

CND NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION



Photograph : John Birdsall

Walker on the road to Molesworth

AT USAF MOLESWORTH FEB. 6 1986

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BLOCKADE MOLESWORTH

On February 6th this year, 1500 troops forcibly evicted the peace campers at Molesworth, in a military-style exercise fronted by Minister of Defence Heseltine, complete with military flak jacket, as Falklands glory came to the fields of Cambridgeshire.

The exercise confirmed the Government's ruthless determination to go ahead with its policy of turning Molesworth into the second U.S. nuclear Cruise missile base. If those plans succeed, 64 Cruise missiles will be deployed at Molesworth, carrying a destructive power 1,000 times greater than the atomic bomb that flattened Hiroshima.

It is a policy in defiance of the wishes of the British people (over 60% of whom oppose Cruise), and in mockery of the world's hopes for arms control and arms reduction. Yet since February 6th USAF Molesworth has become a frightening symbol of our Government's callous disregard for its citizens and for world peace. The base has been closely guarded by Ministry of Defence Police and their dogs; fences have been erected, and topped with vicious razor wire; new bye-laws have come into force, making even putting posters on a fence a criminal offence. Hundreds of people have already been arrested, detained for hours, and dragged in and through courts, to be fined for bringing peaceful protest to Molesworth.

But despite that, protest has continued, and a campaign of peaceful resistance to the turning of Molesworth into a nuclear genocide base has been sustained from protesters all over the country. The ministry of defence has been persistently reminded of the fact that opposition to Molesworth has not been quashed or deterred by force and repression. The Nottingham peace movement has contributed significantly to that sustained campaign of non-violent opposition, through the Defend Molesworth group and active Neighbourhood groups, such as Forest Fields Peace Group

The recently relocated road sign (see cover), drawing attention to the fact that Nottingham is within dispersal zone of mobile Cruise missiles based at Molesworth, and would therefore be a prime target in any nuclear conflict, is just one more example of that campaign, intended precisely to express resistance, and increase public awareness of the danger and obscenity of what is happening at Molesworth.

Sustained, non-violent opposition, and awareness of the ordinary people's rejection of Cruise, has culminated in National CND calling a national demonstration at Molesworth in the form of a mass blockade of the gates leading into the base, and with the specific intention of non-violently disrupting construction work at the base for the day.

The day of action will be on February 6th, exactly one year after Heseltine's military take-over of the base. The mass blockade will be a confirmation that CND's concern and commitment is not only to campaign against nuclear weapons but to oppose, through peaceful direct action, the nuclear arms race. To halt construction of a nuclear base, even for a single day, would be a powerful expression of the strength and the hope that exists in that spirit of peaceful resistance. And if Heseltine believed that soldiers and police, guard dogs and razor wire could stifle our campaign, or make Cruise missiles more acceptable to the people of this country, then the national direct action, exactly one year on, will prove that he was wrong and peaceful opposition to USAF Molesworth will continue.

WHY NOT JOIN THAT PEACEFUL RESISTANCE. THEY'RE BUILDING ANOTHER NUCLEAR GENOCIDE IN OUR COUNTRY. DO WE WANT THAT? IF NOT, WE WILL JUST SIT AND LET IT HAPPEN?

BE THERE ON FEBRUARY 6TH. Get details from the Molesworth Working Group. Contact :-

Molesworth - Feb. 6th. Working Group

180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW. Tel. 0602 581178

"The NATO doctrine is that we will fight with conventional weapons until we are losing, then we will fight with tactical nuclear weapons until we are losing, and then we will blow up the world."

Morton Halperin (Pentagon Adviser)

"It is clear, therefore, that the burden of casualties from just one bomb dropped on a city would completely overwhelm the medical facilities of this country."

British Medical Association Report on Nuclear War, 1983.

ATOMS FOR PEACE ?

Many people involved in the peace movement have, over the years, seen fit to distinguish between nuclear weapons - "Atoms for War" - and nuclear power - "Atoms for Peace". It is a misconception to make this distinction, as the two industries are inseparable. Modern nuclear weapons could not exist without nuclear reactors. And even if nuclear bombs were got rid of, nuclear power would still present a great threat to world ecology.

The basic raw material of the nuclear industry is Uranium (U), a naturally occurring element mined in various parts of the world, often in third world countries, with workers being poorly paid and badly protected.

