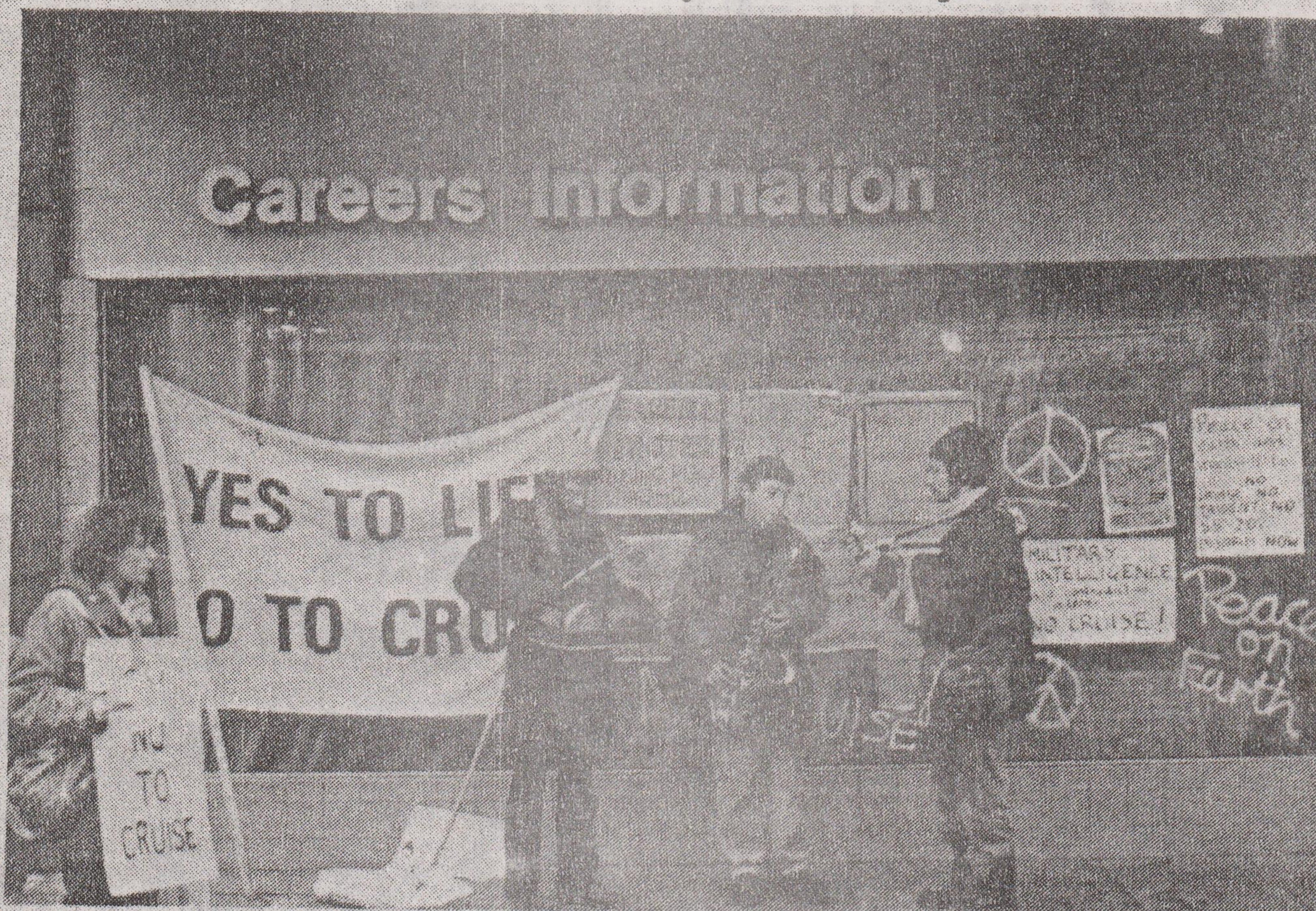


# FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

## NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.2

Peace Group Occupation of Army Careers Shop (12.12.83)



*"Mere praise of peace is easy, but ineffective.*

*What is needed is active participation in the fight  
against war and everything that leads to it."*

Albert Einstein



# PROTEST AT R.A.F. COTTESMORE

On 16th December 25 protestors travelled from Nottingham to R.A.F. Cottesmore for a Midland Day of Action. The purpose of the action was to highlight the base's involvement in the latest phase of the escalating nuclear arms race.

