

MAKING CONTACT



As you can see from the map opposite there are literally hundreds of Youth CND groups all over the country. Since the last issue of Sign of the Times the response from people wanting to get involved in a local group near them or wanting to start one up themselves has been really encouraging. If you find by looking at the map that there is nothing in your area then get in touch with Youth CND at the address or phone number below and we'll send you some advice.

Campaigning on a local level is the most important part of the peace movement. We count on young activists from all over the country to keep up the pressure and to convince the public and other young people that the nuclear arms race is a bad idea, and that the only future we want is a future without nuclear weapons.

Don't get mad... get active.
Phone us now.

**Youth CND, 22-24 Underwood Street, London N1 7JG
Telephone 01-250 4010**

SIGN OF THE TIMES

12271 C
THE MAGAZINE OF YOUTH CND. 10 PENCE WHERE SOLD.

INSIDE

NUCLEAR CONVOYS • EASTENDER
INTERVIEWED • COMPETITION



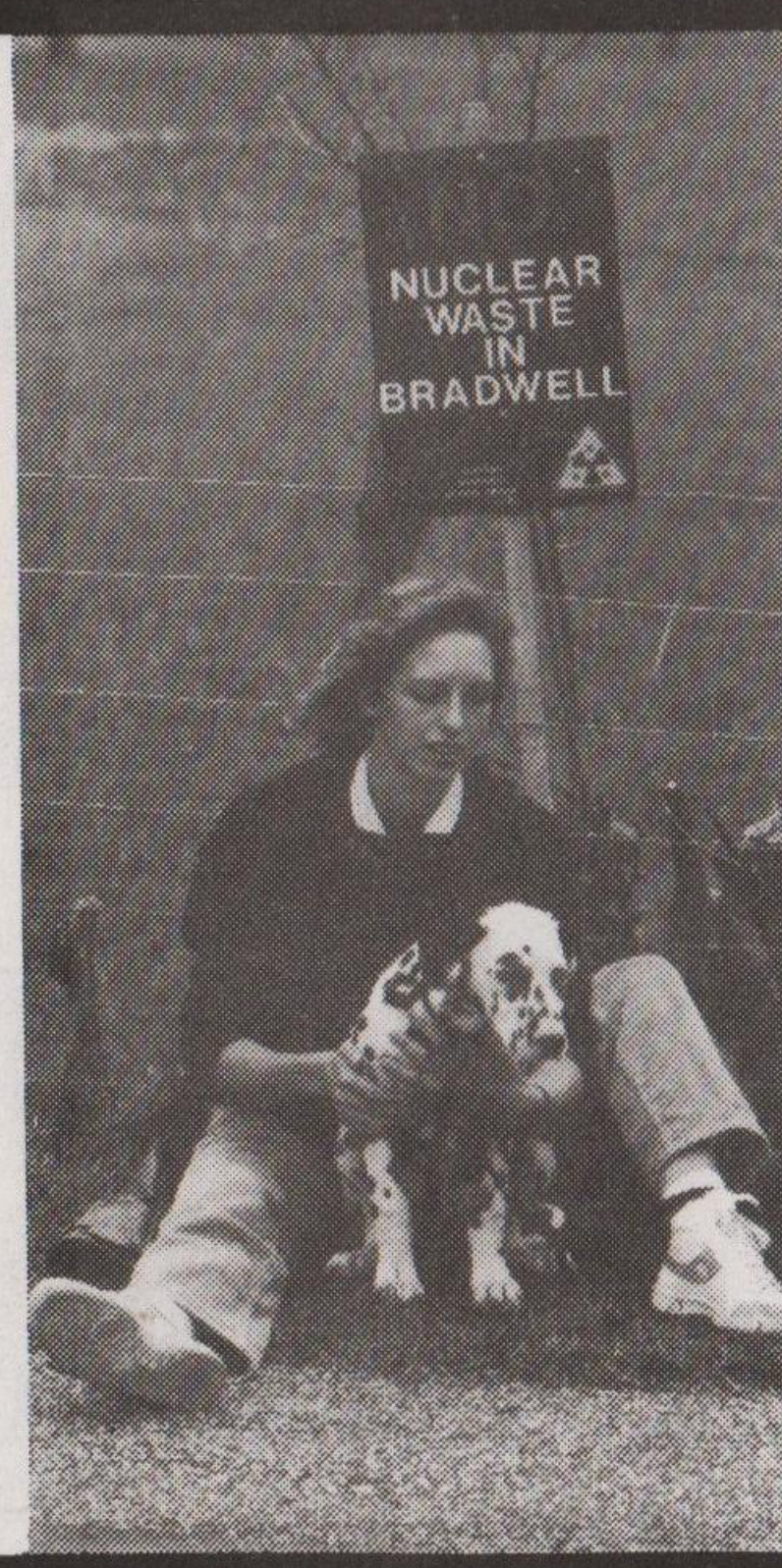
**IS THE GOVERNMENT
BUGGING YOU?**

Youth CND investigates



CRITICAL TIMES

YOUTH
CND



The residents of Elstow, Bradwell, Killingholme and Fulbeck have hit the headlines — “Middle aged, middle class hooligans from middle England” said The Times comparing the villagers to rioting ‘urban youths’. The fight being put up by these people is a fight against NIREX (Nuclear Industry Waste Executive) whose contractors are attempting to test drill for possible nuclear waste dumps. The nuclear waste dumping at these four sites will involve burying the waste inside steel drums . . . the councils of the respective areas have found that independent research shows the *neither* concrete *nor* steel retains its strength when buried making these four sites potential future killing grounds.

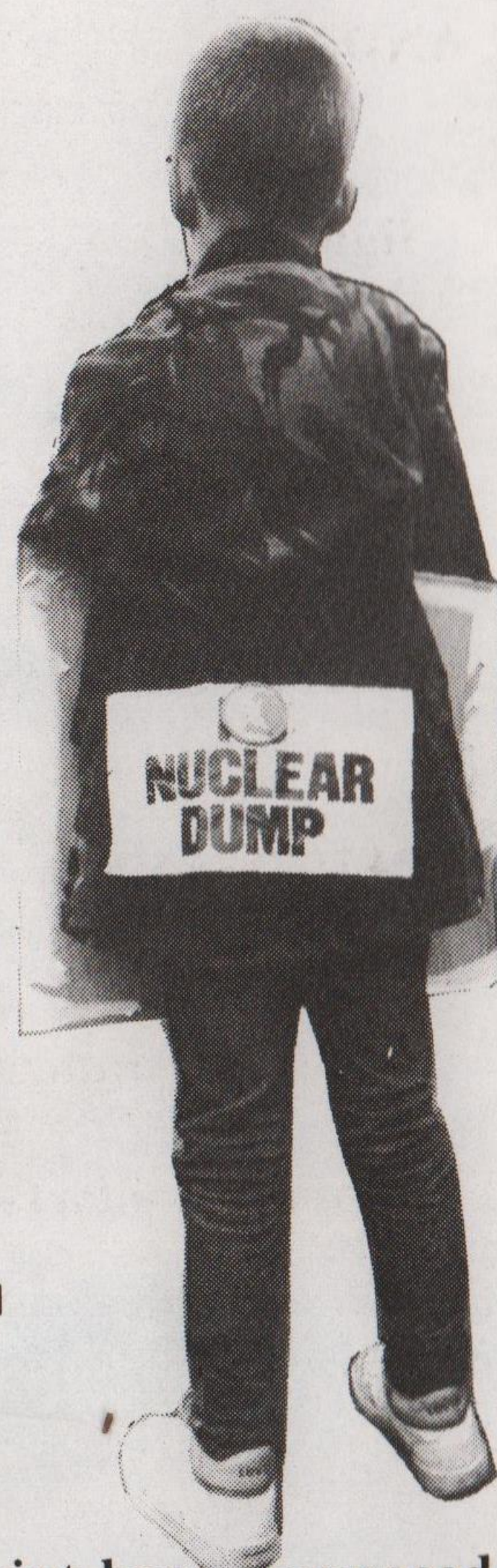
The whole nuclear question (weapons, waste and power) consistantly fails to get answers — at least not totally honest answers. Why is it that the leukemia rate among children living in the Sellafield area is higher than normal?

Why is it that nuclear waste trains are rolling through built up areas of London?

Why is it that even in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster Britain still continues down the same path making not just this country, but, as we saw from Chernobyl, the rest of the Northern hemisphere a sitting duck awaiting the shotgun?

It has been said that a zebra crossing will never be made outside a school until such a time as a child is run down. Are we going to have to wait for a third world war before the Presidents, Premiers, beaurocrats, and diplomats stop killing and start thinking.

The nuclear world is in your hands too. □



Nuclear rump by Justin Leighton

This issue of Sign of the Times is dedicated to Madness who, as we go to print, have announced that they have decided to split up. Youth CND would like to take this opportunity to thank Madness for their support over the years and all the practical help they've given us. The British music scene will never be the same again. Cheers — Youth CND.

YOUTH
CND

CONTENTS

Page 4-5

PHIL WOODFORD takes his hat off to the security services and investigates the government's investigations.

Page 6

Photographic evidence of London Youth CND

Page 7

WIL BROWN talks us through the Nicaraguan question.

Page 8-9

ANDREW CHAPMAN talks to TOM WATT . . . Eastenders fans beware.

Page 10

Sign of the Times uncovers the Coalition for Peace Through Security and their anti-CND tactics.

Page 11

Youth CND, forthcoming campaigns.

Page 12-13

EMMA BENSON takes the lid off nuclear convoys.

