

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

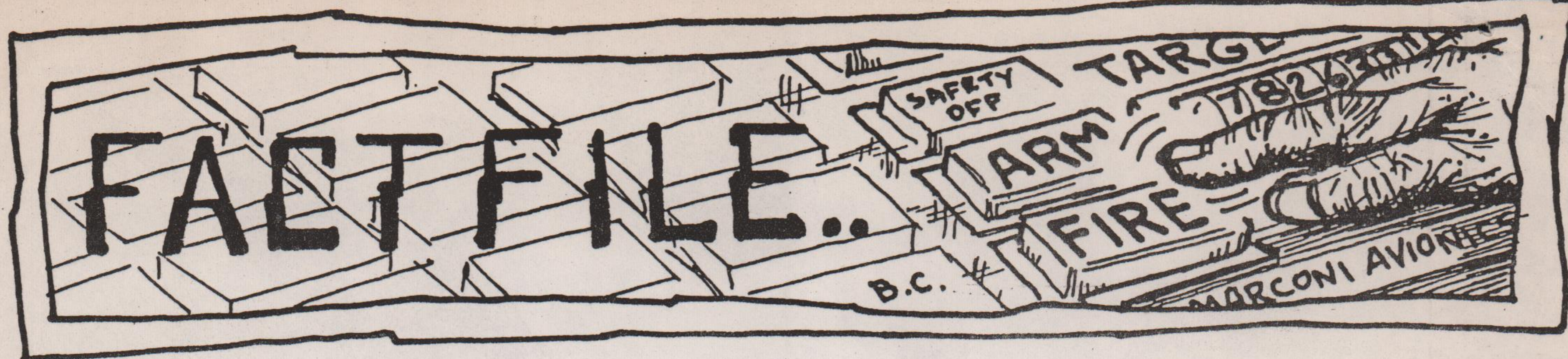
AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

20p

**YOU
CAN'T HUG
A CHILD WITH
NUCLEAR ARMS**



THEY GIVE YOU A FOUR MINUTE WARNING
- WE'RE TELLING YOU NOW -



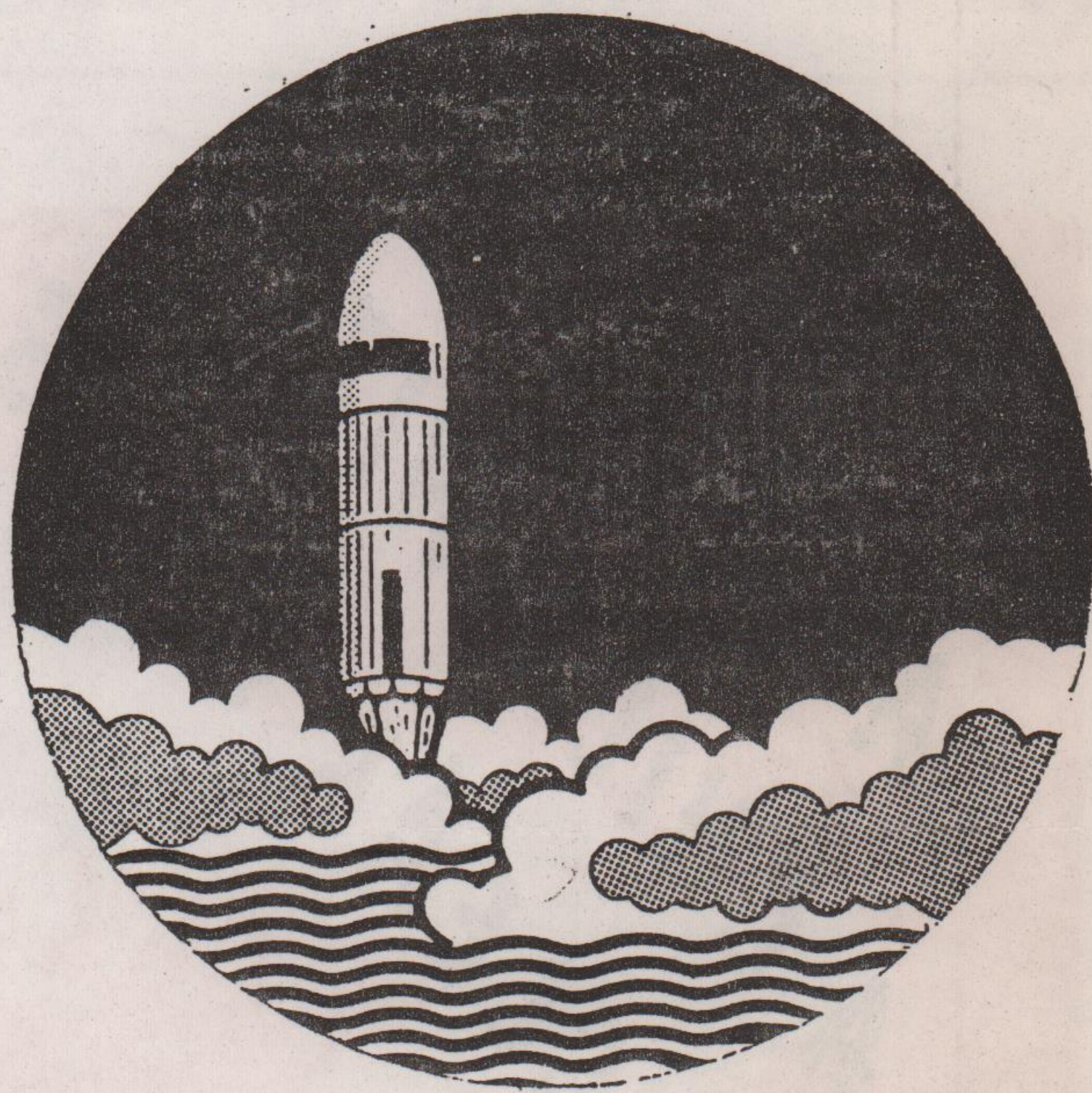
What is Trident ? - Trident is an American nuclear weapon system based in submarines. The British Government wants to buy four submarines, each with 16 nuclear missiles.

