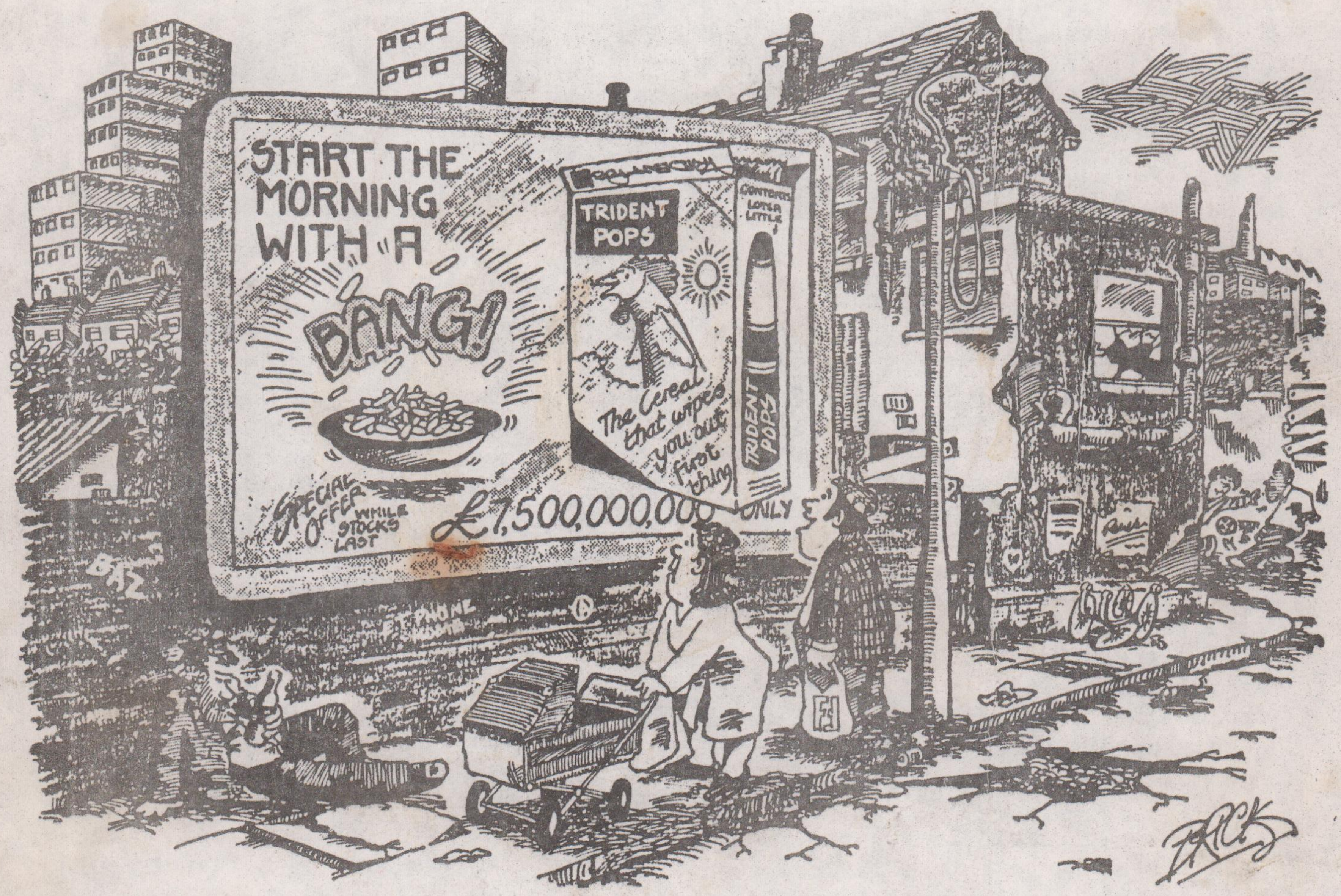




VOLUME 4 NUMBER 4
JUNE '85

10p

TRIDENT — £11 BILLION OF NUCLEAR MADNESS



'IF WE SKIMP MORE ON THE BREAD AND DRIPPING, I'M SURE WE COULD AFFORD IT....'

