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TOGETHER WE CAN  
STOP THE BOMB

# FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

10 pence

Newsletter  
vol. 4 no. 5

JULY 85



## PEACE FESTIVAL

JULY 14TH 12 TO 8PM  
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT NOTTM

### GUEST SPEAKERS

PAT ARROWSMITH DIRECT ACTION

PAUL JOHNS CHRISTIAN CND

5TH ANNUAL

## BYE BYE BYE-LAWS

## PROTEST AT MOLESWORTH

## JULY 28 1985

Coaches leave Nottingham 8.30am. Leaves  
from Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way.

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# MOLESWORTH

Set in green, lush countryside, with farmland all around, the base at Molesworth still looks sinister and bare behind its stark perimeter fence and razor wire. Guarded constantly by ministry of defence police, it looks what it is - land being turned into the second American Cruise missile base, being prepared to play a part in a nuclear war, and killing millions in the process.

There can be no greater contrast to this sinister development than the peace movement's opposition to it, an opposition based on the belief that we can no longer tolerate living in a world that hovers on the edge of nuclear holocaust. At Molesworth this protest is, as it has to be, a way of pointing out an alternative, of affirming the value of peaceful co-existence rather than perpetual aggression and conflict. On May 29th many groups from Nottingham, including members of Forest Fields Peace Group, participated in a regional day of action that carried this protest, and it's spirit of peace, to the very gates of Molesworth. Several hundred people marched from U.S.A.F. Alconbury (which will be the command centre for Cruise missiles if they are installed at Molesworth) to the main contractor's gate at Molesworth. A picnic and party was held at the gate, with children joining in the games - a celebration in defiance of a base dedicated to death and

and destruction. In the process the protesters succeeded in stopping through traffic to the base, hence delaying the construction work going on there.

Forest Fields Peace Group and Nottingham peace campaigners generally continue to be active at Molesworth, making as much or more impact at the base as any peace groups in the country, and sometimes inspiring other groups to make direct protests of many kinds.

It is a protest that must not fade away, for Molesworth is being turned into a genocide base before our eyes. We must continue to carry our protest, for peace and life, against mass death and destruction, to the base itself, to every person involved in its defence and construction. The question is never whether or not we will succeed (for how can we know?): but rather, are we prepared to oppose what we fear, out of our knowledge that it could lead to the destruction of all we value and love. Every single person, and their protest, is immensely valuable. On July 28th, we will all be at Molesworth again. The protest will concentrate on the punitive bye-laws introduced to deter protest at the base. The protest is on a Sunday in the middle of summer. There will be coaches (details on back page or from Nottingham CND). JOIN US !

## IN A DARK TIME

"In a Dark Time", a book edited by Nicholas Humphrey and Robert Jay Lifton, is a collection of extracts from poems, speeches, stories, essays, songs and books, focusing on the conflict between our urge to peaceful living and our impulse towards destruction. It looks at war, and our common fears of nuclear holocaust, yet also our common hopes at a time when we all stand on the brink of extermination.

Ranging freely across time and countries and cultures, it reminds us painfully of the sheer insanity of those who can coolly plan and prepare for genocide. It is moving to read but finally enriching because, together, the words carry the humanity and hope expressed in the Introduction, where the editors write of the nuclear threat :-  
"But we do not believe it has to happen. And if it does not happen, the reason may be

that the preparations for mass suicide have already gone too far. You can fool some of the people some of the time, but the accumulation of destructive weaponry is now so great that people, ordinary people the world over, are beginning to rebel."

The book is vital for all who want to face up to the dark time we live in, and work to get us through it. Many extracts cry out to be quoted, including a letter from a father whose son killed himself, having been, 'terrified by the idea of nuclear war for most of his 23 years.' He wrote, "I can't help but wonder how badly we are hurting our young. He could no longer face it. The many who remain deserve better than what this crazy world is offering."

"In a Dark Time". (Faber Paperbacks - £3.95).



# NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ILLEGAL

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has recently announced it's intention to challenge the British Government in our courts, and also in the European Court of Justice. The reason is simple - and appalling -

Our government, which prides itself on it's respect and concern for Law and Order, is acting illegally, and conspiring to commit terrible, unparalleled crimes. And in this it is currently being aided and abetted by the courts of the land, and by the military forces who are supposed to protect and defend us.

