

14

9578
C

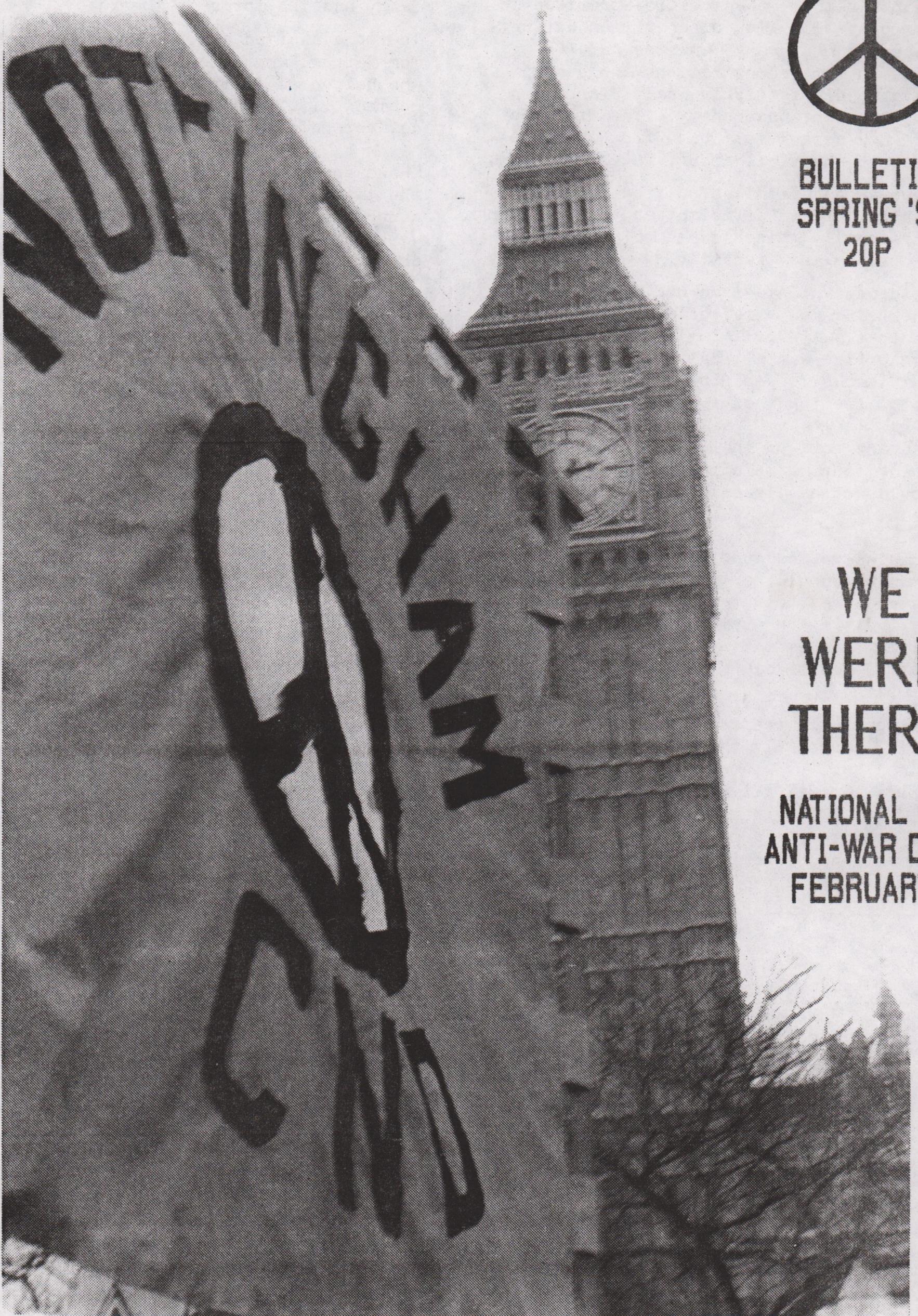
NOTTINGHAM CND



BULLETIN
SPRING '91
20P

WE
WERE
THERE

NATIONAL CND
ANTI-WAR DEMO
FEBRUARY 2



EDITORIAL:

Recent events had proven our decision to maintain the present office premises is correct. The flow of enquiries during December & January, and the sale of tickets for demonstrations could not have been effectively dealt with on an out-of-town ansaphone. The premises are now acting as a base from which to operate the vigil at St. Peter's Church.

However any premises, office or home, can only be as efficient as the operating personnel - this has been disast rously proven very recently.