JOIN THE MARCH AGAINST TRIDENT

11AM SATURDAY 22 JUNE ON THE FOREST

TRIDENT

—£11 BILLION OF NUCLEAR MADNESS

Opposition to the submarine-based American Trident nuclear missile system is widespread. It is estimated that 60 per cent of the British people oppose it. Every political party accept the Government oppose it. And many military experts share the opinion of Field Marshall Lord Carver, who said :-

"It would be suicidal for us to use Trident against Russia ... so what the bloody hell is it for ? Its a waste of money."

And what a terrible, unjustified waste - Trident would cost at least £11,000 million at a time of high unemployment and cuts in health and education services. That is £30,000 a day for the next thousand years. And half the money would be spent in America, the richest country in the world.

Our Government claims Trident is simply a replacement for Polaris. Simply, this is a lie - Polaris can devastate 64 targets: Trident would be able to devastate 896: Polaris has a range of 2,500 miles: Trident has a range of 6,000 miles: Polaris carries the explosive power of

1,500 Hiroshimas: Trident carries the explosive power of 20,000 Hiroshimas. And the Hiroshima bomb killed 200,000 innocent people.

Trident is truly nuclear madness. It is an aggressive first-strike weapon, and seen as such by Russia. It can only lead to further international tension and yet more arms increases.

Trident is not defence - it is suicide.

Nottingham CND is organising a march and rally against Trident on Saturday June 22nd, beginning at 11 am at the Forest, and going to Market Square. Support it, be there. Be there if you would prefer 500 general hospitals, or 9,000 new schools, or 300,000 new homes. That's what could be gained with £11,000 million.

For further details, contact Nottingham CND, 14-18 St. Marys Gate tel: 581948.

TAXES FOR PEACE

Vegetarians don't donate to Smithfield's annual meat show - so why do pacifists and peace campaigners have to pay for nuclear weapons ? In 1984-5 every adult citizen in the UK paid on average £8 every week in direct and indirect taxes for military spending (nuclear and 'conventional'). The PEACE TAX CAMPAIGN believes that paying for the preparation for war carries as great moral responsibility as taking part directly in war, and campaigns for the right for conscientious objectors to re-direct the proportion of their taxes now going to the Ministry of "Defence" to a special Peace-building fund. The Campaign needs supporters NOW.

It is also possible, if you feel unable to wait for a change in the law, to take a kind of 'financial non violent direct action' against war taxes. It is normally impossible to avoid paying through indirect taxes or PAYE deductions (though there are ways of challenging the income tax you pay towards war, by using the income tax laws). However, it is possible to reclaim some tax by covenanting a donation to an appropriate registered charity (which

will then receive from the Exchequer the tax paid on that amount). For those responsible for their own income tax eg. the self-employed, it is possible to withhold the appropriate amount of tax, and pay it instead to a charity or other appropriate organisation, or into a separate account, whilst informing the Inland Revenue that you will not hand over the taxes till you are assured that they will not be used for military purposes. Be warned, though - such action is illegal and you therefore risk confiscation of property or imprisonment. To avoid such consequences, you may simply delay paying your taxes, in order to demonstrate your beliefs.

For further information on PTC, write to:- Stanley and Margaret Moore, Peace Tax Campaign, 26 Thurlow Road, Leicester, LE2 1YE.