It is doing this because it continues to stockpile nuclear weapons of mass destruction, whose use can only lead to the death of millions of innocent civilians, in contravention not just of even the most basic moral and humanitarian codes of conduct, but of all relevant international law itself. Indeed, through deploying American Cruise missiles, and continuing to insist on replacing Polaris with the Trident missile system, it compounds it's crime and reveals its utter disdain for both law and morality. As a member of NATO, our Government claims the right to use nuclear weapons if and when it decides it has, and openly states that it is prepared to, even though it knows that action can only lead to mass destruction, to Genocide, which is even recognised in British law to be illegal (UK Genocide Act, 1969).

It continues to prepare for nuclear holocaust even though such preparations are illegal under international law, under the Hague and Geneva Conventions, under the Nurembourg Charter (itself a response to

the holocaust crimes of the nazis), and the UK Genocide Act, which incorporates the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."

The courts of this country act to defend the Government's illegal actions by refusing to recognise international law and insisting that it has no direct application until it has been made part of national law. In this way, they deny the terrible lesson of Nurembourg, where those prosecuting the Nazi criminals concluded: "There is no rule of international law which provides immunity for those who obey orders which - whether legal or not in the country where they are issued are manifestly contrary to the very law of nature from which international law has grown. If international law is to be applied at all, it must be superior to State law in this respect - that it must consider the legality of what is done by international and not by State law tests."

So, while British courts continue to fine and imprison those who protest in the name of peace against the obscenity of nuclear weapons, they allow the government to continue with it's illegal actions and war preparations, that could lead to mass extermination.

Similarly, our military forces continue to protect nuclear weapons, and prepare for their use, though they know this breaks all laws of war, laws they are required to keep by their own British Manual of Military Law. That is what CND is now challenging, on behalf of all those truly concerned with law and morality.

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## GIVE PEACE A DANCE

At The CARLTON HOTEL, NOEL STREET, HYSON GREEN

On FRIDAY 26th JULY  
From 8.00pm

ADMISSION AT DOOR : £1.50/75p

Disco Courtesy SECOND SATURDAY SOUNDS



# SWEDEN - YET ANOTHER NUCLEAR NATION ?

For many years CND has been arguing that if the Soviet Union and United States continue building more and more nuclear weapons, then other smaller countries will follow their suicidal example and do the same. Recent revelations from Sweden show that this is not a theory but a reality.

A huge and bitter controversy has broken out in Sweden with the disclosure that an "inner circle" of senior politicians (believed to include the current Premier, Olaf Palme), has been secretly planning to acquire nuclear weapons against the wishes of the Swedish Parliament and the Swedish people.

In 1975 the Swedish nuclear programme was wound up and nuclear weapon research programmes were banned by Parliament. Recent official disclosures, however, reveal that at least two pieces of hardware have been built in Sweden for use in a nuclear bomb: the first, a nuclear pulse generator (the final trigger in a nuclear device); the second, a nuclear implosion unit which starts the detonation process in a nuclear device.

The episode has rightly brought a public outcry in Sweden, and a likely outcome will be electoral defeat for Prime Minister Palme and his party in the Autumn. The Swedish example is precisely the danger the world faces that CND has been forewarning. If Sweden secretly decides to follow the example of the Superpowers in developing more and more nuclear weapons, then how soon before other nations also begin making their own nuclear weapons? And how safe a world would it be if Iran, Iraq, Argentina or South Africa possessed large numbers of nuclear weapons?

As long as the Cold War continues on its immoral path of developing more and more sophisticated weapons of mass destruction, more and more countries will begin to consider whether they too should equip themselves with nuclear weapons. Such a development could only have a disastrous and absolute outcome - the end of the world. The only solution, the only way of avoiding this disaster, is for Britain and other leading nations to set the example of true peace, by dismantling its nuclear arsenal and removing all U.S. bases from its shores.

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.

The politics of peace is not threatening to destroy millions of children with nuclear arms but offering to embrace millions of children with human arms. Not just "our" children but every child.

Let Sweden's experience be evidence to everyone who is concerned about peace. Unless the tide of more and more weapons being deployed by the Superpowers is reversed, more and more nations will deploy their own. It is up to us to show the way to peace, for peace to become the way..

## DYING STAR

What use is fear,  
When mushroom clouds,  
with fallout, shroud  
the 'napalm' scars  
and riot cars,  
red from the flood  
of martyrs' blood.