With one volunteer on holiday abroad, one being delivered of a baby boy and another away for a family bereavement the office was all but out of action. Our thanks to Win Douglas for holding to office together for a couple of weeks.

Had any work on the bulletin been needed during this period then there would not have been any issue this quarter.

This shows how vulnerable we are, just when we should be most active. We have so few volunteers - and they mostly 'getting on a bit' -that any circumstances taking even one person out of action can seriously disrupt our campaign.

Without volunteers for the bulletin this is probably the last issue.

HELP! MAYDAY! ACHTUNG! S.O.S.

We mean this - good health and good intentions, like life are not eternal.

MAYDAY! HELP! S.O.S. ACHTUNG!

Call from the heart?

Jimmy of 16, Newtown Terrace, Glasgow is trying to trace Miss P. Simms who he met on a demonstration.

COMINGS.....

Welcome to two potential members - Peggy has the forms at the ready.

The long awaited son to Cath Wakeman & Tom Barber, and a son to Emma Mitchell who helped us in the office for a few months..... and we expect Barbara to deliver before the next bulletin.

These three arrivals, with Holly and the twins a couple of years ago, provide a nucleus of intelligent children. We know they are intelligent - they have chosen their parents so well.

,,,,,GOINGS

ELIZABETH WHEAT (1901 - 1991)

Sadly we have to report that Liz died in January at the age of 89. What a full and active life she had! As a small child, she helped supply her family with fuel by collecting spilled coal from the sidings. At fourteen she began work in a Bulwell Mill - working a 12 hour day and, five years later was helping to organize women into the union to fight more effectively for better conditions. She was continually active in the bitter struggles against the poverty and unemployment of the twenties and thirties, and against fascism - becoming one of the earliest members of the Communist Party.

She married Robert Wheat, a miner, and during the thirties and the war years, they raised a family of four children. After the war she took in some homeless children into her care.

From the end of the 1960's, with her family off her hands, she worked tirelessly for C.N.D. - constantly collecting goods for fund-raising, making substantial regular donations, and by supporting every possible CND demonstration. No matter how tough or inconvenient the going she was there!! Many will remember her at Molesworth five years ago in bitter February weather, such as we have recently experienced this year, when she was 85 years old ! And she was still growing most of her own vegetables in her garden at that time.

She was also, in her sixties, seventies and eighties, a great traveller - visiting Russia 10 times, Roumania 6 times and Algeria 5 times. Everywhere she went - including Bulwell and Nottingham - she talked to people, made friends and talked about peace. She lived long enough to see some modest success for her work with the modest reductions of nuclear weapons in Russia and America. She was a great old battler for peace and we shall all miss her.

A fund has been established in Liz's memory, with the agreement of her family. The money will go to Nottingham C.N.D. at a time when there is renewed interest in C.N.D. and an urgent need for money to develop campaigns for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. What better way to thank Liz for her indomitable spirit and example could there be than a generous contribution to this fund? Please make cheques payable to N.C.N.D. and include a little note to say that it is in Liz Wheat's memory, and address it to N.C.N.D. 33, Castle Gate, Nottm. NG1 7AR, or hand in cash to the office or your contact.

This fund will remain open until May Day.

Pat Robson.

Reply from The Rt.Hon. Kenneth Clarke.
to a letter from Peggy Westaway:

Dear Mrs. Westaway,

Thank you very much for your further letter. As you know from our previous correspondence, I firmly believe that the possession of an effective nuclear deterrent by the US., Britain and France greatly reduced the risk of warfare in Western Europe. Iraq was not deterred from invading Kuwait by the existence of nuclear power, and I fear that Saddam Hussein did not believe that there would be any effective international action to protect that country against aggression. I do not think that has any bearing to my arguments in favour of the UK continuing to possess nuclear weapons.

If we retain nuclear weapons, it is a scientific and practical necessity to test them from time to time. I am afraid I am not in favour of any ban on such testing.

Yours sincerely,

p.s. some of our members attended the Parliamentary Lobby on January 21st. but in vain Kenneth Clarke would not come out to meet them.

THE PEACE VIGIL CONTINUES MONDAY TO SATURDAY
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, LISTER GATE

if you can donate an hour of your time on permanent basis, please contact Ross Bradshaw, at Mushroom Bookshop - if not just turn up to give your support and stand up and be counted.

'please phone the office, 588586, for up-to-date information on activities - if the office is unattended relevant information is left on the ansaphone.

