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PEACE

NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS

MINERS UNITED FOR PEACE

Working class people are always the victims of war, and miners and their families have suffered through two world wars.

The NUM has a proud record of working for peace and disarmament. In this booklet we explain the reasoning behind our policy. We also outline some of the actions we have taken to further our policy on peace. Finally we suggest what you, as an NUM member, can do.



A WORLD AT WAR

The world can only be relieved of the danger of total destruction if we remove the dreadful threat of nuclear weapons. But even then, peace might not automatically follow.

During the Second World War 50 million people were killed by conventional (non-nuclear) weapons.

Since the end of the Second World War more than 10 million people have been killed in non-nuclear conflicts. Troops from the "Third World" have been solely involved in 20 of these conflicts. United States or NATO forces have been involved in 99 of these military undertakings while Soviet or Warsaw Pact forces have been involved in six.

If we are to work for peace, we must aim for general arms reduction, as well as for nuclear disarmament, and strive for peaceful co-existence.

We cannot accept that vast sums should be spent on weapons of death in a world where millions of people are dying of hunger, thirst and curable diseases. Money, research and skills should be used to make life better for the people of our world. Money should be spent on seeking the means to fight disease.

WAR MAKES PROFITS

In the USA and the UK super-profits are made from manufacturing weapons for mass killing. The arms industry and the military together form what is known as the "Military-Industrial Complex".

In contrast, the Soviet Union, the other super-power, has its industry based on social ownership and not on private profit. Obviously, the more they spend on arms the more their development is held back. This is one reason why the Soviet Union has made so many peace proposals over such a long period of time. It also helps to explain why the Soviet Peace Movement is so strong.

People all over the world are active in the Peace Movement. The Peace Movements in the West struggle against their own Governments and against big business interests. Despite this opposition, our Peace Movements have helped to create an upsurge of feeling for peace in the West. The NUM is proud to have played its part in this process.

Sheila Gray/Format



WAR IN THE "THIRD WORLD"

*"It would be our
policy to use nuclear
weapons whenever we felt it
necessary to protect our forces
and achieve our objectives".*

*R McNamara, US Secretary
of Defence, 1961*

All over the world today, from South Africa to Chile, from the Philippines to El Salvador, millions of working people are struggling to liberate themselves. After generations of oppression in near slave-like conditions people want their independence and an end to exploitation.

When this movement for liberation comes up against the interests of multi-national capital such people are branded as terrorists and subversives. Many of the big business interests who operate that multi-national capital are based in the United States and in Britain, from where they wield enormous power. Many of the world's conflicts stem from the threat to these interests, and to the power and profits that go with them.

In order to protect its interests, big business has shown it will go to any lengths, however brutal. The napalming of Vietnam, the bombing of Libya and Lebanon, the invasion of Grenada and the funding of the Contras in Nicaragua show who are the real terrorists.



Like others all over the world, Soviet miners sent us money and food during the 1984/5 strike.

THE MYTH OF THE SOVIET THREAT

Many of us are born into a world in which we are told that we have an enemy — the Soviet Union. But what is the truth? How have the apparent divisions between East and West been created? In order to answer these questions we need to look back over the past forty years.

Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union fought together against fascism during the Second World War. The Soviet Union undoubtedly played a vital role in liberating Europe from the Nazi threat. Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime leader, paid tribute to Soviet wartime sacrifices when he pointed out that the Red Army had torn the guts out of the Nazi war machine. 21 million Russian people died fighting fascism and 30 million were seriously wounded during World War II. This was a *quarter* of their entire population!

In 1945, the Potsdam Conference between the Allies laid the foundations for European security. But soon the USA began to undermine that agreement. Turning their backs on the wartime policy of friendship, President Truman and Churchill launched the Cold War offensive.

Following Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the mass slaughter from atomic bombs dropped on an already devastated Japan, led Truman to say that nuclear weapons were a "*hammer*" to be used against the Soviet Union.

In 1945 while the Soviet Union was putting forward proposals for arms reduction, Washington was secretly planning a nuclear strike against them. In particular, the Russians proposed a ban on the production and use of atomic weapons. In 1949 the Soviet Union proposed to the United States that they sign a joint declaration renouncing war against each other as a means of settling disputes.



WHAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF PEACE?