Uranium is comprised of 2 isotopes, mostly U-238, and a small amount of U-235. Only the U-235 can be used in nuclear reactors and bombs, and has to be extracted through a lengthy and expensive enrichment process. Although it can be used in nuclear bombs (it was used in the Hiroshima bomb), it is easier to use Plutonium (Pu). The Nagasaki bomb used Pu., and it has been suggested that America decided to drop it to see how a Pu. bomb would work. Plutonium is a manufactured rather than naturally occurring element, and is created in nuclear reactors as a by-product of the atomic reactions in the U-235. Although Pu. straight from the reactor is of no use, after further enrichment, weapons grade Pu. can be, and is extracted.

The nuclear industry insists that this Plutonium is being stored prior to use in 'fast breeder' reactors. Some is stored, but it is mostly sub-standard plutonium, unsuitable for use in nuclear weapons. In actual fact, most of the weapons-grade plutonium is used in the making of nuclear weapons, and in recent years (ie. since May, 1979), much of it has been sold to the Americans, which may explain why they are so keen to return it to us in the form of Cruise and Trident missiles ! All this is quite apart from the Pu. that has mysteriously 'disappeared' - presumably it is lying around in a shallow grave somewhere in the Sellafield area, or else it may have been 'accidentally' dumped into the Atlantic with a consignment of low-level waste. Some people have suggested it may have been stolen by a terrorist group, or even sold to South Africa through a secret government deal.

If the distinction between nuclear power and nuclear weapons is as great as the nuclear industry would have us believe, why are so many countries eager to obtain nuclear technology when many of them have vast oil fields, coal reserves, or rivers suitable for hydro-electric generation ? The answer is simple - they want the Bomb, and by supplying them with nuclear technology, the advanced countries are taking a dangerous step closer to nuclear war. Countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Pakistan and Libya are close to producing nuclear weapons, and may already have them. What would Britain have done during the Falklands War had Argentina possessed the Bomb. ?

A nuclear power station is a certain target in any sort of attack on Britain. If one was destroyed in a conventional attack - and they are classed as military targets - the resulting radioactive fall-out would render large areas of the country uninhabitable. Destroyed in a nuclear explosion, a nuclear power station would produce several times the predicted level of fall-out. They represent an acute danger, and the fact that nuclear power stations are classed as military targets confirms their significance to the nuclear weapons industry.

Nuclear power is inextricably connected to nuclear weapons, and all involved in the peace movement must recognise this fact. The "atoms for peace" cover has been blown, despite all the efforts of the nuclear industry, and we must ensure that no one is taken in by it again, if we want to be sure of living in a world free of all things nuclear.

Brycchan Carey.

"We must never relax our efforts to arouse in the people of the world, and especially their governments, an awareness of the unprecedented disaster which they are absolutely certain to bring on themselves unless there is a fundamental change in their attitudes toward one another as well as in their concept of the future.

The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking."

Albert Einstein

SHADOWS CASE - Protest goes on trial

Last month we reported on the court case involving 10 Nottingham peace campaigners accused by the police of causing a disturbance amounting to a breach of the peace on August 6th. the 40th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima.

In court on October 2nd, the police were not prepared, after two months, to argue their case in court, and despite objections from the defendants, all cases were adjourned. Three people will appear at Sandfield House Court on November 4th: the other seven will appear at the same court on November 28th.

Nottinghamshire police force remain determined to pursue their complaint despite vigorous public condemnation of their actions, and underlying motives. Dennis Pettit, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council and Betty Higgins, Leader of Nottingham City Council, have written a letter in support of the 10. In it, they state that,

" THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY THE DISMISSAL OF THE COMPLAINTS WHICH THEY ARE NOW REQUIRED TO ANSWER AND WE URGE ALL RIGHT-THINKING PEOPLE TO JOIN US IN THAT PLEA. "

In an open letter Councillor Alan Simpson, prospective Parliamentary candidate for Nottingham South, has condemned the police for acting far more in a political capacity than a legal one. He concludes his letter ;-

" MY IMMEDIATE HOPE, THOUGH, IS THAT THE COURT THROWS OUT THE CHARGES AGAINST THE 10 MEMBERS OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN NOTTINGHAM AND REBUKES THE POLICE FOR THE DISGRACEFUL AND DISCREDITABLE NATURE OF THEIR PROSECUTION; FOR THEIR ATTEMPTS TO MISINTERPRET A PEACEFUL, COMMEMORATIVE EVENT AS A THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER; AND FOR THE SHEER WASTE OF PUBLIC TIME AND MONEY INVOLVED IN SUCH A GROSS ACT OF OFFICIAL VINDICTIVENESS. "