How much will Trident cost ? - Experts guess that it will cost about £11 billion. On top of that will be at least £350 million each year on running costs. To have an idea of how much money this represents, it is the same as the cost of 500 brand new General Hospitals.

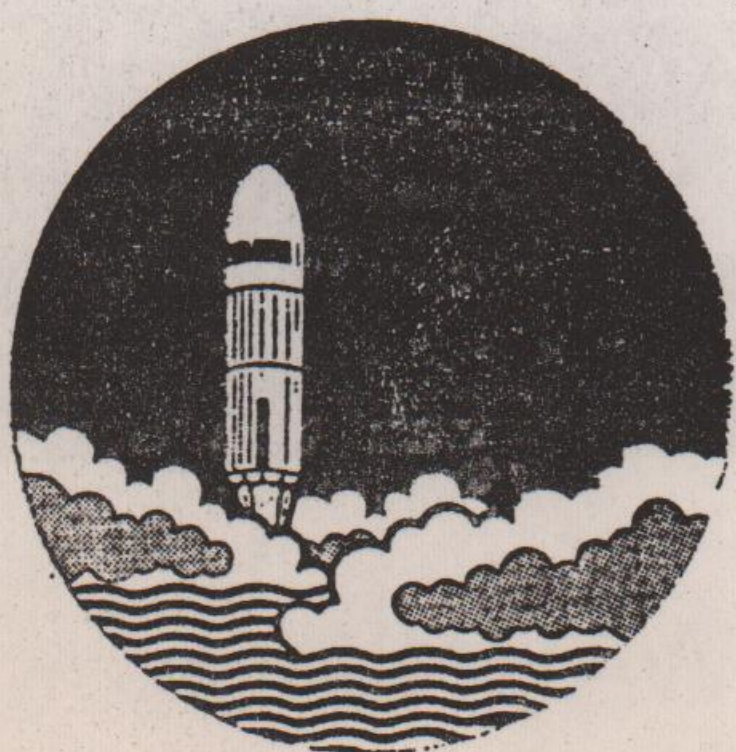
How is Trident different from Polaris ?

