

THE BOMB
Direct Action
and
THE STATE

DIRECT ACTION
PAMPHLETS No.7

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The Bomb—an isolated issue ?

THERE are three main currents of Unilateralist thinking. First, those who see the Bomb as evil and a danger, but do not consider any other factors and visualise a society very much as now, but with the threat of extinction removed by banning the Bomb. Second, those who believe the Bomb to be a mere symptom of class society—and are apt to deplore concentration on it as detracting from the real issues, or to use the Campaign merely as a recruiting ground for their own groups. And third, those who see the Bomb as a supreme symbol of violent and oppressive systems and, while approving CND's concentration on this one issue, do not see Unilateralism as a cure for the Bomb in isolation, but the essential pre-condition for any further social advance. Let us look at these three tendencies more closely.

Some of the first of the above groupings are Right-wing, or wish to return to a time when injustice and conflict abounded, but warfare was less completely destructive. One of these, Andrew Fountaine, chairman of the British National Party, stood for Parliament in Norfolk in 1959 and attempted to get CND support. He received none, for even those campaigners who have little or no political knowledge realised that fascism, with its race hatred and genocide, was as undesirable as nuclear genocide.

These tend to be people with ideals and, if they support one of the major political parties, they either ignore the contradictions between their party's policy and Unilateralism, or consider that supporting this policy will some day mean Parliamentary votes for Unilateralism.

The development of such people's thought, as their strongly-held conviction of the horror of nuclear war is faced with the progressively worsening arms race, leads to far wider understanding of the other factors involved in the Bomb. At first the strength of their arguments and the growth of support encouraged them to think that Governments would accept the idea of Unilateralism willingly, but now the failure to change Government policy and the long series of abortive peace conferences has led to disillusionment and, finally, deeper insight.

As these people's ideas mature they can join the hard core of the attempt to avert catastrophe. As more people and converts to Unilateralism come along, this process of disillusionment can go on continuously.

