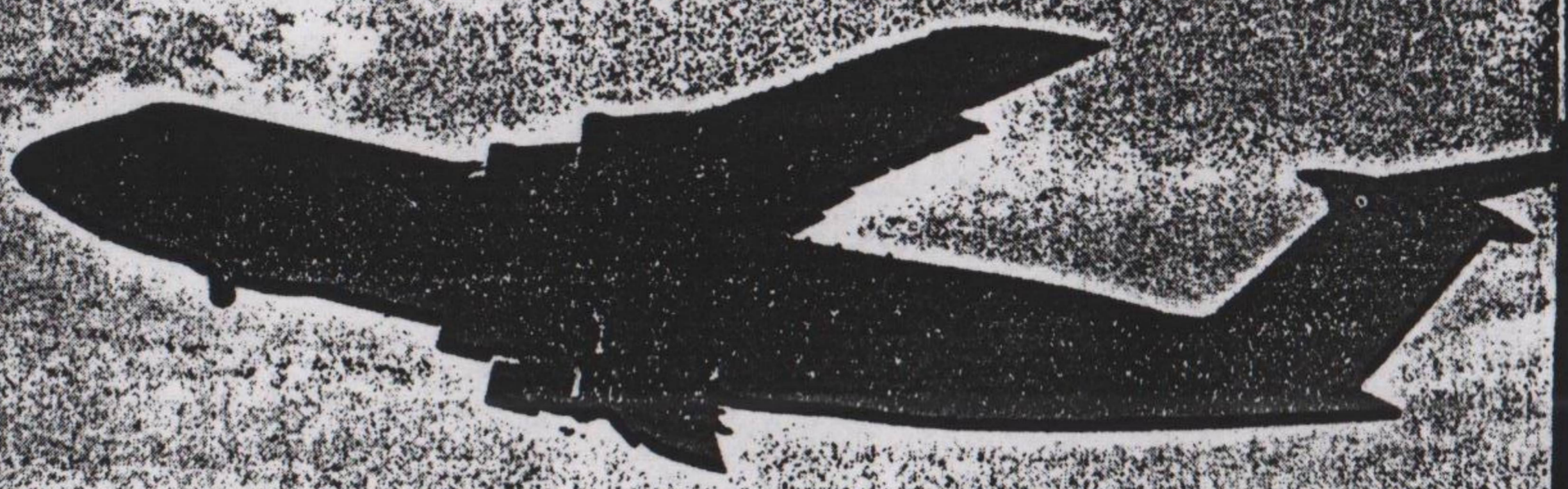


CRUISING HOME



AND DON'T FORGET TO DESTROY THEM



DON'T LET THEM COME BACK: Cruise leaves Greenham. Let's ensure it is for good.

Chain Reaction June/July 1990 No. 106

↑
R.I.P.? SEE INSIDE

WHAT ANTI-TRIDENT DEMO

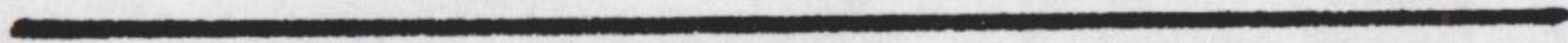


Remember the anti-Trident demos that were planned across the country in late March? (see Chain Reaction for March). Unfortunately the violence of the anti-poll tax demo in London won the unequal struggle for media headlines. No national paper even mentioned the 20+ peaceful actions nationwide.

The nearest to Telford was the Trident listening post at Criggion, just this side of Welshpool. We met in the main Welshpool car park for a march around the town. People came from Wrexham, Birmingham, Stafford, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Oswestry as well as a good contingent from Telford. One hundred folks altogether, which was quite pleasing. The Welshpool people looked on in slight amazement as they accepted leaflets. (One who didn't was the former Tory MP for the Wrekin, Warren 'Hanging' Hawksley who was seen walking the streets of the town where he runs a restaurant).

