

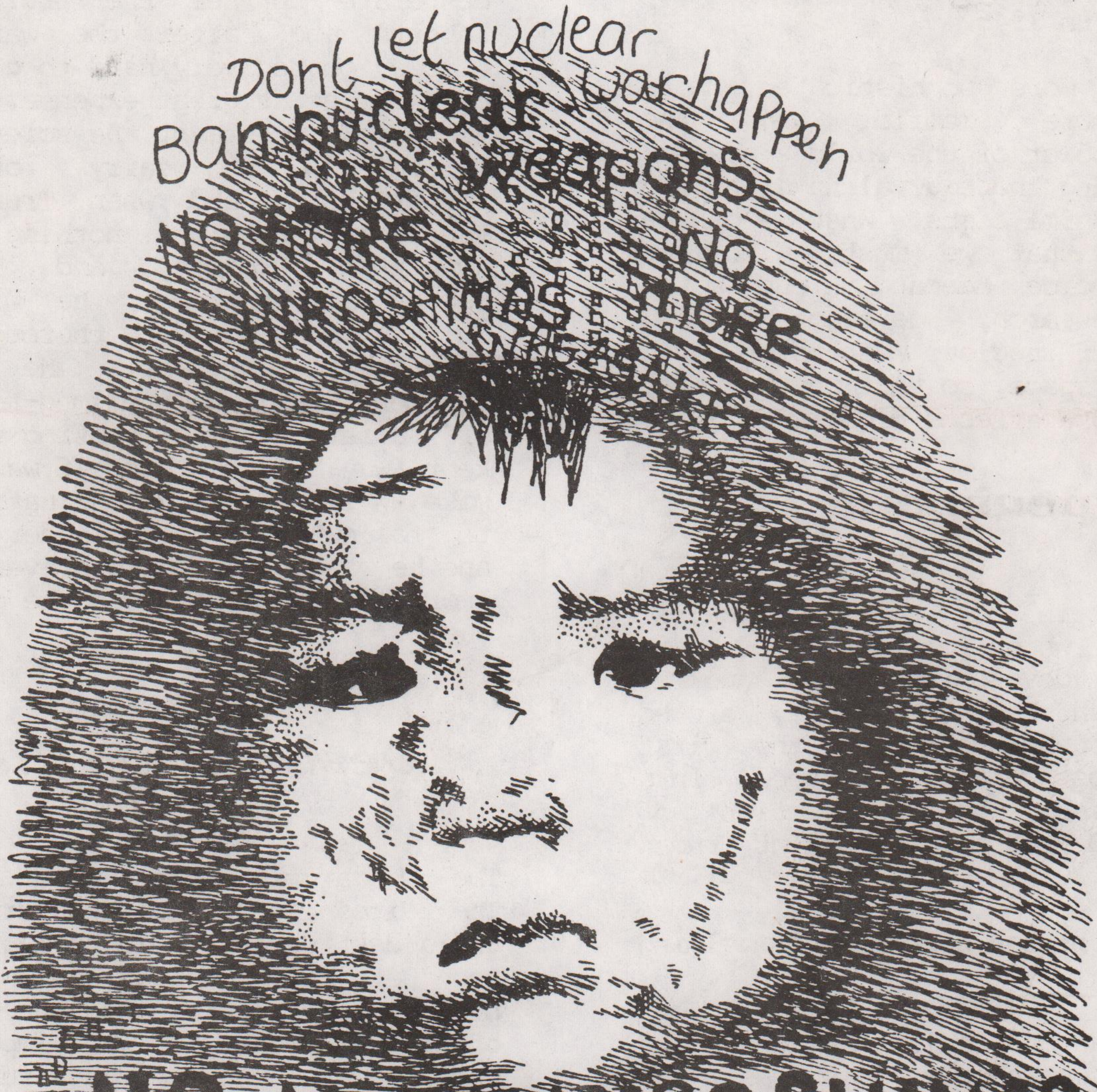


# FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 3

AUGUST 1986

10p



Don't let nuclear war happen  
Ban nuclear weapons  
NO MORE HIROSHIMAS NO MORE NAGASAKIS

## NO MORE HIROSHIMAS NO MORE NAGASAKIS

Don't let nuclear war happen  
Ban nuclear weapons.  
LISTEN TO THE  
HIBAKUSHA



# WHY DID THEY DROP THE BOMB?

At this time of the year we should all be thinking back to the horrific devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the Americans dropped the first nuclear bomb on Japan. We are reminded often enough of the number of people that were killed - 200,000 - and the many more that have died since. We see photos of the flattened cities, pictures and drawings of those that witnessed the horror at first hand and we read the words of the Hibakusha, the nuclear victims, but we can never really know what it was like. What is more we cannot know what the effects of a nuclear bomb dropped today would be, except that it would be much worse, as the destructive power of one bomb is far greater than in 1945.

Weapons are more sophisticated, more accurate, more mobile and the destructive power of the world's arsenal is approaching the equivalent of half a million Hiroshima bombs. What we can be sure about is that we must, with our collective voice, demand an end to the testing, research, development and deployment of nuclear weapons on earth and in outer space, so that we may never know what those effects might be.

