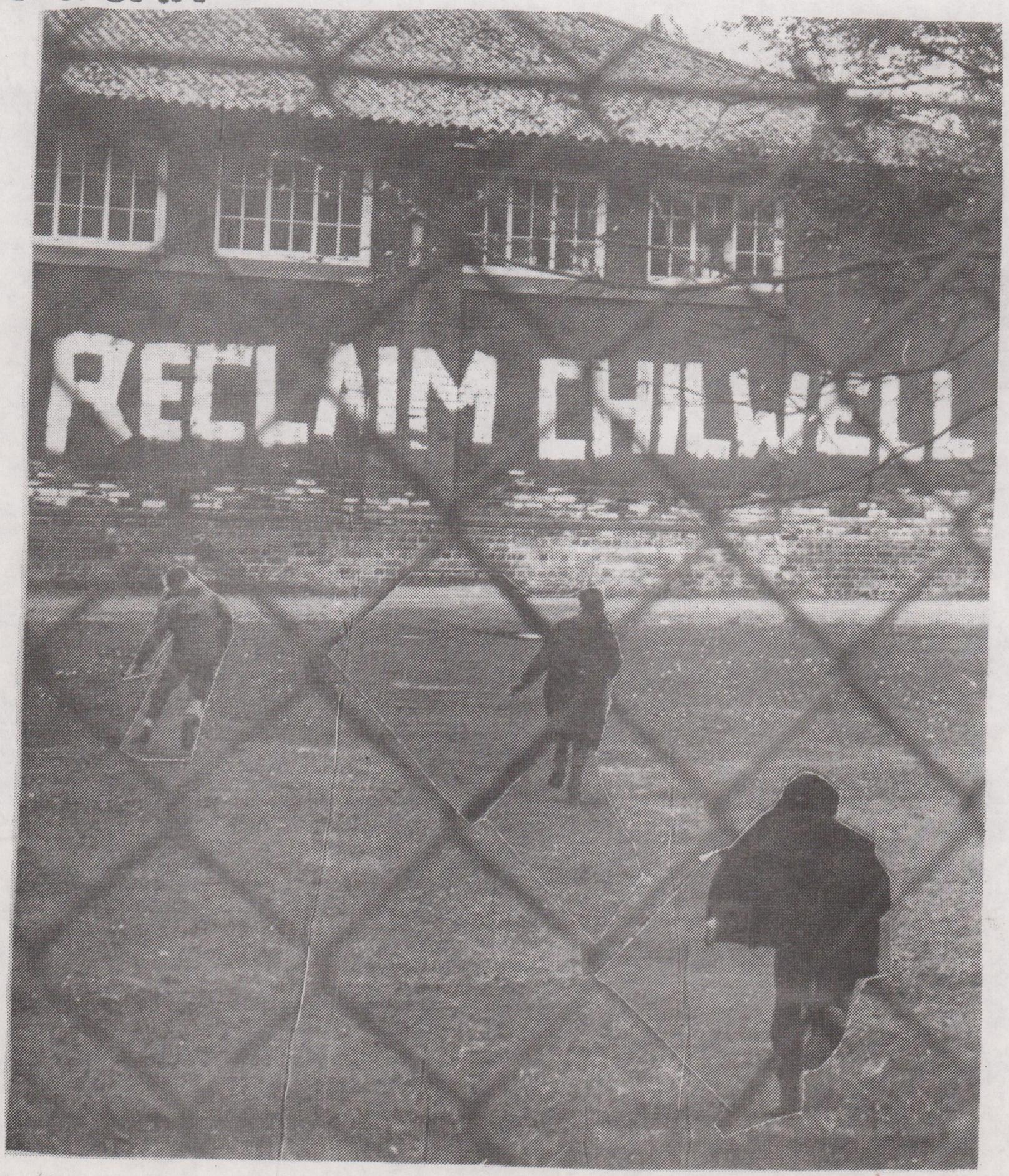




DEC & JAN



Mass Trespass at USAF Chilwell, July 1st. 1,500 protestors reclaimed the base.

