

VOLUME 4
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FOREST
FIELDS
PEACE
GROUP

APRIL '85

5p

'CIVIL DEFENCE' What's it really for?

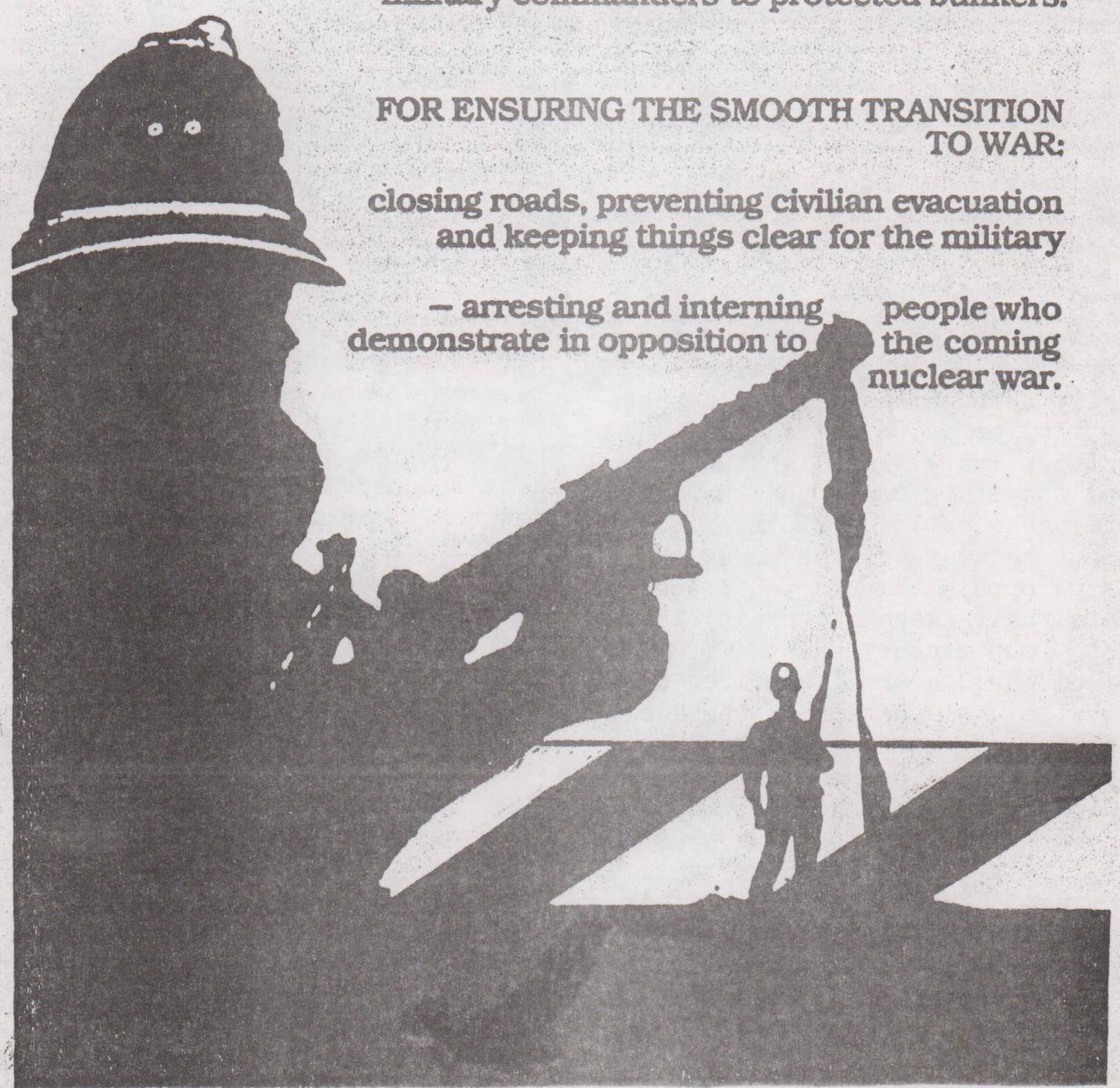
FOR PRESERVING GOVERNMENT IN TIMES OF CRISIS:

· moving Government Ministers, officials and military commanders to protected bunkers.

FOR ENSURING THE SMOOTH TRANSITION TO WAR:

closing roads, preventing civilian evacuation and keeping things clear for the military

— arresting and interning people who demonstrate in opposition to the coming nuclear war.



RECLAIMING MOLESWORTH

Some pieces of metal fence are alive and well, and now living with Ronald Reagan and Michael Heseltine. For a while they lived around USAF Molesworth but, looking back, I cannot imagine a better way of passing a chilly, foggy night in Cambridge-shire than helping them away from where they were never wanted, and back to where they really belong.