- (1) Trident has a range of 6000 miles, compared with only 2500 for Polaris;
- (2) More Tridents will be at sea, for longer periods, because they need less time in dock for refits and repairs;
- (3) Each Trident missile can carry up to 17 different warheads. Even if they only carry 14 however, it will mean that Trident can hit 896 targets as compared with the 64 of Polaris;
- (4) Trident missiles are more accurate than Polaris. Fired from 6000 miles away, they can land within 100 yards of their target. This means they can "knock out" so-called "hard-targets" like missile silos, and so can be used for "first strike".

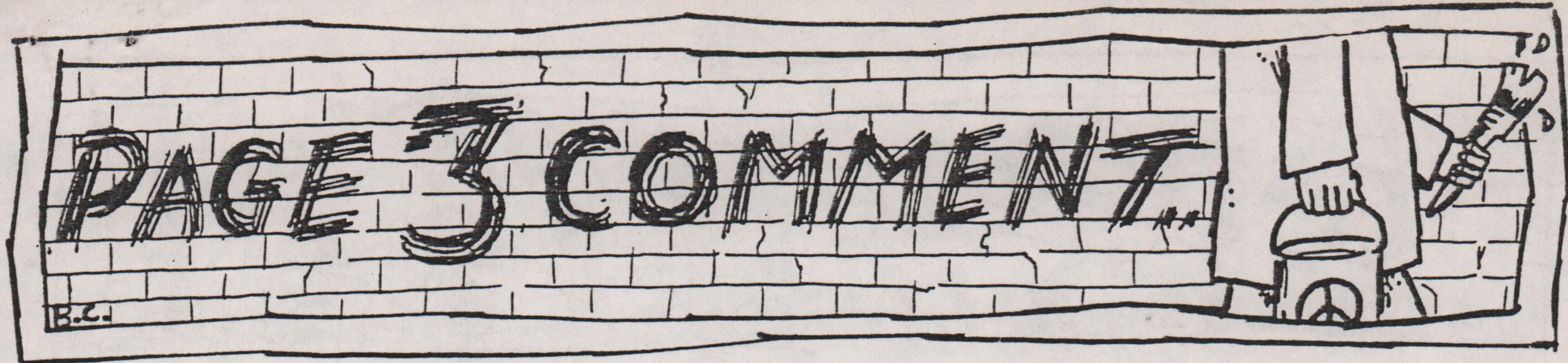
Questions and answers about TRIDENT



Is Trident Independent ? - Trident will rely on the United States for maintenance and servicing. It will rely on the United States' satellites to guide the missiles. It will rely on the United States to choose the targets (at a bunker in Nebraska). Some independence !



TRIDENT IS A DANGEROUS ESCALATION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. AT A TIME WHEN WORLD LEADERS ARE TALKING ABOUT GETTING RID OF SOME OF THE NUCLEAR BOMBS, IT SEEMS VERY STRANGE THAT BRITAIN SHOULD WANT TO INCREASE ITS OWN NUCLEAR FORCE EIGHT-FOLD. If Britain buys Trident, the effect will be to leave less money for conventional defence, or for social spending; and it will make the process of arms negotiation much more difficult. It will also make the world a much more dangerous place.



POLL VAULTING...

I have recently been given the results of two 'Gallup' Opinion Polls on defence and disarmament. They were conducted in May and June of this year, and I believe, make interesting reading. The first is about CONSERVATIVE DEFENCE POLICY. When asked whether they approve or disapproved of Tory defence policy, 45% did approve; 41% disapproved and 14% didn't know. However, when the same people were asked about specific parts of Tory defence policy, the figures were dramatically different. On FIRST USE.... 23% for/66% against; on CHEMICAL WEAPONS.... 8% for/81% against; on TRIDENT.... 26% for/63% against; on the Tories' ANTI-TEST BAN record.... 37% for/51% against.

The second opinion poll was about NUCLEAR WEAPONS. This backed up the previous poll by showing the 50% of people asked, said that although they had views on nuclear weapons, they were not the dominant reason for voting for one political party rather than another. It's true that 22% said they would never vote for a party that wanted to abolish nuclear weapons, but then 8% said they would never vote for a party that would retain them, and 13% said they would never vote for a party that would increase them.... grand total of 21% - not much comfort for the Tories there !

