust him. They then restarted the usual ploy of associating such stalinist dictators with socialism, & pretending that the workers of Eastern Europe had shewn their detestation of egalitarianism.

That may be said to be of no concern to CND, but since (as opponents of the campaign so frequently point out, CND is seen as of the Left,) & that it is almost certainly true that the majority of CND members would describe themselves as being, in the true sense of the word, socialist; it is worth saying:

"What has been rejected in Eastern Europe bore no similarity with what the founders of socialist theory, and the Left in the West have advocated. The overthrow of such stalinist despotisms is as much a pre-essential of the coming of socialism, as is the overthrow of the callous, hypocritical corrupt systems in the West typified by that of Thatcher & Bush.

"CND has, from its inception, been consistent in insisting that it is non-aligned, is opposed to all nuclear power blocks, and does not think that any society which producers rulers who would contemplate threat-ening (or support such threats) to use nuclear weaponry can be consid-ered in any sense a just society"

But Ceausescu is not the only stalinist dictator that the rulers of the West has taken to their bosom (& we needn't count Stalin himself,) Nixon, Reagan & Maggie Thatcher have praised the rulers of China; but more to the point is the aid that is still being given to Pol Pot, whose reign of butchery makes Ceausescu look namby-pamby,

The New Year will probably see the victory of guerrillas in Cambodia given the enormous financial aid and supplies of armaments, that they are getting from the Western powers; so the re-establishment of Pol Pot's rule cannot be far off. Bush and Thatcher should take full credit; they will have replaced their ally Ceausescu; but again the hypocrisy will be rife and there will be Conservative claims that Pol Pot represents some form of socialism.

Dear Editors. Telford F.O.E.

The Telford Friends of the Earth Group is now up and running - you may have heard about our protest about Woolworths' Silly String and Christmas Snow with CFCs. Other things we hope to work on are the "Toxic Waste coming to Telford" issue and the FoE's Environmental Charter for local Government.

The meetings will be at the Fletcher Memorial Hall, Madeley, 7.30 pm, on the second Tuesday of the month. I am the contact person.

Hilary Betts

Hilary can be contacted on Telford 505547, or write to her at "Wilderness", Church Lane, Little Wenlock, TF6 5BD.

As a result cards were sent to people in Russia, USA, China, Israel and South Africa.

A spokeman for the group said: "Despite the current changes in Eastern Europe there are still many people imprisoned, especially in the Soviet Union. These are people who have been confined because of nonviolent action against war and militarism or for conscientious objection. Even in the Western countries people are in prison for these 'crimes'.

