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FOREST FIELDS
PEACE
GROUP

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MINERS

The miners have been on strike for 6 months³ Watching events it is all but impossible not to see the similarities between the strike and the peace movement's campaign.

Both the Miners and the peace movement have taken on a struggle with the government and the powers that be. Their response has been typical. First they have tried to ignore the issue, hoping that it will 'blow over'. When it does not attempts are made to discredit the opponants. Arthur Scargill is attacked just as were Bruce Kent and Joan Ruddock. The debate is focussed away from the real issues - the media concentrate on the nuisance of the Greenham Women and the violence on picket lines - no attempt is made to find out why the women are at Greenham, why there are picket lines.

Like the miners we are accused of being infiltrated by 'extremists', we are watched by the security services, we are arrested for protesting, tried by courts that refuse to listen to our arguments.

We may not be involved in the miners strike but it is obvious that we face the same enemy.

The police road blocks on the M1, the use of riot gear in pit villages reminds me of something written by a jewish victim of the Nazis:-

"First they came for the

And I did nothing because I was
not a"

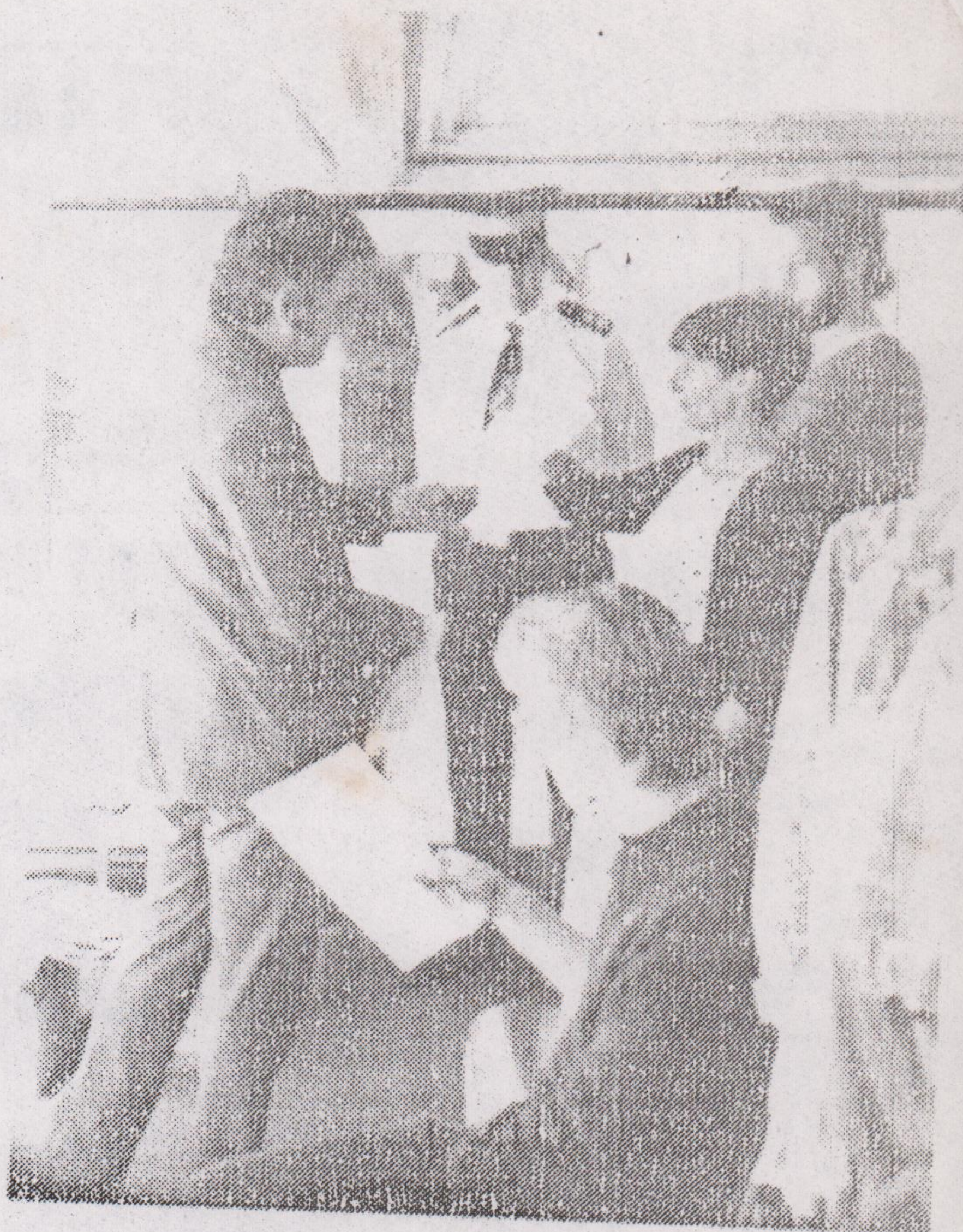
Finally they came for him and there was noone left to help.