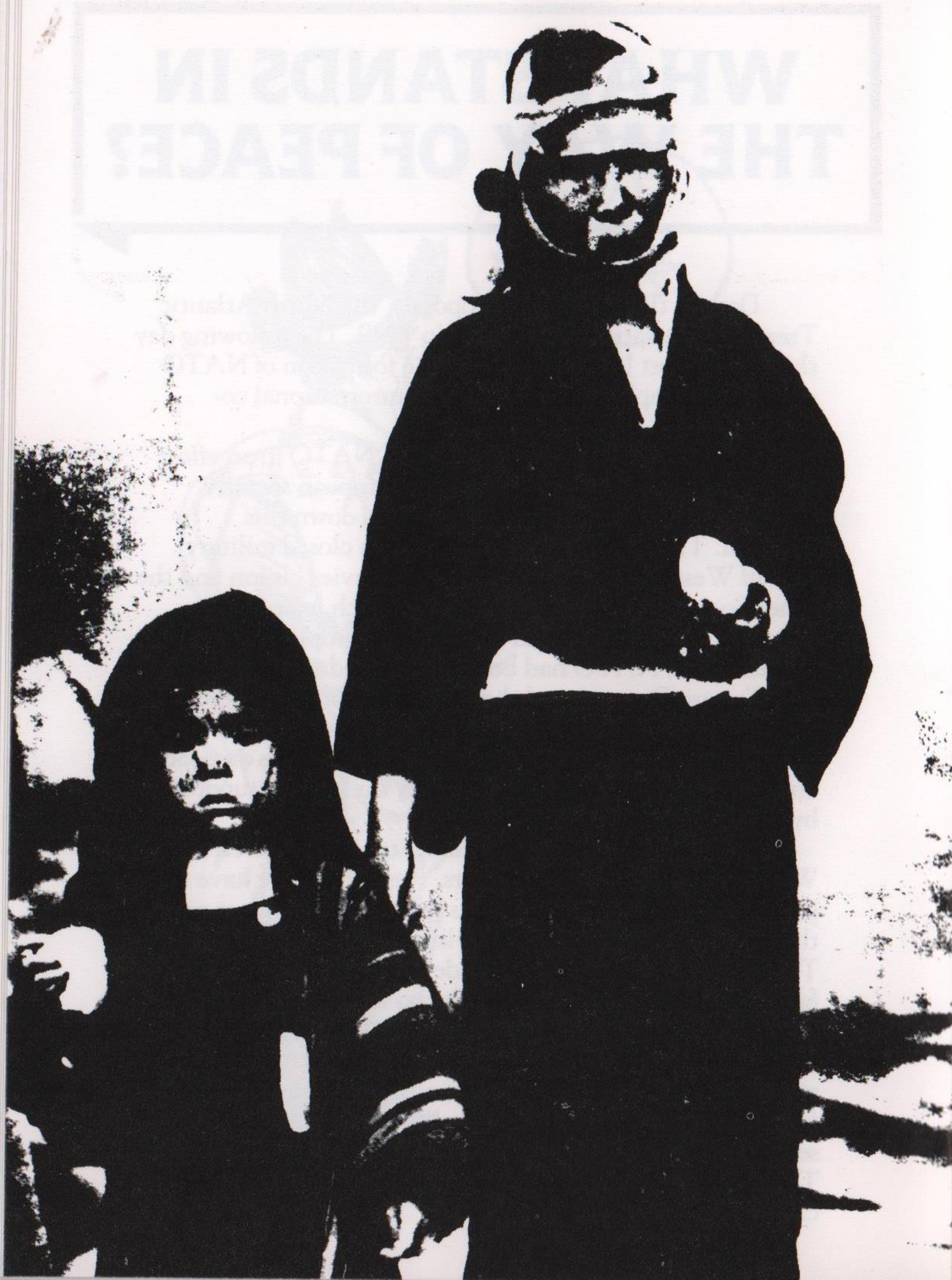
Despite these peaceful proposals, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was formed in 1949. The following day the Wall Street Journal said that the formation of NATO was "the triumph of jungle law over international co-operation on a world scale."

In 1954 the USSR offered to join NATO in an effort to turn it into a system of collective European security.