BECAUSE WE CARE

I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel the enormity of the task of the peace movement is almost overwhelming. The war machines of East and West are huge, sophisticated mechanisms. The tools of the Government to try to suppress our protest are awesome: if we go on strike we are branded as mobs and militants, laws are introduced to make our strikes illegal and the DHSS withholds money so we can't feed our families; when we raise the pitch of our protest criminal proceedings are brought against us; politicians and the media say we are Soviet inspired and try to paint the picture that we don't care about the future of Europe.

It is precisely because we do care that we are involved in the peace movement. It is because we care that we oppose war and the policies of any country that threatens war. It is because we care that we campaign against nuclear policies and nuclear weapons which can only destroy life and civilisation. It is because we care that we refuse to bury our heads in the sand as the Government would prefer.

The beginning of a new year is an opportune time to reflect on how we are progressing and I think we should take heart from what has happened in 1984.

Nationally, CND membership has more than doubled and peace groups in towns and cities all over the country have become stronger and more active.

Locally, the Peace Group in Forest Fields has been busier than ever, with lots of fresh faces becoming involved and putting in a lot of hard work. Not only have the numbers swelled but the quality and enthusiasm of our campaigning has vastly improved.

The Newsletter has expanded to having broad local circulation. As well as keeping people up to date with what is going on, it has had many important feature articles detailing developments in the arms race which receive scant attention in the mass media (sea-launched Cruise missiles, Tornado, Trident, USAF Alconbury and Civil Defence to name but a few).

The NVDA activists, or Affinity Group as it is called, has built up a considerable reputation locally through its actions at Cottesmore, Nottingham, Upper Heyford and USAF Alconbury. Members of the group have intrinsic in the organisation of the hugely successful Reclaim Chilwell Mass Trespass and also in establishing Peace Action Network (PAN), the Nottingham based NVDA network.

There are many things that could be mentioned of activities and campaigning in the past year. The saddest yet most inspiring aspects of the year have been the imprisonment of a few of our friends for passionately opposing the arms race and refusing to bow to the authority of the state which pursues the arms race. I feel sure that many others will follow their excellent, though severe example.

Other things have gone on apace: local and national demonstrations, leafletting, public meetings, fly-posting and fund-raising. Most impressively the FFPG has gained the reputation locally and city-wide of being a dynamic and committed group of peace campaigners. This has arisen because we are better at pooling resources, becoming organised in a non-hierarchical manner and dealing with the media.

Where do we go from here? Already our diaries should be ready for entries of concerted action at Molesworth, the 2nd U.S. Cruise missile base and further demonstrations against the U.S. military presence at Chilwell.

But on a more general level the FFPG as a local peace group needs to carry on the spirit of 1984 in an even more efficient and determined fashion.

We must concentrate on explaining the real issues of war to as many people as we can, and first and foremost this must mean our friends and neighbours. We must expand the strength and numbers of our group and encourage new members to be rewardingly involved. We must raise the tempo and spirit of our protest against the arms race and preparations for war.

We must do so for our children and their children.

We must do so BECAUSE WE CARE.

