

MAY '85

5p

EASTER 1985 **20 000 RECLAIM MOLESWORTH**



Photo by John Birdsall

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THE SOVIET INITIATIVE AND GENEVA

As the two Superpowers, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. discuss OUR future in the arms control talks at Geneva, 'fresh peace initiatives' are offered by the new Russian leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. He is prepared to implement a 6 month moratorium on medium-range nuclear missiles and also on the retaliatory measures taken against the deployment of Cruise and Pershing 11 missiles in Western Europe.

American reaction to this has been predictably negative, and no less predictably, Thatcher's government, again acting as obedient client of America, has responded in similarly negative fashion.

Again, events illustrate the sham nature of the Geneva talks. Even as they go on, Belgium accepts Cruise missiles, the American Congress accepts the need for more MX missiles, and Reagan both stresses the need for the Star Wars programme to go ahead, and pressurises other NATO countries to endorse this. Such moves make a nonsense of American and British claims to be serious about genuine peace initiatives at Geneva.

In this context it is easy to be impressed by Gorbachev's 'initiative'. Yet, in making that initiative, he stressed his aim was to maintain, 'the natural order of relations' between Russia and America, and thus avoid tensions. That 'natural order' allows the Superpowers to retain tight control, East and West, through NATO and the Warsaw Pact, to extend their influence and domination globally, and to keep our planet on the brink of nuclear holocaust. Gorbachev's 'initiative' is one more in a game that offers no chance of real peace in the world. Those, East and West, who control our destinies, do nothing to remove that terrible possibility, and real peace and freedom depends on overthrowing the ruthless power structures content to maintain and exploit such a dire situation.

NON PROLIFERATION TREATY - REVIEW '85

The Non-Proliferation Treaty entered into force in 1970. It has 121 signatories. The USSR, the USA & the UK are the signatory states which already possess nuclear weapons.

Under the terms of the Treaty, the non-nuclear weapons states are obliged:

- i) Not to acquire or develop nuclear weapons (Article 2)
- ii) To accept International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities (Article 3)

The nuclear weapons states are obliged:

- i) Not to transfer nuclear weapons to any recipient whatsoever (Article 1)
- ii) To assist the non-nuclear weapons states to develop nuclear energy (Article 4)
- iii) To make progress toward nuclear & general disarmament (Article 6)

Many non-nuclear weapons states consider the balance of obligations to be unequal & therefore attach great importance to Article 6. They insisted on 5-yearly Review Conferences. They have made it clear that without progress towards nuclear disarmament the Treaty would not be viable. At the 1980 Review Conference they demanded an immediate moratorium on testing pending the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

If a CTBT is brought into force it would have the following advantages:

- i) It would constrain the superpower arms race - without explosive testing new weapons could hardly progress to production or deployment phases despite sophisticated theoretical methods in weapons design.
- ii) It would be a very effective measure for controlling the spread of nuclear weapons to more countries - no state can rely on its nuclear weapons capability until its bomb has proven workable.

In June '84 the US Senate adopted an amendment to the Dept. of Defence Authorisation Act which called on the President to resume negotiations trilaterally - negotiations between the USSR, the USA & the UK broke down after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. This year Congress will be considering an amendment which would cut off funding for explosive testing.

For more information write to : Colin Hines, Greenpeace International
Temple House, 25-26 High St. Lewes, East Sussex

EASTER WEEK AT MOLESWORTH

MOLESWORTH FOR LIFE claimed the posters and leaflets. And in Easter week, 1985, the peace movement, in so many ways, brought a breath of life to Molesworth.

The massive demonstration on Easter Monday, April 8th was the focal point and climax of this week of protest and celebration. 20,000 people came, despite the propaganda campaign by government and media, insisting that at Molesworth a mass demonstration would lead to chaos, conflict and mass destruction of farming land. It did not: the day was impressive and important, and it did receive a lot of publicity. The people of this country were able to see for themselves that the militarisation of Molesworth has not deterred the peace movement.

Pennants of peace were flying, personal statements and decoration humanised for a day the perimeter fence. Greenham has taught all of us involved in the peace movement that it is both necessary and possible to create a feeling, a spirit that is itself the antithesis of the obscenity of nuclear weapon bases. We must do the same at Molesworth, and the wave of activity during Easter week illustrated how possible that is.

