

# FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1983



DIRECT ACTION, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, OCTOBER 31ST

PIC: MARK SALMON

### CRUISE MISSILES ARE BEING BROUGHT INTO BRITAIN

THE BRITISH PEOPLE DO NOT WANT IT  
87% BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE DUAL KEY CONTROL

THE ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA KILLED 140,000 INNOCENT PEOPLE  
EACH CRUISE MISSILE IS 15 TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN THAT BOMB.

EISENHOWER ONCE SAID: " I THINK PEOPLE WANT PEACE SO MUCH THAT  
ONE OF THESE DAYS GOVERNMENTS HAD  
BETTER GET OUT OF THEIR WAY AND LET  
THEM HAVE IT. "

## THAT TIME HAS COME !



## FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP : EVENTS.

### PUBLIC MEETING : OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>: CARLTON HOTEL

Over 45 people attended the meeting, a superb response that demonstrated at a local level the concern felt as the government prepare to bring Cruise into this country, just as the CND rally in London the previous Saturday - perhaps the largest protest action ever in Britain - had confirmed that concern nationally. Discussion centred on the future direction of the peace movement. Speakers included Ross Bradshaw, who stressed the need for concentrating on local activities: Gill Bowery of Women for Peace, who outlined the philosophy and some of the actions of her group: and Frank Shiels, one of 7 Nottingham people facing the possibility of imprisonment following their arrest at a protest action at Upper Heyford base, and consequent refusal to pay the fines later imposed. Support for the 7 was strong, and FFPG would participate in the demonstration organised for November 4<sup>th</sup>, when the first of the 7 would appear again in court. Many suggestions for future action were discussed, and a FFPG Action committee formed (see below). The meeting reflected the clear determination of the peace group to participate fully in the growing movement against Cruise, and that the will to do this was stronger than ever.

### ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING : NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

Details of the November 4<sup>th</sup> demonstration in support of the Upper Heyford 7 were discussed, and it was agreed that FFPG would continue to support further actions as they developed. Details of the Women for Peace action at Chelveston on November 9<sup>th</sup> were also discussed. Chelveston is one of the 102 American bases in Britain, and the action was in support of the Greenham Common Women's protest. FFPG members would hopefully be involved (for further details, contact Cathy 788655 or Jean 702070). FFPG action was agreed upon, and members of the committee would explore other actions suggested during the public meeting. The committee would meet again on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

### WOMEN FOR PEACE : CHELVESTON : NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

A group of women GREENHAM WOMEN AGAINST CRUISE are filing a court case in New York on November 9<sup>th</sup>. By proving that Cruise missiles break constitutional and international law, they are asking for an injunction restraining the American Government from deploying these missiles. On that day there will be 102 peace camps outside each base/facility to show support for the case, representing the majority of the British who oppose Cruise missiles in UK. The women for peace action at Chelveston is part of that support. The more women there the better. If you cannot be there, why not offer financial support - the case will be costly. Donations to : WOMEN AGAINST CRUISE, 344 S. LAMBETH ROAD, LONDON, SW8.

### UPPER HEYFORD 7 : DEMONSTRATION : GUILDHALL : NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

Action is likely to continue, as there are 6 more people to be taken back to court. Prison sentences are likely. In this situation, support is essential. For further details, contact Mark Salmon (626298) : LATE NEWS: - PATRICK GRAY, FIRST OF THE UPPER HEYFORD 7, RECEIVED A 7 DAY PRISON SENTENCE ON NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>.

### REGIONAL ACTIONS : DECEMBER

Many actions are planned throughout the region in December. Already we have information of actions in Derby, Leicester and Chesterfield. For further details contact Les Parsons (702070). A full list of actions would be available for discussion at the next FFPG meeting.

### FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP - NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 8.0pm, at 96 BURFORD ROAD.



# THE PEACE MOVEMENT: OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> AND ONWARDS

On October 22nd, the CND Peace Rally in Hyde Park became one of the biggest mass protests in British history.

It showed in the most powerful way that the determination of the peace movement was as strong as ever: that despite an unprecedented government and media smear campaign against it, the movement was not going to lay down and die until this country is rid of all weapons of mass destruction.

And yet the media response was to play down the event and its significance. And in the House of Lords the following Monday, William Whitelaw said:

"Last Saturday's CND demonstrations were attended by groups which were not widely representative of the British people."

For anybody involved it was obvious that the demonstration could hardly have been more representative: the old, the young, Christians, socialists, liberals, even Tories. Perhaps no other demonstration has contained such a cross section of British people gathered together, united passionately in a desire for peace, a rejection of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, and a determination to stop their country being a client state of the superpower USA, a floating nuclear battleship to be blasted into oblivion in the event of a nuclear confrontation between the superpowers, Russia and America.