The Western Governments turned down this proposal. They stated that NATO was a closed military bloc of Western Powers hostile to the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries. It was this which led to the Warsaw Pact being formed by the East European countries, six years after NATO had been established. Article 11 of the Warsaw Treaty stated that if a European collective security treaty were to be signed, the Warsaw pact would be ended. Since that time, many concrete proposals on peace and disarmament have been made by the USSR, supported by other Warsaw Pact countries.

As a result of the terrible slaughter they suffered during World War II and previous Wars, Russian people have a passionate desire for peace. This has been made clear over the years to NUM delegations visiting the Soviet Union. This wish for peace was also made clear to miners and their families who were given free holidays at the expense of Soviet Trades Unions, during the 1984/5 strike.

If the Russian people want peace, just as most Britons and Americans do, then what stands in our way? Surely the first step must be to get rid of nuclear weapons. Yet, despite serious Soviet proposals to remove the nuclear threat, Mrs. Thatcher insists Britain must never give up her nuclear capacity.



NUCLEAR MADNESS

The World entered the Nuclear age in August 1945 when American bombers dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The final death toll in Hiroshima was over 200,000 — as the result of a single bomb. In Nagasaki a single bomb killed at least 40,000 people in the first few seconds. Even today 42 years later, many children there are born deformed as a result of those bombs.

British nuclear holocaust?

The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are nothing in comparison to those of today. The British Medical Association studied what would happen in a nuclear attack. Even a one-megaton air-burst at night over St. Paul's Cathedral would produce more than 1½ million blast injuries, and up to 650,000 major burns. The fires which would follow would cause further devastation. The Report states that if only one bomb were dropped on any city, Britain's medical services would be utterly useless.

Following a nuclear attack, medical services would be wiped out. Rescue services unable to work because of the high levels of radiation, the injured would be left to die where they fell. Anyone surviving would find food contaminated, water, electricity and gas gone. Telephones and other means of communication would be destroyed.

THE NUCLEAR WINTER

The terrible effects of nuclear war have been recognised by high-ranking military leaders. Vice Admiral Sir James Jungius said of Trident (Britain's next submarine-based nuclear weapons system) that it could *"only be used if the British Government were prepared to start a nuclear war and commit nuclear suicide at the same time"*.

Retired General Nino Pasti, one of NATO's top officers, spoke in the Italian Senate on 12th December 1979. This was the day NATO decided to deploy the new generation of United States missiles. He said:

"The terrifying aspect of United States military policy is the attempt to convince United States public opinion that it is possible to wage and win a strategic (nuclear) war, and that the price of 20 to 30 million US dead, leaving aside the hundreds of millions of dead in other countries, is an acceptable price to pay for the destruction forever of the Soviet Union and communism in the world":

Field Marshal Lord Mountbatten, in his last speech before he was murdered, made a passionate statement against nuclear weapons. Ten years earlier he had written to the Times:

"During my six years on the NATO Military Committee I never missed an opportunity of saying, loud and clear, that the actual use of tactical nuclear weapons could only end in escalation to total global nuclear destruction and that, for that reason, no one in their senses would contemplate their use."

Many of today's nuclear weapons are 10 megaton bombs.

- Just one such explosion would leave a crater 240 feet deep, and a mile across. Outside the crater there would be destruction for up to two miles.

- A single 10 megaton bomb on London would create a flash sufficient to burn out a person's eyes in Birmingham and blind people in Newcastle.