Page 14

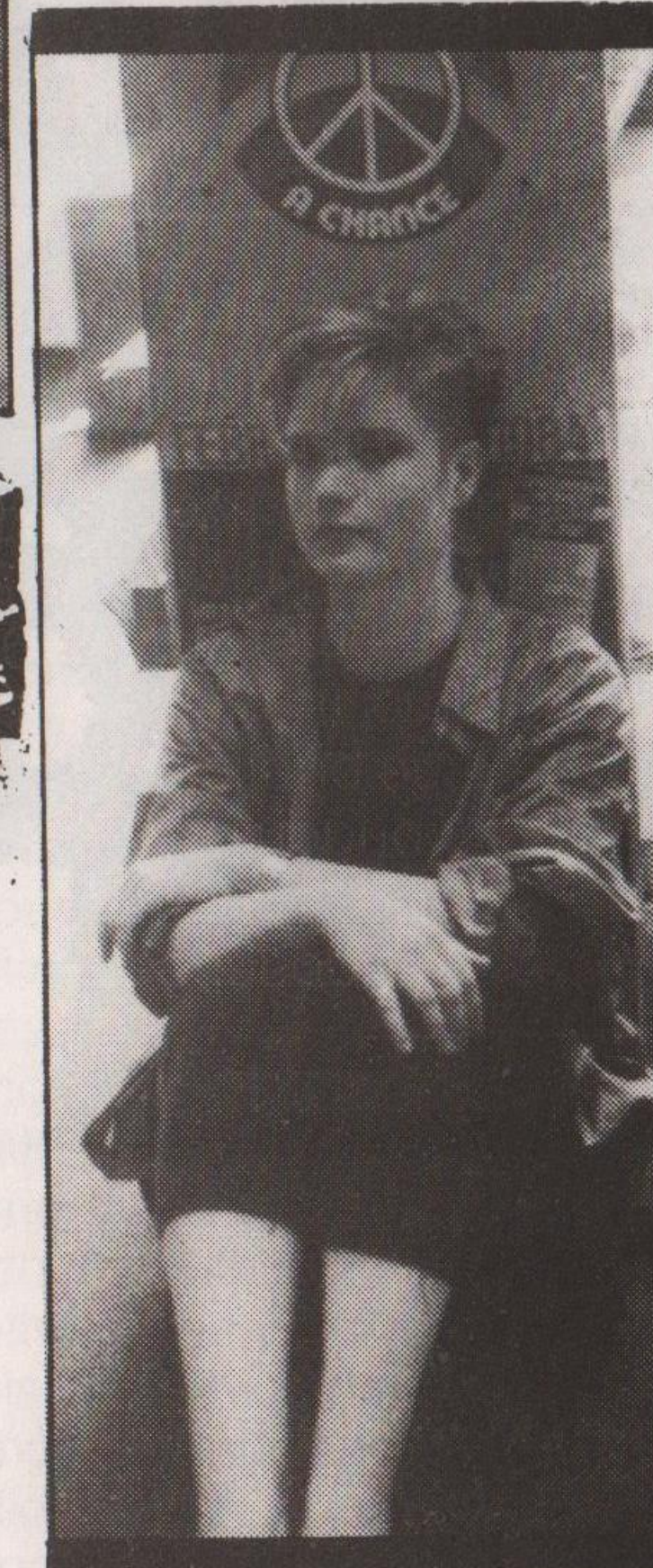
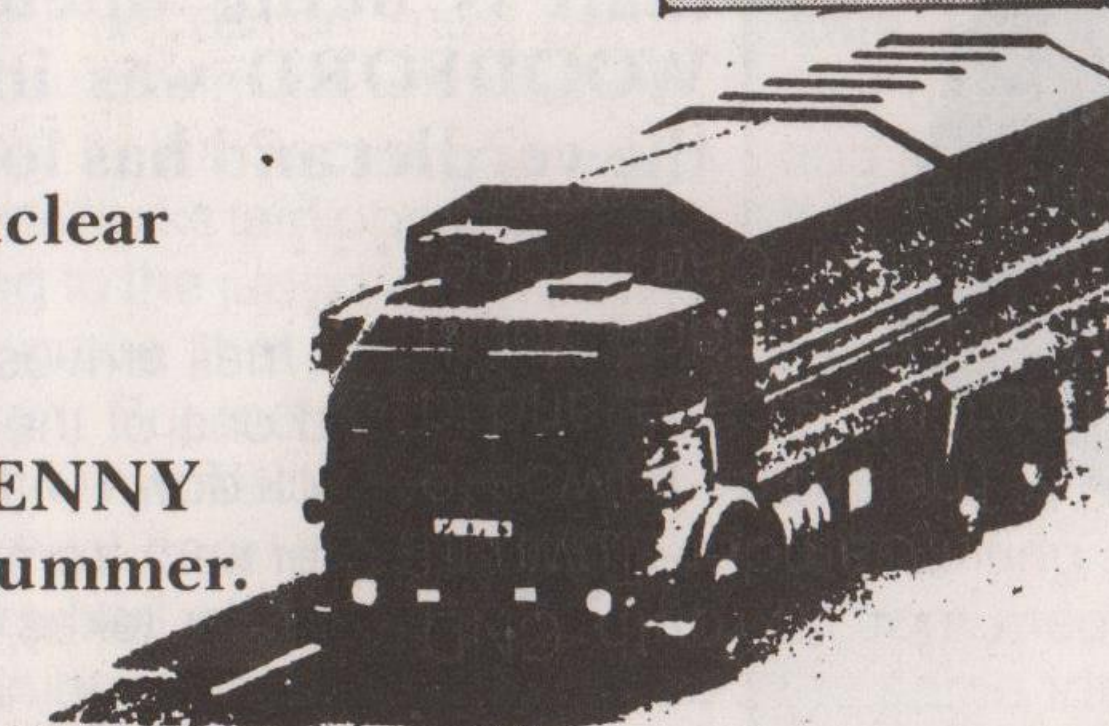
PAUL MANN in conversation with JENNY CARRUTHERS on Snowballs in mid summer.

Page 15

The big big Sign of the Times Competition.

Page 16

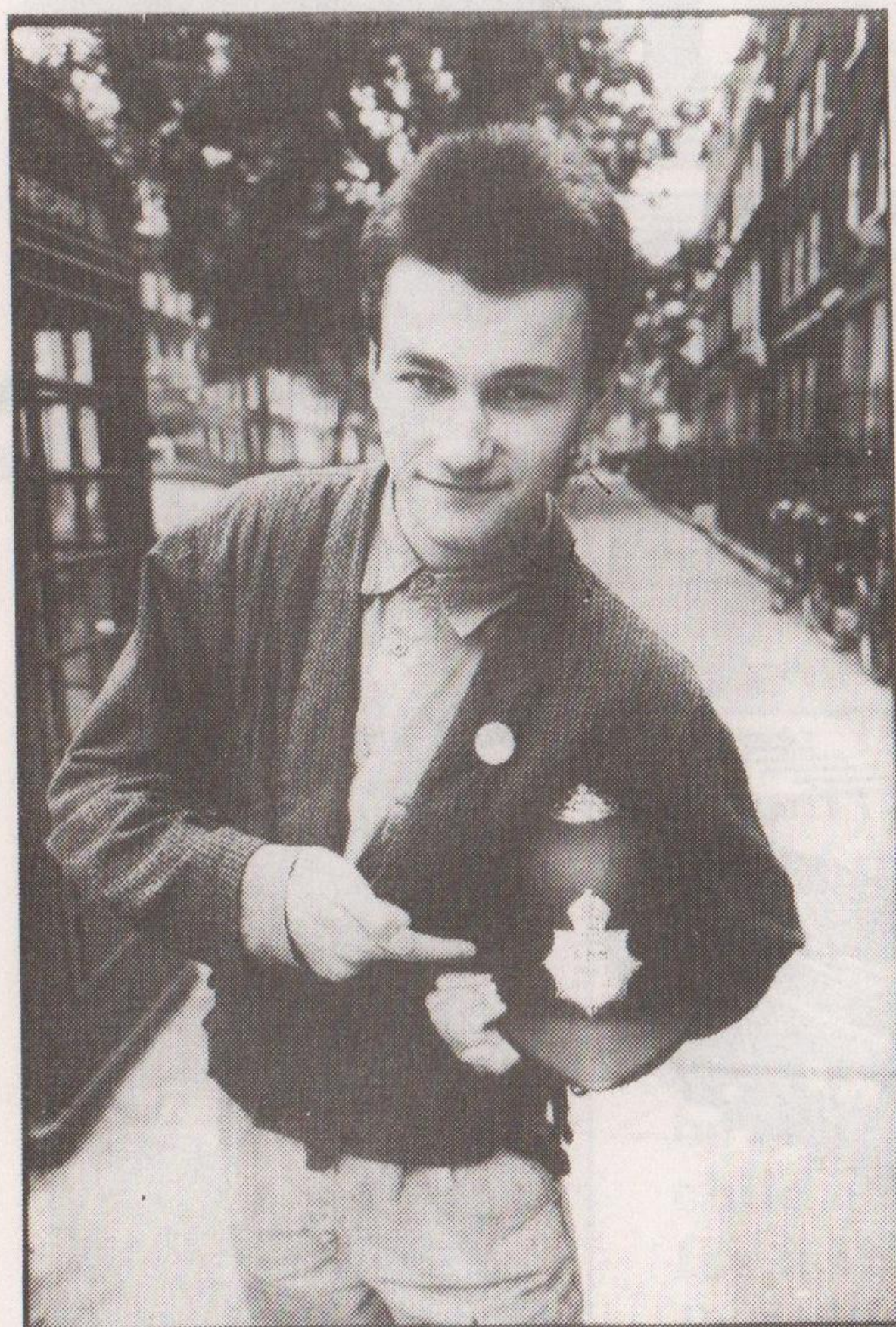
Making Contact — Youth CND across the country.



Our thanks to:

Wil Brown, Andrew Chapman, Chris Horrie, Justin Leighton, Anna Malos, Paul Mann, Peter Sutcliffe, Margo Sweeny, Phil Woodford, Design by Andrew Chapman, Typesetting by Character, Printed by Trader Web.

OFF THE HOOK



Early in September 1986, a High Court judge rejected a case put forward by CND which claimed that some of our leading officers had had their phones tapped illegally. The decision has done nothing to increase the confidence of many peace activists around Britain, who fear that their conversations are being listened into and their mail is being opened. PHIL WOODFORD was in court for the verdict and has looked at the evidence...

Your mail arrives one morning and one of the envelopes is stuck down with Sellotape. A letter sent from another CND member takes two weeks to arrive. There are strange noises on your phone, which disappear when someone comes to investigate them...

Don't be surprised if you recognise any of these problems because CND has unearthed an astonishing amount of evidence to suggest that they are experienced by large numbers of people around the country. The only 'crime' that these people have committed is to be opposed to the Government's nuclear policy and be prepared to campaign against it. It doesn't matter whether you're a local group secretary or an office worker for CND — the chances are that at some point you'll probably have reason to suspect you're being watched.