## WHITELAW COULD NOT ADMIT THE TRUTH

His government colleagues cannot face the truth. His defence secretary, Michael Heseltine is frightened to even publicly debate the nuclear arms issues with CND leaders. His government's defence of its nuclear policies is based on lies, on a concerted effort to deceive the British people:-

THEY HAVE CLAIMED THEY SUPPORT MULTILATERAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT,  
YET BRINGING IN CRUISE MISSILES & COMMITTING THIS COUNTRY TO THE TRIDENT PROGRAMME IS A MAJOR ESCALATION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, WHERE BOTH EAST AND WEST ALREADY HAVE SUFFICIENT NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO DESTROY THE WORLD MANY TIMES OVER.

THEY CLAIMED THIS COUNTRY HAD AN EFFECTIVE CIVIL DEFENCE PROGRAMME —  
BUT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT OVER HALF THE POPULATION WOULD BE KILLED IN A NUCLEAR WAR, AND THAT MEDICAL FACILITIES TO COPE WITH IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.

THEY HAVE CLAIMED THAT BRITAIN WILL HAVE EQUAL CONTROL OF CRUISE WITH USA.  
— YET THERE IS NO DUAL-KEY CONTROL, IT IS AN AMERICAN WEAPON, & DECISIONS AS TO ITS USE WILL BE MADE BY THE US PRESIDENT.

The politicians say their hopes are pinned on agreements being reached in Geneva, yet those talks are getting nowhere. As one British journalist has written; "Almost the only point of agreement between the Reagan administration and the Kremlin at a dangerous time of East-West tension is that there has been a breakdown in communication between the Superpowers. They have lost their ability for serious discussion, let alone for crisis management."

Were they ever serious? As reported in the Observer on Sunday 16th October, secret US documents show that cruise missiles are not a response to the Russian SS20 and America always intended to press ahead with the development of these new war-fighting weapons regardless.

The invasion of Grenada reveals just how much America is prepared to listen to Britain when it feels its own interests are threatened. And, as Cruise arrives, what is the Government's response to more and more evidence that the British people do not want Cruise, do not want American missiles and American bases. It is to announce that unarmed women, protesting for peace, may be shot in order to defend American nuclear weapons that could destroy the lives of innocent millions.

WE DO NOT WANT THESE HIDEOUS WEAPONS. WE HAVE SEEN WHAT JUST A HANDFUL OF BRAVE WOMEN CAN DO, AT GREENHAM. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO — IT IS OUR WORLD AND OUR FUTURE



## NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

The peace movement is recognising the need to act as powerfully as possible in the light of nuclear arms escalation, the belligerence of our government, and the fact that, before our eyes, Britain is being turned into a potential nuclear battlefield.

CND itself is supporting and organising NVDA - that is, Non-Violent Direct Action, designed to draw attention to the terrifying nuclear situation, and disrupt the activities of those creating and perpetuating it. In defending actions that might be deemed illegal, such as some occurring at Greenham Common, Joan Ruddock, CND Chairperson has suggested an analogy with the construction of the concentration camps in Nazi Germany - the Greenham Common women protest the deployment of weapons that, if used, could kill as many innocent civilians in minutes as the Nazis destroyed in years.

There is no competition here. Those involved in the peace movement are all on the same side. All action and support is vital. Some will feel able to be involved in Direct Action, others will not.

It is clear that those who risk arrest, fines, and imprisonment, such as the women of Greenham Common, or the local people involved in the Upper Heyford protest, are suffering these things on our behalf, in pursuit of a peaceful world, rid of the threat of a nuclear holocaust. They need and deserve our support, in every way possible. One of the Greenham Common women spoke at CND rally on October 22nd. She suggested that the peace movement could continue to grow, and win, if everybody involved did at least one thing, however small, in pursuit of peace every day. In the winter of Cruise that is perhaps something for all of us to aim at.