R.A.F. Cottesmore is the tri-national training centre for European Tornado fighter bomber pilots. This is a massive escalation of the U.K. nuclear force since 220 Tornados replace 56 older Vulcan and Buccaneer aircraft. Furthermore, Tornado has the capability of carrying air-launched cruise missiles.

First of all the base was blockaded then there was a demonstration in the village of Cottesmore. In the afternoon about 80 people invaded the base. Despite the fact that the police knew about the day of action security was frighteningly lax.

We ran on to the base and half of us reached one of the runways and sat or lay down. The civilian police manhandled us into vans before driving several miles and dumping us in the middle of nowhere.

Several people re-entered the base on their return and 'Dave' of the Forest Fields Peace Group managed to climb a 60ft navigational aid tower. He continued his protest for 6 hours in near freezing conditions before climbing down and being arrested for "breach of the peace" and obstructing a police officer.

Dave refused to give his name and address, unwilling to recognise a judicial process that was attempting to punish him for protesting about the madness of nuclear weapons.

After 6 days on remand in Leicester prison Dave was found guilty of obstructing a police officer, while the other charge was dropped. Now Dave is out of prison and the authorities have only the photograph and finger-prints of an unknown person.

## PROTEST AND RESIST

Dave, a peace activist, was arrested at R.A.F. Cottesmore on December 16th for climbing a navigational aid tower on the base and staying there for 6 hours. Refusing to give his name and address, he was held in custody for 6 days before being released. Here he gives his personal views on the purpose of non-violent direct action (NVDA).

As a relatively inexperienced protestor, Cottesmore provided my first real encounter with the State. I see my release, unpunished in a conventional sense and without a criminal record, not only as a victory for NVDA in opening a new tactic of protest, but also a demonstration that we can oppose the system that forces the horror of nuclear war upon us and win.

For me, direct action is not symbolic, it is active resistance to nuclear war. However imaginative and on whatever scale, I do not believe symbols alone will stop Cruise or create a world free of nuclear weapons. Direct action will, but only if it becomes a threat to the pillars on which any British government depends. Only when we threaten will we be listened to. A threat without violence.

I feel stronger in my commitment to non-violent action and protest than before my arrest. I do not believe the average policeman is willing to use unprovoked violence against peaceful protestors. Soon will come the day when the police are going to have to either shrug their shoulders and allow us to halt the nuclear war machine, or use violence against us. I think they will shrug their shoulders.

The government and those in power are then going to have to decide between imposing a totalitarian system, risking their own downfall, or accept the protestors demands.

But, of course, all that depends on us. You and I being prepared to stand up and be counted; being prepared to take the punishment the state throws at us, and to return each time stronger than before.



# WHAT ABOUT THE RUSSIANS ?

Sometimes when raising the question of the serious danger of world war the view is given that without sufficient weapons in this country, for instance, the American Cruise missiles, Britain would be "defenceless" and face the danger of a Russian invasion, or alternatively, that Western Europe would be threatened (because of the weakening of NATO).

Firstly, however, the Soviet invasion of Britain (by which is meant of the Soviet-led Warsaw Treaty forces) would not be just a question of them dropping a few bombs (nuclear or otherwise) but presupposes that Warsaw Treaty forces advanced on Britain across Europe i.e. that the Soviet Union was at war with at least most of Western Europe. This leads us to the second view, that NATO would be attacked by the Warsaw Treaty forces. Obviously this is possible.

However this view, presented in this way, is based on the assumption that the Warsaw Treaty is aggressive (just waiting to attack Western Europe), whereas NATO is peace-loving. But this position is wrong.

Clearly the Soviet Union and Warsaw Treaty are aggressive, one need only look at the invasion of Czechoslovakia or Afghanistan as proof of this. But NATO is not the counter-force to this aggression. The American-led NATO alliance is itself an aggressive bloc. Witness the US invasion of Grenada or the fact that NATO warships prowl the waters of the world as proof of this. NATO is the mirror image of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. In a word, the danger to peace, of catastrophic world war, comes not only from the aggressive Soviet-led Warsaw Treaty but equally from the aggressive American-led NATO alliance.