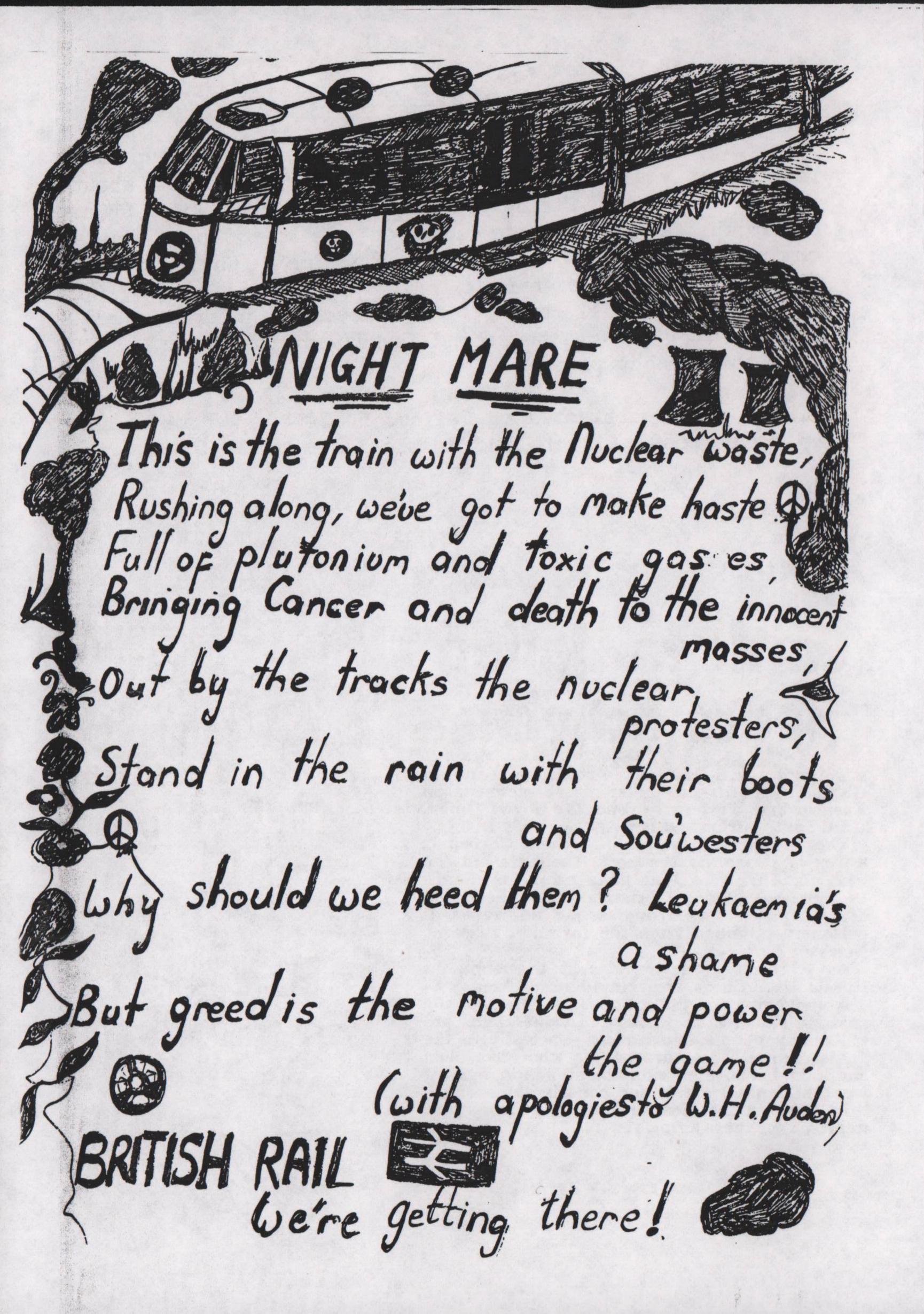
Cards for jailed

peace activists

Telford Anti-Nuclear Group is sending Christmas cards to jailed peace activists in Eastern and Western Europe, the Soviet Union, USA, South Africa and Israel.

The group will be sending their Christmas loves of peace via the post. Their stall at the Phoenix Christmas Fair gave people a chance o sign and send a Christmas card there and hen, using a list of names and addresses of risoners obtained from the fortnightly 'Peace ews'.

As a result cards were sent to people in Issai USA China were sent to people in Issai USA China



BOOK

WAR without HONOUR

Fred Holroyd with Nick Burbridge 1989
Pub. Meduim £6.95 184pp

This book, by a British Army captain who served as an intelligence officer in Northern Ireland, was quite widely publicised when it came out last year. It describes how he spilt the beans on the dirty tricks used in the Province and then how the army and MI6 covered up and got rid of him.

Illuminating as the book is about Northern Ireland, its message for all peace campaigners is in revealing the extent to which unfettered authorities will go to try to shut someone up.

Captain Holroyd was working for the army in the mid 1970's in conjunction with MI6, the secret service which deals with undercover work ('spying') in foreign countries. However, the domestic secret service, MI5, wanted to become the top spying dog in the province, and it eventually did so. But once in charge, the methods used by MI5 against the population were unacceptably brutal to Holroyd.

He persistently protested. The army (told to do so by MI5 which had infiltrated the ranks) then questioned his mental stability and got rid of an awkward truth-seeking customer.

Holroyd had thought that the British Army was an honourable institution. He was disillusioned. Not even the army tried to stop an unaccountable organisation like MI5 getting its way.

DIARY

Telford War on Want meetings: contact Russell Gibb, Telford 680154 for dates and places.

Wed Feb 7th Chain Reaction Meeting.

7.30 pm College Farm House, Wellington.

**********Note change of venue for this month**********

Tue Feb 13th Telford F.O.E. Meeting

7.30 pm Fletcher Memorial Hall, Madeley.

Wed Feb 28th TANG Meeting

7.30 pm 16 Linley Drive, Stichley Park.

ALL VERY WELCOME, see elswhere in CR

Wed Mar 7th Chain Reaction Meeting.

7.30 pm 6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.

Tue Mar 13th Telford F.O.E. Meeting

7.30 pm Fletcher Memorial Hall, Madeley.

Wed Mar 28th TANG Meeting

7.30 pm 16 Linley Drive, Stichley Park.

ALL VERY WELCOME, see elswhere in CR

Wed Mar 28th Lenten Witness, Service, NVDA and Vigil

- Fri Apr 13th Chistian CND, 22/24 Underwood St.

London N1 7JG

Sat Mar 31st International Day of Action against Trident

Possible action at Criggion, phone Laurens

for details

Sat Apr 22nd Earthday 1990

Join groups from more than 60 countries.

Theme: Common Resources - Common Security.

CHAIN REACTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send or give your letters or articles, in whatever form, to any of the following:

Tot Dawes, 6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay. Tel: 507040

Peter Nias, 48 Victoria Road, Madeley . Tel: 587532

Laurens Otter, College Farm House, Mill Lane,

Wellington. Tel: 641852

Deadline for the next issue: 7th February

TANG'S PROJECT PLANS 1990

For its meetings this year TANG has decided to concentrate more upon doing specific projects, there being fewer other activities to organise. The following list of projects was agreed at the January meeting. Please come and help at any meeting. Everyone will work together. Suggestions for further projects-large or small-are welcome at any time as the list is not hard and fast (see the diary page of Chain Reaction for contact names & phones). Feb onwards 'Paint a mural group' (meeting separately- for dates ask Viv, 95 Burford, Brookside or ring one of contact numbers on diary page).

February 28: Letter writing evening

March 28: Making items to decorate the fence at Criggion (near Welshpool - listening post for Trident)

April 25: How to persuade your friends and others (of the anti-nuclear case).

May: free at the moment

June 27: Compiling list of military metaphors in everyday

language (to publish) to make people aware of these eg.

soldiering on, holding the fort etc.

July 25: Hiroshima Day preparations (for Aug 6)

Aug:

Sept:

Nov 28: Addressing & sending Christmas cards to conscientious objectors & other non-violent political prisoners in the world.

Dec :

The blank months are open for other ideas for activities. The meetings will continue to be held on the last Wednesday of each month 7.30pm. at 16 Linley Drive, Stirchley unless otherwise indicated.