Make no mistake, if the miners and the Trade Unionists are defeated, the peace movement will be one of the next groups to be attacked. A victory for the miners is a victory for us all.

Forest Fields Peace Group is making a weekly collection for the Notts Women's Miners Support Group which provides food for striking families. If you would like to contribute contact Dave c/o Paddy and Cathy

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CHILWELL 7



On 1st June seven peace protesters were caught on MoD property at Chilwell Army Depot. They were subsequently charged with 'being equipped with intent to commit criminal damage'.

After numerous court appearances the 7 have been summoned to appear at hearings where witnesses will be called for both the prosecution and the defence to give evidence.

4 of the 7 (Ann Wood, Kev Poole, Julian Hicks, Paul 'Oddsox' Davies) will appear at the Shire Hall Magistrates Court at 10am on Tuesday 25th Sept. to answer the charge. The other three (Jeremy Deacon, Jasper Singh, Colin Sutton) will appear at 10am on Thursday

27th September. The four will answer for being equipped, the three criminal damage.

The hearings are likely to take most of the day and support would be welcome in the public gallery. Bring banners, placards but most of all....yourselves.

STAND UP WOMEN, MAKE YOUR CHOICE !

Soon it will be the 3rd anniversary of the 'women's resistance camp' at USAF Greenham Common. How did Greenham come about? The idea of a women's peace camp was not planned but came about after the events of the 'Women for Life on Earth' march from Cardiff on 27th August 1981. Spontaneity, creativity and resilience are vital at Greenham in order to confront the continuous attacks and evictions women face. Greenham is revolutionary because it links feminism and war, the roots of which lie with 'male values'. Peace and feminism are separable and Greenham means far more than protesting about Cruise missiles. Peace is a condition, about the way we control our lives and assert our values.

Women at Greenham hold on to their optimism and live life, love life, are hopeful living for now and the future, learning through one another to remove barriers which divide us and cause conflict. We resist and undermine Authority and gain a sense of ourselves in shaping our destiny by our collective strength and our individual autonomy. From the very beginning Greenham's philosophy has always included co-operation and ~~non-violence~~ leaderless groups of women. We want our liberty to live in peace, to reclaim the land which Newbury Corporation originally bought back in 1938 for the use of the people, only now to be leased to the Americans and is now the 1st base to site Cruise missiles in the UK. As women we need to reclaim our her-story and strength, we need to reclaim the land which is ours. Peace has to be revolutionary. Change cannot come about by reforms, let's not kid ourselves.

We are pro-women not anti-men as often accused by the media and those even in the peace movement who fail to make the connections that the military, (as are most other institutions,) are run by men. Should we not ask ourselves, why it is always men? Not why women at Greenham?