Cathy Massiter, an MI5 intelligence officer, appeared on a Channel 4 documentary in March 1985. What she revealed to the television viewers sent shockwaves through the establishment and confirmed many suspicions held by CND. She later produced a written document which was used in the campaign's highly publicised court case, backing up her assertion that CND officers had been bugged, in order to obtain information to be used for propaganda purposes. Leading figures such as Bruce Kent, Joan Ruddock and John Cox had been singled out for special attention, although Massiter maintained that files had been kept by MI5 and Special Branch on a whole section of peace campaigners, particularly during the 1970s when CND was thought to be dominated by members of the Communist Party.

Numerous case histories of people's experiences have been collected in the past couple of years, and have been documented in a pamphlet by Gillian Reeve and Joan Smith, entitled *'Offence of the Realm'*. The stories are sometimes humorous, sometimes alarming, but all highlight the fact that if you're living in Britain and you're fighting government policy, then you're liable to be kept under observation... Some CND members have been forced into leaving messages on their friends' Ansaphones. Not suspicious in itself one might think, except when your friends claim that they've never had an Ansaphone! Peace campaigners who track Cruise and Polaris convoys have experienced even more mysterious happenings. Public phones have been disconnected, private phones

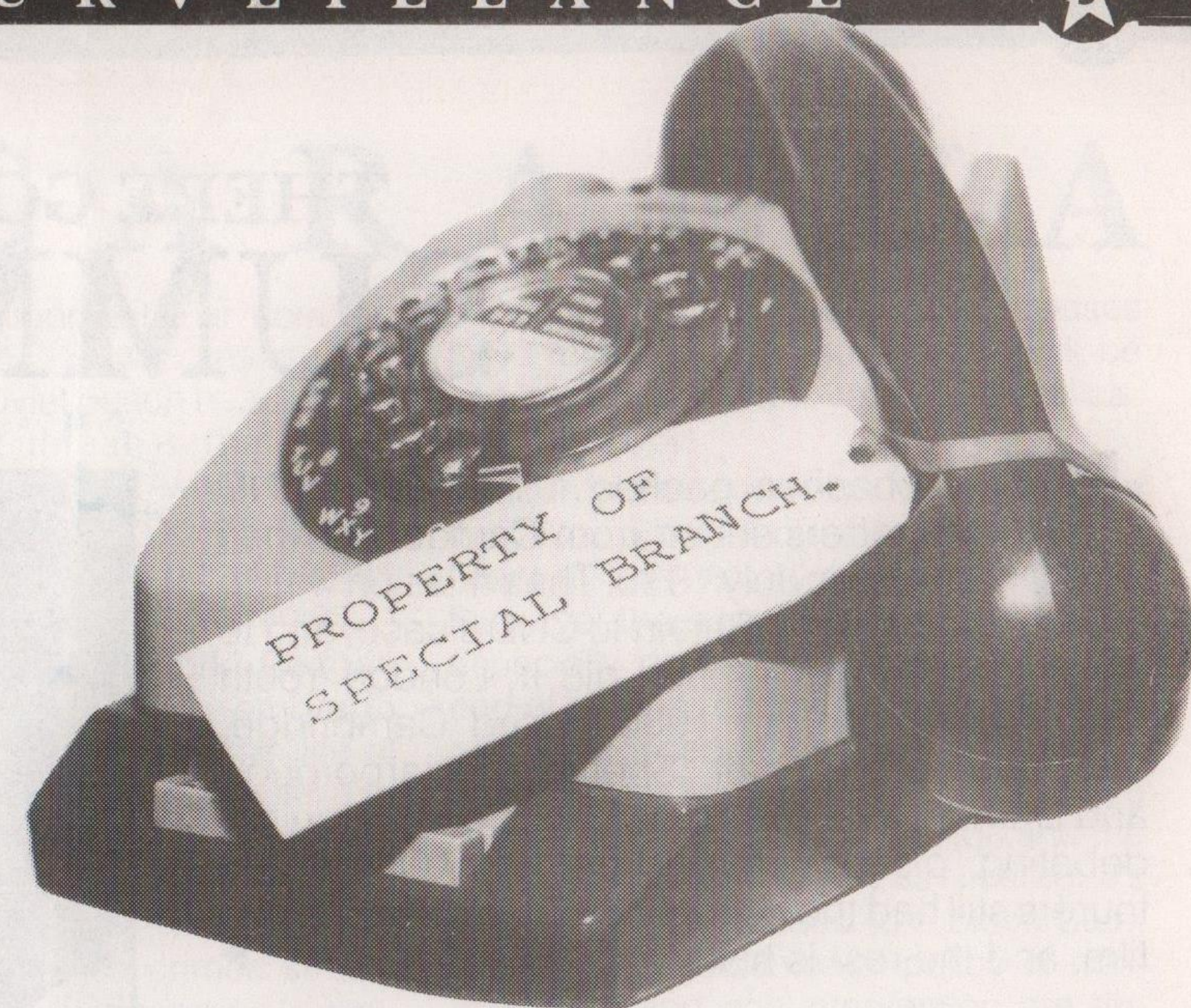
have gone dead, and some activists have found themselves listening to the conversations of local police officers. Karen Lewton's article on surveillance in *'Sanity'* magazine gives accounts of how people have heard their conversations played back to them over the phone. CND Vice-Chair Joan Ruddock has had this happen to her, confirming for her the truth that she had already known for some time.

'Sign of the Times' has spoken to two Youth CND activists about their belief that they are being watched.

YCND Treasurer, Peter Sutcliffe, has certainly not been happy about the service he's received from British Telecom and the GPO: "My mail was cut open and taped back together on several occasions, and sometimes it looked as if it had been steamed open", he commented. "Funny noises on the phone were a common occurrence — they only cleared up once, when a visiting journalist came to probe my allegations. I, of course, had arranged to meet her over the phone. I think all this was done merely to intimidate me — after all, they could have got the information they wanted from our leaflets and newsletters."

David Woodhead, a Youth CND member in Scarborough, one of Britain's busiest seaside resorts, told us of similar experiences. His mail is interfered with on a regular basis, and even letters sent to other family members have been subject to scrutiny. Complaints to his MP and the Home Office have proved futile. He has been fobbed off with the ludicrous excuse that the envelopes used by CND are not strong enough to pass through the mail undamaged! David too finds it difficult to understand why he should have been picked upon: "I always thought of myself as a small cog in a large organisation," he said, "but my post is tampered with as often as once a week."

So why did CND's case fail in the High Court? The evidence is surely there? People are being bugged on a large scale, and even ex-MI5 officers are prepared to testify that this is the case. In fact, CND did win this side of the battle. Mr Justice Taylor said when passing judgment, that he had no reason to doubt the evidence of Cathy Massiter. He had no counter-evidence to suggest that what she had said was untrue, and he was prepared to accept as a matter of fact that telephones had been tapped by the security forces. However CND had to prove that the Home Secretary had acted improperly and illegally when he gave the go ahead for the taps.



"Once you're on file, as a subversive or a potential subversive you can never be sure that your phone is not tapped, your mail is not read, and your home is not bugged"

Offence of the Realm by Gillian Reeve and Joan Smith.

The Birkett Report of October 1957 lays down the principles by which warrants can be issued for phone-taps. First, there must be 'major subversive or espionage activity that is likely to injure the public interest'. Secondly, the material likely to be obtained by interception 'must be of direct use in compiling the information that is necessary to the Security Service in carrying out the tasks laid upon it by the state'. According to the judge in the case, CND failed to prove that these criteria had been broken. But the case was important simply because the court had been prepared to hear it. The government's lawyers had claimed that such issues were concerned with 'national security' and therefore should not be discussed at all. We know now that if we are being harassed and monitored we at least have a right to go to court, even though the chances of winning a case are remote to say the least.