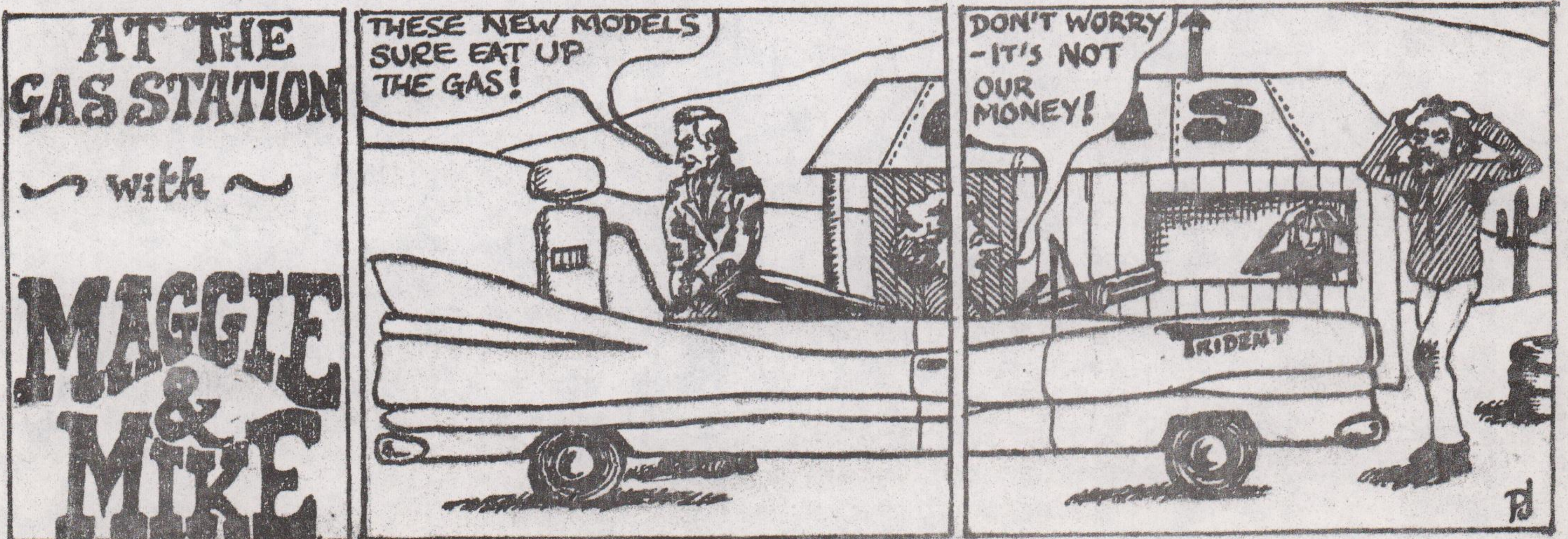
The Easter Monday demonstration was at the centre of things, but so much else went on during the week, and it is good to report how strongly involved the peace movement in Nottingham was in so much of this. We provided many for the March from Leicester to Molesworth, one of the three converging at the base over the Easter weekend. Over the Easter weekend, a group of us participated in a successful non violent direct action - we succeeded in getting over both the

fences in an action that received much press coverage and offered further confirmation that non-violent resistance to the turning of Molesworth into a US Cruise missile base will continue in many forms, undeterred by repressive new bye-laws or heavy MOD policing. On Easter Monday, of course, Nottingham coached a large contingent to Molesworth as part of the mass demonstration. And on Wednesday, April 10th, Nottingham's pledge day, 20 of us successfully entered USAF Alconbury, to register protest at the fact that Alconbury would become an intrinsic part of a Cruise-operational Molesworth. As an ending to the week, the pledge day action confirmed that protest at Molesworth must and will continue.

The next pledge day is on Wednesday May 8th - why not join it (details on back page).

And on Wednesday, May 29th, there will be a joint-regional day of action for East and South Midlands CND groups. There will be a march from USAF Alconbury to Molesworth, for a GATE-PARTY at the main contractors gate. PLEASE TRY AND SUPPORT THIS DEMONSTRATION (details Nottingham CND - 581948).

MOLESWORTH FOR LIFE - our challenge. Di McDonald, imprisoned in Holloway for non-payment of fine wrote of Easter Monday - "At Molesworth this weekend there has been an enormous victory for freedom to protest in this country... and for every thousand there are a hundred thousand who support them.... things can change, as at Molesworth, if that is the will of the people in a democracy."



PROTESTING FOR PEACE —

THE STATE STRIKES BACK

As the peace movement's growth continues, and the nuclear arms race becomes increasingly a matter of public concern, so the movement is seen to be more tangibly a threat to a British government committed to US Cruise missiles and to remaining a nuclear NATO state. In consequence the last few months have seen a toughening up of government attitudes, and an intensifying of policies design to subdue and weaken the peace movement's growing influence.

For example, the first few months of 1985 alone have seen ;

A midnight military operation to forcefully evict peace campers at Molesworth, and a swift, expensive erection of two fences to keep protest outside the base. The introduction of bye-laws making even trespass a criminal offence at Greenham and Molesworth.

The introduction of police road-blocks and passes to stop free movement through the Molesworth area.