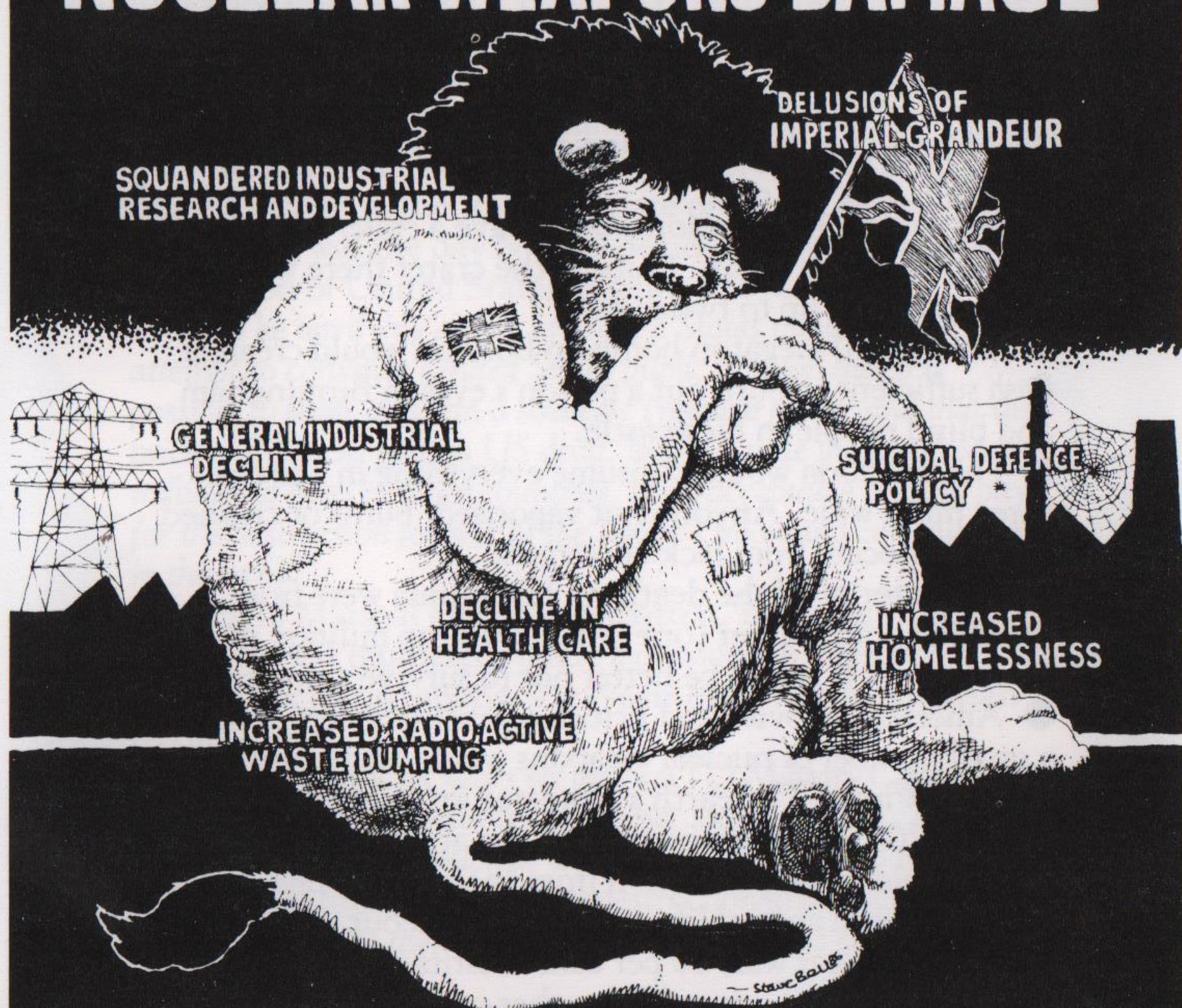
- The fire storm would consume everything in a fireball three miles wide. Anyone not vaporised, burnt or crushed would suffocate from lack of oxygen.

- A quarter of all the deaths in Hiroshima were from radiation. Lord Carver (one of Britain's top military men) has said that it would be better not to survive a nuclear war.

- American, Soviet and British scientists accept that even a small number of nuclear weapons would create the Nuclear Winter. The earth's temperature would drop to around -20°C. The ozone layer in the atmosphere broken, there would be no protection from the harmful rays of the sun. Plant and animal life would be wiped out.

In a nuclear war, 80 per cent of Britain's population would be killed or injured. No other country has so many people and so many possible targets for nuclear attack within such a small landmass. Despite this, NATO's policy is to plan for a first-strike nuclear attack. In a full-scale nuclear war, the very existence of the human race would be threatened.

YOUR HEALTH ISN'T THE ONLY THING NUCLEAR WEAPONS DAMAGE



**WE DON'T NEED NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AND WE DON'T
NEED UNEMPLOYMENT**

Published by TUCNO

THE NON-NUCLEAR MAJORITY

Only five nations have their own independent nuclear weapons.