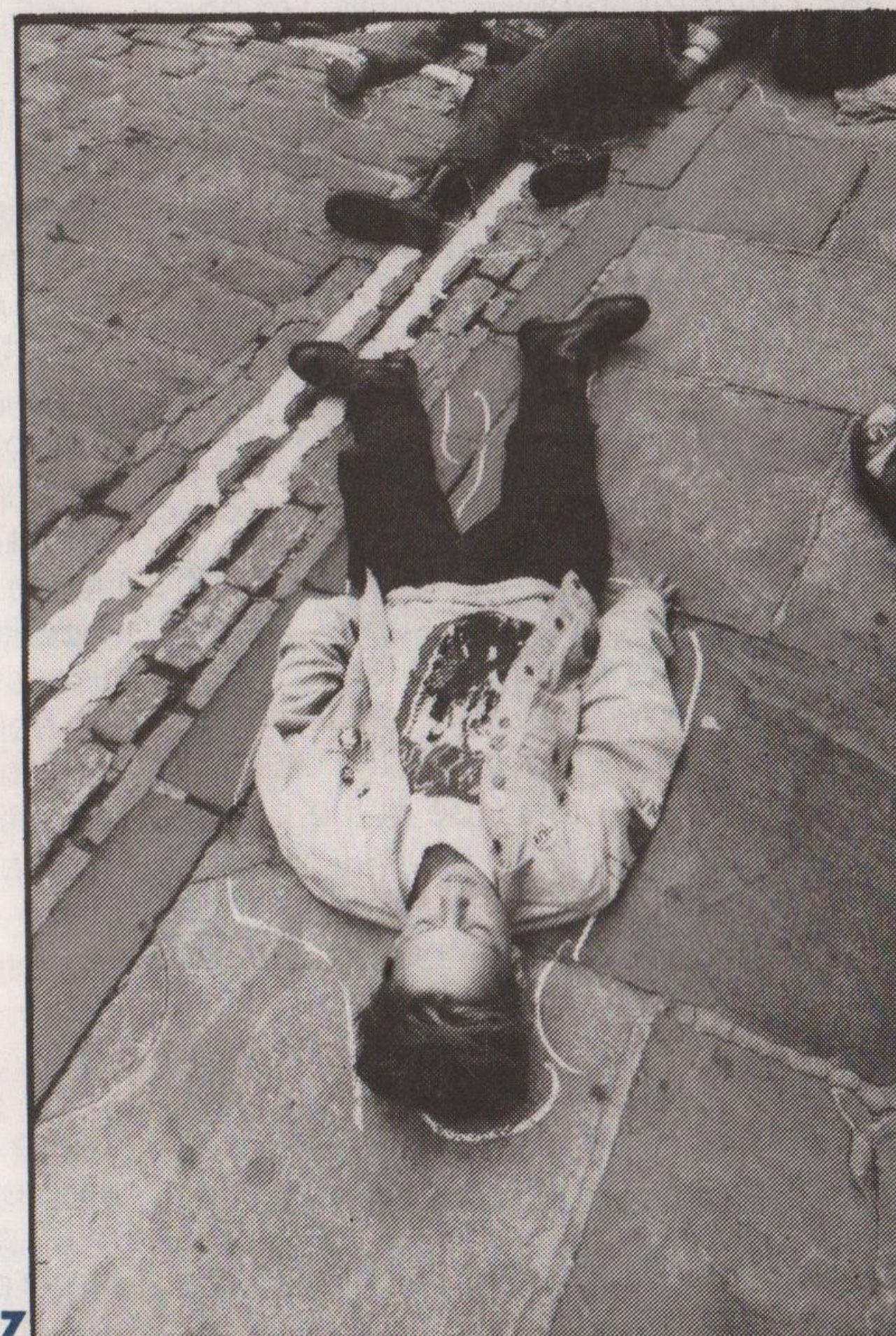
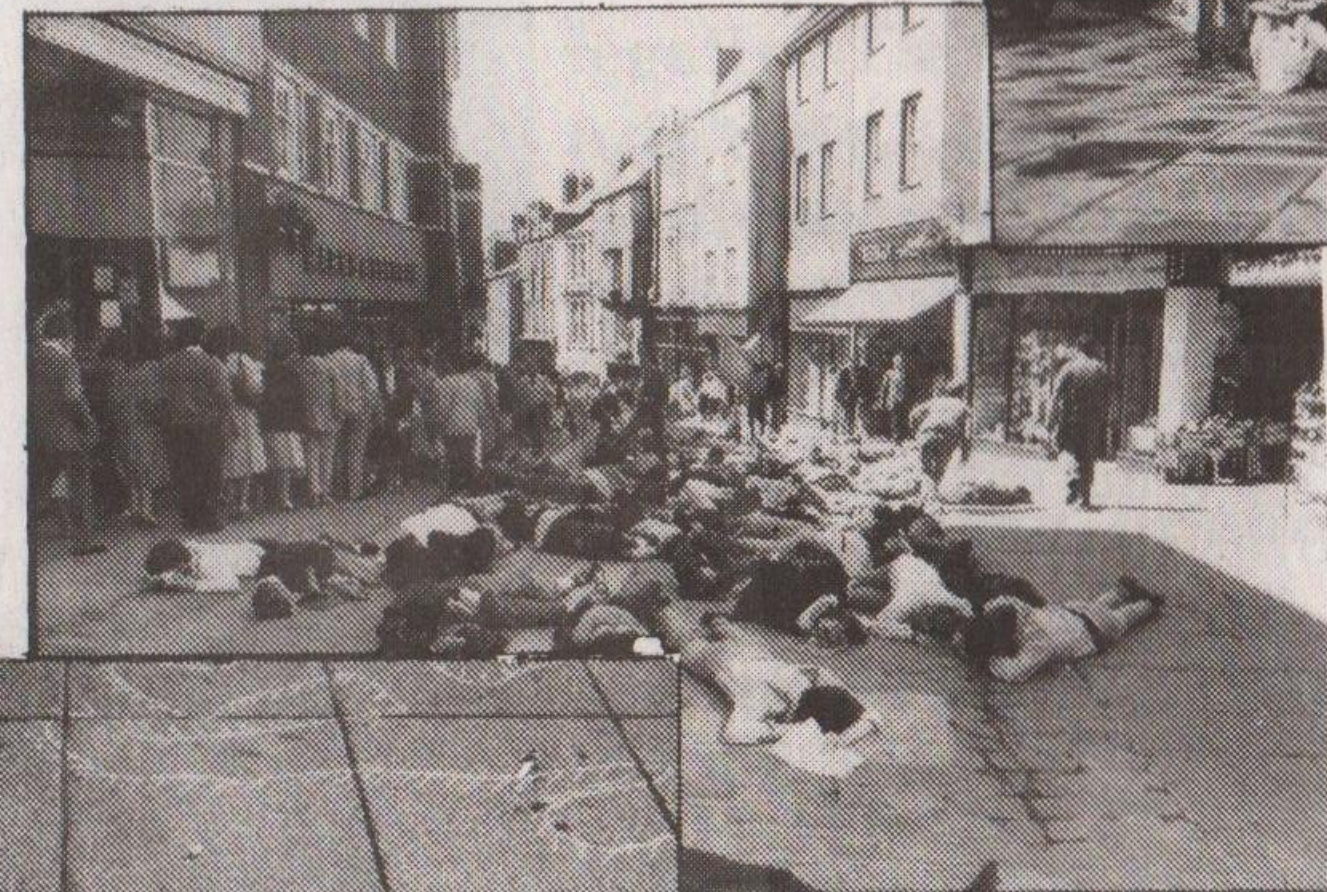
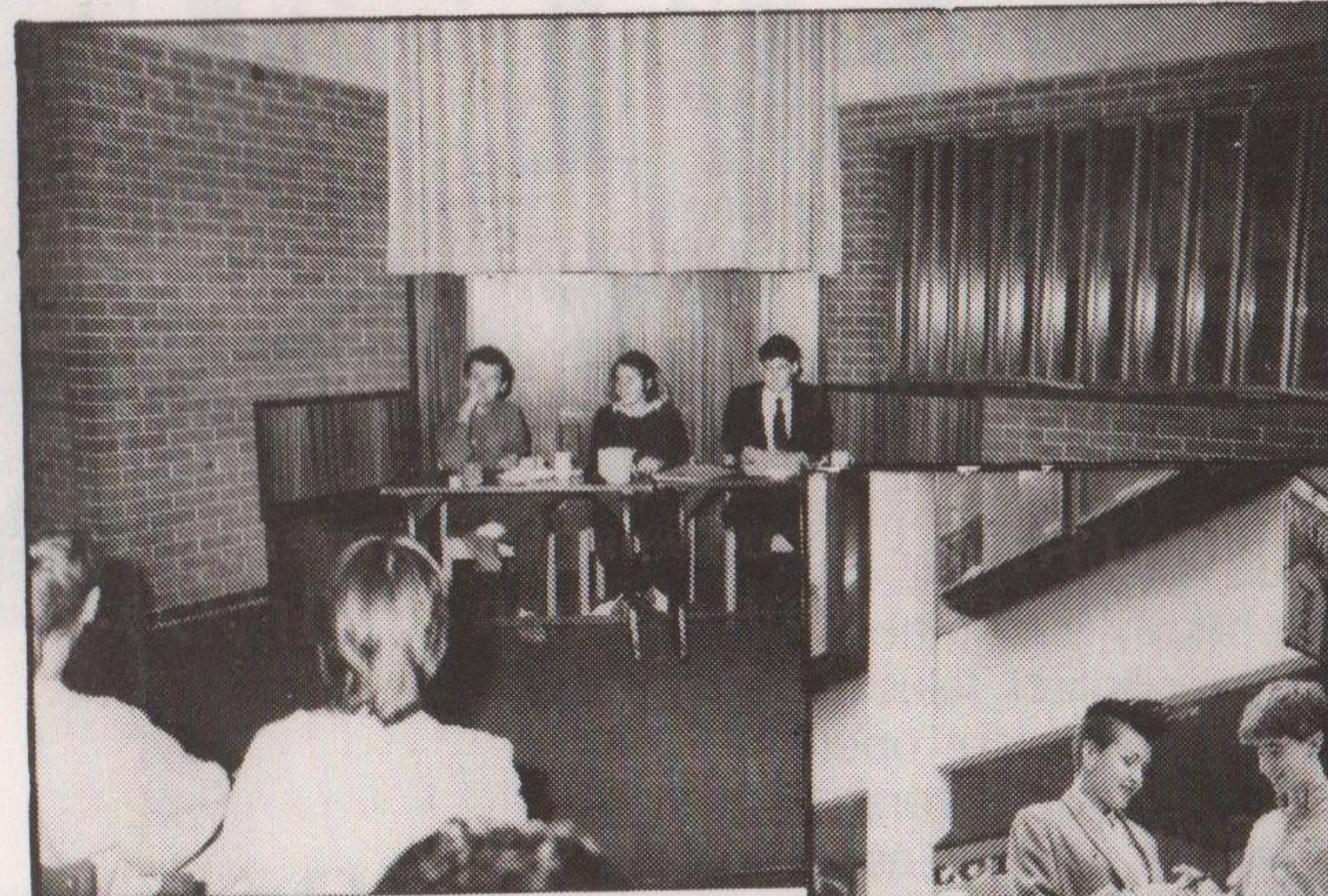
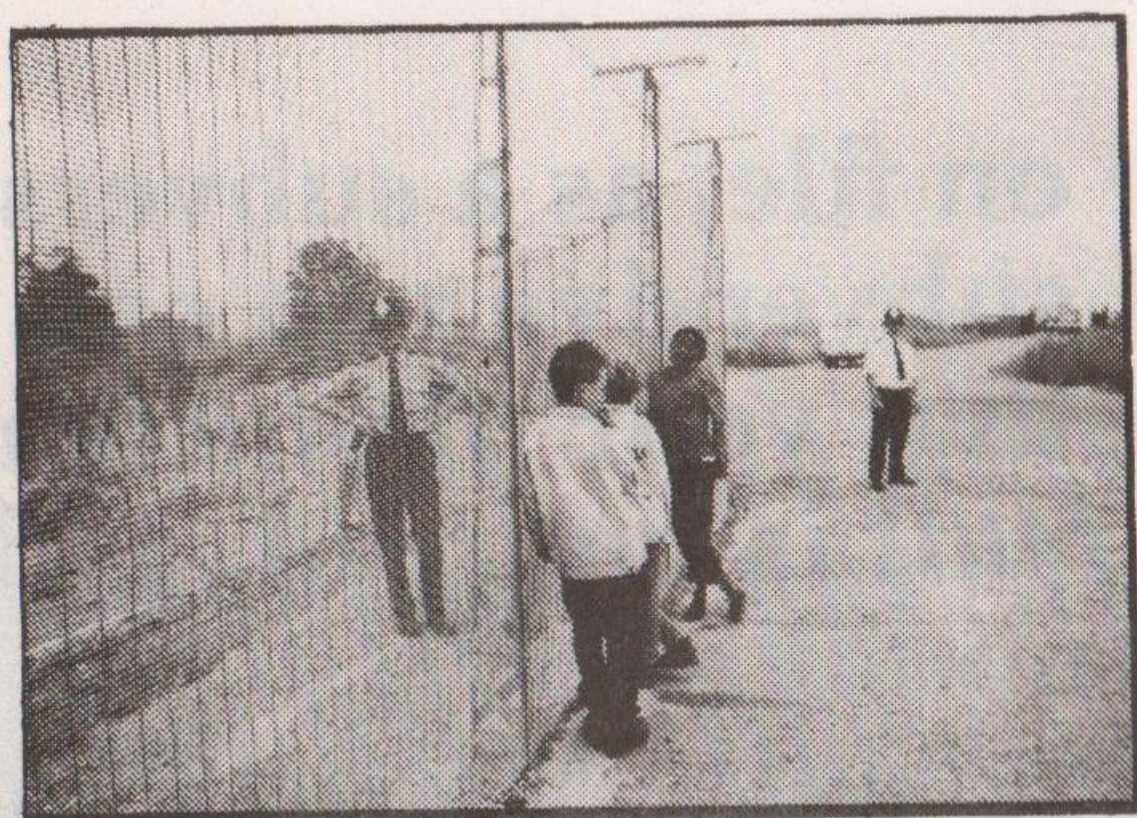