We then all went on to Criggion itself by car, some five miles away. Hidden amongst the hills and overlooked by the landmark of Rodney's Pillar, it comprises half-a-dozen skyscraper aeriels and a few low buildings. Everyone congregated by the fence (which was quickly adorned without the two or three police turning a hair), sat in the warm sun and listened to the band booming out. If anyone in the base was trying to listen to messages from afar that day, they would have received an earful from very close at hand!

The Shropshire peace caravan served tea, wholefood eats and a range of leaflets. A very pleasant family day. Just a pity it wasn't reported.



NELSON MANDELA FREEDOM CELEBRATION

at Oakengates Town Hall

7.30pm Sunday June 10th

Entertainment by Maria Tolley & John Edgar
Admission £2.50

Bruce Grocott M.P. and a representative from the ANC
have been invited.

Organised by Wrekin Anti-Apartheid Group

Telford Friends of the Earth,

have produced a new 1990 edition of their recycling guide. This free booklet from libraries and from FoE (Hilary Betts Telford 505547) gives good ideas how to dispose of or reuse old fridges, furniture, plastics and paper and many other items.

FoE suggest that next time you pay your electricity bill you could include a note to ask the MEB to explain what proportion of your bill is for the 'nuclear tax' (what they deliberately misleadingly call the 'fossil fuel levy', and which subsidises the higher cost of the nuclear-produced electricity). Also ask them to identify it clearly on all future bills.

PAN PIPES?

Whether the facts of the Iraqi "gun" will ever come into the open seems unlikely, even allowing for the fact that there is supposed to be an inquiry being set up to investigate the fact that one M.P. had warned the government that he thought this export pipe system could have military significance:

Is it a gun, is it a perfectly innocent piece of piping which for propagandist reasons, - or as a result of Israeli/Mossad black propaganda - is now described as a gun? If it is a gun was the British Government (Department of Industry, Foreign Office, M.I.5,) aware of this when, two years ago, the initial export permits were granted?

Was Iraq being trapped in some complicated "sting" operation, or is it a question of a change of attitude by the British Govt? (then "gallant little Iraq was standing up to the Ayatollah" a "voice of moderation within Islam" "resisting the tides of fundamentalist intolerance"; now the monstrous despotism of Saddam Hussein is the bogymen, & the Ayatollah's kindly successors are being oh, so helpful, in persuading hostage-captors to release their victims. Indeed has Hussein been set up deliberately?

Consider the Falklands War, nine years ago. Then the Government knowing that Argentina had an old claim to the Falkland/Malvinas islands, - a claim that no Argentine Government could dare ignore, & which even now is being resurrected - & that it is an emotive issue in that country, Britain - by accident or design - gave confused messages [withdrawing our naval force and cancelling plans for an airport,] which encouraged Galtieri to seize the islands. This caused the Falklands War, which, again by accident or design, caused an upsurge of British nationalism which sent Thatcher's poll-rating rocketting sky-high. Was it intended that this discovery should have the same effect?)

So the real significance may well be the extent to which governments can normally use national defence as a convenient excuse for outright lying propaganda and prop up their power purely by inventing a military crisis & there is no way that anyone can begin to investigate the accuracy of the stories, because so to do, inevitably means breach of official secrets, threat to national security. Truth it used to be said is the first casualty of war, but that is a relationship that suggests an element of chance it would seem to be the case, now it seems, that war, itself, is often the product of the needs of internal propaganda.

ANY FUTURE FOR CHAIN REACTION?

Chain Reaction is now produced every two months, starting with the last issue. We just haven't enough articles, letters and activities to make a monthly production worthwhile.

Also, even fewer have been attending TANG meetings—about three or sometimes four people. We have tried to revitalise these monthly meetings by concentrating on one-off projects (a monthly list was included in the January Chain Reaction), but this has not worked.

However, we are having another effort at this, so for forthcoming projects please see the diary on the back page. We especially hope to make a short but thought-provoking publication of the list of military metaphors (eg. holding the fort, in the firing line, bombed out).

Any contributions in person or in writing (or even phone) for Wed 27th June.