REFUSE CRUISE

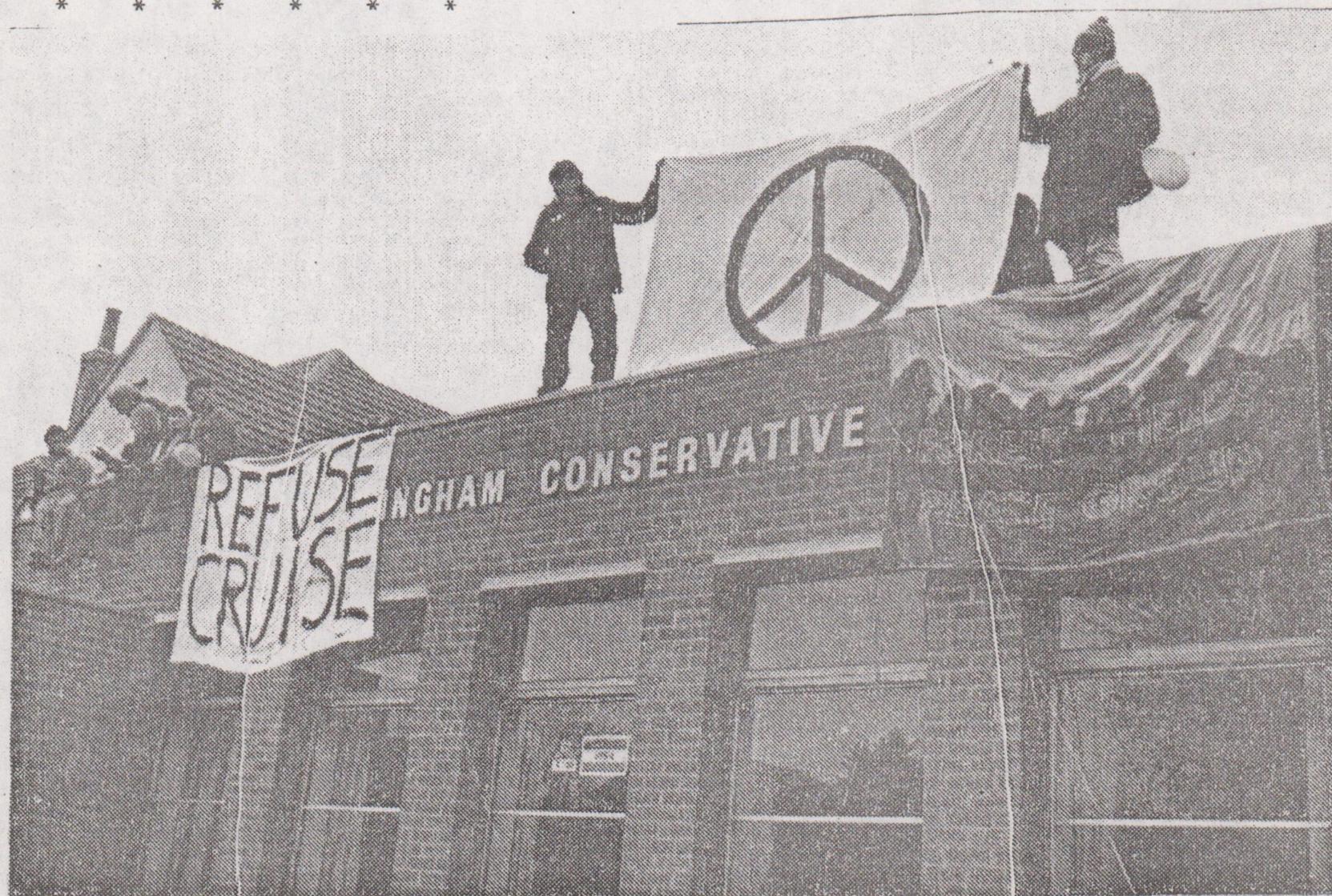
Last month it was officially confirmed that the second 'flight' of 16 Cruise missiles had arrived at Greenham Common air base, bringing to 32 the total number of Cruise in Britain. This comes as no surprise to many of us, who have long suspected the missiles were here. However the news was released, not by our own Ministry of Defence, but by General Bernard Rogers, the American commander of NATO's European forces.

The British MOD has remained silent about Cruise since the secretive arrival last year of the first 16 missiles. But, if these weapons are supposed to 'deter' Russia from attacking, why are they so reluctant to say how many of them we have? Could it be that deterring the Soviet Union is less important than avoiding the public outcry they know will result now the British people (most of whom are against Cruise) know that more of the missiles we don't want are already here?

The next time the Cruise Convoy goes out on an exercise, FFPG will demonstrate with placards and candles, (please bring your own) on the roundabout where Gregory Bvd meets Mansfield Rd. If we meet at 5.00pm to catch the rush-hour traffic we can alert loads of people to the continuation of the war preparations.

It has been decided to demonstrate on both the day we hear about the exercise and the day after- to catch even more people as they innocently drive home to their slippers and tipples, unaware that FFPG is about to strike again!

* * * * *



FFPG occupation of Conservative Party Headquarters, Nottingham, on 6th November, the day after the announcement that the second flight of Cruise missiles had arrived at USAF Greenham Common.

CARRY GREENHAM HOME

"Carry Greenham Home", the Greenham Peace Camp video, seemed more like a visual diary than a documentary and portrayed strongly the courage and determination of the women involved, their growing spirit and the burgeoning clarity of their action. In contrast, police, soldiers and bailiffs seemed wooden, lifeless functionaries.