A 12 months jail sentence for Anne Francis, for £120 of 'criminal damage' - cutting the fence at Greenham

The threat of a prison sentence for 67 year old Arthur Windsor, for refusing to pay tax towards armaments.

Effectively we are seeing the state striking back, determined to deter, discourage and weaken the growing peaceful protest against the sheer obscenity of nuclear weapons. Such developments sound a warning - our government is only prepared to 'tolerate' dissent and protest if it is contained, limited, marginal. As the significance of that protest mounts, so 'toleration' decreases and hard-line policies proliferate.

It is a warning that those active in the peace movement need to heed, and respond to, and one relevant also to those disturbed by the nuclear arms race yet still uncommitted to active pursuit of peace. This is necessary because such developments do threaten to weaken the peace movement. Tighter laws and harsher sentences can deter active protest - a 12 month prison sentence disrupts a person's life, and those of family and friends. Those involved in non violent direct action have to take that into account. Similarly those on the edge of such involvement will seriously consider the implications of such dangers. Such threats are not confined to those committed to civil disobedience - new bye-laws and heavy policing confirm that all direct protest is being made that much harder

In short, current developments suggest that activists are likely to suffer more for their beliefs. And this in turn threatens the peace movement as a whole, because it could lead to a growing division between a hard core of activists and the rest of the movement. No doubt such a development would cheer Thatcher's government, and is the aim of current policies. Yet if the peace movement absorbs the warning being sounded it can counter such a threat and emerge the stronger for it.

In this context, a number of responses are essential.

Firstly, what is happening needs to be exposed powerfully by the peace movement - energy must be poured into alerting the public that the state, far from being tolerant, is increasingly determined to neutralise all protest. Secondly, mutual support and care within the peace movement has to reach new levels - in particular active protest must be spread more broadly within the movement, and the support network for those falling victims of harsh punitive measures must be extended. Thirdly, the effort to increase numbers active in the peace movement must intensify, and that should include those prepared to be involved in non-violent direct action. Without this the state is likely to succeed in isolating small groups of individuals.

Fourthly, at this critical juncture, idealism and realism have to operate in harmony within the peace movement. It is no longer (if it ever was) a cosy pressure group pecking away at a tolerant 'establishment'. It wants Cruise out: it wants unilateral disarmament: it wants Britain to cease to be a dependant client state of the U.S.A. This directly challenges a British government committed to such policies: and one now revealing its absolute determination not to be deflected from them.

Such realism can, and should, be a basis for optimism within the peace movement, because it is clear that the government backlash we are seeing, however sinister, occurs precisely because of the movement's strength, its growing influence: and the nature of that backlash exposes the government, and increases the likelihood of public opinion turning against its policies.

Les Parsons. Forest Fields Peace Group.

STAR WARS

Reagan's 'Star Wars' plan, the 'Strategic Defense Initiative', proposes that in some 25 years time, after expending hundreds of millions of dollars, United States technology will emerge with an impermeable anti-ballistic shield. This, we are told, will create a situation whereby Russia and America will be able to block each other's nuclear missiles, and so the world will be made safe.

All the evidence suggests that this plan is dangerous nonsense, that it's emergence increases the risk of nuclear war, and that far from being concerned with defence, it's significance attaches to American expansionist aims.

Even American scientists consider that such a shield would not work - for example, low altitude missiles could get underneath the shield, and a saturation bomb attack would ensure some missiles got through. What is far more likely, certainly as an intermediate part of the Star Wars plan, would be selective shield-like protection, 'point-defence' that may protect sensitive targets eg. missile silos: but not the general population.

Already, of course, Russia is viewing the Star Wars programme as a threat to be countered. It is hardly surprising, for if such a shield were possible, it would give the US immunity to launch a nuclear strike. In such circumstances, Russia would perhaps be tempted to 'retaliate first'. And anyway, SDI runs counter to America's (and Britain's) own obsessive, dangerous faith in 'deterrence' theory. This theory insists that there is a 'stability' created by a situation of mutual threat - nobody will use nuclear weapons if they know they will be similarly attacked themselves. The Star Wars Programme would threaten even this dangerous stability.

Such a programme can only be destabilising, can only increase Soviet insecurity. Already that is clear in relation to the Geneva arms reduction talks. And even some of Reagan's NATO allies, normally wholly compliant, are expressing doubts and reservations, albeit in a very cautious manner.