This second poll threw up some remarkable results. On the SOVIET THREAT, 50% of people asked, felt there was "little or no danger" from the USSR and its allies, and a further 36% felt there was "a little danger but no great danger". There was equally encouraging results on questions about whether a British Prime Minister should order our nuclear weapons to be used in the face of a Soviet invasion (27% for/60% against); and whether we should be willing to use nuclear weapons to destroy cities and civilians of other countries (25% for/67% against).

What conclusions should we draw from these poll results ? Firstly that the Government is much more vulnerable on defence, then we might suppose in the aftermath of the election. Secondly, that the general public hold contradictory views about disarmament.... i.e. they can be against all the nitty-gritty of nuclear deterrence, and they can even be against some parts of the ideology and morality of nuclear deterrence, **BUT THEY CAN STILL HAVE A BIG PART OF THEMSELVES THAT WANTS TO HANG ON TO THE BOMB.** This means that we - the opposition, the forces of dissent - will have to come up with more sophisticated and mature arguments, if we are going to win.

For the Labour Party, that means they will have to spend a lot longer than three weeks, and produce much more than one leaflet over the next five years, if they are going to start tearing chunks out of the apparent "consensus". They will have to get involved on the level of politics at which Thatcher currently reigns supreme.... by that I mean the level that allows people who are against nuclear weapons to also be for nuclear weapons. I mean the level of politics that is emotional, psychological, cultural.... the level that Thatcher understands so very well. It's not just about being against Cruise, or against Star Wars; and it's not just about conventional alternatives, or economies. It's much deeper than that.

And for the Peace movement, what perspective should we draw from these polls ? The final question in the second Gallup poll was about what people would like the peace movement to do more of. Interestingly, the top-scorer was "stick to actions entirely within the law", followed closely by "become more moderate and balanced with their approach". The bottom scorer (with 4 points out of 200) was "engage in more civil disobedience". What people say they want is more information.... more of it, more accurate, more understandable.

WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF THAT ?

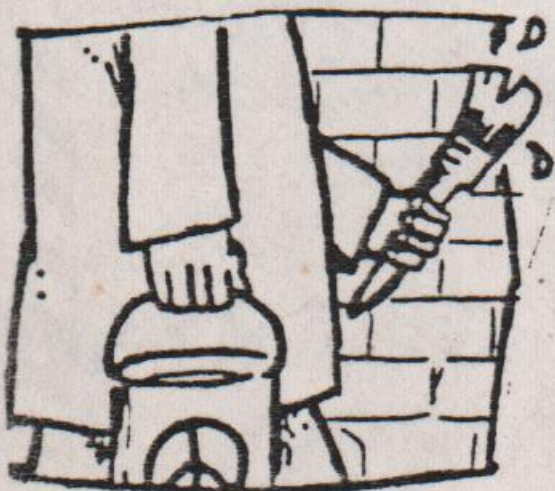
Pete Strauss

...FOR PEACE

* ARTICLES, LETTERS, POEMS, CARTOONS ETC.. ALWAYS WELCOME. *

PLEASE SEND TO: F.F.P.G. BOX 5, 69, WIVERTON RD.

FOREST FIELDS, NOTTM.





*Nuclear Weapons.....
In Defence Of Democracy*

"In Britain we are free to think and speak as we wish. Our press is free. Our schools can teach freely. Openness and tolerance are the rule. These are the values we cherish. If we want to keep our freedom, our independence and our way of life - above all our right to choose the sort of government we have, and our right to say and think what we like - then we and our Western friends must stay strong enough to defend ourselves. If we do not, if we drop our guard, we run the risk of throwing away not only peace, but also our freedom."

from **BRITISH DEFENCE POLICY**
Ministry of Defence
HMSO 1984

This extract from a government pamphlet explains the main reason we have nuclear weapons - we have them to keep us free. **THIS IS A MYTH, MANUFACTURED BY POLITICIANS TO HIDE THIS REALITY.....** the more we rely on nuclear weapons for our defence, the less freedom we have !