## Experiment

To help us in our struggle against governments which continue to spend millions on developing new nuclear weapons, both East and West, we need perhaps to understand why the first nuclear bombs were ever dropped. In a telegram after the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, President Truman announced:

**"The experiment has been an overwhelming success."**

How could anyone call the death of 200,000 innocent people a success and what sort of a sadistic 'experiment' was this.

Some would say that it was done to end the war quickly and save further bloodshed - a bit ironic and why the second bomb on Nagasaki ?

It seems generally agreed that the bombs were dropped to keep Russia out, relations between the Soviet Union and her then allies had deteriorated steadily, especially on the death of Roosevelt and the Yalta Conference. The Japanese were on the verge of surrender and had put out peace feelers but these were blocked by the Russians who also wanted a piece of the cake as it were.

## Manhattan Project

General Groves, Director of the Manhattan Project, which was developing America's first atomic bomb, was desperate to see the fruits of his labours and, after the war ended in Europe, pushed very hard to complete the development at great expense. With this financial investment the scientists were determined to carry out their 'experiment' and when Truman became President, knowing nothing of the Manhattan Project, and having no scientific knowledge, he was briefed quickly and not very thoroughly by his scientific advisers. He was not apparently told of the long-term dangers of radiation and dissenting voices were kept away. Truman himself was keen to make an impression on the nation, he had to follow the great leader Roosevelt, and he was concerned to prevent further American bloodshed. So he gave the go ahead.

## Destructive Yield

The two atomic bombs were different. The Hiroshima one having a uranium core and a destructive yield of 12.5 kilotons and 'Fat Man' dropped on Nagasaki a plutonium core with a destructive yield of 22.5 kilotons. It was important to complete the 'Experiment' fully and to test them both.

By comparison one cruise missile has a destructive power of 200 kilotons !

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## Unknown Effects?

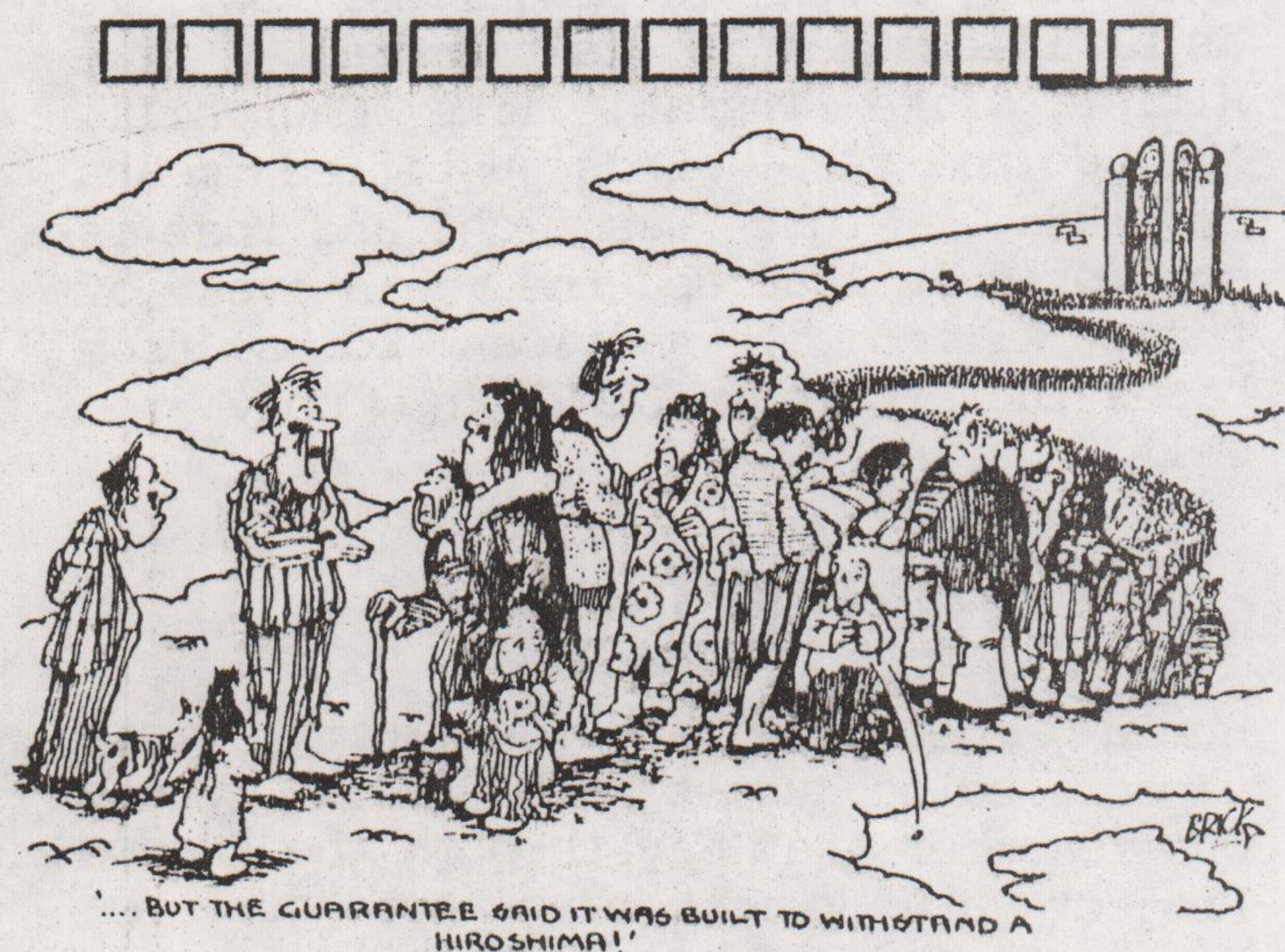
We can only hope that people would have felt differently about using atomic weapons had they known the immediate devastation caused by firestorms and the terrible effects of radiation.