### CND ACTION: TRAFALGAR SQUARE: OCTOBER 31ST

At least 9 people from Nottingham, including some members of the Forest Fields Peace Group, were involved in the CND-organised protest action in London on October 31st. It provided a model of dual action. A lobby of MPs was organised at the House of Commons. This was peaceful and legal. A vigil was organised in Trafalgar Square. This was illegal. People could be involved in or other or both. The Trafalgar Square action was an example of the nature and effectiveness of Direct Action :-

"The vigil had apparently been arranged at short notice. At 5.30pm I stood with a few people in a virtually deserted Trafalgar Square. An hour later, the Square was packed, and onlookers could see a field of torches, hear singing and chanting. With no announcements, no speeches, at 8.0pm the group, now thousands strong, left the Square, heading down Whitehall, towards Downing Street and Parliament. We were met by a police barricade. Everybody sat down in Whitehall, facing the barricade. For 2 hours there was music, singing and chanting. In my experience, becoming somehow sadly resigned to Cruise and other nuclear weapons is a danger for all of us involved in the peace movement. I think that, for anyone involved in this demonstration, HOPE was around, alive. I did not feel defeated. A few hours earlier I had stood in the House of Commons, vainly trying to lobby my MP. In that cold institution I felt flat, helpless. The contrast was strong, immediate. Because of the spillback and the police barricade, the action developed in Trafalgar Square and part of the group succeeded in blocking off Trafalgar Square and roads leading to it. In just a couple of hours the action of a few thousand people had effected the centre of a city. The whole action was peaceful & CND leadership, including Joan Ruddock and Bruce Kent were directly involved, sitting in Whitehall, facing the barricades. For me, it was direct and powerful action, a rich expression of protest at Cruise missiles, and other weapons of mass destruction. It could be argued that the action effected those not directly involved - yet surely all people are involved in the threat of nuclear holocaust."

— LES PARSONS.



## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND CRUISE MISSILES

On October 31st, The Commons passed a motion reaffirming that, in the absence of an agreement on the zero option at the Geneva negotiations, Cruise missiles must be operationally deployed in the United Kingdom by the end of 1983. In an arid, poorly attended debate, a decision was made that increases the threat to us all. Were the real arguments against the motion debated? Why not present them in a letter to your MP, and ask for his response to them?

The Rt. Hon Michael Knowles MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

If that seems futile, there must be somebody you know who would support the Commons decision - why not present the arguments against to them? Or offer them to somebody opposed to Cruise but in difficulty finding arguments in support. Five key points could be made :-

### THE NATO DECISION TO DEPLOY CRUISE REQUIRED NEGOTIATION IN GOOD FAITH. THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED.

The 1979 decision called for immediate talks. In fact talks did not begin for 2 years - largely because of the failure of Congress to ratify SALT 2 and the initial reluctance of President Reagan to negotiate at all.

Genuine implementation of the 'twin-track' decision would require a further 2 years of talks and postponement of deployment in the meantime.

No-one in the West ever thought that the USSR would accept the 'zero option'. The US has failed to modify its position sufficiently to make an agreement possible - eg. by agreeing to count British and French nuclear forces.

### CRUISE AND PERSHING II ARE NOT A RESPONSE TO SS.20's BUT A UNILATERAL ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE

This is now quite clear from the secret NATO papers published in the Observer on October 16th.

Both Cruise and Pershing 11 are far more accurate than SS20s and, together, they could be used as part of a disarming first strike. Since Pershing 11 can strike Moscow in 6 minutes it could force Russia to adopt a 'launch on warning' policy and escalate the risk of accidental nuclear war.

### CRUISE DEPLOYMENT WILL MAKE FUTURE ARMS LIMITATION OR DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS FAR MORE DIFFICULT

The small size and mobility of the Cruise missiles and their ability to carry nuclear, conventional or chemical warheads makes verification, and thus the conducting of future arms negotiations in good faith practically impossible.

### NEITHER PARLIAMENT, NOR THE PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER AN AMERICAN DECISION TO LAUNCH CRUISE MISSILES

There is no 'dual key': even if President Reagan favoured it, it would be illegal under the American constitution. Also the technology for such control is non-existent.

After Grenada, what price 'consultation'? And that was a decision that was days in the making, not the split-second decision that would be involved in a state of nuclear alert between the two superpowers.

### CRUISE MISSILES ARE ILLEGAL.

They are designed for use in wars which have not yet gone nuclear. The firing into the Warsaw Pact area - or into West Germany - of a bomb which is 15 times as powerful as the one which destroyed Hiroshima must be a war crime. Otherwise the Hague and Geneva Conventions and the Nuremberg judgement meant nothing.

This raises the most serious moral and legal questions for our servicemen who are asked to guard these missiles and for those willing to fire them.



# FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

OUR LOCAL PEACE GROUP IS GROWING. IN THE MONTHS AHEAD WE WILL BE STRONGLY INVOLVED IN LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES, AND IN WORKING WITH NOTTINGHAM C.N.D AND OTHER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS. WE WILL NEED THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF ALL THOSE DETERMINED NOT TO SIT BACK AND WATCH MORE AND MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PILE UP IN THIS COUNTRY.