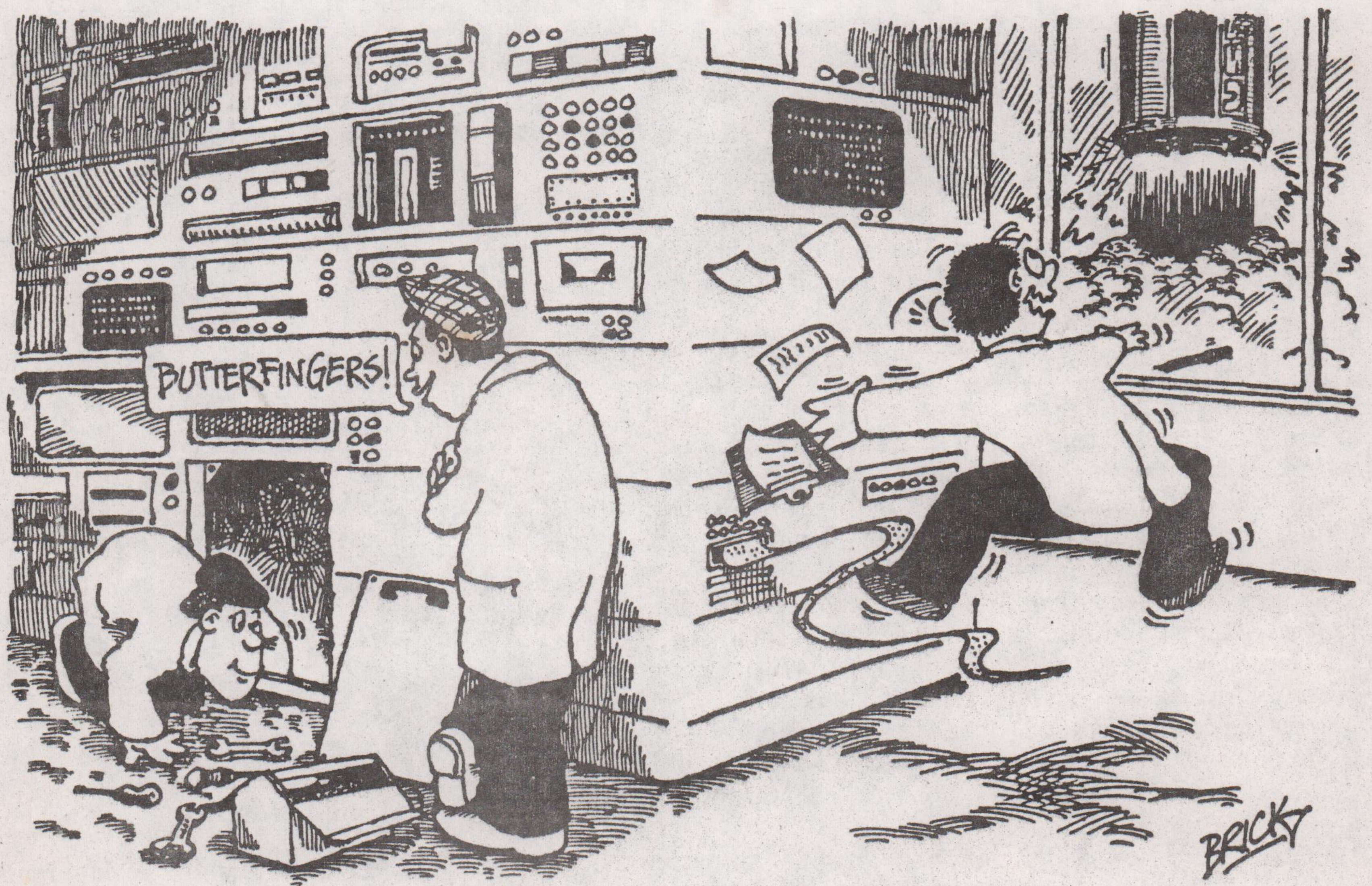
For further information on action now against war taxes, write to:- Martin Howard, Webb's Cottage, Woolpits Road, Great Saling, Braintree, Essex, CM7 50Z

ACCIDENTAL NUCLEAR WAR

We live perpetually with the threat of conflict between East and West, and so with the terrifying possibility of nuclear holocaust. New research reveals that we are also living with another terrible risk - of a nuclear war being triggered off BY ACCIDENT.

The US Defence Department admits to 31 nuclear accidents by 1981, and independent Swedish research suggests that there had been 113 such accidents in western forces up to 1977 alone. A recent report by the British Psychological Society ("Psychological Aspects of Nuclear War") stresses that the risks of human error triggering a nuclear war are 'unacceptably high'. It points out that 5,000 US service personnel are removed each year from nuclear weapons duties because of alcohol and drug abuse, mental problems, or negligence, and concludes that, as weapons control systems become more complex, human error becomes more likely, particularly when operators are working under stress. The report condemns the British Government for underestimating such dangers, and for failing to publish details of failures in nuclear weapons systems.

Research by an American journalist, Daniel Ford, confirms the reality of the chilling prospect of accidental nuclear war. He has found the command and control system behind US nuclear weapons to be marked by, 'breakdown, incompetence, vulnerability and neglect.' Vital telecommunications are faulty, vulnerable both to breakdown and sabotage. Computers designed to deal with missile warnings have been found to be chronically defective. The British and American governments never tire of telling us how secure our nuclear defences make us. It could not be less true - as the British journalist Hugo Young writes:- "Nuclear theory is based on the serious claim that with sophistication comes safety...an ever closer approximation to perfect security. It is the most expensive and destructive illusion the world has ever entertained."