And where the rest of that fence belongs - erected by Heseltine to signal the Government's intention to continue pursuing American foreign policy by turning Molesworth into the second US Cruise missile base, against the wishes of the British people. Since then, heavy 'MOD' policing, new bye-laws making trespass on the base a criminal offence, and crude extension of police powers to prevent free movement through the Molesworth area, confirm the Government's determination to stamp out protest and resistance.

Yet the past weeks have also shown that such heavy-handed measures will not succeed. Protest continues vigorously, knowing that every acre behind every metre of razor wire fence at Molesworth is our land, and our land to defend and reclaim, in the name of peace. Already many groups have defied the fencing and entered the base, actions signalling back to the Government that shows of force and threats of punishment will not deter the peace movement.

And so it felt very good to be approaching the floodlit perimeter of the base before dawn on March 1st. Strange as well as we moved quietly through the dark, cold space of countryside, for as we neared the perimeter the silvery floodlight shining illuminated the steel fence and the razor wire, and it was a chilling, sinister sight. We cannot but be aware of the power of the forces we oppose through the peace movement, and their awesome capacity for destruction - our century has a 100 million people killed through armed conflict as proof of that, a whole nation of the dead. A death machine so vast and powerful, that can make us feel so tiny and fragile. It was as if the fence were saying ; " Go back home, black out your windows, close your eyes and pray." Yet I felt the strength of those with me, and knew again that my strongest fear was of what could happen if we all turned away

and hid. And, lying face down in a ditch, not daring to move as guards paced by just yards away, I imagined again my daughter being born, felt that joy, and recalled what clouded it, and was glad to be exactly where I was.

It was good to get up to the fence, to cut a hole through the razor wire, and then cut through the steel mesh of the inner fence, and help take a piece away. It felt good to succeed, with friends I trusted, in defiance of all the base now stood for. I enjoyed the dawn, believing all the more that if we act in hope and not despair, we can succeed at Molesworth.

So we sent the pieces of fence back to Reagan and Heseltine, and to each we enclosed the following message:-

" RETURN TO SENDER. PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED PART OF THE BRAND NEW £3 MILLION SECURITY FENCE AT U.S.A.F. MOLESWORTH. AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF BRITISH PEOPLE DO NOT WANT CRUISE MISSILES IN THIS COUNTRY. WE ARE THEREFORE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SECTIONS OF THIS FENCE, ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE, IN REGULAR INSTALMENTS OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS. HOWEVER YOU CAN IF YOU WISH END YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AT ANY TIME, SIMPLY BY CANCELLING THE CRUISE MISSILE PROGRAMME. "

No doubt security at Molesworth will increasingly reflect the lessons of Greenham Common, and the Government will continue to find new and more ruthless ways of keeping us away. They never succeeded with the women of Greenham, and already we can see they are failing at Molesworth.

If we remain determined in our pursuit of peace, and in our rejection of the politics of genocide, they will never succeed at Molesworth either.

So, let us all -

DEFEND MOLESWORTH !

A Nottingham Mole.

THE DISPUTE GOES ON

So the strike is over.....but the Coal Dispute goes on. The issue at the heart of the dispute, the closure of pits and the devastating effect this would have on whole communities and future generations, is unresolved and the battle goes on. The mining communities will continue the fight to defend their jobs, conditions, livelihood & dignity. They will fight the Government's wilful destruction of the coal industry & its increasing reliance on nuclear energy with the huge, catastrophic risks to the environment & its obvious connection with the production of nuclear weapons.

The 12 months of the strike have taught many lessons. They have shown the extent to which the Government is determined to smash organised democratic protest. They have shown how the press & media will be blatantly used to attempt to smear and discredit working class people who are protesting & defending their interests & livelihoods. They have shown how the police will be used to block civil liberties & how the law will be manipulated to "criminalise" political protest.

The lessons of the strike will be familiar to many members of the Peace Movement. In the same way that the Government has attacked the rights of people to defend their communities, so it has attacked the duty of protestors for peace to defend & protect the whole future of our civilisation, our environment, our Mother Earth & of course, our children. At the same time as the Government breaks over-riding laws & principles of humanity & morality, defenders of these principles are jailed for contravening laws which are used to suppress their protest.

The struggle of the mining communities & the struggle of the peace movement is the same. It is the fight against Governments & employers who treat the lives & welfare of ordinary women, men & children as dispensable commodities.

This fight must & will continue. The mining communities, the peace movement & all people who believe that the principle duty of society is to care for the lives and welfare of its members, will continue to fight the immoral policies of Governments which disregard ordinary people.

The strike is over but the dispute goes on. Many thanks to those who have supported the miners through the last bitter year. However families in the mining communities will need financial help for many months to come & our support must continue. It must continue because our struggle is the same.