In another letter of support, Councillor Mick Warner, Chairman of the Public Protection Committee of Nottinghamshire County Council, has also condemned the police action. In the letter he states :-

" I find it deeply disturbing that the police should so charge those who set out commemorations to the victims of a nuclear bomb used during the Second World War. I believe the charges to be spurious; involving a waste of both police time and resources, and the Court's time. "

CND's General Secretary, Meg Beresford, has also written in support of the 10, on behalf of CND's National Council. Her letter concludes :-

" WE REGRET THE OVER-REACTION OF THE POLICE IN MAKING THE ARRESTS IN NOTTINGHAM AND ASK NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, WHICH IS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE, TO SEEK WAYS IN WHICH SUCH NON-VIOLENT ACTS OF WITNESS FOR PEACE CAN CONTINUE UN-IMPEDED BY THE POLICE. "

On November 4th, it will be the right to peaceful protest on trial in Nottingham. As one of those in court on that day, I know we will be there purely and simply because, along with thousands of people across the world, we tried to remind our community, in a peaceful, moving and non-destructive manner, of the horror that was Hiroshima 40 years ago, and could be our horror, and the terrible fate of cities everywhere unless we act now to end the threat of nuclear holocaust. We acted to preserve the peace, and are accused of breaching the peace. If the police complaint is upheld in court, and we refuse to be bound over to keep the peace, we could be sent directly to prison for up to six months.

The cause of peace and justice points to only one outcome on November 4th. If there was to be a different outcome, the philosopher H.D. Thoreau's words would have a fresh nuclear age relevance - " IN AN UNJUST SOCIETY, THE ONLY PLACE FOR A JUST PERSON IS IN PRISON. "

Les Parsons. Forest Fields Peace Group.

SOUTH AFRICA, NATO AND BIG BUSINESS

SOME FACTS FIRST

The bare facts of South Africa's nuclear involvement are frightening enough :

- Apartheid South Africa has nuclear weapons capability ; that is, it makes and is ready to use , atomic bombs.
- The largest open-cast Uranium mine in the world, Rossing (Namibia) is controlled by Rio Tinto Zinc, the London-based multi-national company. Namibia is occupied by South Africa in defiance of a UN ruling.
- Rio Tinto Zinc's board of directors has included prominent British Government ministers, such as Lord Carrington.
- The UK Atomic Energy Authority is the largest buyer of Rossing uranium, for use in this country's atomic weapons research and manufacture.
- British banks have helped finance South Africa's atomic programme. For example, Barclays loaned £600 million for the building of the Koeberg nuclear power station and enrichment plant.
- British, West German, American and French companies have constructed nuclear plants in South Africa - firms from Switzerland and Holland have also tendered for contracts.
- For years the British and other Western Governments have trained South Africa's nuclear scientists to produce and run it's nuclear industry.
- The American and West German Governments have supplied raw materials and computers needed by South Africa to run nuclear plants and to develop its thermo nuclear weapons.

CLEAR PATTERNS

The reasons behind these facts are perhaps even more sinister.

South Africa's reasons for developing it's nuclear force are terrifyingly simple. Nuclear power will save Apartheid South Africa from having to import oil and other fuels. As a result, international economic sanctions will not effect South Africa's electricity supply.

Also, the products of the nuclear power industry have allowed South Africa to develop nuclear weapons. As it's Prime Minister Botha recently explained, if unrest continues, South Africa may well decide to move beyond it's present aggressions against Mozambique and Angola by dropping nuclear weapons on them - in order to protect racist policies by trying to stop these countries from helping the guerrilla forces fighting to liber-

-ate South Africa from Apartheid. The international effects of any such actions could be literally devastating, particularly if South Africa's current ally, the United States, becomes actively involved, or if the Soviet Union retaliates with nuclear force in support of Black African countries. Any resulting nuclear escalation would destroy the world.

The reasons behind the nuclear involvement of Western Governments and multi-national companies are also very simple. To help fuel South Africa's nuclear growth and to include South Africa in their nuclear "defence" strategies, most Western powers, including the US and Britain, have signed nuclear co-operation agreements with South Africa.

Firstly, South Africa provides the uranium needed for the nuclear weapons research and development programmes of these countries. Secondly, South Africa And NATO have agreed to share work - nuclear South Africa "protects" the South Atlantic hemisphere from "the enemy", and NATO protects its interests in the North Atlantic.