If it was an accurate record, a process of simplification was occurring throughout the camp: a necessary simplification - which side are you on? As Dylan sang:-

"You've either got faith or unbelief,
There ain't no middle ground".

It is a unifying principle, drawing people in, whether they enter as 'pacifists', 'christians', 'revolutionary socialists', or, indeed, as 'women'.

Greenham is a women's camp and has become an international symbol of resistance to the war machine. Yet "Carry Greenham Home" also brought to mind an issue that bubbles in the camp's life - a women's camp, yes, but what is the relationship of men to that? In part, it has been a difficult issue because many in the peace movement know how willingly the media will exploit any hint of division. But an important issue nevertheless.

I believe it is unhelpful if the camp makes men unwelcome, or excludes men from any part of its protest. If the peace movement accepts that as a valid principle, at Greenham or anywhere, it will increase the threat of schism in the wider movement. There is a vital difference between an initiative emanating from a particular group, and its becoming exclusive to that group.

Greenham is about Cruise missiles, and the threat they pose to everybody. The women who set up the camp at Greenham and developed it so strongly contributed much to the peace movement; but it must surely be a camp for everybody who wants to protest against the obscenity behind the fence; not one that restricts its protest to members of one sex.

Women, men and children have suffered from hideous war machines; and all are threatened by nuclear holocaust. It may be that, for whatever historical reasons, more men have been to the fore of wars than women. But, from that, to locate the tendency to violence and war in men is foolish and wrong. It recreates the very dynamic by which war machines keep their populations compliant - by convincing them that all aggressiveness is located 'on the other side'.

History teaches us that humans have a ferocious appetite for violence. Yet it also reveals a capacity to deny that, to project it onto something or somebody else. A movement trying to eradicate that appetite's greatest threat must preserve unity, and not collectively project 'men' as perpetrators of the violence leading to today's nuclear threat.

I doubt that many in the movement act on this assumption. It is relevant though, because we need unity in the peace movement. Unity is strength. It must centre on nuclear weapons - the understanding that they are intolerable, that no human development is possible until that threat is itself destroyed. It is relevant because the peace movement is a coalition, united around this intention. To be effective, this unity must be more than practical. It must be an emotional unity, allowing us all to work with others of different views and backgrounds.

Without such unity, the threat of schism will always threaten the growth of the 'peace movement! Perhaps this term is deceptive, in describing a grouping wishing to abolish nuclear weapons, for it also embraces pacifists and adherents to armed struggle. Such people must work together for the movement to succeed. Within the movement, working towards the end of nuclear weapons must come first, and all else second.

And now is the critical time. The peace movement worldwide is bigger, more potent than ever: but it is a minority, and nuclear proliferation continues. Only through active, passionate unity can we become a majority, and the drift towards confrontation be defeated.

Les Parsons
(Shortened by Malcolm)

CHILWELL PROTEST

Venue: U.S.A.F. CHILWELL

Date: FRIDAY 21st DECEMBER

Time: 6p.m.

Meeting place: outside the Co-op Superstore on Swiney Way, the west side of the base.

We hope that all members of the Peace Group and everyone who opposes the U.S. military presence at Chilwell will join this demonstration. The procession will go round the base to the Gate House and back again.