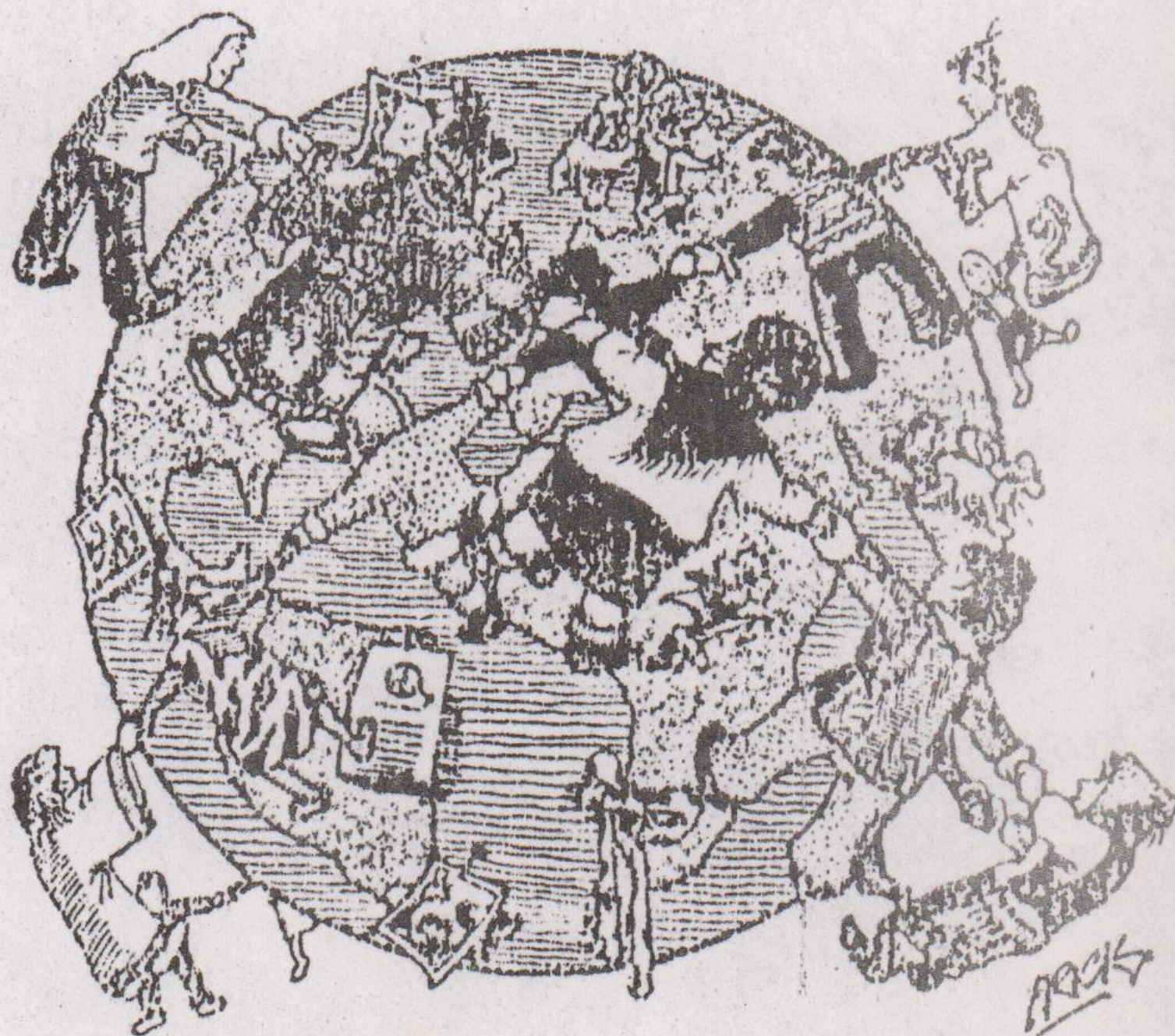
Non-violence and feminism are philosophies of life to be acted upon, not used as tactics. As women we need to challenge such things as 'authority relationships', the subordination of women consumed solely as commodities, and suppression of women's abilities. Greenham is far more than a protest about nuclear weapons. It is ever-changing and women allow for that fluidity as we all must in order to stop this madness on earth we are all facing. We simply can't have peace in a world where inequalities exist - each one of us has a responsibility to ourselves and to the future. We can make that change possible. And our women power is central to the task and aims of the struggle we face in creating a harmonious peaceful world.