DEMOS AGAINST THE GULF WAR.

LONDON:

January 12th 1991.

Four coaches, mostly filled with persons from NAWG, left the Salutation Inn very soon after 8:00a.m. One coach deviated to pick up travellers from Grantham. This made a pleasant change from the M.1 and we all assembled in Hyde Park under the Nottingham Banner....then a long, long wait (nearly three hours) sometimes just in mud and sometimes in a couple of inches of water. Fortunately the weather was fine and bright so tempers remained unfrayed. Even so most groups left the park on their own initiative, converging on Trafalgar Square which was already overcrowded. There was comparatively small police presence in the park and en route. The official estimate was of 20,000 persons, but the 'tickeriner' must have stopped for coffee.

Unfortunately we heard very little of the speakers as we had to leave early to return to the coaches by 4:00p.m.

We did leave feeling very uplifted at the numbers of people like us, and ready for the next crisis.

February 2nd 1991:

The next crisis, when five coaches left the Salutation Inn at 9:00a.m. arriving at the Embankment about noon. Again a long, long wait before going down a new route to Hyde Park. And again the main body of demonstrators arrived at Hyde Park too late to hear the speakers. As the police insisted upon banners being disassembled upon entering the park the stragglers were unable to unite.

Again the weather was fine and the SWP loud. Amusement was created when we heard that Olga Maitland had permission to shout rude things through an amplifier at us in Piccadilly.....but we did not go to Piccadilly. A new route, but not very interesting...and a rather small police presence.

Again a general exodus for coaches left the speakers in mid-stream, but the sight of so many coaches from so many places proved an inspiration. This rally did get relatively good media coverage and this with the Glasgow rally proved support is not 90% for war.

Doreen Gower.

PORTUGAL:

Recent statistics inform us that only 10% of the public in Britain are against war in the Gulf. Apart from the National demonstrations on November 24th, January 12th and February 2nd - and local vigils - there are apparently few visible signs.

I have recently returned from a holiday in Portugal which included a day trip to Seville. Opposition there was not muted, particularly in Seville where posters were in evidence everywhere, and where I photographed the exhibition at the University. In Lisbon also there were posters saying NO to NATO.

T.V. coverage of the Gulf war came from C.N.N. From this one gained the impression that the Americans alone were fighting the Iraqis. The only occasion when I heard Britain mentioned was when the I.R.A. carried out their mortar attack on Downing Street. Do the American people think that they are fighting alone? Our efforts certainly merited no comment during the time that I was viewing.

Peggy Westaway.

AUSTRALIA:

'Agin the war down under'

I spent the first six weeks of this year in Australia. Returning home was a chilling experience, not only because of the physical climatic change - 30+ to Subzero temperatures - but also because of the contrast in public opinion on the war.

In Australia there is widespread opposition to war in the Gulf. The conspiracy of silence that has muffled the popular press here does not apply there. Australian tabloids - even those owned by Murdock - do carry service news, with the result that the public has been well-informed on the background to the war: for example on the intent of Western and U.S. aid to Iraq over the past decade. The overwhelming majority of letters to the press are anti-war, and against any further Australian commitment.

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GULF WAR

Photos taken during January by Peggy Westaway.



Jan. 12th - Hyde Park. Nottm CND members' long, long wait to set off.



Some of the thousands waiting to leave Hyde Park.



On arrival at Trafalgar Square to hear the speakers, the movements of those attending were severely restricted by the police cordon.



Jan. 30th - Seville University. Pictured during a day-trip to the town by Peggy, this building, believed to be the Faculty of War Studies, was the scene of an anti-war demonstration. Vividly painted hangings depend from the windows and there is an ingenious dummy missile apparently embedded in the wall. It seemed to make a big impression.



Feb 2 - London march pictured by Jeremy Jago.

NOTE: Details of forthcoming events locally and nationally are available by phoning NCND office at any time (24 hour ansaphone) Tel Nottm 588586

Nat. Council Report

There has been much critical analysis on T.V. The Australian equivalent of the B.B.C. has a policy of inviting specialists on Arab affairs on its news programmes, and has been fiercely attacked by Hawkes for doing so.

The activities of the peace movement have been given widespread media coverage. There were well attended demonstrations in all the capital cities both before and after the start of the war. Our C.N.D. logo is much in evidence on banners and accompanying anti-war slogans to be seen around Sydney.

Since Vietnam, Australians have become increasingly aware of the way in which their youth has been sacrificed in other people's wars. We saw a moving exhibition at the ANZAC war memorial in Sydney which brought this home. It was reminiscent of war memorials in the Soviet Union.