There might be good legal reasons why CND's court case cannot be upheld, but it must now be clear that the moral case is firmly on our side. We supposedly live in a country where an individual's freedoms

are valued, and where we have a right to protest against government policy without fear of being tracked by secret police. In Chile and Argentina there is a history of authoritarian government, and of protestors being persecuted by the state. One of the first freedoms people lose under such regimes is their privacy and their right to share ideas with others. If in Britain, you can't make a phone call without someone listening to what you are saying, or write a letter without someone examining it, just how far down the road are we to a country which would stop you from writing or reading what you choose, or from meeting with people who share the same ideas as you? It is easier and easier to become 'subversive' — a danger to the state. Margaret Thatcher described the miners who fought to save their jobs as 'the enemy within'. CND, unfortunately, is another 'enemy' of Thatcher. We are an organisation which dares to stand up to her dangerous nuclear policy, and an organisation which is gaining more and more support all the time. Thatcher's enemies have faced a tough time since 1979, and increased surveillance is just one aspect of this. It's up to us to keep working, despite the intimidation, for the removal of nuclear weapons from Britain. That's the day when we'll be bugging Thatcher...

THERE GOES THE SUMMER

Two coaches packed full of Youth CND supporters set off from Camden Town in London in July 1986. Their mission was to convert the public of Britain to CND's case, and to have some fun while they did it. London Youth CND's Summer Tour 1986 visited Cambridge, Molesworth, Leicester, Sheffield, Scarborough and Durham in five days of furious campaigning, debating, discussion, and partying. One of the tourers still had the strength to catch the events on film, and the rest is history . . .



- Key**
 1 — Phil Woodford v Berkeley Greenwood from Peace through NATO at the Fisher Hall in Cambridge. The debate goes on . . .
 2 — Convincing the public . . . street campaigning and petitioning in Cambridge.
 3 — Banners flying high . . . London and Durham Youth CND combine forces.
 4 — Greetings from Molesworth.
 5 — Die — in in Durham . . . startled passers by get the feel of a nuclear attack.
 6 — Paving the way for peace in Sheffield.
 7 — Keep death off the pavements — Chas from Putney won't take it lying down.

Photos by Justin Leighton

N I C A R A G U A

William Brown was in Nicaragua from January to March 1986 as a member of the 'David Jones Brigade' — the second brigade to be sent by the Nicaraguan Solidarity Campaign in response to a request from the Sandinistas for volunteers to make up the labour short fall during the coffee harvest.

One of the ironies of the labour shortage with regard to the coffee harvest is that it is largely caused by the success of the Sandinistas land reform. Peasants who now can support themselves from their own land and cooperatives no longer rely on the seasonal harvesting to bolster their income. As a result production brigades are drafted in; from villages, from government departments, from schools and universities and from volunteers abroad — to the remote coffee farms to help with this vital harvest (30 per cent of the country's export earnings come from coffee).

Work is hard, starting at about half past six in the morning and finishing after three in the afternoon, and living conditions are basic. However, tremendous improvements have been achieved since the triumph of 1979. Most of the farms are cooperatively run — some state owned, some private. There is previously unheard of access to free health service and education (on the farm where we stayed a school was just being completed ready for the new term). Most of the work force is unionised and wages, which had just been trebled, are determined nationally by government and union. There is decent, if basic, housing and three meals a day are provided communally for all workers.

This progress in the agricultural sector is reflected elsewhere — extensive land reform; illiteracy drastically reduced; a free health service and the development of a pluralist democratic process based on grassroots community organisation. Nicaragua's young revolution has seen the liberation of the whole country — liberation from poverty and exploitation, from gross inequalities and oppression of basic human rights, but, as a basis to all this, liberation from foreign domination.

The Somoza dynasty which ruled Nicaragua for 50 years before the revolution was supported and maintained by the USA. Since Reagan came to power US intervention in Central America has increased dramatically. Worried that its economic and strategic interests were under threat from Nicaragua's liberation and from guerilla struggles in El Salvador and elsewhere, the Reagan administration has gone to extraordinary lengths to convince public opinion of the evil of indepen-

dence and non-alignment. Far from exporting arms to the El Salvadorean rebels or from being a Soviet beach head, Nicaragua's greatest threat is that of an example. An example of what can be achieved if a country is run for the benefit of the community, not the benefit of the rich and the multi-national companies.

Ronald 'sanctions don't work' Reagan has imposed an economic embargo which is strangling the economic life of the country as well as cutting off vital medical educational supplies. The man who wants to 'stamp out terrorism' has funded, directed, and trained a bunch of mercenary thugs whose crimes stretch from torture, rape and kidnapping to wanton destruction of schools, health centres and communities.

million which it is feared also releases \$400 million of CIA money. This will be used to kill, maim and terrorise the Nicaraguan people.

Reagan's obsession with Nicaragua and the failure of the 'contras' to win any significant military victory makes more likely than ever the possibility of a US invasion especially as the 'mad man' nears the end of his second term. Should this happen the consequences would be disastrous not only for Nicaragua but for peace in the whole region. Would Cuba and the Eastern Bloc stand idly by as Nicaragua's revolution was reduced to a blood bath. Nicaragua's fundamental policy of non-alignment and non-intervention are the corner stones of any possibility of peace and progress in the region.



Wil Brown picking (in Nicaragua) and drinking the fruits of his labour.

The Nicaraguan government has bent over backwards to satisfy typically cosmetic US complaints about democracy while also trying to fight a war. Nicaragua won support for its position in the World Court at the Hague but the US chose to ignore the court's jurisdiction. Nicaragua has asked for direct negotiations with the US but all efforts have been in vain.



Meanwhile Reagan presses for more and more money for the 'contras' as more and more resources of Nicaragua are diverted from development to defence of the country. His latest victory after tremendous pressure from congress was \$100

Nicaragua is in the frontline in resistance to US domination. Reagan's policies can be taken as an indication of what we might expect were Britain ever to try to remove nuclear missiles or US bases. It is therefore essential to our fight to show solidarity with Nicaragua's struggle.

Nicaragua has made tremendous progress in the fight for the development of Third World countries, in the fight for liberation and in the fight for resistance to US domination.

Nicaragua Sobrevivira! Nicaragua Must Survive!

Wil Brown.

For more information on the Nicaraguan struggle contact: Nicaraguan Solidarity Campaign, 20/21 Compton Terrace, London N1.

When Tom Watt isn't making records, compering benefit gigs, or doing interviews he plays the part of Lofty in the BBC's highly successful soap opera 'Eastenders'. ANDREW CHAPMAN decided to interrupt Tom's busy schedule and find out about the lofty heights of a TV personality.

If you've watched 'Eastenders' then you're probably familiar with the unassuming character of Lofty Holloway. Tom Watt who plays the part, is a particularly different person to his 'on screen' self. He spends much of his time, it seems, rushing from one project to another. I asked him if he thought Eastenders should use its influence more and perhaps become a little more 'political'. "It's not a soap opera's job, it's not dramas

off, "permanently down the shops", is the excuse. So, to fill in time he's written his own play and will be performing in it through the first two weeks in October. In addition to this he's recently been recording alongside the likes of Cliff Richard, Howard Jones and Nik Kershaw for a single against heroin.

"This record is basically just a project that we shouldn't really be doing at all, but in the absence of a government that cares about people something needs to be done other than posters being put up in bus shelters. I think it needs to be done for people that are already in trouble from heroin." All proceeds from the record, which should be out mid to late October, will go towards drugs rehabilitation centres. "Heroin is Thatcher's answer to unemployment," quips Tom.

His own record 'A Lot of Tommy Watts' is currently seeking a record deal but, fingers crossed, it shouldn't be too long.

"Basically what we are talking about when talking about the nuclear question is greed, nationalism, and male violence."

But, I wondered, does that mean that CND is avoiding the issue?

"The single issue of nuclear disarmament is almost out of context. It's exactly the same as the anti-heroin record and Band Aid, it's pissing in the wind, it's not what's necessary by who's necessary, but if there's an irresistible cry for help or a crack in the door then obviously you put your weight there. The reason that people are starving is because people are spending money on nuclear weapons. It's as simple as that."

Tom has been acting professionally for the past ten years and in that time has been doing all number of acting jobs. I asked him when he first started to form his political views.

I guess to some extent while I was at college. My politics are pretty confused

a benefit for the sacked printworkers at an event called 'Rock Against Rupert'. I asked him why.

"For a good night out and again because it's something to which I might be able to draw people's attention to without ramming anything down anybody's throat. Potentially I suppose I could be on a soapbox, but Murdoch's a scumbag and News International are scumbags so it is worth doing."

Enough said. We continue to talk, particularly about the Sun (mouthpiece of rancid Great Britain) and come to the conclusion that it's run by "fat male perverts" (if only you could say that on Eastenders, Tom!) Our conversation goes back to Eastenders, does the character Lofty contradict at all with the actor?

"I think he probably has too much of an open mind to develop a hard and fast political mind. I think instinctively he's aware enough to take responsibility and also aware of the need to help those that

EASTENDERS

TOM WATT TALKS

job. The ideal balance is to provide entertainment stimulating enough for people to bother thinking about the moral issues behind it themselves."

Although Tom is not alone in his sympathy for the peace movement in the cast of Eastenders, he doesn't believe that a soap opera is there for any reason but to act as a drama of peoples lives.