The reason why NATO was set up in 1949 was because of the post-war strategy of the US of domination of the world in the economic, political and military spheres. In practice NATO has always remained a tool of American foreign policy and the countries that participate in it, such as Britain, its willing pawns. It has never had anything to do with the defence of Europe and its peoples. Thus NATO (the Americans) talk about "winning" a "limited nuclear war" - i.e. "limited" to Europe. In such a war it is admitted that Europe would be devastated and the majority of her people wiped out. Yet this is the "defence" of Europe planned by NATO. What kind of "defence" is this? It is a mockery of the word "defence". The Warsaw Treaty for its part, is a tool of the Soviet Union. It also has nothing to do with defence of the people of Europe.

In any future war between the super-powers and their respective blocs, genocide would be committed against the peoples of Europe and mankind on an incomparably greater scale than that carried out even by the nazis during World War II. Under these conditions how can defence of Europe by these two aggressive blocs be claimed? In fact the superpowers are arming themselves to the teeth not for "peace" as they hypocritically claim, but for imperialist war. These wars are always fought as the continuation of "peace-time" policies, but by other means - by violent means, that means that they are fought for new markets, spheres of influence, sources of raw materials and so on.

The view that sees only the Soviet Union (and the Warsaw Treaty) as the greatest danger of world war and to the security of Europe and its people is unscientific and unrealistic. It is the two superpowers, the Soviet Union (and Warsaw Treaty) and the United States (and NATO) which are the greatest danger to peace, and all the imperialist warmongering powers. The people, who are the only force to stop the warmongers, must be careful not to side with either one against the other, but must, relying on their own resources, courage and tenacity, wage their own fight - a fight for genuine and lasting peace.



# **FLIGHT 007: LICENCE TO KILL?**

It is a popular misconception that we in the peace movement are pro-Soviet in our views. Conversely, many people believe the U.S. to be our closest ally and that we must always support them, as we are both fighting a common enemy. Both of these views are misguided and inaccurate. Both the superpowers are equally aggressive and show blatant disregard for people's lives in pursuit of their objectives.

A tragic example of this was the shooting down by the Soviets on Sep 1st of Korean Airliner KAL 007, killing all the crew and 269 passengers on board.

To understand why this happened one must look not just at the incident itself, but more importantly to the background in which it took place.

In 1979 NATO (the U.S.) decided to deploy Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe. These missiles would greatly reduce the warning time of a nuclear attack on Russia. Subsequently, the Soviets felt it necessary to develop missiles that posed a similar threat to the U.S.

One method they adopted was to invest immense resources in a vast naval complex in the N. Pacific, enabling submarines to deploy close to the U.S. west coast.

The alternative is for Soviet subs to hide in one of the great Pacific deeps nearby, which with long-range missiles can be as effective a threat. The new Soviet Typhoon submarine is a massive craft which can carry 80 nuclear warheads. 12 of these Typhoon submarines are planned. Hence the huge naval base on Sakhalin Islands in the Sea of Okhotsk where these subs are based has become a very sensitive area.

The acute sensitivity of this area was worsened by increasing U.S. naval exercises in 1982/3 in the Sea of Okhotsk. These exercises were barely mentioned in the west.

The increase in the U.S. intelligence activity in the area doubtlessly coincided with the fact that once Cruise and Pershing ~~were~~ deployed in Europe, security near the Soviet naval air base would rapidly intensify.

So we ask ourselves, could flight KAL 007 have been used by the U.S. for military purposes? Suspicions grow stronger when one analyses the sequence of events that followed the shooting of the Korean plane.

The Americans were quick to insist that the airliner had mistakenly flown over Soviet air-space and had been barbarously shot down with no warning. Reagan said that this was "an act of barbarism, born of a society that wantonly disregards individual rights and the value of human life."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Jean Kirkpatrick, produced tapes of air traffic radio which "proved" that Soviet pilots made no attempt to warn the plane, no warning shots were fired and it was alleged that the Soviet fighter planes were not even equipped with normal international frequency radio, in case it should assist them defect.

However, a few days later it was revealed that U.S. RC 135 spy planes were very nearby at the time of the disaster. Reagan described the RC 135 as "innocuous". But in the Denver Post (13/9/83), two RC 135 veteran pilots described Reagan's remark as unbelievable and as a .... "major effort...to bewilder the public concerning the capabilities of the U.S. RC 135," a plane they describe as "offensive in nature".