During September 20th to 30th, the biggest NATO exercise since the war will be taking place in West Germany. 57 000 TA volunteers from Great Britain will be given leave from jobs and army pay to attend. Women at Greenham ask for women to unite in their protest during this time. Actions locally are also taking place and for those who can't make it for the whole of this time there will be a 'coach excursion' on Sunday 23rd September leaving Salutation Inn at 8am and returning to Nottingham by 10.00pm.

Tickets will be available from Mushroom and Ouroboros.

It goes on and on.

Kathleen O'Driscoll, a member of the Forest Fields Peace Group appeared at the Guildhall on Friday 17th August for non-payment of costs of £40 from the action at RAF Cottesmore last February. She was sentenced to 5 days detention at Risley Woman's Prison after she made it clear she had no intention of paying the costs. She was supported all the way to the cells by friends from the FFPG. The Peace Group would like to thank all those who turned up.



The love and life of our only Earth
 Is being buried beneath grey concrete
 Inside the minds of the military thinkers
 Their insensitivity is so complete
 They're building bombs and weapons stores
 To defend their interests whatever the cost
 They're planning another Hiroshima
 But their ugly lives won't be lost
 They tell us we've democratic freedom
 But we've been offered no choice
 Their morality of war is forced upon us
 They'd stifle any human voice
 The men in grey would kill us all
 Without a single care
 They'd turn our possibilities into ash
 Floating dead upon the choked air.

But human beings are claiming back
 The right to live as theirs
 Caring women children and men
 Are rejecting the shadows of fear
 Without the use of guns and bombs
 We will claim back what is ours
 With the strength of unity as our weapon
 We'll undermine their powers.

Occupy the missile bases
 Subvert against their laws
 Smash their weapons with bare hands
 Refuse to allow this threat of war

Autumn Poison.

Sarah was released from the Open Prison on July 23rd. There was some publicity and more about the Official Secrets Act. In the Guardian on 25th July there was a report about the campaign to reform the Act in which Alf Dubs disclosed that he had received a letter from Sir Michael Havers the Attorney General (who ordered that Sarah should be tried for breaking the O.S. Act in the 'public interest'). In the letter Michael Havers said that it is himself who decides what constitutes the public interest and his decision is partly determined by 'public policy'. Thus he indicates the inevitable conflict between public interest and the govt's political interest.

That letter from Michael Havers was his reply to our petition sent to him by Alf Dubs!

On the afternoon of Hiroshima Day (Monday 6th August) about 10 FFPG members leafletted in Hyson Green. At about 4.30pm they set off on a silent march to St Peter's Gate via Gregory Boulevard and Mansfield Road. Although it was not a very big march, in terms of participants, it was quite impressive. Everyone wore black and walked in silence to the sound of a drum beat. A full-sized black mock coffin was carried, the march was led by two members carrying a white CND logo wreath and a "Hiroshima Never Again" placard. The marchers walked mainly in the road and conveyed their message to a large number of people leaving town in the rush hour.

FFPG ran the CND stall on the morning of Nagasaki Day (Thursday 9th August). Two members stayed at the stall and collected signatures in the Remembrance Book, while three others leafletted and spoke to passers-by about the significance of the remembrance in the light of the current nuclear arms escalation.

These were just two of the many actions which took place worldwide to mark the 39th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



About two years ago someone asked me why I didn't get involved in CND. 'Go on, you'll enjoy it; it's really good fun!' I was quite shocked; I had always thought of CND as a very serious concern, and not really anything to do with having 'fun'. Apart from a couple of day trips to Greenham Common I didn't get very involved, and suppressed my feelings of guilt every time a NCND newsletter appeared through the letter-box and I realised that I still hadn't got round to reading last month's.