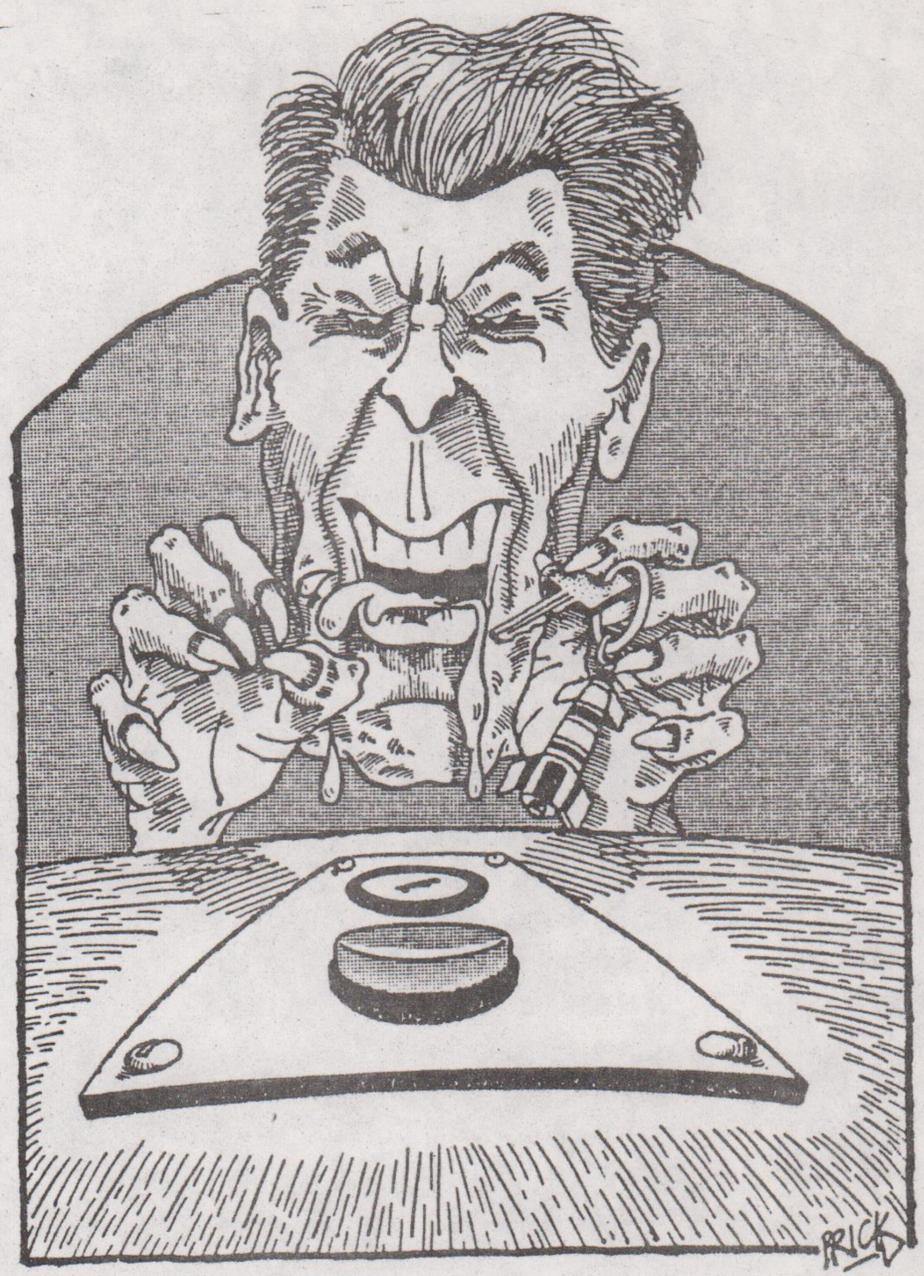
Songs will be sung and a plan is to decorate the Gate House and fence with seasonal glitter, peace symbols and balloons etc. Please bring your own decorations.

A few torches will be available at the meeting place, but it is really easy to make your own. Attach a stick to the side of a large empty can, preferably using thin wire. Stuff the can with old rags and wet the rags with paraffin. Once lit this should last you for about an hour, so take two.

This is an important demonstration and we call on as many people as possible to support it. Come along and help make a spectacle and make some noise. Let us convince the people of Chilwell that the U.S. presence at the base is a threat not a comfort.

LOSS

All of you who know him will be very saddened to learn that Jaz, close friend and active member of the FFPG has left Nottingham. We hope that his absence is fleeting and it's not long before he's back with us all.



GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

"Peace is not freedom from war but a state of mind based on right action, (nationally and internationally undertaken), on justice and understanding. It is a positive, active good and not a negative, placid and undisturbed condition."

Alice A. Bailey

PEACE THROUGH LOVE

Let us take the risks of peace upon our lives, not impose the risks of war upon the world.

Quaker Proverb

COAL NOT DOLE

The Miners' strike is now past its 40th week, and the majority of miners are still on strike.

Forest Fields Peace Group makes a regular collection for the miners which is given to the Notts Women's Support Group. So far over £100 has been raised.