THE RUSSIAN THREAT?

More than anything else it is fear of the Russians that causes many people in Britain today to hesitate over supporting the peace movement, even though they dread the terrible threat posed by nuclear weapons, and realise that a nuclear war is only too possible unless we do something to get rid of that threat. Worries about Russia are understandable - as a nuclear superpower and as a nation that has shown many times - for example in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan - that it is prepared to use force and ignore human rights in pursuit of its own ends, Russia is a threat to world peace. The peace movement utterly condemns Russia, but believes that fear of the Russian threat has been created not to help in making a peaceful world, but to justify the continuation of a nuclear arms race that, if not halted and reversed, will lead to the destruction of the world as we know it. In Britain we are told that the Russian threat demands that we have nuclear weapons, that we actively support America, and that we remain members of NATO: but consider the following:-

1. America is as much a threat to world peace as Russia. It began the nuclear arms race, and immediately revealed its preparedness to use nuclear weapons by dropping bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, decimating the civilian populations of both cities. It has always led that race, and continued to produce more and deadlier weapons, far past the point of deterrence. And, like Russia, it has shown that it is quite prepared to use force and ignore human rights in pursuit of its own aims, as in Vietnam, Grenada, and many countries of South America. Despite this, Britain continues to fully support America,

2. America controls, and has always controlled NATO. This alliance was set up six years before the Warsaw Pact, expressly to threaten Russia. Pretending to be a defender of freedom and democracy, NATO has never hesitated to include ruthless dictatorships - Greece and Portugal previously, Turkey even today.

American control ensures that NATO remains unprepared to agree not to use nuclear weapons first, that its military leadership actively considers the possibility of fighting and winning a nuclear war, and opposes vital initiatives, such as nuclear-free zones in Europe or a bilateral nuclear freeze. Despite this, Britain continues to fully support NATO.

3. Russia is bound to respond to the threat of NATO, and America in particular. Britain is part of that threat - it is a member of NATO: it has 102 American bases: it has its

and American nuclear weapons. Cruise missiles increase this threat, and Trident would increase it further. In short, Britain's defence policy ensures that it is a prime target for any Russian nuclear attack.

Our government would argue that this is necessary because of the Russian threat. But is it :-

1. Far from expanding in Europe, Russia has found it increasingly difficult to retain its control in many countries. Albania and Yugoslavia have seceded themselves: Rumania is doing the same, and even Poland remains an unstable 'client'. How on earth would Russia be able to expand further in this situation?

2. If Britain needs a nuclear defence, why don't other democratic and neutral European countries - eg. Austria, Sweden, Switzerland. Is Russia about to invade them?

3. Our nuclear weapons offer NO defence against Russian nuclear weapons. All credible authorities recognise that we have no effective civil defence, and a nuclear attack would kill millions and destroy our country.

4. Far from making a safer, more peaceful world, our membership of NATO and support of America has seen a terrible nuclear arms race - we now live on the edge of a nuclear holocaust, with enough weapons to destroy us all 30 times over.

It can be seen that, far from defending ourselves against 'the Russian threat' our current nuclear defence policy makes us prime targets for a nuclear attack we cannot defend ourselves against. It also means that we support and contribute to a nuclear arms race that endangers the whole planet, and to an alliance - NATO - prepared to support tyranny and American efforts to increase its world domination.

Our defence policy does not make us safer: it makes us poorer. And, with 4 million unemployed and our welfare state crumbling, we prepare to spend £11 billion on Trident.

We have an alternative - a non-nuclear defence policy, outside of NATO. Such a policy would increase our security, and begin a challenge to the real threat - a world destroyed by nuclear weapons.

PROTEST IS ALIVE AND WELL

AT MOLESWORTH

On Wednesday, May 8th, members of Forest Fields Peace Group joined with many other peace activists from Nottingham (and Leicester and Derby !) at USAF Molesworth - the latest Nottingham pledge day in the effort to protest at and resist the turning of Molesworth into the second US Cruise missile base. It proved to be perhaps the most dramatic and powerful expression of non-violent direct protest at the base since the two perimeter fences were erected, in an effort to deter protest and allow the construction of the base to go ahead unhindered.