"BOP 'TIL YA DROP"

On FRIDAY 3rd May
from 7.30pm to 11pm

At the ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE,
Vivian Avenue
(off Sherwood Rise)

TICKETS: £1.50 waged
50p unwaged

Disco Courtesy
SECOND SATURDAY SOUNDS

Contact; Paddy or Cathy on
or Les or Jean on

UNABLE TO PAY

On Friday 1st March I was given a 7 day prison sentence for the non-payment of £45 fines from the blockade at USAF Alconbury last August.

Up to now, five peace protestors from Nottingham have gone to prison for similar fines from the same action, three of those from FFPG, and more have yet to receive their dates.

Personally I found prison boring. As I was there for the weekend I wasn't allocated any work. So apart from 1-2 hours exercise, a leisurely walk around a yard, all I found to fill the time was to read books. Prisoners are allowed to take books in with them.

Despite having prepared myself for the short sentence supportive letters from friends were well needed and I would like to thank those who sent them.

Now I have been to prison for "reasons of conscience" for the first time I shall now continue to do so until my conscience permits otherwise.

Jasper Singh
(C97419)

PEACE WITH DEMOCRACY

New Zealand continues to refuse nuclear weapons AND American domination - it's defence policy prohibits visits by nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered vessels and, because the US refuses to specify which of it's vessels carry nuclear arms, New Zealand has rejected visits by any American warships. New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange has stated the case clearly: " We made a democratic decision. We decided that our security would be enhanced by not having nuclear weapons in and around our country. Our people determined that."

Significantly, Lange added: "We are being made to pay a price for our democratic decision." - Predictably, the US has attacked the decision, cancelling a naval manouvre under the Anzus mutual defence pact (which groups Australia, New Zealand and the United States), and insisting that the Anzus pact will be dissolved unless New Zealand changes it's mind.

However, Lange's administration remains determined to carry through the will of the New Zealand people, with a policy that is an essential step towards the goal of a "nuclear-free South Pacific," recently accepted as a vital aim by all independent countries in the area.

New Zealand's brave move is a victory for peace AND democracy, and shows the peace movement everywhere that it can alter the course of events, where people are prepared to act independently, out of a desire for real peace and a nuclear-free world. Reagan's administration (again supported by the British Government) may apply more pressure, but US reaction already suggests that it remains far more interested in persuing it's dangerous nuclear policies than in respecting the democratically expressed wishes of an independent country.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

The State's effort to crush protest at USAF Molesworth provides further evidence of the erosion of civil liberties occurring in this country. Cambridgeshire police intend to issue identity passes to local citizens, and to use police road blocks to prevent free movement through the Molesworth area. As 'The Guardian' noted: "The police are now deciding who shall have the freedom to get near the base, for whatever purposes." Three members of the local Police Committee have resigned over this, and one commented: "The Chief Constable has not consulted the Committee at all about these actions which far exceed his powers." Molesworth confirms that the police are now setting the rules and defying anyone to challenge them.

The Molesworth development is part of a pattern of events that increasingly threaten everybody's basic freedoms in Britain. In the last 18 months we have seen the attack on trade union rights at GCHQ; nationally co-ordinated policing of the miner's strike; the passing of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act that massively

increases police power; confirmation by an ex-employee that MI5 have been phone-tapping CND, and trade union activists; and, of course, the Government prosecution of Clive Ponting under the Official Secrets Act for - daring to tell the truth. It is easy to see why many people fear that Britain is becoming a police state.

When a moderate politician like Shirley Williams can write, commenting on the Ponting trial, that, "Only the jury's decisions stands between us and elective dictatorship", it must be time for all to act to ensure that this process of erosion of civil liberties is reversed. In the Ponting trial, the judge informed the jury that, 'the interests of the state' were identical with, 'the policies of the government in power.' Bravely, the jury rejected this but, without even a convention of human rights written into British Law, such a statement confirms that the writing is on the wall - for all of us. IF WE DO NOT ACT TO PROTECT OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES, WE WILL HAVE NONE TO PROTECT.

PREPARING FOR WAR ?

- THE GOVERNMENT IS

The NATO exercise "WINTEX 85" began on February 26th, and ran until March 13th. WINTEX is a paper exercise held every two years during which top civil servants and military commanders rehearse the transition to war.

The Government tells us that WINTEX and other civil defence measures will help us survive a nuclear attack - but we all know that there is little "civil defence" can do against nuclear devastation. Many scientists now believe that a nuclear war could threaten the survival of our species and even the planet itself.

There is no doubt that in a nuclear war millions of ordinary women, men and kids would be tortured and killed.

So what is "civil defence" for ? It is really about the preservation of government in a crisis and controlling the public so that the country can be moved to a war footing. During the build-up to war, the police and army will control the public as people (naturally) flee obvious target areas and (naturally) demonstrate in opposition to the coming nuclear war.