But why should a peace group support an industrial dispute, which arguably has little to do with nuclear disarmament?

I think there are a number of reasons:

1. Despite the insistence of the media and many political leaders (especially from the left) the dispute is much more than merely an industrial one.

2. It is a test of strength between the Tory Party and organised labour. The Tory Party has engaged in what can only be described as a class war. Not only against the miners but the whole Trade Union movement, the elderly, the unemployed - those who in their eyes do not count.

3. The police, the courts, the DHSS and the media have been used in conjunction to try to defeat the strike. Fortunately so far they have failed. If they succeed 'we' - those who wish for a fairer and better society - will all be weaker to stop this insane march towards dictatorship and ultimate destruction.

4. Also of course, the strike does have direct connections with the Nuclear Programme: plutonium for the Trident missile system will have to come from Nuclear Reaction. Our present Nuclear power programme will have to be expanded to meet the demand, despite the dangers. Pits will have to be closed to maintain a balance.

There are many other reasons why I feel we should support the miners. If you want to help contact Dave c/o Paddy and Cathy 788655.



SOCIAL EVENT

On Sunday 6th January the FFPG is holding a social event at the Neighbourhood Centre, beginning at 2pm.

The idea is for members and friends of the Peace Group to bring along food and drink and for us all to make merry. We hope to have toys and games for children and adults, plus music, wine and dining. There will be a small admission charge to offset any expenses on the day, but otherwise we will be dependant on the contributions that people bring with them.

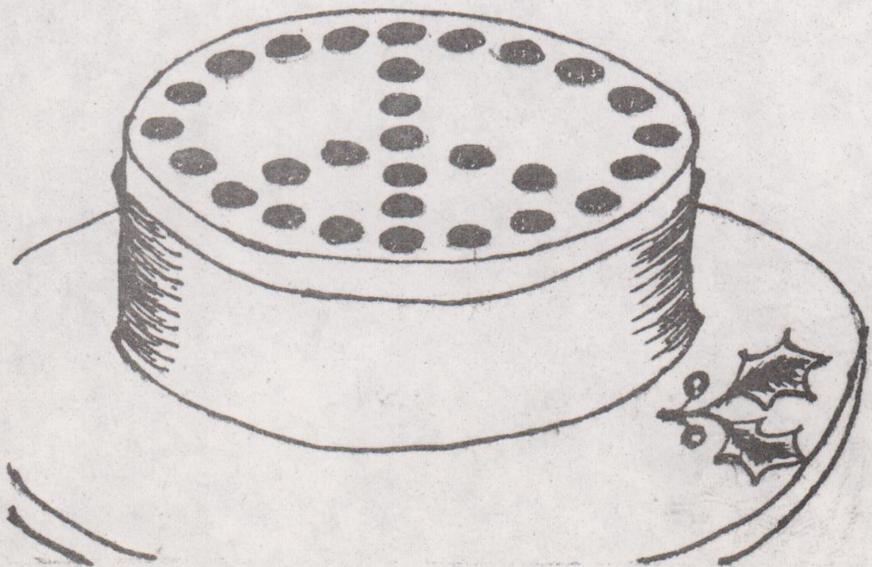
Please do come to this event. It will give you a chance to meet friends, make some new ones and generally have some fun. In particular we hope it'll be a great day for the kids, but we hope the social day will help to charge our batteries for the long and hard campaigning in the year ahead.

Here are a couple of festive recipes to help brighten up the festive season.

'CASHEW NUT SAVOURY'

1/2 lb cashew nuts
 4oz fresh wholemeal bread crumbs
 4oz short grain rice
 2 cloves of garlic
 1 onion
 2 teaspoons of yeast extract
 4 tablespoons of mixed herbs
 black pepper and sea salt to taste

1. Cook brown rice and grind cashew nuts.
2. Chop onion and garlic finely, and fry them in vegetable oil until brown.
3. Put the mixture together and press into a bread tin.
4. Bake for 30 mins in a moderate oven at 350°F/180°C (gas mark 4).