Testing still goes on a pace, every new development in the nuclear field needs an 'experiment' and people continue to suffer because of them, mainly the inhabitants of small Pacific Islands who cannot prevent the mighty nuclear nations walking all over them.

## Never Forget

None of us likes to be reminded of the horrors of August 1945 but we must never forget. **AND** we must continue to remind others. It is after all that lesson which has brought us together to campaign for a nuclear free world.

Cathy Carstairs.



## SHADOWS

# 1985 to 1986

## International Shadows

The International Shadow Project, on the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, was probably the largest ever direct act in the cause of peace, embracing cities across America, Europe and many other parts of the world.

It was able to unite so many people and create such an impact because it was a stark, simple, moving and peaceful way of reminding ourselves and our communities of the horror of Hiroshima on August 6th 1945, and of Nagasaki three days later. On those days of horror and shame, many people were literally vapourised where they stood, or crawled or fell. Where a human being was there remained only shadow outlines. Last year we remembered that, and tried to express it through producing shadow outlines of corpses in our streets.

### Why did we do that ?

Why should we do it again this year ? Why not forget what happened, what is in the past, and concentrate on enjoying our lives in the present ? After all, it's what most people do. **AND** it is certainly what our government would want us to do.

Above all, perhaps, because what happened at Hiroshima casts a shadow over the whole world, and will until one day we act to end the threat to our planet created by nuclear weapons. Or, if we fail, until one day our city suffers the same fate as Hiroshima.

## War Crimes

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki came at the end of a war fought to overcome the evil of fascism. After the war many were found guilty of war crimes at Nurembourg. But, although Hitler had lost the war, much of his evil vision had triumphed. The Nazis believed that the means justified the ends. Human beings were expendable. They did not matter. The will to triumph justified any action, no matter how brutal or barbaric.

cont...



# SHADOWS 1985-1986(cont.)

The Allies, including Britain, opposed that will, but they came to absorb it in the end. They were prepared, for example, to mass bomb cities, such as Dresden - the tactics of total war, with no attempt to distinguish between soldiers and civilians. Against International Law, contrary to all our human efforts to maintain civilised, decent standards. The Allies, like the Nazis, decided that the means justified the ends. In doing so, the Allied war leaders, including Winston Churchill, acted as war criminals. Nobody said this at Nurembourg because it was a court set up and controlled by the Allies. At the same time as applying International Law and civilised values in correctly condemning Nazi war crimes, they justified the belief that might is right and the ends always justify the means by ignoring their own use of the tactics of total war.

## Non-Military Targets

Hiroshima and Nagasaki provided the horrific, final confirmation of the triumph of these inhuman values. They were not military targets. They were not full of soldiers. They were cities alive with ordinary people, like Nottingham. That would not have mattered to Hitler - he would have said, if it helps us to win, we will do it. And if we have to kill thousands upon thousands of innocent men, women and children, so what.

By 1945 it did not matter to the President of the United States either. Nor to the British Prime Minister. And so the atomic bombings went ahead. They destroyed two cities. They caused unprecedented death, suffering and devastation. Death continuing until today through the continuing effects of radiation, suffering in the continuing nightmare of those who survived.

The world could never be the same after that. For the President of America had what Hitler did not have - a bomb with unprecedented destructive power.

Man had created the means to perfect mass destruction and then showed a willingness to use that, no matter what the cost. That new world came into being on August 6th 1945. 300,000 people in the two Japanese cities did not see much of it. But it is our world. It is the world we live in.

## Destructive Developments

Well, it has developed a little since 1945. More countries have nuclear weapons. There are more bombs. **AND** their destructive power is infinitely greater than the bombs that turned Hiroshima and Nagasaki to corpse strewn rubble in second. Now we have the means to make an Hiroshima of **every city on earth.**

Our leaders have developed as well. In 1945, they were prepared to mass bomb and atomic bomb selected cities. Now they are prepared to launch a nuclear war that could destroy the whole world. They know that what they do and what they plan, breaks International Law. It is as illegal as it is immoral. Like Hitler, like Truman, like Churchill, they do not care. Ends justified means in 1945. Might was right and that is our world in 1986 as the relatives of those killed by American bombs from bases in Britain in Libya know only too well.