A year ago I moved to Forest Fields, and despite Cathy and Paddy's stoic delivery of the monthly bulletin (come hail, snow, rain or shine) I still only managed a passing involvement in events, and still had the pangs of guilt. It wasn't that I didn't believe in the aims of CND, but I still thought it all rather serious and I tried to pacify my conscience on the grounds of not having 'enough time' to get more involved.

I work at County Hall, and in May discovered that some NAIGO shop stewards had started a Workplace Peace Group. I went to a screening of the film 'The Peace Game' one lunchtime and found that suddenly I had become more involved as I went to lunchtime meetings, the Anti-Reagan demo, an NVDA workshop, Reclaim Chilwell, and even FFPG meetings! What surprised me most was realising that I was enjoying it a ll. Certainly CND is a serious issue, but being involved can be very fulfilling, especially if you're part of a supportive group, and it is 'good fun'! No-one expected me to devote all my free time to either of the Peace Groups, but I have found that I actually want to spend more time doing Peace Group 'things', and I still have time to go out, see people, and even, watch Coronation Street! FFPG has a lot of members, some of them not so active. If you're one of these why don't you come along to one of the twice monthly meetings and find out what's happening? There will always be something to

do with which you can help, and it won't take up hours of your time unless you want it to. It can be very educational too; Carmel, our next-door neighbour and another 'new recruit', has become an adept hand at screen-printing after her help with making the Reclaim Chilwell banner; as for me, would you believe that I've spent the afternoon making a cardboard coffin! I'm not sure that coffin-making will come in very handy in the future but it's just occurred to me that I must have been right all along - CND certainly is a 'grave' concern! (I wonder if they'll edit out that last sentence ?)

Helen Cooper 4/8/84

Forest Fields Direct Action Affinity Group

Since 'Reclaim Chilwell' the group has met several times and many members have talked about the Chilwell action where Forest Fields went down as a group but broke up when we realised it was going to be harder to get in than we thought. The general feeling was that a closer group would be more 'efficient' at actions. A more

'together' group would know how far it's members were prepared to go, who would be more comfortable doing what. In the few meetings so far, the group feels closer and more confident than it has for a while.

Nottingham Direct Action Committee.

Resulting from the 'Reclaim Chilwell' post mortem, a meeting was held on Sunday 12th August to discuss 'The Way Forward'. A new group was set up called the 'Direct Action Committee' which would connect the various affinity groups throughout Nottingham. The 'DAC' is an autonomous group working within CND and it would enable an overall strategy for NVDA in Nottingham to be developed with also specialised areas of NVDA such as training and finance. The meetings would hopefully be attended by one or two members from each group in Nottingham but for the moment that isn't possible. The next meetings are :- Tuesday 4th September
Sunday 23rd September.

Both meetings are at the NCND office.

SEPTEMBER

Monday 3rd Street Reps Meeting FFNC 7.30.

Saturday 8th NCND Stall being run by FFPG at St Peter's Gate

Sunday 9th NVDA Workshop . FFNC 10.30am.

Wens 12th FFPG meeting. FFNC 8.00.

Thurs 20 - sunday 30th inclusive 10,000,000 Women for 10 days at Greenham Peace Camp
For more info. contact Women for Peace.

Sunday 23rd Nottingham Direct Action Committee co-ordinating meeting NCND office 7.30.

Tues 25th and thurs 27th Chilwell 7 in court , 10.00 onwards at Shire Hall.

Thurs 27th FFPG meeting FFNC 8.00.