'Traditional Festive cake'

3oz Trex vegetable fat
 4oz brown sugar
 juice of two small oranges
 4oz 81 per cent whole meal flour
 2 tablespoons mixed spice
 1lb mixed dried fruit

1. Cream fat and sugar together.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix thoroughly.
3. Bake in a round tin lined with greased, grease proof paper for 3 hours in a slow oven at 300°F/150°C (gas mark 2).
4. Allow to cool completely. This can be stored for several weeks in a cool place, covered with grease proof paper and then foil. If desired top with marzipan made from a mixture of ground almonds, soya flour, lemon juice and almond extract, and ice with a white glaze icing.

Anne Davidson.
 drawings
 Pete Halse.

CONTRIBUTIONS

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Newsletter is always keen to attract the views, news, articles, poems, illustrations and photos about peace, disarmament and opposition to war.

The Editorial team, which always welcomes new volunteers, would be happy to consider all contributions. To be honest, we have not received the number of contributions from readers we would have wished for and it has usually been left to a small number to write all the articles. You can change that.

Having your articles and views published is your chance to have your opinions widely read, to raise issues you feel are important, to report your news and to express your feelings.

In particular we would like to receive articles, poems and drawings from children. Let them express their views to an all-age audience.

Please, please send your contributions to F.F.P.G., Box 5, Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road, Forest Fields.

THANKS

Special thanks and seasonal greetings to Mark Salmon and Brick whose photos and artwork have been used and abused throughout the year. We are genuinely grateful for all your help. We deeply hope it will continue.

I don't know about you, but the part I find hardest about Christmas and the "season of goodwill" is actually sorting out my goodwill.

Making sure that family and friends are all appropriately in receipt of my seasonal "goodwill" is a pain-staking process: one that if not diligently attended to can result in absurd embarrassment and disappointment.

However, conducting such a process made me think harder about the people to whom I would really like to express my goodwill. And I thought of the Forest Fields Peace Group.

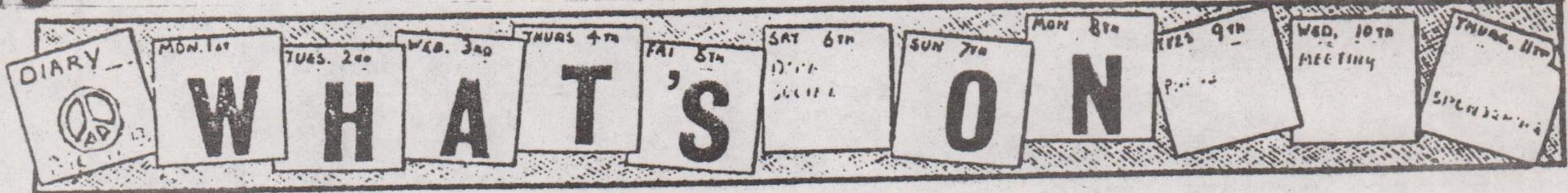
It has been a busy and important year for the Peace Group - so much good work has been done (but so much more is still to be done), a strong spirit of togetherness has developed and new and close relationships have been formed. It feels good to be involved in the Peace Group.

So this year I am giving a Xmas present to the Peace Group, because I am proud of it, believe in it and cherish it. I think my gift is appropriate. It is money.

Why don't you give a Christmas present (preferably money) to the F.F.P.G.? All presents can be delivered to F.F.P.G., Box 5, Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road

If my soldiers began to think, not one would stay in the ranks.

Frederick the Great of Prussia



DECEMBER

- Sun 16 FFPG Affinity Group visit to Molesworth. FFNC 10.00.
- Fri 21 Torchlight Procession at Chilwell. Meet at the Co-Op car park 6.00
- Thurs 27 FFPG Meeting with funny video. FFNC 7.30

JANUARY

- Sat 5 Regional NVDA Conference, Derby. (contact Barbara)
- Sun 6 FFPG Social. FFNC 2.00
NCND Members' Meeting. Friends' Meeting House. 7.30
- Mon 7 PAN Meeting about Molesworth. NCND Office 7.30
- Wed 9 FFPG Meeting. FFNC 7.30
- Sat 12 & Sun 13 Trainers' Training Day. Queens Walk Community Centre
(contact Dave)
- Mon 21 PAN Meeting. NCND Office 7.30
- Thurs 24 FFPG Meeting. FFNC 7.30

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