## Act Now

Human beings and humanity were vapourised on August 6th 1945. Those who remember that day through the Shadow Project are remembering not just the innocent murdered by the American atomic bombs, but peacefully reminding their communities that we cannot rid ourselves of the terrible nuclear threat that shadows all our lives, **every day** unless we have the courage to face that threat directly, and we are prepared to act, out of love for our world and our fellow human beings, to overcome the criminals who control our destiny.

Les Parsons.  
Forest Fields Peace Group.



U.S.A.F. CHILWELL

CUT-IT

JULY 5th

## A LESSON IN POLICE TACTICS

For anyone who took part in 'Reclaim Chilwell' two years, the experience of 'Cut the Fence' at Chilwell on July 5th must have been pretty demoralising. For me, it also served as a harsh reminder of how much more difficult it is becoming to stage peaceful protest given recent accelerations in the process of 'criminalisation' of opponents of any aspect of government policy.

### Break the Law

The poor turn-out could partially be explained by the nature of the event and the associated publicity, with a lot of CND supporters put-off by an overt appeal to 'break the law' and consequent fears of arrest, loss of job, etc. The police tactics on the day certainly confirmed that, as far as they were concerned, any peace protestor in the vicinity of Chilwell on July 5th was a 'criminal' and was to be treated as such.

### Police Presence

On the day, rumours were circulating that all local police leave had been cancelled and that several other forces from outside the county had been drafted in. Arriving with the Forest Fields group with a spare half-hour before the advertised 1.00pm start, a relatively calm 30 minutes sitting on the grass outside the fence was interspersed by police taking up 'positions' in close proximity to the protestors as it soon became clear that their numbers were far greater than our humble band. Whether their tactics might have been different if our numbers had been more significant remains open to speculation.

By 1.00pm we were all completely surrounded by police, and much to everyone's astonishment, the sergeant apparently 'in command' announced that no-one would be allowed to cross the road until they were satisfied that a 'breach of the peace' was not going to occur. As the most likely 'breach of the peace' involved cutting the fence and crossing the road meant walking away from the (of)fence the irony of this blatant example of 'changing the rules to fit the occasion' was not lost on most people who were then subjected to at least 2 hours of taking an increasingly belligerent police cordon for a walk.

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## Penned-in

Some protestors, including most of the Forest Fields group, had managed to avoid getting penned-in by crossing the road before the line of blue uniforms had completely encircled everyone. With assistance from Dave's stewarding from the other side of the road, the majority of protestors, myself included, faced the problem of a physical police-cell by walking in unison down the road. By stretching out the line of police, a few of us managed to escape through the gaps and carried on walking on the other side of the road. 2 hours later and a change of direction brought us back to where we had started from. By this time, the police were becoming increasingly hostile and many protestors including young children were being subjected to verbal and physical abuse but still being refused permission to escape - some had had enough and just wanted to go home. An appeal from Dave through the megaphone for the police to consider whose interests they were defending and what they were achieving by treating peace protestors as criminals seemed to have an effect as a few minutes later, the police relaxed control and allowed people to disperse.

## Heavy-handed

A trip to the Chetwynd Road gate, back to the Nottingham Road, and then up to the Co-op, confirmed that the day had been a demoralising experience. A continuing physical police-cell was still present at the Co-op end and by this time the police were becoming quite brutal. Police on horseback were responding to appeals from a vociferous local resident to 'clear up the rabble' by wading into a group of kids with bicycles sitting on the grass and walking into anyone who refused to move - someone had a broken foot from one of the horses.

With more repressive legislation on the immediate horizon, the tactics of the police at Chilwell were an obvious rehearsal for future policing when demonstrations themselves might be 'illegal' and any gathering of people on a street corner is a criminal activity.

## What Next ?

The day was not without humour, as when a Radio Trent reporter, penned-in with everyone else at the beginning, asked a protestor who was grappling at the time with two policemen preventing him from crossing the road, shoved a microphone into the melee to ask, "And what do you think is going to happen next ?"

Tony Bloor

## FAREWELL

It's rarely that friends who leave our group get a mention within these pages but for a special family the editors gladly make an exception. At the end of July Les, Jean, Lara and Scarlett Parsons, along with dogs, cats and paintings will be leaving the dusty streets of Hyson Green for pastures new. North Cornwall doesn't know it yet but it's being invaded !

Our loss is Launceston's gain, we expect to see a thriving peace group there in a few months !

We will miss you all, and thank you for all the work have put into our peace group, Les for articles, direct action (including tree climbing), inspiration and a whole lot more, Jean for her artwork, support a numerous events and just being around and Lara and Scarlett for their support and putting up with their mum and dad !

We wish you lots of luck and peace in Cornwall.

The Peace Group.