What use are tears,  
When 'living dead',  
with hunger wed  
from womb to grave,  
though life they crave,  
die every day  
as we delay.

Nothing seems clear,  
as cancer crawls  
the sterile walls  
of false white hopes,  
while science gropes  
for ways to feed  
our rulers' greed.

Our end draws near,  
as man's old dreams  
and power schemes,  
of laws and force,  
uphold the course,  
and prove a test  
for our protest.

Shout so they hear,  
it's time to make  
the final break,  
from being 'told',  
to grasping hold  
of 'destiny'.....  
and breaking free.

Why crawl so far  
to just become  
a dying star.

John Cooke.



## "THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO"

When I'm trying to sell this newsletter on the streets, there are always some who tell me that there is no point in protesting - 'theres nothing we can do. They'll never get rid of the Bomb.' I find it the most understandable of objections, and also the most frustrating and upsetting. It is understandable because we see nuclear weapons piling up year after year. We say no to Cruise and Cruise comes, and now we are saying no to Trident. East and West, our leaders promise peace but they continue to prepare for war. Nuclear disarmament seems light years away. And perhaps the 100 million people and more already killed through armed conflict this century would agree that nothing can be done. It is very frustrating and upsetting because it is saying that we are utterly helpless, just victims in the nuclear waiting rooms of our cities. And I imagine the politicians and military men and arms manufacturers all rubbing their hands in glee each time a person says there is nothing that can be done, whether they say it outside Scoop or the chip shop on Radford road, or anywhere else in the world.

Each time I hear it, I try to persuade a person otherwise, and give arguments in support of my case. I point to the huge growth of the peace movement in Britain and many other countries, and the awareness this has created of the reality of the nuclear threat, and our total inability to protect ourselves against a nuclear attack. I point out the great shifts in public opinion this has caused, for example the growing opposition to US Cruise missiles and to Trident, and the confirmation of this opposition through many of our political parties and religious organisations and trade unions. I argue that the peoples' will can be turned into government action, as in New Zealand now, where the Government refuses to even let American nuclear weapons near its shores. I argue that without peoples' belief in their power to change things we could still have slavery, women would not have the vote, America would still be mass bombing in Vietnam. I argue that all we try to do in the peace movement must make change more likely, and also shows our refusal to accept the obscenity of nuclear weapons, and to be passive, waiting victims, pretending things are okay when we really know we could be blown to bits at any minute.

But making such arguments does not always work. Sometimes I've just argued badly, but often I doubt whether the power of my case was important at all. I know that not just from

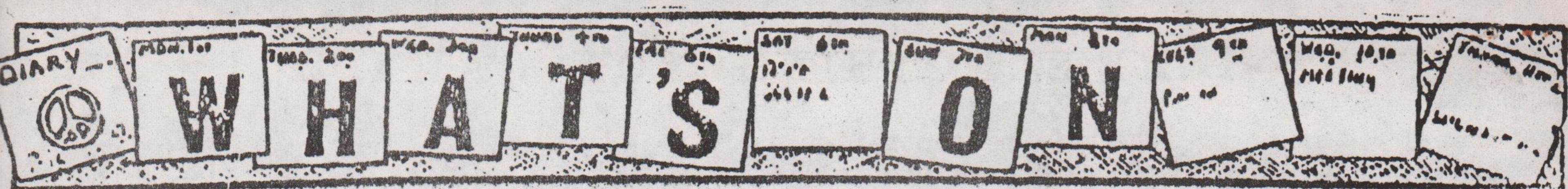
selling newsletters but from common sense - most people do carry on as normal, and do little or nothing to get rid of the awesome nuclear threat. Whether willingly or because they feel helpless, they leave it to the leaders, even though they know that all the promises have been broken, and there has been no nuclear disarmament since 1945. Even though they know that more, and more deadly weapons are continuing to be made and deployed, that as our leaders mouth about peace, they make Molesworth ready to take more US nuclear cruise missiles.

There is no doubt about it - even when they do not say it, many people show they believe there is really nothing that can be done simply because they do nothing. And perhaps that is true even of many of those who believe in the need for nuclear disarmament in Britain. Even in our local and active Forest Fields Peace Group, with 120 or so members, there are rarely 20 at our meetings, and most activities are carried out by that number.