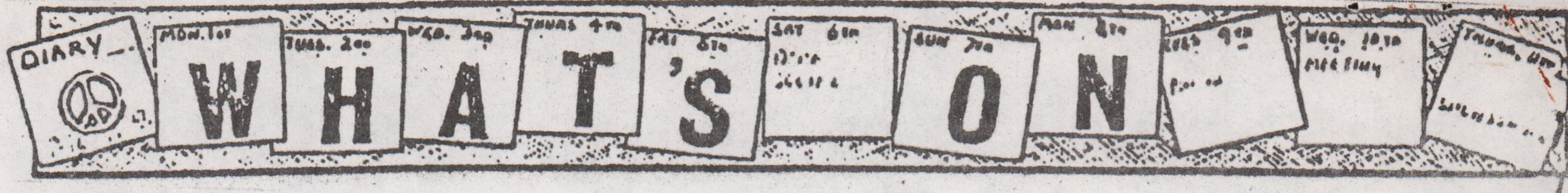
In reality, the Star Wars plan is the latest, and perhaps most dangerous stage in America's aggressive move towards expansion and world domination. In Star Wars, American expansion - a process that has been going on for more than 150 years - combines with it's growing superiority in the precision and effectiveness of its weapons. Increasingly American military technology, with a momentum of it's own, moves to 'shape a world' (Henry Kissinger)

Eclipsing the Soviet threat has become an intrinsic part of this plan, and the Star Wars plan logically follows, as a means of being able to fight a nuclear war successfully. What Reagan seeks through Star Wars is comparative immunity. Reagan talks of 'research', but deployment is the aim - as the Pentagon admitted in 1983 (following a leak to the press), in conceding that it was planning to make itself capable of waging an extended nuclear war, with weapons fired from outer space, and to drain the Soviet economy by staging military confrontations.

Under the pretext that it seeks only to protect the world against Soviet expansion, America plans to use the Star Wars programme to further its aim of reshaping the world in the image of itself. E.P. Thompson has aptly termed such planning the consequence of 'an ideological delirium', and goes on to suggest that the Star Wars programme, and the ideology underpinning it, 'is a terrifying signal of our human predicament. This combination of material avarice (the arms lobby) and of ideological self-delusion may prove to be the terminal dementia of the nuclear age.'

With Star Wars, we see Thatcher's government once again swallowing reservations, and offering support. If ever further confirmation was needed that Britain must break away from American domination, and reject entirely that country's aggressive, expansionist nuclear policies, Star Wars offers. In failing to do this, our government takes another step along the road to Armageddon. Those who desire real peace will not take that step. Again, Thompson's words are apt:-

"There will never be an impermeable shield against nuclear evil. There is only one shield against chaos: that pitifully weak and yet somehow indestructable shield, the human conscience. It is as full of holes as a sieve, but it has held out chaos for forty years. It is time to put it in repair."



APRIL:

- 29th Colin at Shire Hall for non-payment of fines from Chilwell, 2.30pm
30th Pete at Guildhall for non-payment of fines from Alconbury, 10am

MAY

- 3rd BOP TIL YA DROP - FFPG disco. From 7.30pm, Italian Centre, Sherwood Rise
5th NVDA Training Day for Molesworth Pledge Day (May 8th), Queens Walk Community Centre, Meadows. 10.30am to 5pm
8th Molesworth Pledge Day. Transport leaves Salutation Inn, Maid Marion Way at 8.30am. Contact NCND 581948
13th Forest Fields Peace Group meeting, 7.30pm.
Les, Dave & Guy at Huntingdon Magistrates Court for breaking Heseltines Molesworth Byelaws.
23rd Forest Fields Peace Group meeting, 7.30pm
26th NVDA Training Workshop for Alconbury-Molesworth march & Gate party May 29th) Queens Walk Community Centre, Meadows. 1.30pm to 5pm
29th Alconbury to Molesworth March - East & South Midlands Regional Action. Coaches leave Salutation Inn 8.30am. Contact NCND 581948

ADVANCE NOTICE

JUNE 10th Alconbury 9 Trial begins.

Late entry

May 11th Defend Molesworth Benefit Disco, Italian Community Centre. 8pm to 11pm
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FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

Aims and Objectives

Forest Fields Peace Group is a neighbourhood group open to everybody in the Forest Fields and Hyson Green areas of Nottingham, and to all others who share the group's aims. They are:-

1. To oppose nuclear weapons, and all other weapons of mass destruction.
2. To work for unilateral nuclear disarmament in Britain.
3. To support CND and all other groups active in the struggle to achieve a nuclear weapons-free and peaceful world.
4. To reject the dangerous militarist policies of both America and Russia, and work for a non-nuclear British defence policy, outside NATO.
5. To support all non-violent protest, including civil disobedience, in the belief that the threat to use nuclear weapons is both immoral and illegal

I would like to join Forest Fields Peace Group

Membership: £1.00

I enclose my membership fee of £1.00 /and a donation of _____*

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Please make all cheques/postal orders payable to Forest Fields Peace Group. Return this form to the address shown below.

*delete if applicable

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