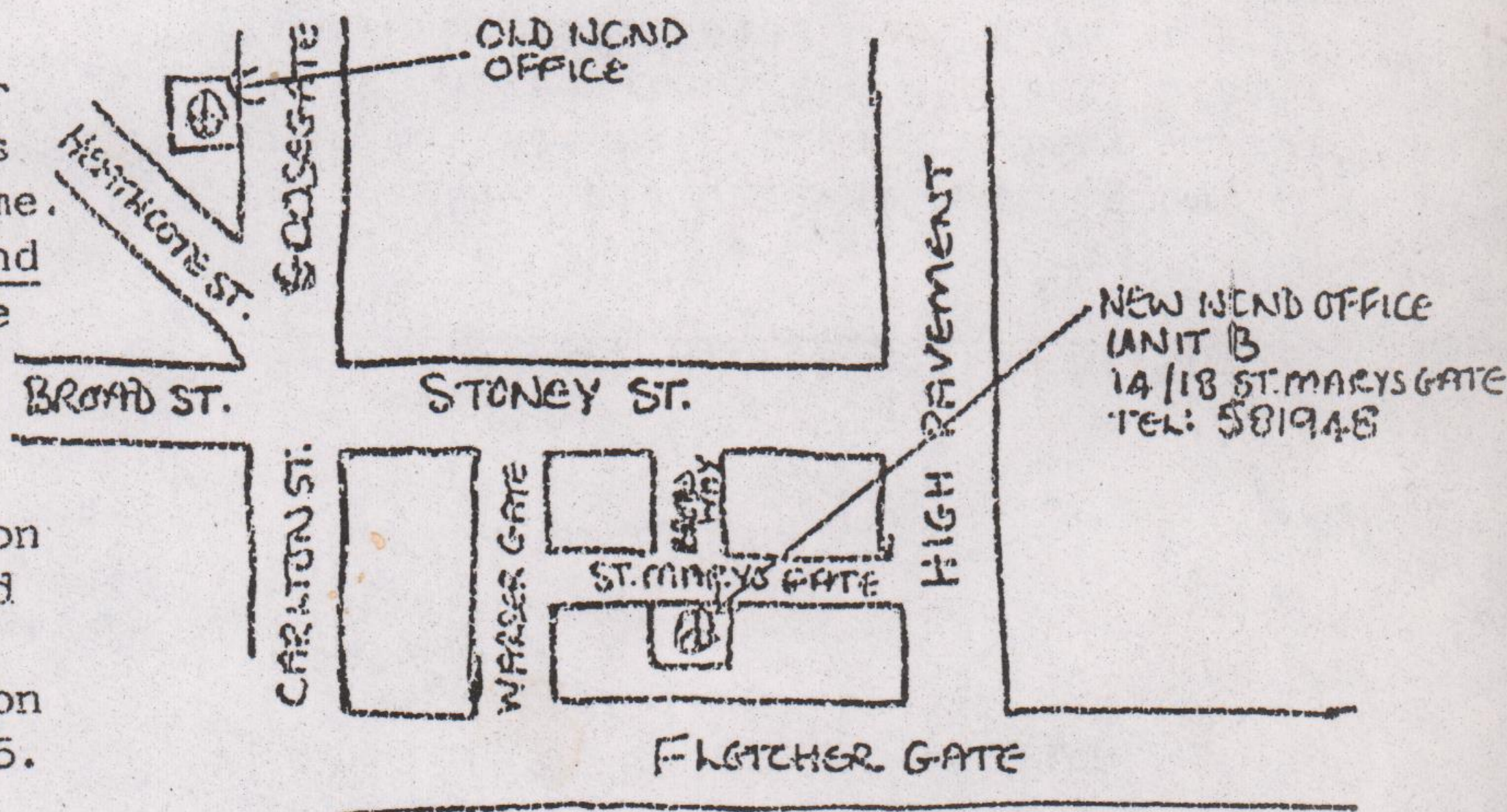
Thurs 27th Stop the City in London.

Design and layout course for newsletters etc to be held at the Arts and Crafts Centre, Gregory Boulevard two/three evenings in the week beginning Monday 24th September. Dates to be finalised.

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Contributions in the form of letters or articles about the peace movement, arms race or relevant issues are most welcome. Membership of FFPG is only £1 yearly and you receive this newsletter (or one like it) every time it comes out - generally monthly.

If you would like to make a contribution or join or make a donation or just find out more about FFPG, please contact us at the Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road, or Phone Paddy or Cathy on 788655.



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