So perhaps in a way I hear the truth outside Scoop or the chip shop, for if a person believes there is nothing they can do, there is nothing they can do. And, despite my arguments, I cannot prove they are wrong, cannot deny that one day, dying of radiation poisoning, they might stand in the burnt-out remains of their city and say, 'See - told you we could do nothing.' If everybody believed that, everybody would be right, of course, and we would all take our places in the waiting room, and wait for a nuclear holocaust to begin. But if even a single person believes that something can be done, we can no longer be certain that there is nothing to be done. Just as we cannot prove that doing things will get rid of nuclear weapons, we cannot prove that the effort will fail, even if only a single person was trying.

But there's the difference - those who believe we can do something are trying, in whatever way they can, to get rid of the terrible threat to us all of nuclear destruction. Those who say there is nothing to be done are doing nothing, and waiting. No doubt I will continue to be told there is nothing to be done, and will each time argue against it. Nobody can prove who is right but we all know nothing is done unless people do it, and nothing changes unless people change it.





## JULY

- Sunday 7th - 7.30pm. Discussion and planning for Bye Bye Bye-laws Action at Molesworth. At NCND Office, 14, St. Mary's Gate.
- Monday 8th - 7.30pm. Forest Fields Peace Group Meeting. 69, Wiverton Road.
- Sunday 14th - Fifth Annual Nottingham Peace Festival - 12 to 8pm, Victoria Embankment.
- Saturday 20th - Bye Bye Bye-laws Training Day. Queens Walk Community Centre. 10-4pm.
- Sunday 21st - Stop The Air Fair. USAF Alconbury Action. Contact Karen [redacted]
- Monday 22nd - Pete Strauss in Hunts Magistrates Court. Charged with trespass (Molesworth Bye-laws. [redacted]
- Thursday 25th - Forest Fields Peace Group Meeting. 69, Wiverton Road. 7.30pm.  
Discussion on "The Value of Different Actions".
- Friday 26th - GIVE PEACE A DANCE. Disco at Carlton Hotel. 8pm.
- Sunday 28th - BYE BYE BYE-LAWS. USAF MOLESWORTH. Contact Defend Molesworth, c/o NCND, 14, St. Mary's Gate, Lace Market, Nott'm tel [redacted]

## AUGUST

- Tuesday 6th - Hiroshima Anniversary.
- Friday 9th - Nagasaki Anniversary.

Printed and published by Forest Fields Peace Group, Box 5, [redacted]

Nott'm.

# FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

The Forest Fields Peace Group has been in existence for several years and is one of the most active neighbourhood groups in Nottingham. The inspiration for the group seems to have stemmed from one individual, deciding he could no longer keep silent his anger and frustration at the increasing preparations for war being mounted by the world powers. So he donned a sandwich board denouncing the arms race and proudly walked around the streets of Forest Fields.

Encouraged by his example, other people supported his action and soon the Peace Group was formed, meeting regularly in each other's houses and devising ways to further publicise and oppose the threat to our lives posed by the arms race in general and the nuclear arms race in particular. The group organised fund-raising events, ran stalls, put on film shows and public meetings, and distributed leaflets, as well as attending national and local demonstrations.

Several years on the Group is more active than ever and consists of 130 local people from all walks of life but with one common aim: to campaign for a lasting peace, a peace not based on threat and aggression but based on fundamental principles of humanity, care and understanding. It is a politically active group addressing it-self to the basic question, 'why do we live under the threat of war?', and opposing the political and military agencies that create the threat of war.

If you find yourself regularly worrying about the kind of future you and your children face in this aggressive, suicidal political world, then translate your worries into a determination to stand up for peace. By staying silent we are merely giving our consent to the arms race, the ever-spiralling numbers of weapons of mass destruction. By raising our voices in anger and opposition, we are freeing our consciences and asserting our will for a common cause - the cause of peace.

You will find many friends in the group and the Forest Fields Peace Group looks forward to your friendship. Together we shall refuse to accept any inevitability of the road to Armageddon, and strive instead towards a world free of the threat of war. We may be only a neighbourhood peace group but it is in neighbourhoods we live, and in neighbourhoods where we must begin the fight against war and the fight for peace.

You can contact Forest Fields Peace Group at Box 5, Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road. Or phone Paddy or Cathy (788655). Or just come along to one of our twice monthly meetings at the Neighbourhood centre (details above).