"It's absolutely not Eastenders job to frame peoples thinking — put certain things on the agenda maybe but it's not our job to tell or even suggest to people how they should think about things."

Tom takes this line as a basis for his own outlook.

"Just because someone's in a famous soap opera their opinions still aren't worth much. I think it's quite a dangerous thing that I should have any influence because, like I say, my opinions aren't any more valid or any more important than anybody else's. When it comes to anything other than the job I do I'm just Joe Punter."

Eastenders takes up 5½ days of Tom's week, although at present he has a month

Tom is very keen not to be seen as a 'soapbox celebrity. I asked him what he thought of Red Wedge who, although their efforts are admirable, could be seen as precisely that.

"Their celebrity rests entirely in their art and their political beliefs and personal opinions are an integral part of what they're trying to communicate. That's not the case with me."



As an anarchist by his own definition does he believe in the aims of Red Wedge, working for a Labour victory?

"I think it's fine to be doing that. A Labour government would have to be better than the one we've got now although I'm not especially wild about a Labour government. Particularly on the issue of nuclear disarmament, I'm afraid I trust them to do that as far as I can throw them."

So what about CND, does he trust them?

and idealistic really. We live in a political situation that's defined by centralised authority, so in effect we're swimming against the current. Most of what's wrong with the world is that not enough people take enough responsibility for their lives. I can't honestly say that a socialist government will deal with that problem. I'd vote Labour, however a hung parliament would be the nearest to no government and that's alright."

He is soon to be unveiling a plaque for London CND. I asked him why he was doing this.

"I can go and do that and maybe my being there will attract other people along and also the press. That may influence people no further than to think about it. Just because I am, for some unknown reason, a celebrity and that my opinion should influence anybody is madness. It's the madness of this society."

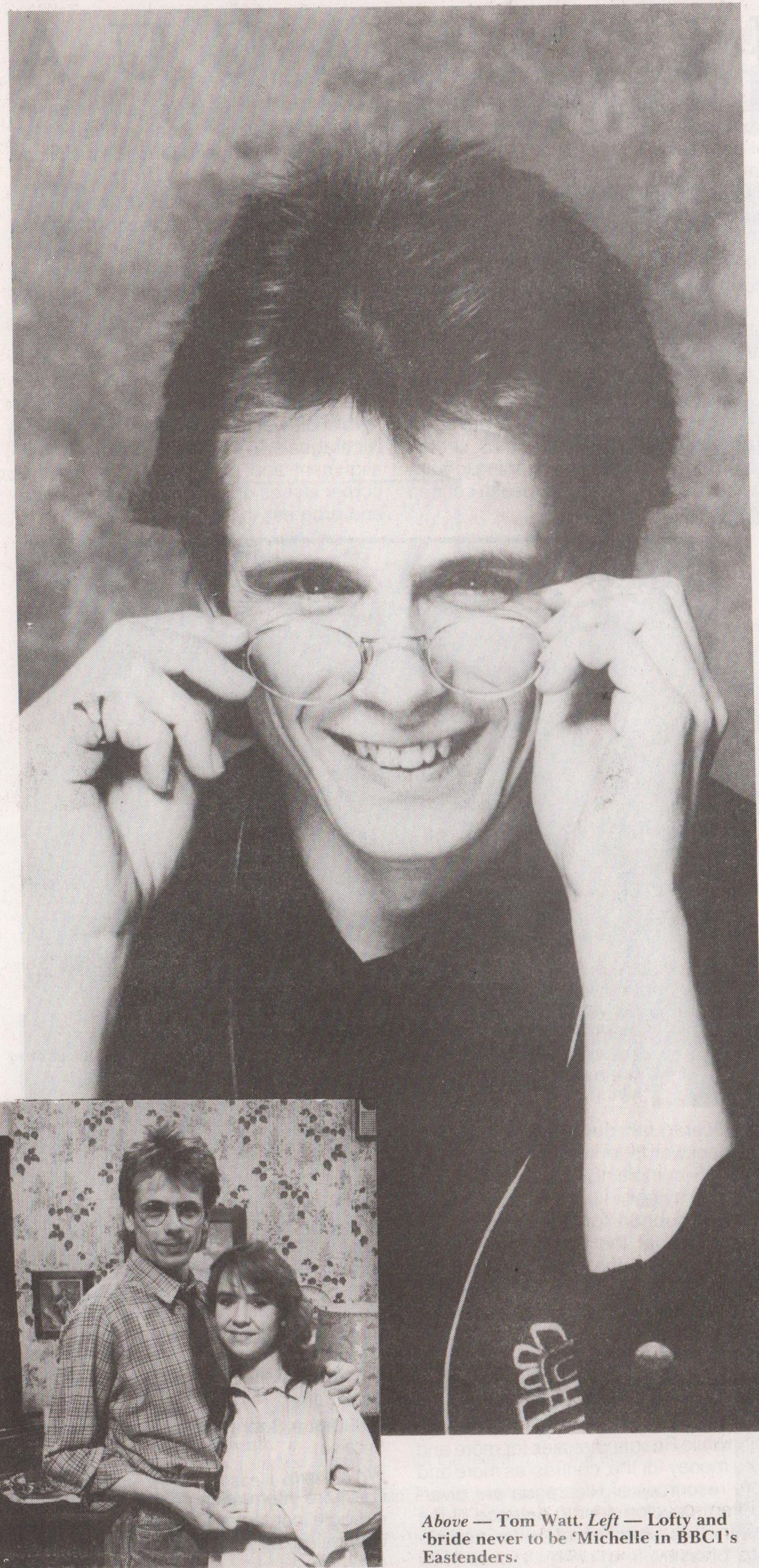
Even so Tom Watt is keen to put himself forward for a good cause (this interview for instance). He is soon to be compering

can't help themselves — these things are political. I think he has quite a low self image though."

And for those of you that have ever watched Eastenders and, like me, thought 'something's missing from these characters', and that the programme misses out somewhere along the line you may be interested to hear Tom's response. "The thing is people in general aren't really that interested in politics which is part of the inheritance of years of government — you hand the responsibility up. What you think is missing from the characters in Eastenders is missing from people in general and that's the sense of their own power."

And on that point I left looking soap operas in the face and armed with a copy of Tom Watt's latest record, a rather 'different' version of Bob Dylan's 'Subterranean Homesick Blues'.

If you've never watched Eastenders then you should because, if, like me, you need to escape, there is no finer place to escape to than Albert Square on BBC1, 7.30 Tuesday and Thursday (and it doesn't clash with Coronation Street). □



Above — Tom Watt. Left — Lofty and 'bride never to be' Michelle in BBC1's Eastenders.

BLUE MEANIES

The Coalition for Peace Through Security raised their ugly heads around the time of CND's re-emergence. SIGN OF THE TIMES found out who they are, what they are for, and just who's behind them.

June 9th 1984. A massive CND demonstration winds its way through London. Up from the banks of the Thames, past the unheeding

Mother of Parliaments, pouring down Whitehall amongst the great buildings of state, their bunker citadel deep below.

Half way along Whitehall CND stewards warn that a 'group of right wingers' are attempting to disrupt the march some yards further on.

The right wingers turn out to be the Coalition for Peace Through Security (CPS) — experts at the slur, the smear, and the political wind up. Their headquarters at the top end of Whitehall, fortuitously on the route of the CND march, are decked with nasty slogans and a huge painting of Bruce Kent embracing the leader of the KGB.

The CPS are out in strength, which — for them — means about two dozen people. Most are on top of the CPS offices haranguing the CND through a sizeable loud-speaker system. Others are scurrying around dressing the stage for a counter CND rally starring Lady Olga Maitland later that day.

Their aim is simple enough. They hope to get a rise out of the CND marchers. Nothing would suit them better than a violent or abusive response to their insults. Showing their customary good sense, the CND marchers fail to fall for it. Instead they ask — who are these people, who's behind them?

Good questions. The answers reveal much about the forces ranged against the peace movement, their tactics and methods.

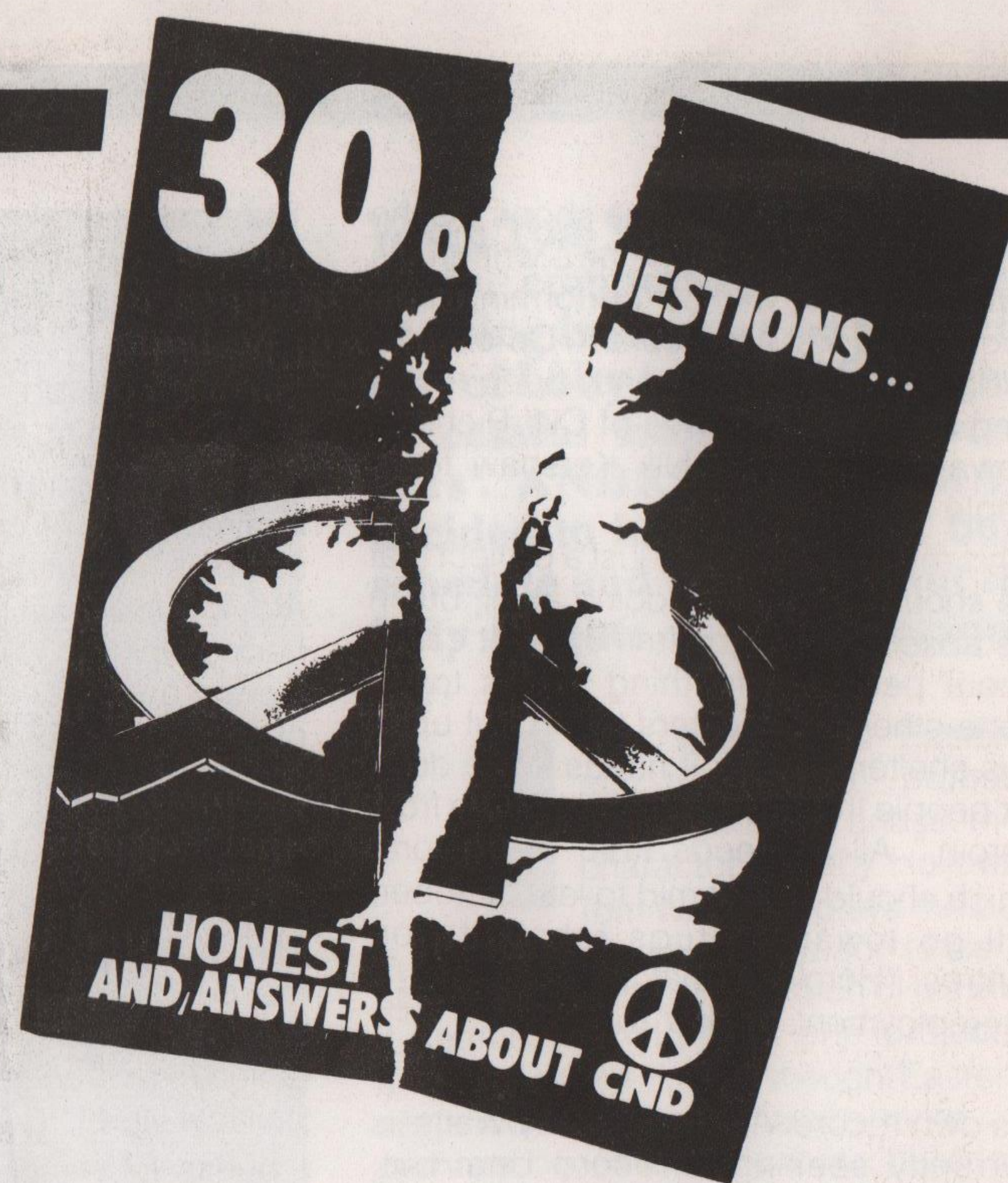
The CPS had been launched some two years earlier at a conference in London called 'Understanding Politics'. It was organised by the Heritage Foundation — a Washington DC based 'think tank' generally described as the 'powerhouse of the US new right'. The conference promised to teach British Conservatives the devastatingly effective methods of American far rightists such as the use of direct mail 'hit lists'. This idea was later used in Britain, it involved swamping the constituencies of MPs deemed 'hostile to CPS aims' (possibly CND supporters) with personalised letters to voters. This technique contributed largely to Reagan's landslide victory when used in America.