Say NO to PEACE  
if what they mean by 'peace'  
is the quiet misery of hunger  
the frozen stillness of fear  
the silence of broken spirits  
the unborn hopes of the oppressed

Tell them that PEACE  
is the shouting of children at play  
the babble of tongues set free  
the thunder of dancing feet  
and a father's voice singing



# SEPT 16

## NOTTINGHAM BLOCKADES MOLESWORTH

The building of the new Cruise missile base at Molesworth, is proceeding very, very fast now. Apart from a small contingent of peace campers, there is very little resistance or protest going on at the moment. In order to :

1. Interfere with the process of construction;
2. Remind the people of Britain what is going on and;
3. Encourage peace groups from around the country to organise their own protests;

there will be a **BLOCKADE OF THE TWO MAIN GATES AT MOLESWORTH ON TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER.**

## United Nations International Day of Peace

The date is United Nations International Day of Peace, and it coincides with the opening session of the UN's General Assembly. Alongside the Nottingham Blockade, there will be a petition sent to the UN from the citizens of this town, calling on them to put all possible pressure on the British Government to honour UN International Year of Peace, by cancelling Cruise deployment.

## Support

Please support the blockade and the petition. Over 250 people from Nottingham protested at Molesworth after the eviction of the Peace Camp in February '85, and then again, 250 of us joined the mass blockade on February 6th.

**IF IT WAS IMPORTANT TO RESIST AND PROTEST THEN, SURELY IT IS STILL JUST AS IMPORTANT NOW !**

## Petition

And if you are unable to join the blockade, then please help the campaign by gathering signatures for the petition, or by making a donation to the Nottingham Defend Molesworth Group.

Petition forms are available from the Nottingham CND office.

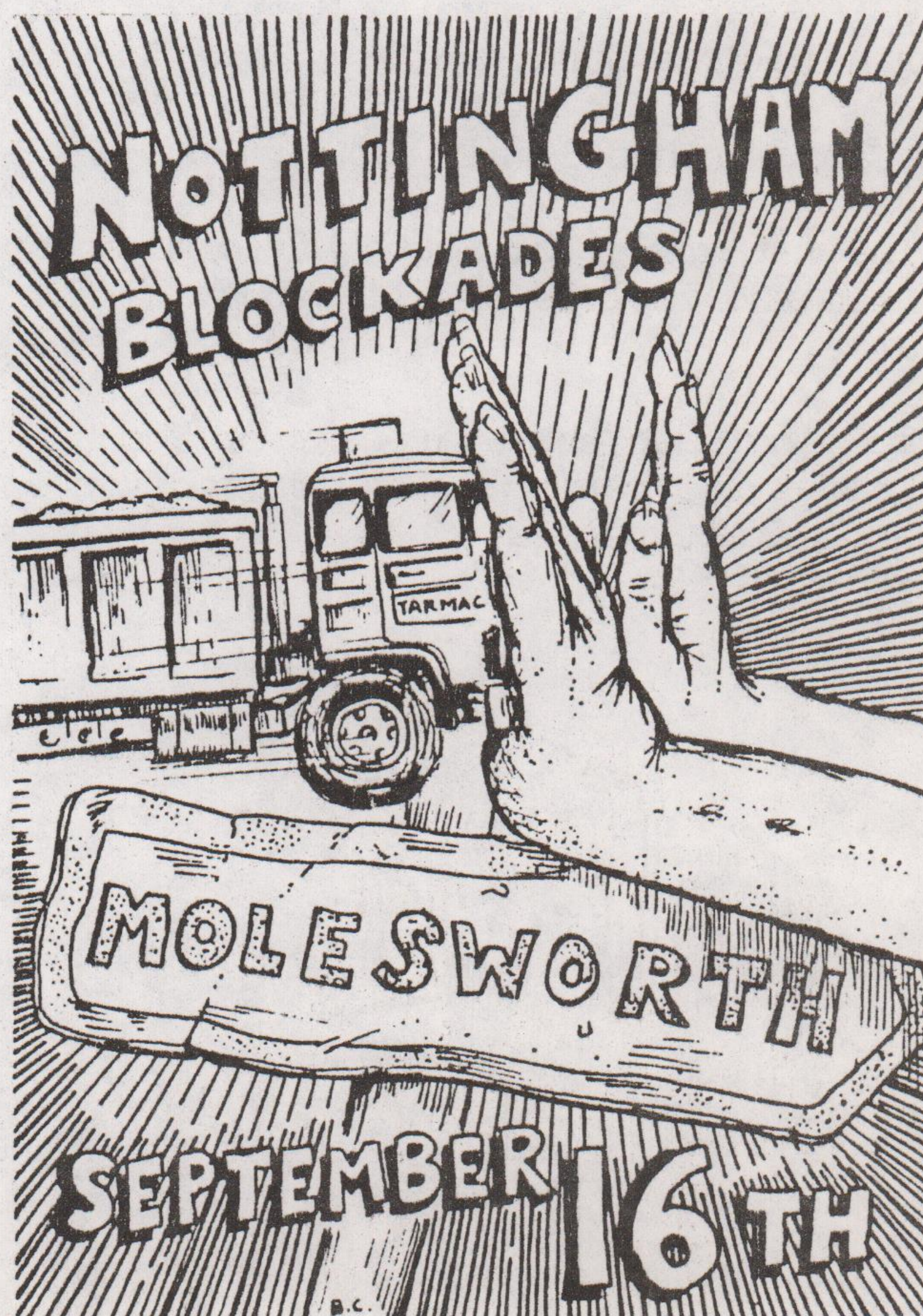
Coach tickets cost £2/£4, and the bus will pick up from the Savoy Hotel at 3.20am and Maid Marion Way at 3.34am.

**IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY DO NOT BUILD ANOTHER GENOCIDE BASE IN THIS LAND WITHOUT FACING OUR OPPOSITION AND OUR DISSENT.**

**IT IS UP TO ALL OF US**

For more details contact:

Notts Defend Molesworth Group,  
c/o Notts CND,  
Queens Chambers,  
3 King Street,  
Nottingham.  
Tel Day: 472556  
Eve: 787269  
624569





# APARTHEID FREE FOREST FIELDS AND HYSON GREEN

"Every effort to isolate South Africa adds strength to our struggle." These are the words of the jailed leader Nelson Mandela - words that have been echoed throughout the years by all the major representative of Black South African opinion. For decades the black people of South Africa have been saying quite clearly that trade with South Africa does not help them - it simply keeps them as semi-slaves in their own country.

So what has been the reaction of the British Government to the calls of the South African people? The stance taken by Mrs. Thatcher is a disgrace. Britain is effectively blocking action everywhere it can - in the United Nations, the EEC and in the Commonwealth. It remains to be seen just how far Thatcher is willing to go to support Botha and his racist regime.

Since Thatcher has clearly stated that she will not act against "a friendly nation", it is up to us to act impose our own SANCTIONS.

In order to do this a group of people living in the Forest Fields and Hyson Green area have set up a campaign to make our community into an Apartheid-Free Zone.

The Campaign has 3 main aims :

- \* The withdrawal of South African goods from the shelves of all shops in the area;
- \* To increase the awareness of Goods & Trades Boycotts - their importance and effectiveness;

- \* To encourage local residents to boycott the purchasing of South African goods.

## Boycotting

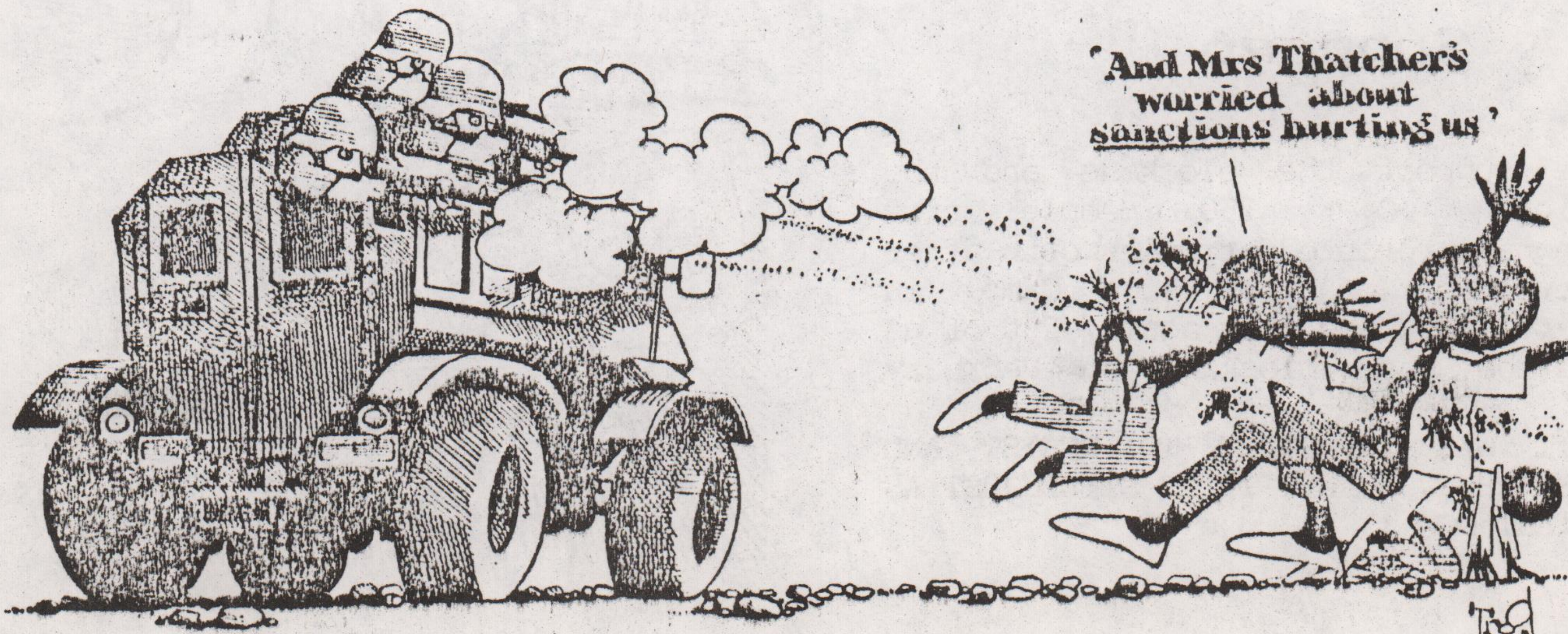
The boycotting of South Africa produce is not simply a moral protest. South Africa exports £140 million worth of fruit alone to Britain each year, and the agricultural sector of the South African economy is of vital importance to the racist regime. Back in 1976 the then Prime Minister of South Africa, D. J. Vorster, showed how well he understood the importance of South African foreign trade. He said, "Every South African product sold is another brick in the wall of Apartheid."