- USA
- Soviet Union
- China
- France
- Great Britain

and a further dozen have nuclear arms based on their soil.

Over 150 countries have no nuclear capacity and many such as Canada, Sweden and New Zealand refuse to have their countries used as nuclear stations.

A nuclear free Britain would join the non-nuclear majority and could devote vital resources to building our economy and creating a caring society. Like other non-nuclear countries we could concentrate our efforts on reducing unemployment, improving education and health services and making Britain a better place for us all to live in.

MILITARY SPENDING AND OUR ECONOMY

In 1986, Britain spent £18 billion on defence, or 5.4% of the National Income. This amounts to £325 per year for every man, woman and child in Britain. Just think what a fraction of this investment would do to help the British Coal Industry!

Despite 103,000 homeless families in Britain, military spending is three-and-a-half times more than spending on new houses. Military spending also eats up a great deal more than the National Health Service, while there are 679,000 patients on hospital waiting lists.

Public spending has been cut to the extent that vital equipment such as body scanners and kidney machines are paid for by sponsored walks and raffles. But the military budget is not questioned. No flag days are held for Trident, no collecting tins are rattled for Cruise.

Since the Tories came to power in 1979, the military budget has swollen by a huge 30 per cent in real terms. Over the same period, spending on housing and education has dropped.

Britain has the largest number of combat aircraft in service in Western Europe. Within NATO, Britain's Navy is second in size only to that of the USA.

While many NATO countries refuse to have nuclear weapons, Britain maintains and pays for its own nuclear arsenal. Proportionately, Britain spends over two-and-a-half times as much on the military as other European members of NATO. It is a shameful fact that over half of the British Government-funded Research and Development Budget goes on developing more weapons of mass killing.

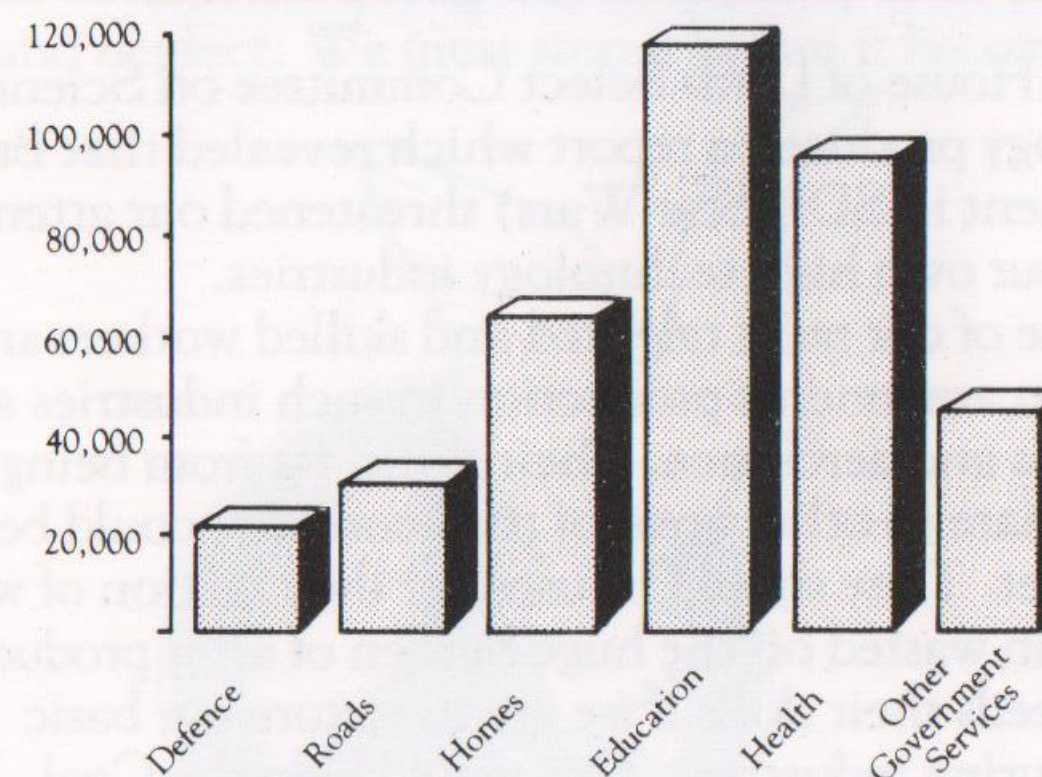
WHY DOES BRITAIN SPEND SO MUCH ON THE MILITARY?