The original decision to develop a British bomb in 1947 was taken completely in secret, by a small committee of six men. The modernisation of Polaris missiles (the Chevaline Project) was carried out at a cost of £1,000 million, by a secret group of four men - among them David Owen. Mrs Thatcher decided to buy Trident submarines in a secret committee called MISC 3. On each of these three occasions, Parliament was never told !

When The government decided to build a nuclear reactor in order to get a supply of plutonium for bombs, they lied to the British people and said Calder Hall reactor was built for supplying electricity.

Before 1980, nuclear weapons weren't discussed in Parliament for 15 years. It was only because of the growth of the peace movement that these issues were finally brought out into the open.

Not only have British governments been obsessively secretive about nuclear weapons, but they have also tried to clamp down on citizens who object to their policies. Cathy Massiter went on television to say she used to work as the person in charge of the MI5 department that concentrated on CND. Leading CND campaigners like Joan Ruddock, had their phones tapped. Altogether the Special Branch keep records on over 850,000 people. If you support CND, you could be on those lists, because the freedom-loving government regards you as a subversive !

So next time someone tries to tell you we need nuclear weapons to defend our freedom, don't believe a word of it. Secret government committees; MI5 phone taps; lies in Parliament; civil defence plans..... it doesn't add up to "freedom" as most of us understand the word.

As the pamphlet above says.... **IF WE DROP OUR GUARD WE RUN THE RISK OF THROWING AWAY OUR FREEDOM !**

Dear Forest Fields Peace Group,

The article DEADLY MYTHS in the June issue of the bulletin was, I thought, politically misleading and contained factual errors. One does not compare NATO with Russia; one compares NATO with the Warsaw Pact. Also, in terms of international power structures it is incorrect to use the description "Russia" - it should be the USSR (or the Soviet Union).

On the question of peace, the article fails to make any reference to the moratorium imposed by the USSR, nor was anything mentioned about the extensive peace proposals, currently advocated by the USSR. And The Red Army occupied Afghanistan under Article 78 of the U.N., not only to combat counter-revolutionary terrorists, but to deter a CIA-backed invasion by the Pakistan armed forces.

Yours In Peace
Geoff Wade

IN A DARK TIME...

B.C.

Fates Worse Than Death - Part 1

This month we begin a three-part exploration of some fates worse than death.

"Let us talk about fates worse than death. When the Revd. Jim Jones saw that his followers in Guyana were having fates worse than death, he gave them Kool-Aid laced with cyanide. If our Government sees that we are facing fates worse than death, it will shower our enemies with hydrogen bombs, and then we will be showered in turn. There will be plenty of Kool-Aid for everyone, in a manner of speaking, when the right time comes. What will the right time look like?

I will not waste your time with trivial fates, which are only marginally worse than death. Suppose we were conquered by an enemy, for example, who didn't understand our wonderful economic system, and millions of people who wanted to work couldn't find any jobs anywhere. Or suppose we were conquered by an enemy who was too mean to take care of children and old people. Or suppose we were conquered by an enemy who wouldn't spend money on anything but weapons for World War III. These are all tribulations we could live with if we had to - although God forbid.

But suppose we foolishly got rid of our nuclear weapons, our Kool-Aid, and an enemy came over here and crucified us. Crucifixion was the most painful thing which the ancient Romans ever found to do to anyone. They knew as much about pain as we do about genocide. They sometimes crucified hundreds of people at one time. That is what they did to all the survivors of the army of Spartacus, which was composed mostly of escaped slaves. They crucified them all. There were several miles of crosses.

If we were up on crosses, with nails through our feet and hands, wouldn't we wish that we still had hydrogen bombs, so that life could be ended everywhere? Absolutely.

We know of one person who was crucified in olden times, who was supposedly as capable as we or the Russians of ending life everywhere. But he chose to endure agony instead. All he said was, "Forgive them Father - they know not what they do".



He let life go on, as awful as it was for him, because here we are, aren't we?

But he was a special case. It is unfair to use Jesus Christ as an exemplar of how much pain and humiliation we ordinary human beings should put up with before calling for the end of everything.

I don't believe that we are about to be crucified. No potential enemy we now face has anywhere near enough carpenters. Not even the Pentagon at budget time has mentioned crucifixion. I am sorry to have to put the idea into their heads. I will only ave myself to blame if, a year from now, the Joint Chiefs of Staff testify under oath that we are on the brink of being crucified."

Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

Next Month
Fates Worse Than Death - Part II
Slavery

THE EYE BEGINS TO SEE...

B.C.





SOMETHING TO CHEER YOU UP

The trouble with magazines and newsletters about peace and nuclear weapons and that sort of thing is that virtually everything in them either makes you feel really scared about what might happen, or guilty that you don't seem to be doing very much about this nuclear threat, or angry because you keep reading things that you're told never to believe, like that nuclear weapons aren't deterrents or that NATO is a bad thing.

If you've felt like that, try reading this. It's different. It's not intended to scare you, or make you feel guilty or angry.

This article isn't being written to depress. It's something to cheer you up. There can't be much wrong with that, can there. I mean, even if you manage to forget about all that nuclear stuff, there are so many things around to make you miserable, from money through to treading in dogshit.

Anyway, I hope that it's some kind of relief to know that you're reading something that isn't going to go ranting on about Cruise missiles or American nuclear bases, or about how many people would be killed and burned and radiated in Nottingham if a nuclear bomb suddenly dropped on Market Square.

Nothing about that. It's not much of an article, but at least it wants you to feel a bit better for having read it.

How? Simply by asking you to treat yourself. Not to do anything for a few minutes. To let your worries disappear, just for a little while. That may sound a bit silly, but at least it's harmless. Then, if you can do that, why not contribute to the article as well. There's a space below. What I am suggesting is that you let yourself think of a person you feel close to, or a really good time you've had, or a place you really like to be. Something like that. And just write down that person's name, or the time or place, in the space below. There's no trick, and obviously you do not have to. I'm just suggesting that it can be good to allow that sort of thing to happen from time to time. Anyway, here's the space.

Well, of course I don't know if you've written anything down. It doesn't really matter. Just suggesting such things, just seeing the space, might bring up some good memory, something you value or love or just feel warm about and good about.

And at least you can see there was no trick. I'm not tagging on some clever bit to make you feel bad or guilty or in a panic or just sad. As I said at the beginning, this article is not about nuclear weapons at all.

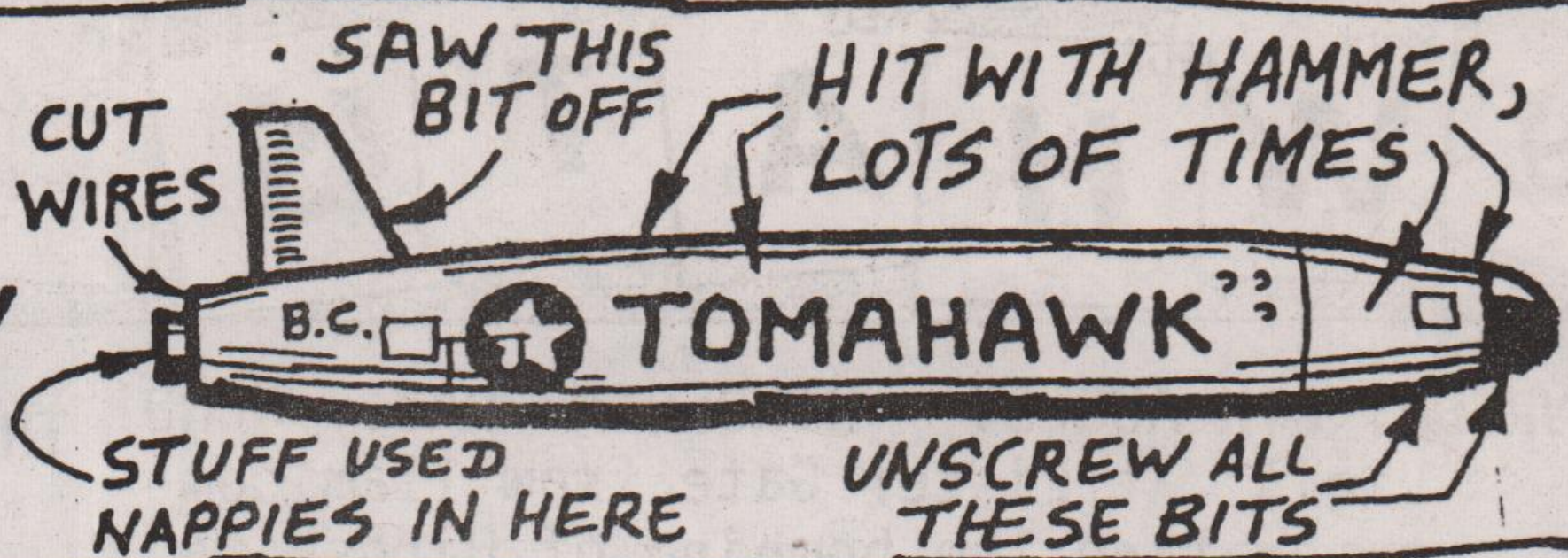
It's just something to cheer you up.