So there is something you can do. Join the campaign by sending £1 waged or 50p unwaged/student /MSC trainee to AFZ, c/o p.o. Box 11, Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road, Forest Fields - membership is open to all those individually living or working in the Forest Fields and Hyson Green area.

Come along and join in the work of the campaign - we meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Union of Pakistani Organisations offices, Terrace Walk, Hyson Green (near the Boys' Club). If you want to talk more about the campaign then you can phone Mark on 783359 or Kim on 702365.

And above all -

**BOYCOTT THE PRODUCE OF APARTHEID**





# PEACE FESTIVAL 1986

Sunday 13th July saw thousands of people converge on to the Victoria Embankment for Nottingham's Sixth Annual Peace Festival in this the International Year of Peace.

The festival is seen by many as a focal point in the year for Nottingham community groups and individuals to hold their stalls and meet other people, and for everyone to show their support for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and its work to rid this earth of the most destructive weapons ever invented.

This year we had over 200 different organisations holding a stall of display of some description including Forest Fields Peace Group, Nottingham

Anti-Apartheid, Pax Christi, Mushroom Bookshops, and the Rainbow Centre to name a few.

Many attractions kept the crowds there such as the CND hot air balloon, a main stage where six local bands showed us what they were about, and exhibition's marquee and a children's festival.

Just about everyone I've talked to have had nothing but praise for this year's festival which is rather comforting after the enormous tasks that were done by a few people to make it possible. The campaign began in January with things to do even then.

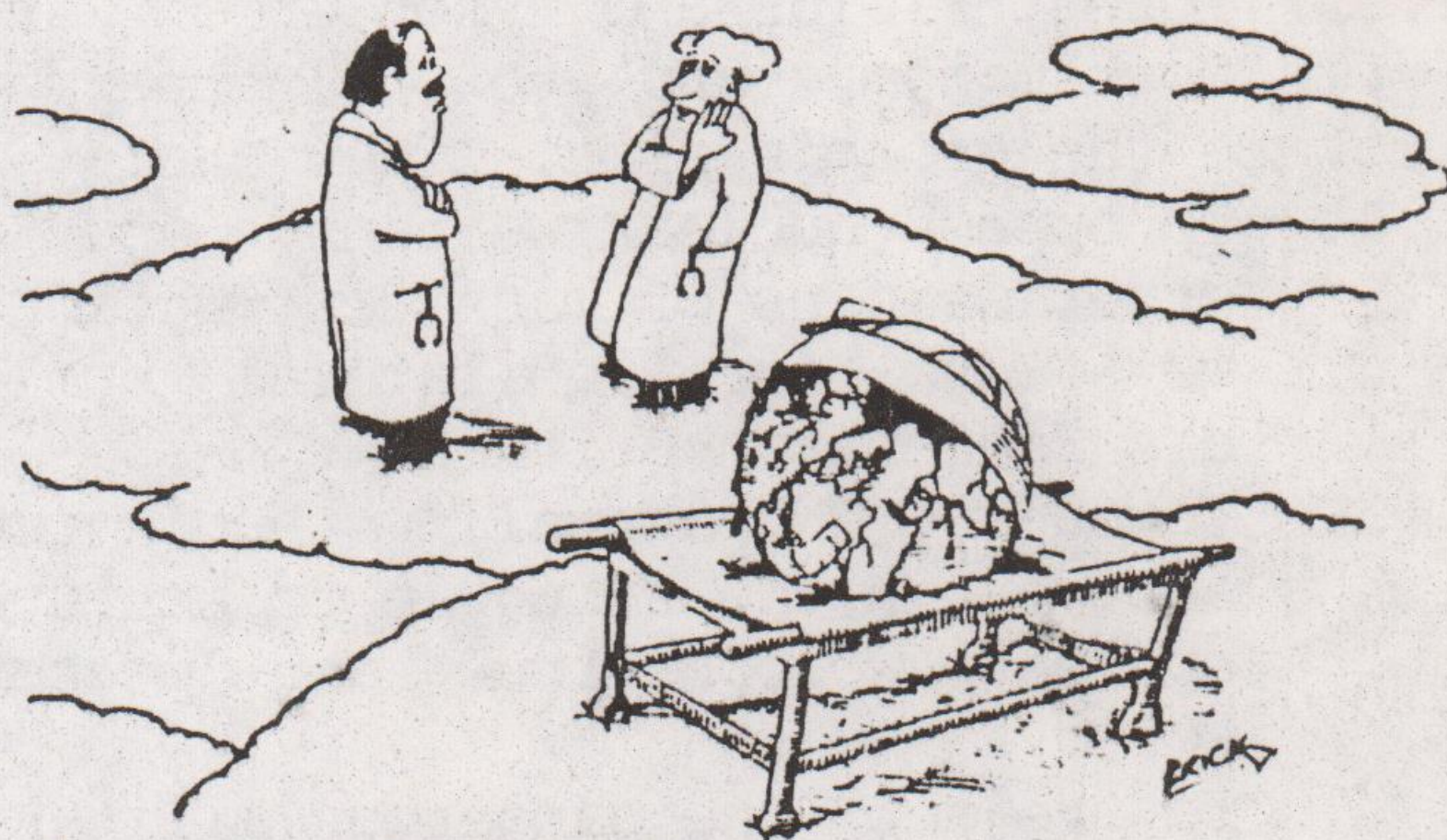
I'm sure we're all looking forward to Peace Festival '87 but we're certainly going to need more people to help from January onwards to replace those who have been organising it for years. If you're interested then please contact Val on 585666. You don't have to commit 6 months ways. Just ease the load of others.