Britain's past economic success stemmed from its exploitation of an Empire. Profits can only be sustained in today's world by the threat or use of gunboat diplomacy. The real reason for Britain's high military spending is to protect those profits often earned by the exploitation of workers in developing countries.

British military spending has also been too high because of US pressure to maintain an expensive commitment to NATO.

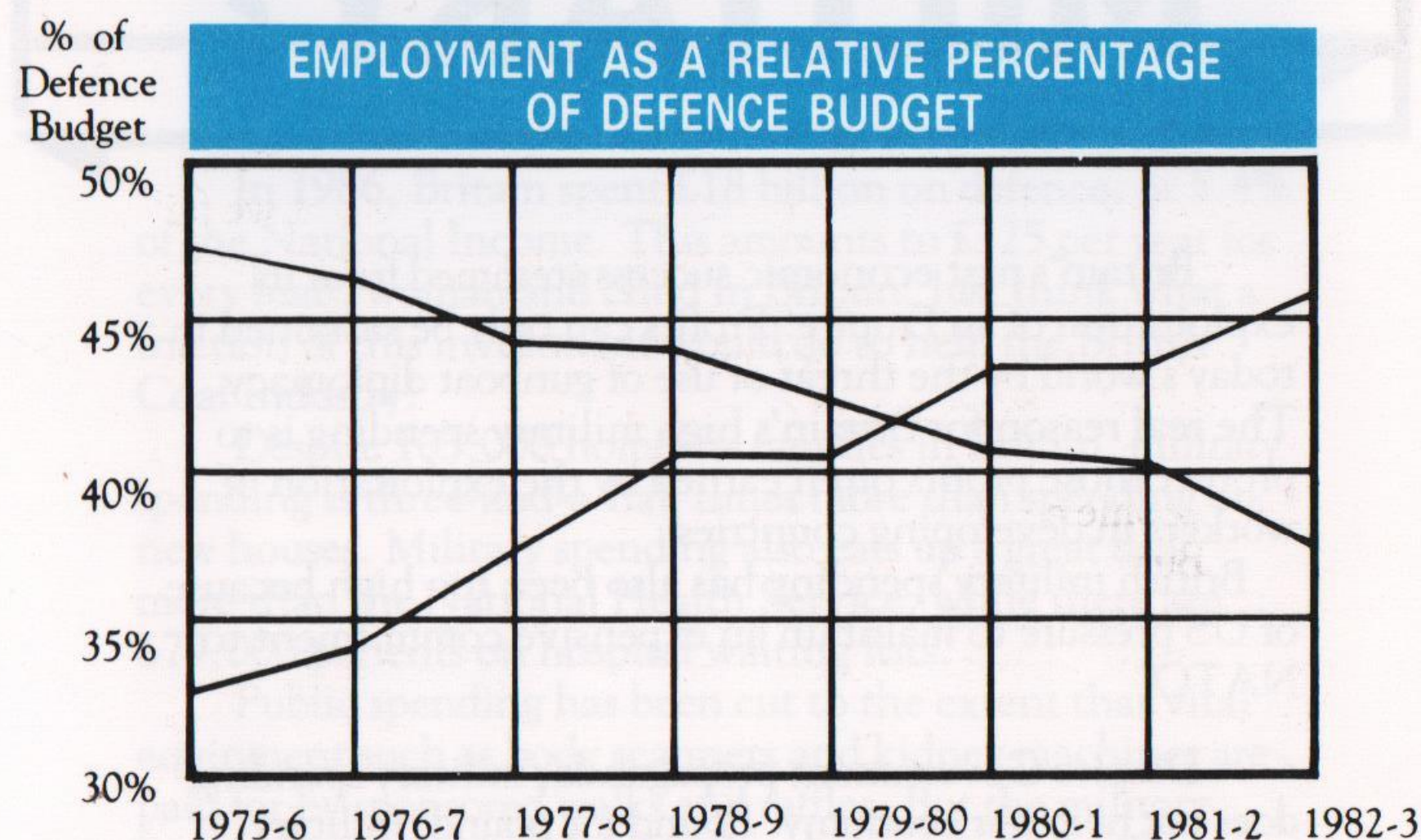
Despite Government propaganda, military spending does *not* help our economy. Pound for pound, military spending produces fewer jobs than other types of activity.