HILDA MURRELL -

the story continues

A few months ago there was much publicity in the local papers saying that the killer of Hilda Murrell had been arrested. Someone who had been convicted of two murders of elderly ladies, and had confessed to at least one more (that he could not have done) had been arrested. His lawyers were to tell Rob Green that the alleged murderer was so mentally disturbed that there was no way he could ever be brought to trial. (So the allegation can never be tested in the courts, but yet any queries can be met with the answer "well we found the right person". This works as well as the shooting of President Kennedy killer Lee Harvey Oswald while in police custody!)

Hilda Murrell's alleged killer is supposed to have claimed that he picked her up in a pub, & she took him home. One would assume that even those relatives and friends of Hilda who do not support Rob Green's inquiries might object that this was totally out of character. Even if Hilda had been given to such casual pick-ups, she'd have hardly have had time for them on a morning when she was dashing round & due for a lunch engagement. (So, even allowing for the fact that the police have refused to consider any evidence from CND members, - including mine which would have shown that she was even more in an hurry, - the story is so absurd that only someone who wants to believe anything rather than the obvious truth would consider it.)

Nor is it only CND-supporting witnesses whose evidence is disregarded. One of the few witnesses of Hilda's abduction who was interviewed, was an army wife, whose car was almost forced off the road, & who then later found herself waiting at a traffic lights, next to the abductor, with the assumed Hilda in the car. She glared over at the driver, and had a long hard look at him from a fairly short distance. (Neither of the photo-fit pictures bore any evidence to her description & the present accused even less.)

The one good thing to come out of the weird police story is that the army wife concerned is so incensed that, for the first time, she has contacted Rob Green.

THE £350 MILLION

BONFIRES

Interestingly, according to the Grauniad, the M.o D. now claims that there have been two arson attacks on the Donnington base, after they have steadfastly refused to hold a public inquiry or to release any real information about their internal inquiry.

Workers in the base insist that what they heard was that the inquiry showed that there was no possibility of the fires being caused by arson from outside. (It is worth remembering that Private Eye alleged that military men on the base had illegally sold arms - there was after the first fire a famous case of such, & the arms were alleged to come from Donnington; & that then there was arson to hide the evidence.)

It will be recalled that when the replacement hangar for the first fire was built it emerged that it had in fact been planned before that first fire. Indeed, it had been decided to put this new super-storage on the site of the hangar that was burnt down. By an amazing coincidence this was also true of the second hangar.

If the first inquiry showed evidence of an arson attack - which by definition was likely to be repeated - then why is it that the MoD failed to implement the necessary improved fire precautions, (also suggested by that inquiry) which at least would have lessened the impact of a further such attack?

Group calls for public inquiry ^{4/5/88}

Telford Anti Nuclear Group is calling on Wrekin Council to open a public inquiry into the COD Donnington blaze. The group wants the council to step in if the Government refuses to carry out an inquiry.

It wants all nearby residents to be interviewed, in order to glean information that might be useful in a future emergency.

DIARY

- Tues May 29th 7.00pm Greenpeace meeting—all welcome
Meeting Point House, Town Centre
Ring Julie Cole 52552 for details.
- Sat June 2nd Friends of the Earth Ozone day of
action—ring Hilary 505547 for details
- Sun June 10th 7.30pm Nelson Mandela Freedom Celebration
Oakengates Town Hall £2.50 — see
elsewhere in this Chain Reaction.
- Tues June 12th 7.30pm Telford F. o. E. Meeting : Tropical
Rainforest slides
Fletcher Memorial Centre, Madeley.
- Tues June 12th 7.00pm Greenpeace meeting—all welcome
Meeting Point House, Town Centre
- Sun 24th June Telford F. o. E. trip to Centre for
Alternative Technology in Wales— ring
Hilary 505547 for details.
- Wed June 27th 7.30pm TANG — Compiling a list of military
metaphors— eg. soldiering on etc.
16 Linley Drive, Stirchley.
- Wed July 4th 7.30pm Chain Reaction meeting
6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay
- Wed 25th July 7.30pm TANG — preparations for Hiroshima Day
16 Linley Drive, Stirchley.

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 next issue: Wed 4th July