Les Parsons
April 1987

SOMETHING TO CHEER YOU UP!

GET UP STAND UP!



If you've ever stopped and thought to yourself; "I really should try and do more to help Forest Fields Peace Group. I'd really like to..... but I don't want to go to any meetings; and I'm already very busy; and I don't think I've got any useful skills.....", THEN READ ON. here is the answer to your problem.

You can help sell the Newsletter. "Oh no! No way! No chance! You've got to be joking! Anyway, I said no meetings.... no time.... no skills. Absolutely not."

SELLING THE NEWSLETTER !!

Don't get carried away. It's not nearly as awful as you think. FFPG have been selling the newsletter on the streets of Hyson Green for over four years. People don't think we're cranks anymore. They accept us. Some people look out for us, and miss us if we're not there.

It's not hard work. We only sell for one hour a week..... from 11am until midday on Saturdays. There are always at least four of us, so you won't feel isolated or alone. And we have a rota, so no-one has to do it more than they want to.

GIVE IT A GO !!!

You don't have to go to any meetings. You just turn up on your Saturday, help sell the newsletters, maybe all go for a cup of coffee afterwards..... and that's it. If it's your first time, someone will come down with you, and introduce you to the others, and stay with you for a while to help you sell.

You don't have to have any special skills or knowledge. All we do is ask people as they go by.... "Excuse me, would you like a copy of the local peace group paper?" Occasionally, you might meet someone who wants to talk a bit, about defence or disarmament..... but they don't expect you to be an "expert". Most folk just like the chance to talk. It's good for us to be out on the street, just listening. If a passer-by asks you a question you're not sure about, then there are always four other sellers there who can probably help out.

You don't have to do it for months and years though. Just try it once, and see what it's like. If you ever thought you'd like to do a little bit to help FFPG, then phone Pete - 704621 - and say you'd like to try out selling the newsletter.



SELLING THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE FUN





THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST - HIROSHIMA DAY. NCND Vigil at Lister Gate from 11am commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima.

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST - FFPG Shadow Project on Radford Road, 10am - Noon.

SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST - NAGASAKI DAY

SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST - Celebrate South Africa Women's Day Benefit with speakers from ANC, SWAPO and WAPC. Music from Flaming Nerve and Staffs Miners Wives. £1.50/75p at the Yorker, Mansfield Road at 7.30pm.

THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST - FFPG meeting. 69 Wiverton Road at 7.30pm.

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST - SPOTZ Alternative Cabaret. Old Vic Tavern, Fletcher Gate.

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER - NCND Annual General Meeting, at the WEA on Shakespeare St. at 7.30pm.

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER - FFPG Discussion Meeting, 69 Wiverton Road, 7.30pm. Discussion on Intermediate range Nuclear Forces (INF) Talks.

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - FFPG meeting at 69 Wiverton Road, 7.30pm.



FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

JOIN US

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.

BOX 5

69, WIVERTON ROAD

FOREST FIELDS



708459

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP OPEN TO EVERYBODY IN THE FOREST FIELDS AND HYSOON GREEN AREAS OF NOTTINGHAM, AND TO ALL OTHERS WHO SHARE THE GROUPS AIMS. THEY ARE -

1. TO OPPOSE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND ALL OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
2. TO WORK FOR UNILATERAL 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.