THIS MONTH WE ARE TRYING TO INCREASE THE CIRCULATION OF OUR NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED AND WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE GROUP, OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US, OR JUST ARRANGE TO HAVE THE NEWSLETTER DELIVERED REGULARLY, CONTACT PADDY OR CATHY (TEL 

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## BEYOND A JOKE

COLD-WAR  
CARTOONS

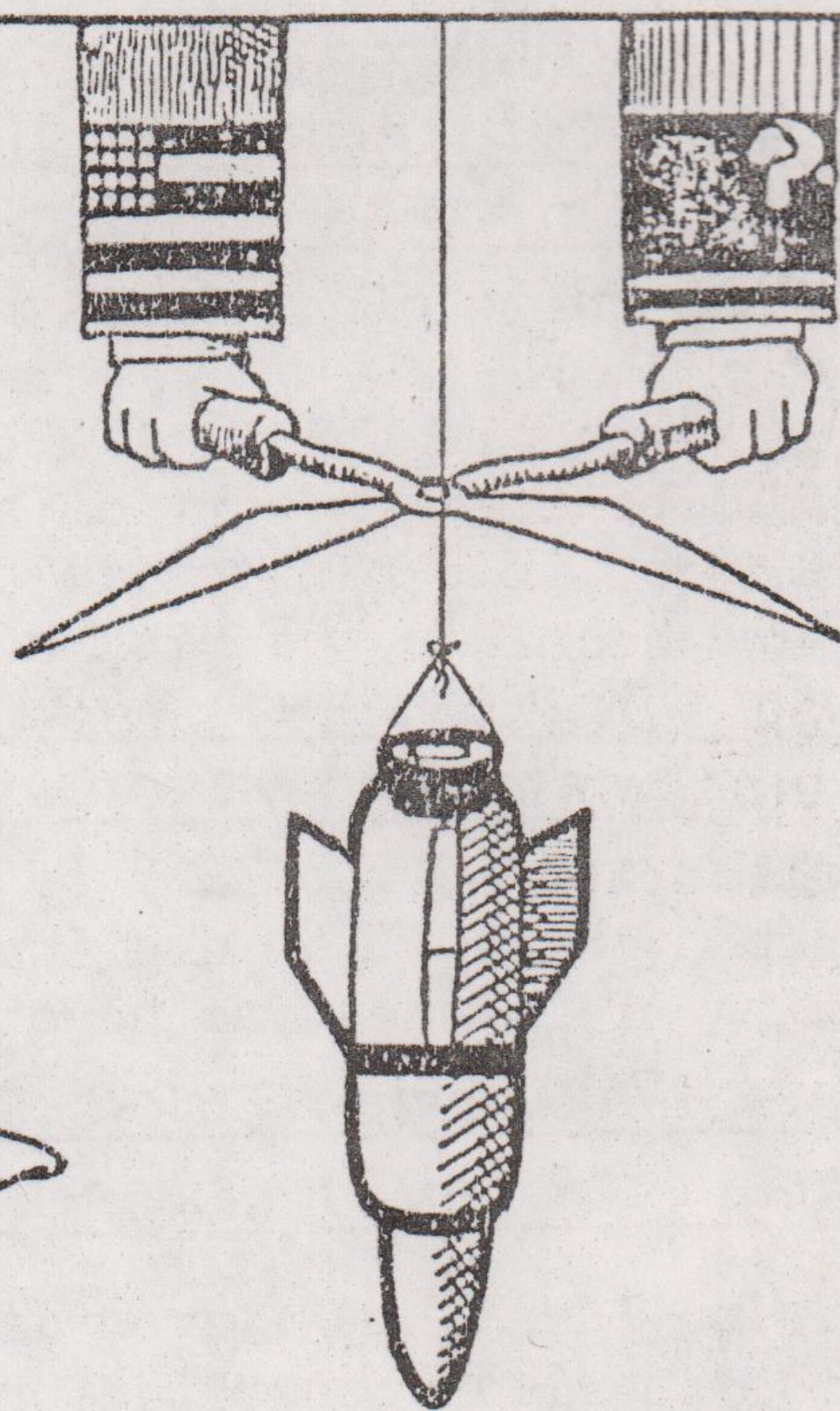
BY  
BRICK

"Everybody's going to make it if there are enough shovels to go round. Dig a hole, cover it with a couple of doors and then throw three feet of dirt on top. It's the dirt that does it."  
(a US Deputy Undersecretary of Defence)

Against this and other gems of advice, Brick, alias John Clark, has set his collection of 70 anti-nuclear cartoons. The result is an acute and funny commentary on the nuclear debate.

DRAWN BY A NOTTINGHAM CARTOONIST - PUBLISHED BY THE BERTRAND RUSSELL PEACE FOUNDATION  
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