They said it was grotesque to imagine the RC 135 could not have headed off the Korean airline disaster if it had wanted to.

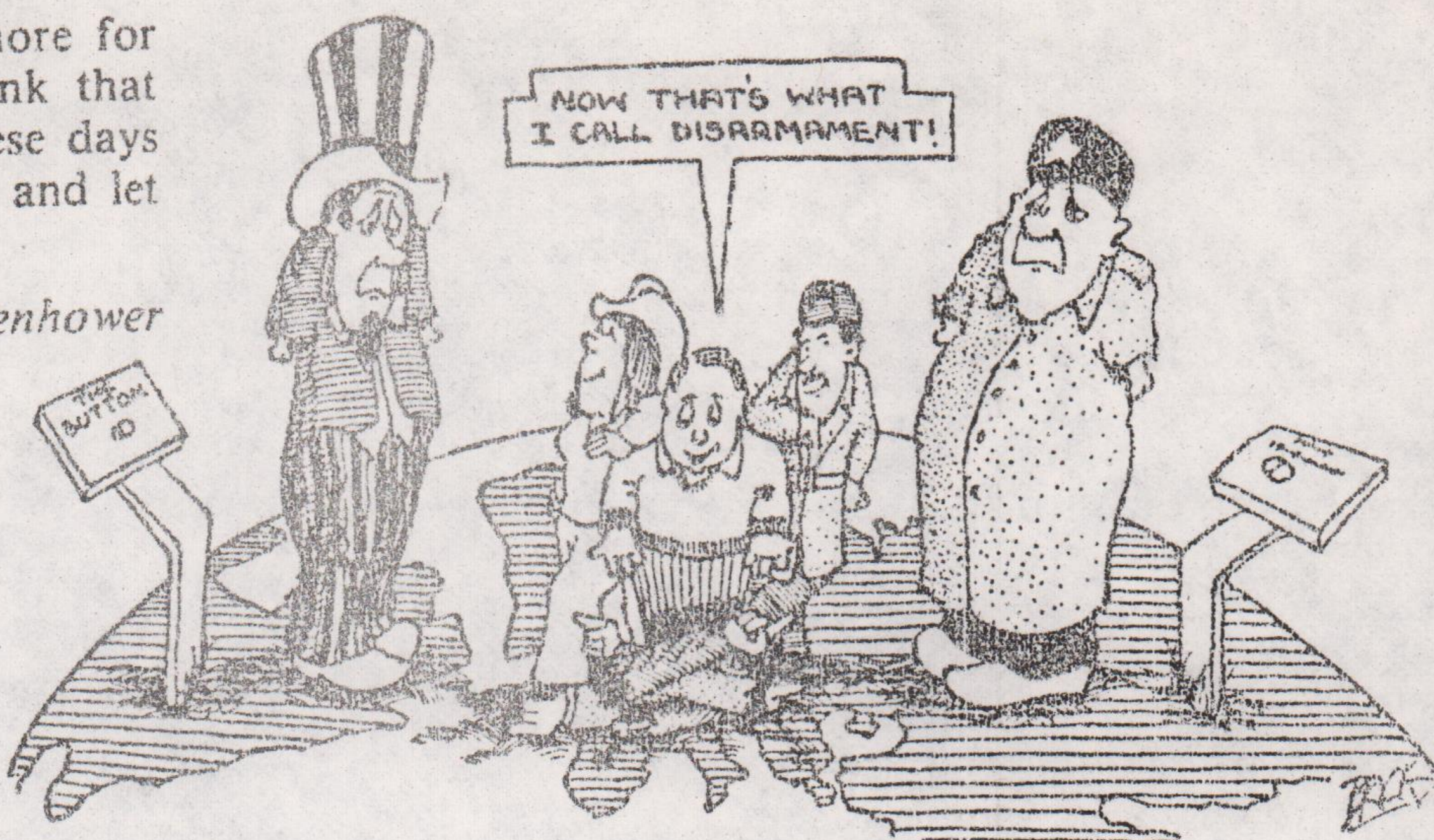
Weeks later it emerged that the tapes Jean Kirkpatrick had produced had been heavily doctored to support the U.S. official story. It was

*continued on Page Five*



In the long run (people) are going to do more for peace than are governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.