NUMBER OF JOBS FOR EVERY £BILLION SPENT



Source: Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick. Based on UK government statistics (1982 prices).

Between 1979 and 1985 "defence" activity by British manufacturing industry employed more than 26% cent but "defence" now employs 5% fewer people than it did in 1979. So who benefits?



Source: TGWU

The House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology produced a report which revealed that British involvement in SDI (Star Wars) threatened our attempts to develop our own high technology industries.

Some of our most talented and skilled workers are engaged in armaments production in such industries as electronics and aerospace. Their skills, far from being inappropriate in other areas of the economy, could become a vital asset. They should be used for the creation of wealth rather than wasted on the huge burden of arms production. Britain needs their skills if we are to restore our basic manufacturing industries. This would help the Coal Industry too.

IT COULD BE DIFFERENT

Britain has ignored investment in its services whilst devoting £18 billion per year to defence. The longer we fail to tackle our fundamental problems the worse it gets. Inner cities face despair, roads fall into disrepair, sewers are crumbling, hospital queues grow longer, the disabled are still suffering from lack of care, the elderly die of cold and hunger, families live in decaying homes and unemployment has become a way of life for millions.

But it could be different! For the cost of one Type 2400 submarine we could build 3,000 new homes. For the cost of one Harrier GR5 Aircraft we could build a new hospital!

This is what disarmament is all about. A peaceful world and a world fit for us and our children to live in. Countries which have not spent resources on weapons of destruction have been able to build up and maintain services. Britain has a long way to catch up after years of waste and neglect. We must stop it before it becomes too late.





MILITARY SPENDING AND THE COAL INDUSTRY

Almost every country in the world subsidises its Coal Industry, but Britain is rapidly moving away from this. Under present Tory policies, Britain's Coal Industry from 1990 will receive no government subsidies. The Thatcher Government is pouring vast amounts of money into weapons of destruction, yet claims it "cannot afford" to support the Coal Industry producing Britain's vital energy resources.

As the Mining Women's song says.

"They talk about statistics,

About the price of coal.

