

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

Spring '89

10p



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



40 YEARS OF PEACE ?

Remembrance day has passed. The annual argument between those that wear red or white poppies is over for the time being. Politicians and clergymen have filed away their speeches and sermons about those who died and suffered in the two World Wars. We have wiped away our tears and everything has gone back to normal.

Back to normal. The speeches and sermons take on a more familiar refrain: "Never again!" they shout; "Peace through strength." is the telling cry; "Deterrence or submission." are the only options we are told are available.

And here is their proof; since the last war Britain and other developed nations have striven to maintain and strengthen their military might, and by so doing have ensured that for the last forty years we have lived in peace.

Accepting this argument, we can then see what forty years of peace actually means.

It means over one hundred and fifty wars having taken place accross the world since 1945.

It means over 20 million civilian casualties in war since 1945.

It means that what the world spends in arms every two weeks is enough to provide adequate food, water, education and housing for the whole world.

It means that "developed" countries spend twenty times more on their military than they do on economic aid.

Now, some may insist that this is stretching a point too far, that 40 years of peace means that since 1945 we have averted a further global war, that Britain and its NATO allies have not been invaded and not been involved in full-scale military engagements.

But even that is not true. It certainly would not be true if you were to ask the people of Egypt, Aden, Korea, Vietnam, Ireland, the Falklands, Algeria, the Middle East, Latin America and Indo-China to name but a few countries. Have they enjoyed 40 years of peace?

So; we can only assume that "40 years of peace" refers to the avoidance of military engagement on European or North American soil.

What else does it mean, this 40 years of peace? It means 40 years of preparing for war. This at least is what our leaders boast has been the strategy which has averted war. All of our leaders, left or right, have declared their commitment to this strategy.



If only they would consult their history books and think. The only thing that preparing for war has always achieved, eventually is war itself. This has always been true and there is no reason to believe it will not always be true.

There is no reason to believe that because our weapons are more sophisticated and destructive; and our armies are stronger and better equipped, we are less likely to go to war. In history that has always been said; and it has always been proved a lie.

Wars arise out of tensions and accusations of injustice. There is no greater tension than the thought of our own and our loved ones lives being mercilessly taken away; and there is no greater injustice than war itself. By preparing for war we only aggravate war itself and create stronger accusations of injustice. To relieve these tensions we must resolve them, to achieve justice we must remove our threat of war. This generation must recognise the depth of our folly before it becomes too late.

We have not enjoyed "40 years of peace". All that can be said is that since 1945 we are now forty-four years on in our preparation for the next war; And that war will not arise in spite of us having weapons, but because of them.

Our politicians require our acquiescence to continue preparing for the next war. We give it then at our own peril. Let us not give it to them; but take it away.



Another Deadly Myth - Perhaps.

Has the Forest Fields Peace Group ceased to exist? - This could be the deadliest myth of all. It's less than a myth. The Group is still working; striving to promote the cause of peace both locally and worldwide - by counteracting the mis-information of the mass-media - by meeting on each Third Thursday of the month at Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre.

Please come along at 7.30pm for a couple of hours - new faces are always needed.

IN A DARK TIME



B.C.

BRITAIN OUT OF NATO : NATO OUT OF BRITAIN

This year marks the 40th. anniversary of NATO. Is this anniversary a time for hosannas? Have we lived through 40 years of glorious peace because of NATO? or just the prelude to a new and more bestial war? In short, what attitude should we, the British People, take to NATO? and, in particular, Britain's continued membership of it?

If we were to follow the voices of our parliamentary leaders then the answer would seem clear. All three (or four?!) main parliamentary parties, not only support it, but support it vehemently. But, if we analyse things ourselves, closely, we will not arrive at this conclusion.