*Dwight Eisenhower*



## Flight 007: Licence to kill?(cont.)

also revealed that the Soviet fighter planes did have the necessary international frequencies, that they used them frequently and they did fire a series of warning shots. There was no U.S. explanation for these revelations. Our press hardly mentioned them. We are told that all the Korean airliners vital communications and guidance equipment broke down in flight..... only for the radio to miraculously repair itself once it had been hit!

We also learn from veteran pilots that even if the Korean Airliner's flight computer and radar had been out of order, it could still have switched to Ground Echo - standard procedure for pin-pointing the position of a plane if all else fails.

Thus we have a scenario where the official U.S. explanation for the Korean plane's intrusion into Soviet air-space (and over the Soviet Union's most sensitive military complex) is that it's communication and guidance systems broke down. Yet we have the authoritative word of veteran pilots and experts in navigation that even if the plane's systems did break down, the crew had the skills and means to work out where they were and that they were well off course.

A full and truthful account of what happened will probably never come about. But what we can say is that

we have been deliberately lied to by the Americans, and that it is clear that the U.S. conspired to deceive the world about it's supposed "innocent" part in the affair. The Soviets have shown that they are prepared to brutally shoot down a civilian airliner, regardless of the innocent passengers on board

We should also realise that this is not an issue where one side is right and the other side is wrong. Rather, it is the continued policy and practice of both superpowers to recklessly pursue their own goals with no regard to the existence and freedom of other nations, communities and individuals. They are both wrong.

It is the aggression and skullduggery of both the superpowers which brought about the disaster of flight KAL 007. This is the major concern for all of us, since it is we in Britain who are now at high risk in the ridiculous cold war of the superpowers. We have 102 U.S. bases in Britain and 160 planned Cruise missiles. How long will it be before the Soviet Union deems it necessary to fire their missiles on the American missiles and bases here?



# R.O.F. CHILWELL

## THE NEXT U.S. BASE ?

R.O.F. Chilwell was constructed for the supply of munitions during the Second World War. It is a big base with a perimeter of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, has easy access to major trunk roads and a huge underground store bunker.

For several years the base has slowly been grinding to a halt, becoming less and less operational. But now it has been leaked that the Ministry of Defence (M.O.D.) is prepared to sell the base to the U.S. Air Force. The M.O.D. confirms that the U.S. is interested in the base but will not announce for what purpose the base would be used by the Americans until after the sale is completed.

Several rumours surround the proposed use of Chilwell by the U.S., none of which have been denied by the Government.

1. the base will be used for a 2,000 bed hospital for U.S. military personnel and families.

2. the base will be used as a store for medical and related supplies
3. the base will be a vehicle parts store and servicing centre.

Whatever it is intended to be used for is largely irrelevant. The U.S. purchase of R.O.F. Chilwell can only be seen as a further example of its escalation of preparations for war. And the more any country prepares for war, then the more likely that country will engage in war.

Already the arrival of Cruise missiles has put the people of this country at horrendous risk. We must stop the United States further cementing its troops and bases in Britain and say NO to the purchase of R.O.F. Chilwell by the U.S. Air Force.

NO TO A U.S. BASE IN CHILWELL.

U.S. TROOPS, MISSILES AND BASES OUT OF BRITAIN.

## GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN'S PEACE CAMP

The Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp has probably attracted more publicity to the lunacy of the nuclear arms race and more support to the peace movement than any other group or organisation. Below, three women from Forest Fields describe what the Greenham Peace Camp means to them.

Cathy - "the women at Greenham give me strength. When I look at what they have achieved... I feel hope. This helps me to harness my anger at what a few mad people are allowing to happen to this beautiful planet, and to use it positively in the fight for peace. My part may be very small but I look to the women at Greenham and know that it's important and that the Peace Movement can, must and will grow and stop this nuclear madness."

Jean - "there is a need in me for my fervent beliefs to be reinforced by a mass collective - a collective I can trust. Greenham is a powerful focal point which has to be kept alive."

Relationships between women are intuitive and instinctive - they have a knowledge of each other and therefore a bond: that bond fuels strong and energetic qualities that can be used effectively. Greenham women prove their value by their effectiveness."