The cost is our communities,

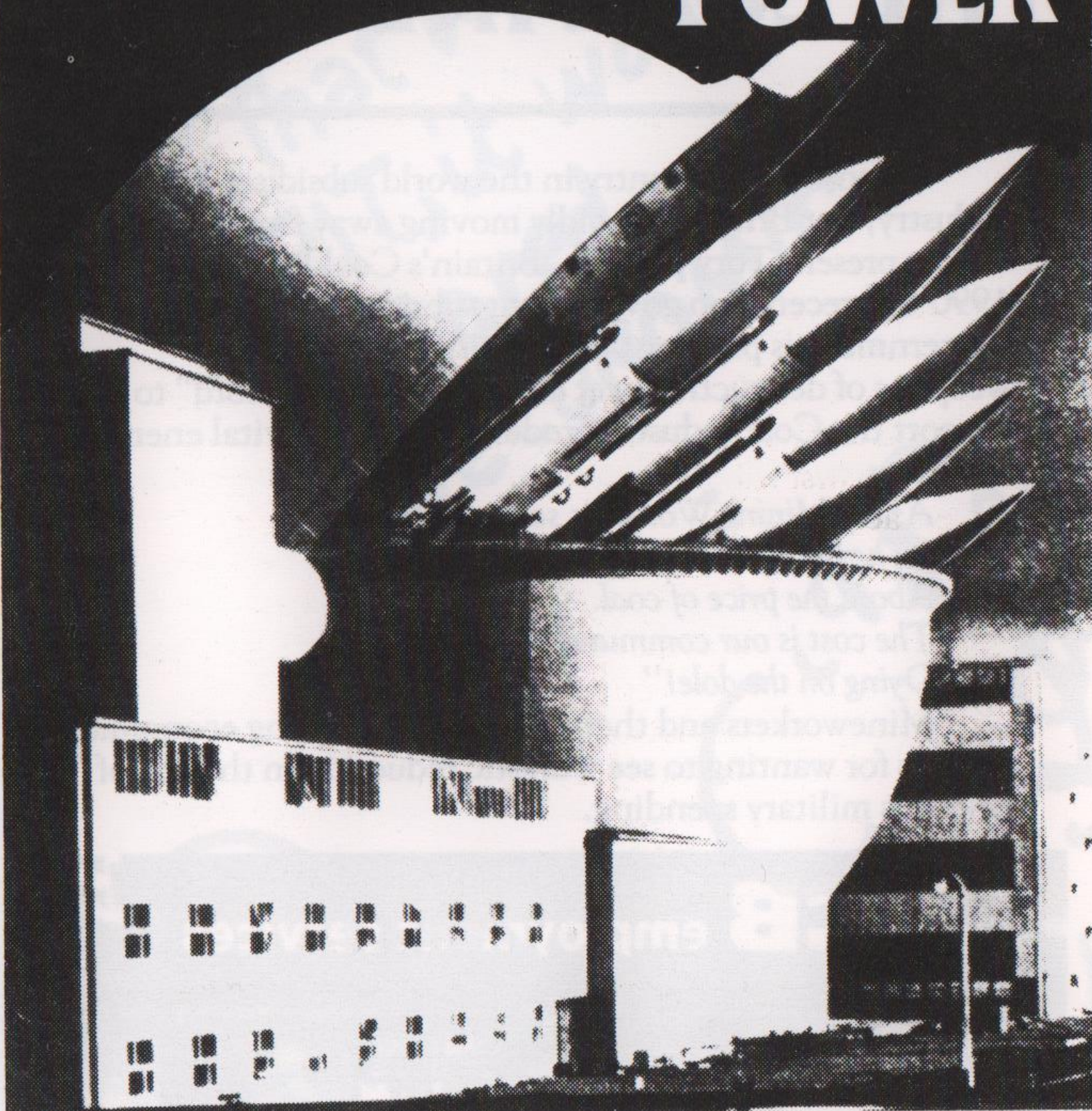
Dying on the dole!"

Mineworkers and their families have strong economic reasons for wanting to see a drastic reduction in the size of Britain's military spending.



An NCB recruitment office, just after its closure.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS-NUCLEAR POWER



Peter Kennard

One of the reasons why the NUM opposes both nuclear weapons and nuclear power is that we understand the links between the two.

Britain's first nuclear power station at Calder Hall was built to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Electricity generation was seen only as a by-product. For years Britain has exported plutonium to the United States for use in nuclear bombs.

The driving force behind the development of nuclear energy is to provide a feedstock for nuclear weapons.

MINERS UNITED FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

Miners have a long history of international friendship and solidarity, and the NUM has links with miners' unions worldwide. The NUM played a leading part in establishing the new International Miners Organisation (IMO). The IMO is the first Miners' International committed to uniting workers across the present East/West divide. The IMO provides an opportunity for miners to exchange views and work together whatever political system they live in.

International co-operation of this kind can only help to further the cause of world peace.

Through our affiliation to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and our work with Trade Union CND and Labour CND, we play a major role in the world peace movement. NUM Branches are encouraged to play an active part in this work.

The NUM has consistently worked for peace by opposing brutal wars waged against peoples striving for their liberation in Vietnam, Latin America and Southern Africa.

The Labour Party is committed to nuclear disarmament and to peace and the NUM has supported all proposals designed to further this policy.

The NUM is convinced that we must free our country from the nuclear threat. Instead of high military spending in a world of nuclear madness, we must divert our resources to producing to meet the real needs of working people.

Working in the peace movement and supporting Labour at the next Election are essential to achieve a caring society and a peaceful world.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Make sure that your NUM Branch is affiliated to CND and to the Labour Party.
- Ask your Delegates to these organisations to give full details of local activities for peace.
- Play a full part in peace activities supported by your Branch at local and National level.
- Become active yourself in the peace movement.
- Raise the issue of peace and disarmament wherever possible. Write to your MP and to newspapers. Take part in phone-ins on local radio stations. Raise this issue at your local Trades Council and Labour Party.
- This booklet is designed to promote discussion on these important questions. Talk to your family and friends about the way in which we can achieve peace.

**VOTE
LABOUR**



**FOR
PEACE**