Jaz Singh.  
Peace Festival Committee.

## PEACE WORD SEARCH

60 words related with peace, disarmament and the war machine are in the grid

DEMONSTRATIONATORIN  
EIH DNAGOERREACTORI  
PSKILOUCSAMIHSORIH  
LAVAKUMNWUGUDOVEFT  
OSEHREEDIBMAIEPICRE  
YAEVCM MNSTMMNNSEOA  
MGIZORAIIMEAIEOTSWR  
EAHWERAMSTLDHTNTISN  
NNOUEEFMESLSSNSEUEN  
TTOAMERVANIEATEMRLE  
OAE LNACFIOTLSRAECOP  
RUNCAINYTIEEEEDTRME  
NEEPNGUSRNTTSSHAEGA  
ARCAMEALIU EFRADGDSC  
DECEIOLYT T BDSIILLIE  
OXPICAROLEINADOCERI  
LAWOHAKAIG TOKSUIEO  
ALBYTAERTV IROTCUFNE  
VRENTTRPAONHATSOANC  
ITRWOARHNSROEHNALAN  
TNI ELIHSNEKINU CSLBE  
SEHLSITEYSELUAYSEGF  
EEYOMTHCENIRAMBUSOE  
FTNHVEHCABROGTINGTD



'NORMALLY I'D RECOMMEND TREATMENT BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT MIGHT BE KINDER TO HAVE IT PUT DOWN.'

"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





**WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST - HIROSHIMA DAY.**  
Activities and events. For details  
contact Nottingham CND - 472556.

**SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST - NAGASAKI DAY.**

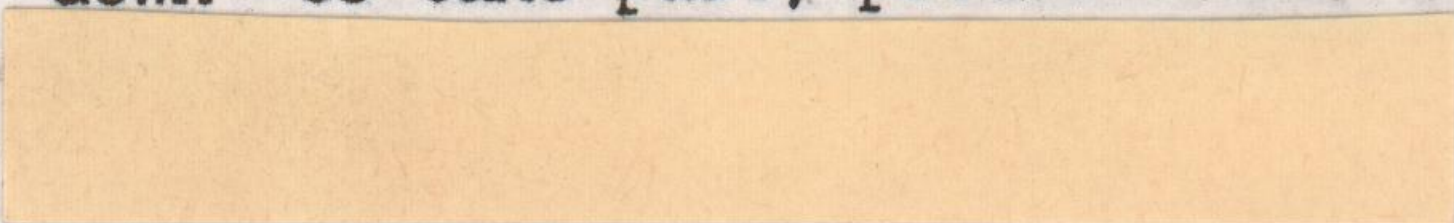
**MONDAY 11 AUGUST - FOREST FIELDS PEACE  
GROUP MEETING** at 7.30pm at the Forest  
Fields Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton  
Road, Forest Fields. All welcome.

**THURSDAY 28TH AUGUST - FOREST FIELDS  
PEACE GROUP MEETING** with discussion at  
7.30pm at the Forest Fields  
Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road.  
All Welcome.

**TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER - USAF MOLESWORTH  
BLOCKADE** organised by Nottingham Defend  
Molesworth Group. See article.

Members of the Forest Fields Peace Group  
will be training between now and the end  
of September for the 13-mile Nottingham  
half-marathon on 29th September.  
We will be collecting sponsors to raise  
funds for the peace group to help pay  
for the leaflets and newsletter we  
print.

We hope to involve as many people as  
possible so it doesn't matter if you're  
not fit, neither are we.  
To find out more or to put your name  
down to take part, please contact Paddy



# FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP AIMS & 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 suport 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 the Forest Fields  
Peace Group.

I enclose my membership fee of £1.00.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

TELEPHONE.....

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

**FFPG, Box Five,  
69 Wiverton Road  
Forest Fields, Nottingham**

This newsletter was thrown together by;  
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