Lindsay - "I went to Greenham on Dec 11th to show solidarity with the women who bravely and steadfastly camp there through sun, rain and snow. I went to show the government that there are thousands of us who do not want their weapons of destruction in our country. It was a day of energy and warmth despite the cold, and I came back invigorated and with new determination to work to make it felt that GREENHAM WOMEN ARE EVERYWHERE."



# PEACE GROUP PROTESTS AT ARMY SHOP

At 10am on Dec. 12, several members of the Forest Fields Peace Group began an occupation of the Armed Services Recruitment Centre in Victoria Centre.

The armed services personnel, the media and even the police were informed immediately that our occupation/demonstration was to be staged over a limited time i.e. 10am - 2pm, at which time we would leave, our point having been made. Our aim was for the action to be non-violent in every sense, yet effective. To this end, I believe the day was a total success.

Cruise Missiles are a deadly first-strike weapon, whose presence, rather than a "deterrent" actually make a nuclear war increasingly likely. These missiles are opposed by the majority of British people, particularly as they are controlled by the U.S., who as recent events have shown, are only too willing to play the role of aggressor in world affairs.

Our aim therefore was to draw attention to the role of our own armed forces who assist the U.S. to guard these sinister weapons, while in the guise of "defending" us.

December 12 was chosen as the date for our action as this marked the 4th anniversary of the NATO decision to deploy these weapons.

Two protesters staged a roof-top demonstration and by use of a megaphone were able to keep the public aware of our presence and our aims, undoubtedly an effective part of the overall action.

Further support came from protesters dressed in symbolic radiation suits and sandwich boards, who were able, through leafletting to approach people more directly, and wherever possible, to discuss the issue.

All credit to the wonderful work done by the women at Greenham Common, but, we must all remember that nuclear war does not begin and end there. Our demonstration showed what a small number of determined people can do in their own town. We intend to follow this success with similar actions. Hopefully, more people will be motivated to look to their own conscience and ask themselves how they too could help. Since both of the super powers insist on talking from strength, the only way to halt this madness is for the people to act before it is too late.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS/DONATIONS

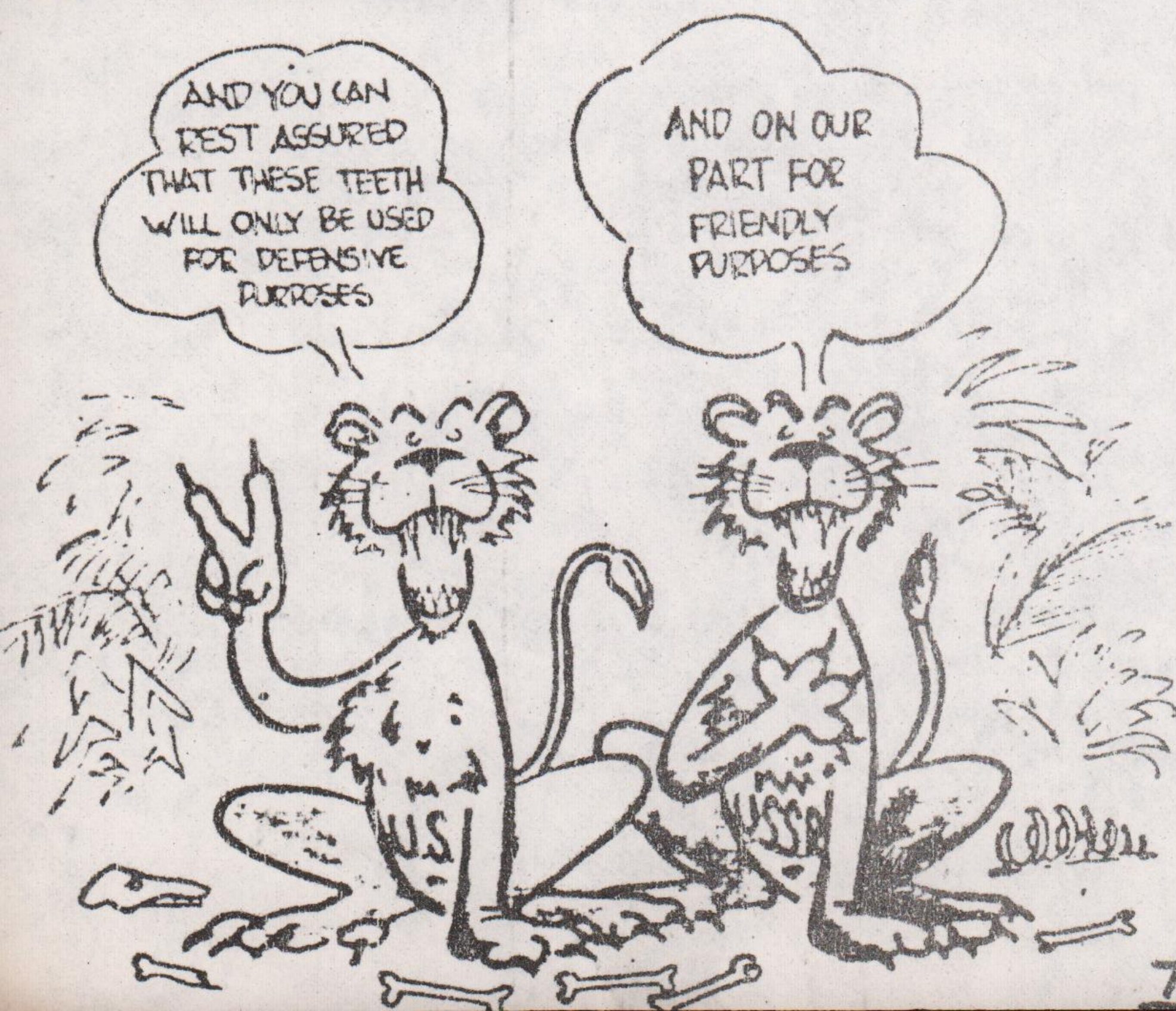
If you would like to subscribe to the monthly Forest Fields Peace Group Newsletter, then please contact us at the Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, 69, Wiverton Road, Forest Fields or ring Paddy on 788655. Cost is only £1.00. If you would simply like to make a donation to the Peace Group then please contact us at the same address.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Forest Fields Peace Group Newsletter would welcome letters or articles concerned with the arms race or the peace movement. Please leave contributions at the Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is Sunday 5th February.