Australians were at Khartoum with Kitchener in the 1880's; in the Boer war in South Africa and in the expedition to put down the Boxer rebellion in China and ensure the profitable opium trade (1901-2)

They were sacrificed at Galipoli and on the Somme in World War I and were involved on many fronts in World War II. They fought with the Americans in Korea; were involved in Malaysia (1948-60) and in Indonesia (1963-64). Finally 50,000 Australians were sent to Vietnam. Now they have had enough. For details of Australia's overseas wars and much besides I strongly recommend John Pilger's 'A Silent Country' recently published by Penguin.

Jos Wood.

Because of the outbreak of open hostilities in the Gulf war and the extra work that entailed for CND Headquarters at Holloway Rd, the General Secretary called a full Council meeting for Sunday 27th January instead of the usual two days.

Most of the business was tabled in order to discuss the up-to-date situation in the Middle East.

The only other item given space for discussion was the proposed demonstration 1st April 1991, Barrow in Furness prior to the launch of the first Trident submarine.

CND is calling for as many groups as possible to attend, or send a few delegates if resources are thin on the ground, perhaps because of other local actions.

Trident remains a priority campaign area for CND - second only to the Gulf war.

Details for the Barrow action are given elsewhere in this edition.

Given that this was the first Council meeting of the year it was decided that all other business would have to be deferred to a full week-end as soon as possible.

Three weeks later, between demonstrations, Council assembled again, this time at TGWU on Gower Street.

Events in the Gulf had gone from bad to worse, as I am sure we all appreciate and, after the political discussion it was decided to adopt a policy calling for an immediate ceasefire, to enter open negotiations with all interested parties via a Middle East Peace Conference, to be initiated by the United Nations and to include a majority of Arab representatives; to seek a just peace, provided Iraq agreed to withdraw from Kuwait in compliance with resolution 660 of the United Nations. There was an air of optimism - we had just heard of the Iraq/Soviet peace initiative, the nearest solution since the debacle began on January 15th.

(Subsequent events have dated this resolution - we are now back to square one - but worse!) Heave only knows what is happening now.

Sanity is to go. The monthly paper will cease publication after the next issue (March 1991). It has to be this way, sales over the last 12 months have plummeted, to continue publication would have cost the Campaign £40,000 per year. Frank Parker, Treasurer, reported that in the short term this could cost CND a bankruptcy. All is not gloom and doom, in the longer term - 3 years hence the campaign will be financially sound, despite the recession we all face. The trick, he explained, is to avoid bankruptcy in the mean time. Sanity will be replaced by a more readable quarterly members magazine with some of the best features from Sanity transferred to it. Campaign will become a monthly publication mailed to all affiliated groups. Sanity subscribers who are in credit will receive a rebate. Sadly this is cheaper than continuing the publication. Sanity did not go easily, the arguments for both views were strongly voiced. But reason won the vote. The title will be held over until finances allow it to reappear.

Student CND was granted 'specialist section' status in line with Youth CND, ExServices CND, Christian CND, Trade Union CND. Reports from these sections all included much action around the Gulf war.

Sea Action (Portsmouth) was holding a demonstration on Saturday as yet another aircraft carrier set sail for the Gulf. They (Sea Action) managed to delay the departure for a number of hours using small open dinghies and much land based support.

Committees to see through Conference resolutions were formed. I attended that which is to oppose Trident, Disarm the Seas, Sea Launched Cruise missiles, Nuclear Transport, Low Flying and to support the Christian CND's ploughshares actions.

The irresponsible Arms Trading deals were identified as having a real bearing on, particularly, the Middle East situation and Council was appalled to hear that there is to be an Arms Trade Fair at

Arms Trade Fair at/

Birmingham's N.E.C. from May 14 - 16. West Midlands regional CND is planning a demonstration for the dates ie Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. They also ask for letters from other regions condemning the decision, by Birmingham Council, to repeat last years event. I have information about the campaign, anyone wishing to pursue this can contact me via CND office.

See you April Fools day - a Barrow (why not spend Easter in the Lakes?)

Rod Langford.

Regional CND Rally

On Saturday, March 16th there will be a 'Stop the War' event at Leicester. It is hoped to make this a regional event, with as many peace banners as possible to lead the march.

The speakers at the rally will be Jeremy Corbyn M.P. Mel Read M.E.P. Bishop of Dudley, Terri Marsland M.S.F. a Green Party speaker, Helen Johns (formerly from Greenham) and Paul Oestricher is invited.