For instance, how does NATO compare with its rival, the Warsaw Pact of the Eastern Bloc.? We all know that the Warsaw Pact is an aggressive and threatening alliance, held like a knife at the throat of the peoples of Eastern Europe, ready to punish in blood any attempts at independence by its subject people. One need only think of Warsaw Pact troops rumbling through the streets of a dissident Prague in 1968, or the ignominious debacle of the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan, very recently. But, can any honest person, who hasn't prejudged the issue, see NATO as the opposite of this bloody Pact? A NATO that was set up fully six years before the alleged danger from that Pact emerged; A NATO that revived and nurtured former Hitler militarists in Germany a few short years after the war; A NATO that has instigated and connived at dozens of "small" wars since W.W.2 (wars in which millions of "small" (ordinary) people have died) and then sold arms to both sides; A NATO with the overkill firepower of a greedy and vengeful Colossus.

No! Both of these pacts are steeped in blood! If the Warsaw Pact has its Afghanistan, then NATO has its Vietnam; if the Warsaw Pact is the noose around the neck of the people then NATO is the hangman; if one is the bullet then the other is the assassin.

Just as in Eastern Europe, our country is in the grip of a 30,000-strong occupation army, but an American and not a Soviet one.

Let us, on this fortieth anniversary call on Britain to get out of NATO and for the dissolution of both of these aggressive blocs, starting with our "own" aggressor - NATO.

THE EYE BEGINS TO SEE



B.C.



MARCH

- Wed. 15th Nottingham CND launches '40 Years of NATO' spring campaign.
- Thurs. 16th Forest Fields Peace Group Meeting at Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road, at 7.30pm.
- Sat. 18th NCND stall at Listergate with event to publicise the spring campaign. Help appreciated, contact NCND Tel. 588586
- * Wed/Thurs 22nd and 23rd Assorted workshops including screen printing, aids, computers, trampolining etc at All Saints Community Centre, Raleigh St, Radford. Details 786362.

APRIL

- Sun 2nd National CND Action 'Hand Over the Money' London. Contact NCND for coach details 588586.
 - * " " Spoz Caberet at the Old Vic Tavern, Fletcher Gate. Mixed audience. Acts include Lip Service and Skeeta.
 - Sat 8th Caliche and the Temps play a benefit for the Nicaraguan Hurricane Appeal at Hyson Green Boys Club, 7.30 - MIDnight.
 - Wed. 12th NCND Policy Making Meeting at WEA Shakespeare St, 7.30pm.
 - Wed. 19th NCND Executive Meeting at the CND Office 33 Castle Gate at 7.30pm.
 - * Fri/Sat 21 and 22nd Women and Mental Health Conference - a mega national event with many workshops and discussions including Dorothy Rowe author of 'Living With The Bomb'. Ring 691291 (daytime).
 - * Sun 30th Asian Womens Social Evening with Asian Band at Forest Fields Family Centre, Russell Road, 5-9pm. Details 783945.
- * Marks events which are part of the 1989 Notts Womens Festival in or around Forest Fields or with a peacey theme. Mainly women only. There are many other events, details in a booklet available from libraries and community centres.

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

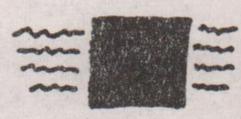


JOIN US

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

I would like to join the Forest Fields Peace Group.
I enclose my membership fee of £1.00

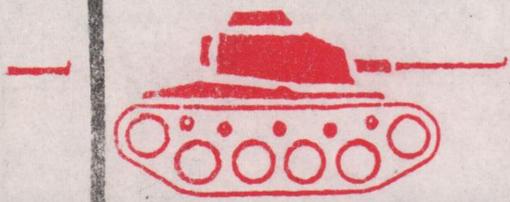
NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....TEL.....



BOX 5
69, WIVERTON ROAD
FOREST FIELDS


784963

ON NATO'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY



TICKETS:
£2.50 / £4.50

Available from:
NCND office
(33 Castlegate)

Mushroom
Bookshop

Ouroboros
Wholefoods

Hiziki
Wholefoods

Rainbow
Centre

BUSES:

Depart 8.30 a.m.
Salutation Inn
Maid Marion Way

Leave London
4.00 p.m.

TURN YOUR HAND TO

CHANGE!

Sunday, April 2nd



SYMBOLIC ACTION PASSING RESOURCES ALONG HUMAN CHAINS
FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TO HEALTH
SOCIAL SECURITY AND OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