The first three organisers of the CPS were Edward Leigh, former correspondence secretary to Margaret Thatcher, now MP for Gainsborough and a pioneer against the nuclear issue being raised in schools (the CND line that is). With him were Tony Kerpel, leader of the Conservative group on Camden council and Francis Holihan, an American.

It was probably the latter who organised much of the American backing that the CPS has received, but after rows Holihan was pushed out and replaced by Dr Julian Lewis who now effectively runs the CPS. Kerpel and Leigh are still with the organisation, Edward Leigh being the CPS's link man with the Conservative party.

Lewis's methods are simple. He is not at all interested in building a mass movement in favour of the government's nuclear policies. Instead he concentrates on harassing CND leaders. The CPS, he said, "was like a rapier", turning up at the major CND events and hoping to wreck press coverage by causing confrontation of various types and staging showy publicity stunts. If you've been on a CND demo in London then you'll probably have seen the private plane towing a banner with messages such as 'KGB Loves CND'. You may also have seen 'cancelled' stickers over demo posters — both are the work of the CPS.

Despite claims to the contrary all this is closely coordinated with the anti-CND effort of the Conservative party, the government funded British Atlantic Committee and the MoD's own propaganda outfits. The CPS have pretended party political neutrality which serves the Conservative party well allowing them to disown some of the more 'dirty trick' type activity of the CPS. Lewis and the CPS have strong links with other far right individuals and organisations, one being the Foreign Affairs Research Institute (FARI) who, as well as being funded by the South African Government to the tune of £90,000 a year for 'anti' Anti Apartheid propaganda, have published a pamphlet attacking CND and put down a parliamentary motion requiring CND to 'prove' that it was not Soviet funded.



Above — The Coalition for Peace Through Security's 'Questions and Answers' based on a CND leaflet of the same type states, "CND propaganda depends on creating a climate of fear and hysteria via such crude statements as 'every body will die in a nuclear war'." Members of the Coalition obviously won't?

The propaganda campaign against CND involves many more people than the Coalition for Peace through Security. From the early 1980s onwards old CIA and British Intelligence covert propaganda organisations were revived to take up the pro-nuclear fight. New organisations were formed. Under Reagan the CIA and the equally important United States Information Agency (USIA) — have been massively boosted and given the green light to conduct covert propaganda and political action.

Most recently the CPS found new press coverage when they dogged Bruce Kent along the route of his 'long march' from Faslane to Burghfield. Although with Bruce most of the way their most tasteless show was at Burghfield when Bruce was planting a cherry tree in remembrance of the Hiroshima bomb. Julian Lewis and Norris McWhirter (of Record Breakers fame) among others, decided to disrupt the minute's silence by playing the National Anthem from a sound system on the roof of a car. Tactics like this not only prove their ridiculous sentiments but also exose the CPS as the



The Coalition at Burghfield. Noisy, nasty and tasteless.

sinister body they are,

One important factor on the Burghfield affair was that, for the first time at a CND event there were no civilian police about, thus giving the CPS (or anyone else for that matter) free run to disrupt and annoy. The message has remained the same throughout the cold war, that people who simply demand peace and moderate measures to curb the nuclear arms race are somehow "dupes" of the Soviet Union, directed by devilishly clever "KGB agents". The few tawdry shreds of 'evidence' for this have been demolished as fake on each occasion, yet they persist as vague impressions on people's minds. And when this 'evidence' is disproved the CPS and their ilk will simply fall back on the technique of smear. There are opponents of CND who have genuine and well thought out fears about what disarmers propose. It is vitally important that CND listens to these people, debates with them, and, who knows, even come to some compromise with them. The Coalition for Peace Through Security, its very name a lie, does not fall into that category.

UP AND COMING

During the last couple of months of the year Youth CND will be bringing the debate to many major towns and cities in the country. We want to talk about NATO, it's role, it's reasons, and why we should be against it. NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) is the nuclear alliance that Britain is part of and it acts supposedly as a 'balance' between the other military bloc the Warsaw Pact. Both NATO and the Warsaw Pact have been responsible for the build up of nuclear weapons worldwide and any talk about nuclear disarmament must make some comment on the NATO issue.

Britains involvement in NATO has meant that we have to have US bases here, that we have to have US missiles here and means that we have become a major nuclear target thanks to our major role in NATO.

The question of NATO is a complicated one, CND has a policy of withdrawal from NATO and now Youth CND feel that the issue needs to be discussed on a wider level. We want to take the NATO issue to your town and give you access to the information as to why we should come out of NATO. At present the Labour party and the Alliance are formulating their defence policies, we want the Labour Party and the Alliance

NATO



to take up the issue of withdrawal from NATO and we want to spread that message. We know that a world based on mutual fear is not right and we know that a world that has been divided by military ideals is wrong too. Our anti NATO 'speaking tour' will hit major towns and cities all over the country with big name speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds including Labour Party, CND, speakers from Spain who recently joined NATO and many others. If you want to find out more about this campaign, which towns it'll be visiting and how you can get involved please get in touch with the office at the address given on the back page. NATO? NO TA!

Another project on the horizon for Youth CND is our petition against Trident which we hope will act as a major campaign for local groups to organise around. Details of the Trident petition will be sent out to all Youth CND groups so, if you're not involved in a local group but want to get involved in this project then get in touch (address and phone number on back page). Trident is a crucial issue for young people. It's cost alone (over 11 billion pounds) could be must better spent. It could be spent on investment in our future instead the government, in their wisdom, beleive it would be better spent on putting our very future in jeopardy. This Autumn Youth CND will be saying, quite defiantly . . . NO TO TRIDENT. Get in touch.

In the next issue of Sign of the Times which should be out around February we hope to feature a page or two written, specifically by and for young women in Youth CND. If you have any ideas on what you'd like to see featured on these pages or better still if you'd like to write something yourself then please send stuff in to reach us by mid January. We look forward to hearing from you.

Right — Polaris warheads on the road near Manchester. Below — Protesters stop the convoy.



KEEPING TRACK

Nuclear warheads travelling up and down the country? Someone should do something about this. EMMA BENSON discovers Polariswatch.

Resolution, Repulse, Renown, and Revenge. Four words that sum up the very nature of their owners. For these are the names of Britain's fleet of Polaris submarines. Nuclear submarines that are based on the West coast of Scotland and that regularly secrete themselves in the dark depths of the Atlantic ocean west of Ireland. Each submarine has the ability to launch 16 nuclear warheads, each warhead the power of 16 Hiroshimas. Polaris submarines supposedly exist as Britain's independent nuclear deterrent. We say they exist as dangerous expensive war fighting machines who's use is utterly unthinkable. But think on this...

Almost every month warheads from these submarines travel the length of the country, on our roads, to be overhauled. The long journey runs from Faslane, where the submarines are based, to Burghfield near Reading in Berkshire where the warheads are serviced. Did you know that nuclear warheads may pass by your front door? Most people don't.

William Peadon is a member of the Polariswatch network. A network of people all over the country that is actively involved in keeping track of the Polaris convoy's movements.

I asked William what happens when the convoy is actually out on the roads. "First we panic and then alert our telephone tree. When we've established what route the convoy is taking then we alert people on that particular route. Some go out on the motorways for demonstration or vigils. It's at the stage at the moment where people are going out and actually seeing it. In October there'll be demos all over the country to mark the route that the convoys take."

During the 400 mile journey from Scotland to the South some 47 nuclear free zones are breached, it is a journey that passes through densely populated towns during daylight hours... shrouded in secrecy.

As you may think, the Ministry of Defence is not altogether happy about ordinary people taking such an interest in their 'official secret'. William, who has been convoy tracking for about three years, has been subject to a good deal of bother from the police that accompany the convoy.

"I've no knowledge of anyone else who's been arrested trying to take photos of the convoy. I've been arrested five times for taking photos. Usually the charge is breach of the peace and usually I'm found not guilty. I'm on a two year bond over at the moment for £250 and a £210 fine just for taking photos!"