16 of us succeeded in getting over both fences, and carrying out message of protest deep into the base (and up several police watch towers !). Another group mounted a small but effective blockade outside the Cockbrook Lane base gate - the main one, used by all contractors delivering construction materials to the base. Following that, those remaining regrouped, drove off to USAF Alconbury and were able to walk unhindered into a military base that is operational and a key part of US military activity in Europe.

These actions occurred on VE day, and press releases given (the actions gained coverage locally and also in some national newspapers) drew attention to this, emphasising the contradictions between the celebration of 40 years of peace and the preparations for a nuclear war being made by Reagan and Thatcher, typified by developments at Molesworth.

The day graphically illustrated what the Molesworth pledge is about - the turning of the base into a genocide-potential Cruise base will be opposed all the way. We need to continually carry this message to the MOD police who guard Molesworth, to the British Government, the media, and the general public. Heseltine and co. want Molesworth quietly forgotten while construction goes on. Direct Action, properly organised, imaginative, and passionate, is one way of insuring that does not happen.

We have to carry that message to the peace movement as well, because the Pledge scheme is working erratically at the moment. May 8th showed what is possible. How effective NVDA would be if such actions were occurring very regularly, and by many groups nationwide - more so as construction work begins in earnest.

Secondly, the effectiveness of direct action would be greatly enhanced if it was occurring on a mass scale. This can only happen if there is a concerted regional and national strategy to organise mass direct action. That needs to be happening now. At Molesworth direct action can have impact beyond being a powerful protest in itself, a personal or group statement of refusal to accept nuclear weapons, and the insane mass destruction they threaten. They can, for example, expose security at the base, and, both literally and politically, increase the costs of constructing a Cruise base. To increase security is expensive, and pushes the Government into further and more widespread infringements of civil liberties, when such infringements have already become common, and are arousing more and more opposition, across the political spectrum. Yet if that does not happen, claims that the base has been made secure will be undermined, both in Britain and, significantly, in America. We need to keep that pressure on the Government. Direct Action has grown tremendously in Nottingham, in terms of numbers involved, degree of planning and organisation, and strength and imagination of action. We are showing to ourselves that this is possible - more and more people are prepared to make personal sacrifices to allow that. These sacrifices create a group strength and allow non violent direct action to become a personal, tangible reality. We all know that this disrupts our 'normal' lives to a lesser or greater extent, but surely this is inevitable in response to a threat that makes a nonsense of carrying on our lives 'normally'.

We know the potential power of the state to crush such protest. The Government wants that awareness to deter people, to make them feel there is no point or purpose to protest at Molesworth. We have to refuse to succumb to this negativity, and oppose and resist what is happening there at every point. We must inspire ourselves and others by refusing to be contained and compliant, refuse to be defeated, and carry that refusal home to others. If we decided that such tangible resistance is naive or pointless, we might as well all give up and hide under our tables now.

We are strong in Nottingham: but with more people involved, at any level, we would be stronger. They are constructing a Cruise base NOW. WE ALL NEED TO OPPOSE THAT, IN WORD AND ACTION.

Les Parsons.



JUNE

- 6th 14 peace protesters at Huntingdon Magistrates Court after being arrested & charged with criminal trespass or wilful obstruction of the highway.
- 8th FFPG doing the NCND stall at St. Peters Gate. Volunteers needed. Contact Cathy.
- 10th Alconbury 9 trial begins. Support for the nine in Nottingham - people to meet on the Market Square at 12.30pm then to march to the central police station to hand themselves in as "conspirators for peace"
- 10th Forest Fields Peace Group meeting.
- 21st to 23rd Glastonbury Festival
- 22nd Nottingham CND Trident march from the Forest at 11am to the Market Square.
- 27th FFPG Discussion meeting - John Truscott from the Central American Solidarity Campaign will talk on Nicaragua.
- 30th Welfare Not Warfare demo at "RAF" Newton. Contact Peace Action Network (581948)

LATE ENTRY

- 12th Showing of the Diverse Reports video of Nottingham Pledge Day at Molesworth on May 8th. Diverse Reports, Channel Four.

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

Printed and Published by Forest Fields Peace Group, Box 5, 69 Wiverton Road, Nottingham.