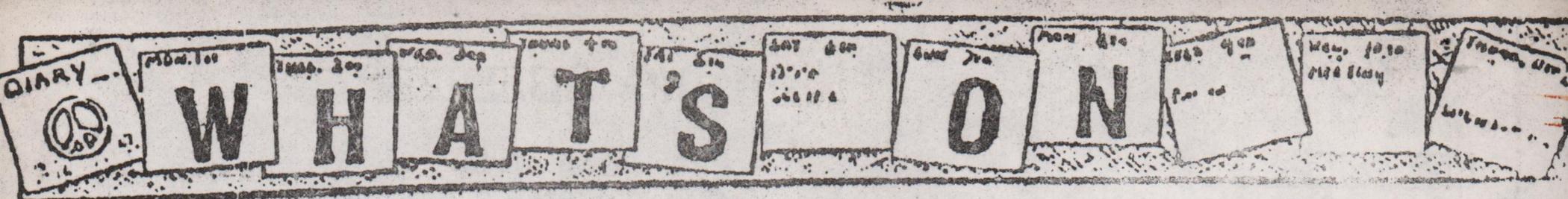
What are these interests ? Largely those of big multinational businesses, such as Rio Tinto Zinc, Krupp, Braclays, and the rest. For these companies, South Africa provides rich pickings based on cheap exploited labour, and plentiful natural resources, such as of uranium. Rio Tinto Zinc, for example, invests just 10% of its funds in Southern Africa, from which it gains 25% of its profits - its Rossing profits in 1981 were £63 million.

Without the aid and collaboration of companies and governments in the US, GB, France, West Germany and elsewhere, South Africa would not have become the nuclear power it is. International laws and opinion have been deliberately ignored by these countries and companies. The reasons - profit seeking and the suicidal strategies outlined in this article. Hopefully we will not all have to pay the ultimate price for this criminal folly.

Pete Loewenstein.

"We are only interested in the peaceful application of nuclear power. But we can enrich uranium and we have the capability. And we did not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty."

John Vorster
(former Prime Minister of South Africa)



- Saturday 1st - Anti-Apartheid march and Rally (London)
- Monday 4th - Malcolm, Les and John in Court (Shadows case). 9.30am. Sandfield House
- Friday 8th - Second Saturday Sounds Disco, Italian Community Centre, Sherwood Rise.
- Saturday 9th - Cruise Resistance Conference, Queens Walk Community Centre, The Meadows, 10.30 - 5.0pm.
- Monday 11th - Forest Fields Peace Group meeting, Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road, 7.30pm.
- Tuesday 12th - East Midlands Regional Meeting, National CND Molesworth demonstration, Feb. 6th. International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, 7.0pm.
- Thursday 14th - Nottingham CND, AGM., Y.M.C.A., Shakespeare Street, 7.30pm.
- Friday 22nd - F.F.P.G. Disco (Strategic Dance Initiative), Italian Centre, Sherwood Rise, 8.0pm 'til midnight (late bar).
- Thursday 28th - Seven 'shadowers' in court, 9.30am, Sandfield House, Mansfield Road.
- Thursday 28th - Forest Fields Peace Group meeting, Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road, (Pete and Helen talking on, "Confronting a nuclear weapons state")

DISCO

at the Italian Comm. Centre,
Vivian Avenue, Sherwood Rise

on Friday 8th November, 8.0-11.30pm.

£1.50 waged 50p unwaged

Disco by Second Saturday Sounds
(for benefit of Forest Fields P.G.)

DISCO

Forest Fields Peace Group
presents -
a STRATEGIC DANCE INITIATIVE (SDI)

Friday, 22nd November, 8.0pm-midnite
- LATE BAR -

at Italian Community Centre, Vivian
Road, Sherwood Rise

£1.75 waged £1.0 unwaged
Disco equipment by Second Saturday Sounds

"It's very important for all of us today to realise that the Soviet Union is not the enemy. Nuclear war is the enemy. We're going to have to learn to live with the Russians or we and the Russians are going to die at about the same time."

U.S. Rear Admiral Gene la Rocque.

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

Edmund Burke

"The power of an aroused public is unbeatable. Vietnam and Watergate proved that. It must be demonstrated again. It is not yet too late, for while there is life there is hope. There is no cause for pessimism, for already I have seen great obstacles surmounted. Nor need we be afraid, for I have seen democracy work."

"Nuclear Madness" by Dr Helen Caldicott, p93, Bantam Books, 1980.

The world in arms is not spending money alone - it is spending the sweat of its labours, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953.