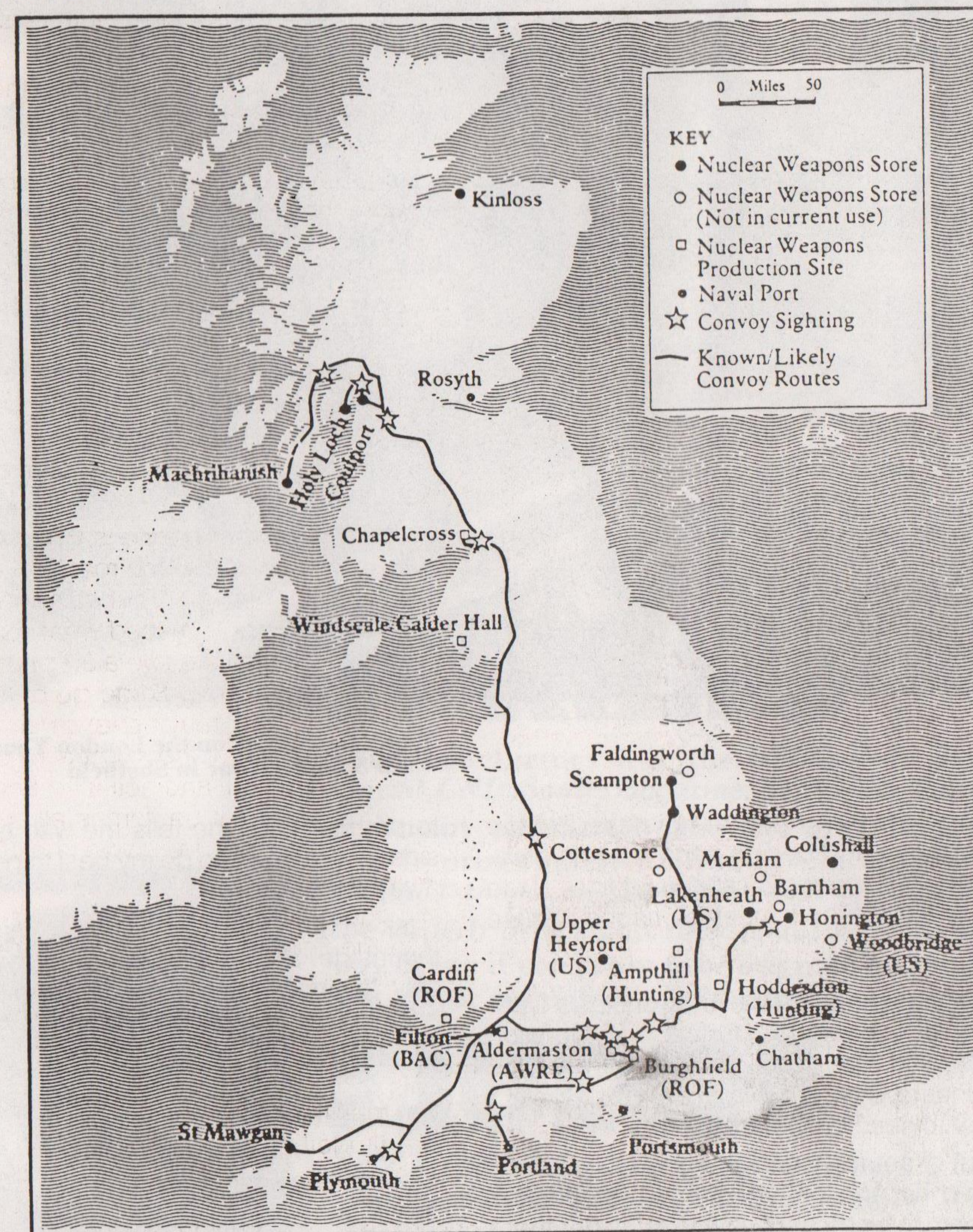


As we're well aware, the police in this country are most definitely not on our side and in William's case it proves a point that although nuclear convoys use public roads they are quite clearly not for public interest.

"Two police cars pulled us over", William recounts one incident, "and I tried to take photos. As I tried to get out of one door of the car I was pushed back in and likewise when I tried to get out of the other door. I had the film ripped out of my camera. The police are getting more annoyed as we get more effective."

There are a total of 14 vehicles in the convoy usually consisting of four to eight Transit vans, they carry RAF soldiers and act as the main security force for the convoy and all personnel are armed. In addition there are usually four to six motorcycle outriders. They look like civilian police, in fact they are highly trained regiment soldiers in disguise. A fire engine is always in amongst the convoy in case of accident, a command and control centre which decides on the route to be taken etc, and, most importantly, three to five warhead carriers. These are 10 ton armoured carriers. They are believed to carry four warheads each. These vehicles should carry radioactive warning symbols but never do. These lorries are the most distinctive vehicles in the convoy and the only means of positive identification. It shouldn't be too hard to spot really should it?

The route tends to vary but the most commonly used routes are shown on the map.



Map shows sightings of the nuclear weapons convoys since April 1982 and likely travel routes. Confirmed nuclear weapons stores are shown. Nuclear depth bombs may be held on ships at any of the ports shown.

One might think that an accident involving any of the convoy vehicles particularly those carrying warheads would make front page news. You'd be wrong. Last June a secret military convoy was involved in a public accident in Helensburgh in Strathclyde, Scotland. As the convoy made its way through the town two heavily armed nuclear weapons carriers collided. (One of the carriers stopped at a red light and the one behind failed to respond quickly enough.)

A fire ensued but the incident caused no more than a traffic jam... this time!

I asked William what the response was like to the convoy in Helensburgh. "Before the crash the people in Helensburgh didn't care about the convoy, they just didn't seem to want to know. Afterwards we leafleted and people were grabbing leaflets from us, demanding more information, and having half hour conversations with us."

Clearly the military in the area had failed in their duty to fully explain to the public exactly what would happen if there was an accident. If the damage done hadn't been so slight it could have resulted in a conventional explosion that would release a huge amount of plutonium, poisoning a huge area of land. Not a pretty picture.

Convoys of both Polaris and Cruise missiles are now subject to increased activity from peace activists all over the country. American Air Force vehicles have even run into demonstrators who were trying to blockade the base at Greenham Common in order to stop Cruise missiles leaving the base. But what makes someone so determined to highlight the fact that these convoys (both Cruise and Polaris) are trundling up and down the country?

"I got involved because the convoy was travelling up the M8 and this bothered me," William explained. "I'm just generally a nosy bugger who likes to find out about things. This thing upset me more than anything else. No one knew about it. I just wanted to get more people involved, get more photographs of it." Local papers have not always been keen to cover the convoy when it goes through a particular area but photographic evidence is always needed if a local paper is going to give a story.

So the battle continues. Polaris convoys carry on using public roads. They carry on taking nuclear warheads through our towns and the protesters continue to plague the authorities by making it known that this is going on. If you want to find out more about Polariswatch or any of the information carried in this article then contact Janet Convery at the CND address given on the back page.

FIGHTING WITH WORDS

PAUL MANN meets JENNY CARRUTHERS of Norwich Youth CND ...

The main drawback about prison is there's no music," Jenny ("Call me Felix, it's got an 'X' in it, and anyway, everyone's called Jenny") Carruthers is telling me over a half of lager at the Norwich Labour Club. I went to meet her after she'd been to court for her part in a recent stage of the Snowball Campaign. She was fined £120 for her symbolic cut of the fence at USAF Sculthorpe in north Norfolk; a fine, she told a horrified teacher at her school, she has of course no intention of paying.

"Prison!" was the wide-eyed response. But gone are the days when you could rely on prison inmates to have committed a crime in the accepted sense of the world.

Felix has lived all her 17 years in Norwich, and all of them in the same (rather nice) house in Cecil Road, near the City College. She's doing A levels because "my parents want me to".

Her parents are both teachers. Her father used to be a Labour Councillor, so CND was never far away from home. She recalls watching TV news at age 10 or 11, and asking what CND was. "They told me and I thought, 'yeah, that makes sense'."

She joined Youth CND last October, and has been active in the local group ever since. Earlier this year they staged a picket and closed the armed forces recruiting office in Bridewell Alley. This was Felix's idea. You quickly find out ideas aren't something she has any shortage of.

"The recruitment offices are committing a felony because the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons is illegal. If someone's invited to join the armed forces they're being invited to break one of the first rules of British Military law, which is that you shouldn't kill civilians."

She's a vegetarian ("I never liked the taste of meat") and a pacifist. "Fighting with weapons gets you nowhere. I believe in fighting with words. That's what we're doing in YCND."



Jenny Carruthers on the London Youth CND Summer Tour in Sheffield.

Now Felix has written my name on a scrap of paper, and beside each letter, a number. "Numerology," she explains. "I do this whenever I meet someone. You're five, like me."

She has two part-time jobs: one as a cleaner at the nearby Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, the other as a cashier at the Cinema City arts cinema. "It's brilliant! I get to see films for free."

But of course when she goes to jail she'll lose her jobs. Surprisingly, this doesn't seem to worry her: what worries her more is that she might not get out of prison in time for the next stage of the Snowball on November 2nd. She has until October 8th

to pay her fine; she tells me with enthusiasm, "I'm going to do my best to get put away on that day."

I ask what music she's going to miss on the inside. She's rather keen on psychobilly, this new blend of country and punk, and enthuses about the dancing.

"... Elbowing everyone out of the way. It gets so violent! It's a really good release ... " Then remembering that she's supposed to be pacifist, she smiles, "I know I shouldn't be saying that."

"No, Felix, bit of a contradiction there!"

Felix, soon bound for Holloway, regards her empty glass.

"I'm cuspal."

□



THE COMPETITION

PICTURE THE SCENE ... YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED TO TEA WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. AS YOU MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE BUTTERED SCONES AND SMALLTALK SHE ANNOUNCES THAT IN AN EFFORT TO PUT BRITAIN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE SHE INTENDS TO PUT POWER BEFORE PEOPLE AND SPEND OVER 11 BILLION POUNDS ON THE TRIDENT NUCLEAR SUBMARINE SYSTEM, YOU REPLY (in not more than 15 words.



Name:

Address:

Please fill in your response in a maximum of 15 words. Either fill in the space provided or send in on a plain piece of paper what you'd say to the Prime Minister.

The winning entries will, if suitable, be sent to Downing Street while the amazing array of prizes will be sent to you.

Entries should reach us by January 1st.

THE PRIZES

Kind benefactors like the *NME*, *Billy Bragg*, *Rik Mayall*, *CND*, *Sanity magazine*, *Everything but the Girl*, and many other celebrities and organisations have sent in prizes solely for you to win. *Records, books, photos, T-shirts, vouchers, postcards* etc, etc, make up the superb prizes and they could be winging their way to you if you prove to be original, witty or simply just clever enough to merit winning.

THE JUDGE

Billy Bragg, every young revolutionary's favourite popster will be judging the competition (Margaret Thatcher declined to offer), so send entries to the following address:

Billy Bragg, 22-24 Underwood Street, London N1 7JG.