**NO MATTER HOW MANY OATHS AND PROMISES THE SUPERPOWERS MAKE, THE AGGRESSIVE AND PREDATORY NATURE OF THE BEAST WILL NEVER CHANGE.**





# WHAT YOU CAN DO

A number of people we have spoken to have said: "yes, you're right. Nuclear weapons are mad and don't defend us, but there's nothing we can do to stop them."

THERE IS SOMETHING EVERY ONE OF US CAN DO TO STOP THE BOMB AND THE DESTRUCTION OF CIVILISATION.

WE CAN JOIN TOGETHER AND BE PART OF THE BIGGEST PROTEST THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN. A PROTEST SO BIG AND POWERFUL, THE POLITICIANS WILL NOT DARE IGNORE US OR OPPOSE US.

Throughout the world history is littered with situations where ordinary people have brought about sweeping changes in the policies of their governments. Now more and more people are joining together and insisting on the most important change of all: a world of peace and non-aggression. A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

In Britain an estimated 25% of the population believe that Britain should have no nuclear weapons. If everyone of those people persuaded one or two of their friends to join the peace movement and raise their voices against the destructive road to war, then more than half of the British people would be fighting for peace.

NO GOVERNMENT COULD RESIST US.

That is what you can do. By joining your local peace group or CND group, you can become part of one of the largest growing protest groups in history.

Your local peace group is the Forest Fields Peace Group. We can be contacted either by leaving a message at the Forest Fields Neighbour-  
Forest Fields, or by ringing Paddy and

PLEASE JOIN US.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

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FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP: MONTHLY MEETING WED 8th FEB at 8p.m.

VENUE: Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, 69, Wiverton Road.

The Peace Group meetings have been running for over three years and have provided a wide and varied forum for discussion. Anyone who would either like to get involved in the peace movement or just find out more about the group is welcome to attend.

SAT 18th February: Demonstration Against U.S. Purchase of Chilwell Army Base.

Further details available from Nottingham C.N.D. (581948) and will be included in the next edition of the Newsletter.

SUN 5th February: 2.30p.m. at N.C.N.D. office, 15, Goosegate, Nott'm. Meeting of East Midland Peace Groups to discuss regional/national action at Molesworth in the Spring and the co-ordination of regional action against Cruise convoys. Anyone interested welcome.

Printed and published by the Forest Fields Peace Group.