This is within easy reach, so if you are interested in attending please contact the office regarding transport. If you think of going by private car and have seats to spare, please also contact the office.

200 Club

200 Club winners:

January 1991.

£50	Fran Rhoden	64
£10	Geoff Young	26
£5	Mike Southgate	168

February 1991.

£50	R. Harvey	93
£10	Bobbie Prime	46
£5	Jo Lawson	21

Alas and Alack, this is no longer a 200 club, but a mere 90 club.

It has been suggested that some of you may not be aware of the existence of this club - or its reason for being.

The club has been in existence for a few years but membership for one reason or another is dropping off. Basically the reasoning is that members may donate one pound (£1:00) a calendar month into our funds, but instead of this being a straight donation, for the pound the member is donated a number and each month at the officers meeting the numbers held by members are drawn out of a bag and three persons each month will have a stroke of luck to the amounts of £50 (fifty pounds) £10 ten pounds) and £5 (five pounds)

Simple isn't it? club membership is not confined to C.N.D. members and each person or groups may hold any number of shares.

Each month

With 200 members we would collect £200 out of which £65:00 would go into prize money, 55 pence in postage and £10 in bank commission, leaving £124;45 towards our campaigning. This multiplied by twelve (minus the City Licence) would pay our rent/cover our Community charge/ subsidize campaign efforts and hire of coaches. Subsidizing coach travel would allow more members to attend rallies and demonstrations in London, Barrow and wherever.

Alas and Alackas stated the 200 club membership is below 100 and the £66 in monthly prize money is no longer a viable proposition. The choice is to reduce the prize money or increase the club membership and the choice is yours. Why not join? you can make a donation and chance winning a prize.

The easiest way of making the donation is through bankers order .. form herewith:

Name

address ;;

Account name and number

Please pay on receipt of this order the sum of and on the same day monthly thereafter to the Co-operative Bank, Nottingham Branch, to the credit of N.C.N.D. a/c 50138809.

signed..... date

please return the form to NCND, 33, Castle Gate, Nottingham NG1 7AR.

instead of Bankers Order you can send a cheque - monthly, quarterly or yearly payable to NCND, at 33, Castlegate, Nottingham NG1 7AR.

or call into the office with the money.

Disarm the Seas

TURN FROM TRIDENT.

BUILD A FUTURE.

Easter Monday: April 1st.

This year's Spring campaign begins with a march and rally in Barrow - In - Furness where Vickers Shipbuilding will shortly launch HMS Vanguard, the first British Trident.

We assemble at 12 noon outside the VSEL gates in sombre character. People are asked to wear black for the first section of the march, which sets off at 1:00p.m. headed by a coffin. On reaching the Trident launch area, the march will pause to drop a cascade of flowers into the waters of the dock. This will be followed by a two minute silence during which we will turn our back on Trident. As the silence ends, individuals are invited to drop their personal symbols of flowers into the waters. The symbolism of these acts is intended to highlight our revulsion at what Trident represents.

Having symbolically turned from Trident, we will exchange black streamers for rainbow ones, put away our black arm bands and garments in favour of bright coloured scarves and turn our thoughts to building a positive future.

At 2:15p.m. the march will reach Barrow public park where Bruce Kent will unveil Barrow CND's peace mosaic made from hundreds of peace pebbles sent from all over the world. The event will culminate with a rally addressed by Marjoria Thompson, Helen Stevens, (who has witnessed a Trident launch in the U.S.A.) Rebecca Johnson, a local speaker and a Trades Union representative. Singer/comedian Kevin Seisey will appear between speeches to keep everyone entertained.

Thinking of going away at Easter? Why not holiday in the Lake District and amble down to Barrow for Easter Monday?

Nottingham C.N.D. arrangements have not yet been finalized - we are negotiating transport.

Contact the office 588586 or call in 33, Castle Gate for further information.

STOP PRESS

As we go to press, events in the Gulf are changing hourly.
As far as we know these advertised events will take place.

MARCH 2nd.

National Rally in London

MARCH 16th.

Regional CND Rally in Leicester.

APRIL 1st.

**Stop Trident CND demo,
at Barrow in Furness**

MAY 14 to 16th.

Demo. at Arms Trade Fair.

Birmingham N.E.C.

Published by Nottingham CND. 33, Castle Gate, Nottingham. Tel: 

Cover by Jeremy Jago.