"Emergency" government will be declared to make sure the country is prepared for war, and unimpeded by anything we, the public, might do.

None of these "defence" measures are concerned with saving or protecting our lives. They are concerned only with saving and protecting the power of the Government and the power of the military.

"Civil defence" means that the Government would use drastic emergency powers, by a network of "Regional Emergency Committees", to carry out the following measures:

CONTROLLING MOVEMENT ON THE MAIN ROADS FROM OUR CITIES, PREVENTING CIVILIAN EVACUATION AND KEEPING THINGS CLEAR FOR THE MILITARY:

CUTTING OFF OUR PHONES, ISOLATING OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

ARRESTING AND INTERNING THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE MOVES TOWARDS WAR:

TAKING OVER STOCKS OF FOOD, PETROL AND DRUGS:

MOVING GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, OFFICIALS AND MILITARY COMMANDERS TO PROTECTED BUNKERS.

The "civil defence" exercises like "WINTEX 85" show that not only is the Government prepared to fight a nuclear war but also that it has no real plans for trying to protect the people of this country. They also show us that the Government is trying to deceive us into believing that nuclear war is winnable and survivable.

We are not deceived, and will not allow the Government to gamble with our lives and our future.

CIVIL DEFENCE = PLANNING MURDER.

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT

What's that? Oh no! Not more of you peace freaks.

Go away - I don't want to know. You're all mad, protesting is Against the good of the country, Everyone knows that.

What's that ? There's missiles All over our land ? So what ! I don't want to know. They're there to protect us, Everyone knows that.

What's that ? You're warning of Panic and dying in pain. Oh no ! Not that old chestnut Again - it will never happen, Everyone knows that.

What's that ? There's a mushroom Cloud in the sky. Oh God ! All that noise And the fire burns my eyes Now I know you were Telling the truth all along. Wish I'd have listened.

TOO LATE.

Nina Longdon.

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Forest Fields Peace Group is a neighbourhood group, open to everybody in the Forest Fields and Hyson Green areas of Nottingham and to all others who share the group's aims.

1. FFPG is opposed to nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction - such as chemical, biological and "star-wars" weapons systems.
2. FFPG believes that Britain should take the lead in nuclear disarmament and that the first steps should be to adopt the following policies:-
 - a) Get rid of Polaris
 - b) Get rid of Cruise missiles
 - c) Get rid of the Tornado bomber
 - d) Cancel the Trident programme
 - e) Get rid of the US bases, and all other bases and support-systems connected with nuclear weapons and their possible use.
3. FFPG actively supports CND and all others groups and individuals active in the struggle to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world and a genuine and lasting peace.

4. FFPG is neither pro-American nor pro-Russian. It rejects the dangerous militarist policies of both Super-powers and their client-states, and believes that the only safe route for Britain is to have a non-nuclear defence policy and withdraw from NATO.
5. FFPG supports non-violent direct action and civil disobedience, alongside other forms of protest, in the belief that the threat to use nuclear weapons is both immoral and illegal.

FFPG holds twice-monthly meetings at the Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre and produces a regular newsletter like this one. There is no hierarchical structure within the group and all decisions as to actions & policies are made by members currently involved. The group tries to support all actions and protests occurring within the Peace Movement as a whole.



APRIL

- 3; Chilwell to Molesworth march begins. (Contact NCND 581948)
- 4; NCND Co-ordinating meeting. 7.30pm. NCND office.
- 8; National CND Demo at Molesworth. Coaches leave Salutation Inn at 8.30am & return at 5pm. Tickets - £4/£2. (Contact NCND)
- 10 Forest Fields Peace Group meeting. 7.30pm. FFNC
- 10; Nottingham Pledge Day at Molesworth. Coaches leave Salutation Inn at 8.30pm.
- 17; Street Reps meeting. 7.30pm. FFNC
- 25; Forest Fields Peace Group meeting. 7.30pm. FFNC
- 26; Defend Molesworth Benefit. The Narrowboat, Canal St. 7.30pm onwards.
- 29; Colin & Jaz at court for non-payment of fines from Chilwell. 2.30pm. Shire Hall, High Pavement. Please support.

MAY

- 3; BOP 'TIL YA DROP. Italian Centre, Sherwood Rise.

Printed & Published by Forest Fields Peace Group, Box 5, 69 Wiverton Road, Nottm.



“BOP 'TIL YA DROP”

On **FRIDAY 3rd MAY**

From **7.30pm** to **11.00pm**

At The **ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE**
Vivian Avenue
(Off Sherwood Rise)

TICKETS , £1.50 / 50p

Disco courtesy
SECOND SATURDAY SOUNDS

Contact : PADDY or CATHY
LES or JEAN on

