

Operation Christmas Card

Making personal contact across the Cold War boundaries is the aim of CND's latest international initiative.

Called Operation Christmas Card, CND is encouraging supporters to send greetings and personal peace treaties to people and organisations in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

It is hoped that it can be a way of building detente from below — bringing together individuals, trade union organisations, peace groups, churches and their counterparts the other side of Europe.

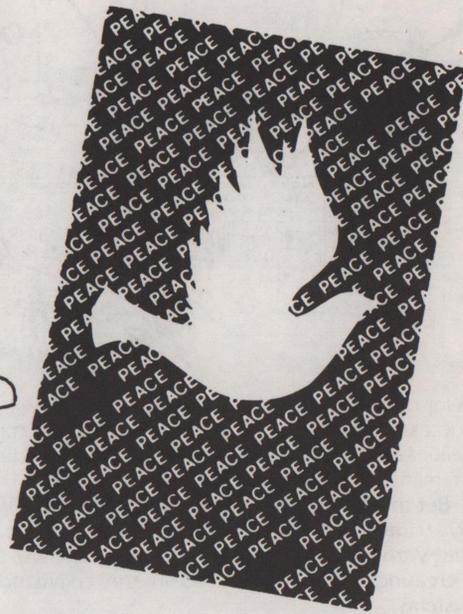
CND has prepared personal peace treaties which are based on the agreement not to regard each other as an enemy and pledges each other to work for peace. It also calls for nuclear weapons states to take their own independent initiatives for nuclear disarmament.

CND has prepared the peace treaties in the major East European languages and it suggested that the translations can then be pasted into Christmas cards and posted. December 14 has been declared as the day for mass post-ins at local post offices.

Trade Union CND fully supports this initiative and suggests that local union branches should send messages to their sister unions in Eastern Europe.

Operation Christmas Card is a practical way to make personal contact, to express support for removing the causes of the arms race which threatens us all and to build trust between ordinary people in both power blocs.

For details of Operation Christmas Card and for copies of the translated messages contact 22-24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG, Operation Christmas Card CND.



Defence industry workers come together

Over 50 defence industry workers from the North-West came together at a conference sponsored by a wide range of unions, local councils and TUCND in early November.

Delegates from aerospace, shipbuilding, the UKAEA, the ROFs and electronics industries discussed the crisis in their industries and the alternative of arms conversion.

Speakers included ASTMS National Officer, Tim Webb and Chris Darke National Organiser for AUEW-TASS.

Discussion was at times lively and there was a good exchange of viewpoints.

At the conclusion of the conference it was decided to request the conference organising committee to continue and to expand its membership to become a regional conversion committee.

TRADE UNION CND: HINTS FOR ACTION

Trade Union CND is a specialist section of CND. Our role is to promote CND's aims in the trade union movement. TUCND will offer whatever assistance we can to any union and/or CND member who wishes to promote CND in the union movement.

FIRST STEPS

If you're a union member you could consider the following steps:

- Join CND nationally and/or locally.
- Wear a CND badge to work.
- Talk to your workmates about CND and CND activities.
- Display CND posters at work.
- Keep a small stock of literature for people who want more information.

INFLUENCING YOUR UNION

- Suggest that your union branch invite a CND speaker.
- Move a policy resolution opposing the nuclear arms race at your branch. Model resolutions are available from TUCND.

- Urge your branch to affiliate the CND. Details are available from TUCND.

- Suggest that your branch distribute CND material and sponsor CND activities.

- Persuade your branch to take action itself, appoint a CND liaison officer, produce your own leaflets etc.

- Move resolutions to go to other sections of the union. If your CND groups wishes to increase union involvement in your activities, the following steps could be considered:

- Appoint a Trade Union liaison officer.
- Survey your group's members to find out which unions they're members of.

- Through your members find out the present policies of local unions. Ask them to raise the issue at their local branch meeting.

- Contact local branches and trades councils offering speakers, asking for support for your campaigns.

These are just a few hints: for a full guide contact Andrew Hewett at Trade Union CND.

TUCND News

December/January

No. 13

Molesworth: Resisting Cruise

Last February the Defence Minister, Michael Heseltine, led a military style invasion of the Molesworth Cruise Missile base in an attempt to squash the peace movement.

In his flak jacket Mr. Heseltine struck a somewhat ludicrous pose and despite all of his efforts he once again succeeded in strengthening the peace movement.

Since February 6, there has been a continuous campaign against the base and the Government's plans to install 64 Cruise missiles. Over Easter 20,000 CND supporters ringed the base and even now, outside the barbed wire, the vigil continues.

CND is now calling for a national non-violent blockade of the base on Thursday February 6, the anniversary of Heseltine's raid. It is aimed to try to stop construction work on the base for the day.

The blockade will mark a new stage in the campaign against Cruise Missiles. Already according to every opinion poll, the majority of the British population are opposed to the missiles because we see them as yet a further increase in the arms race.

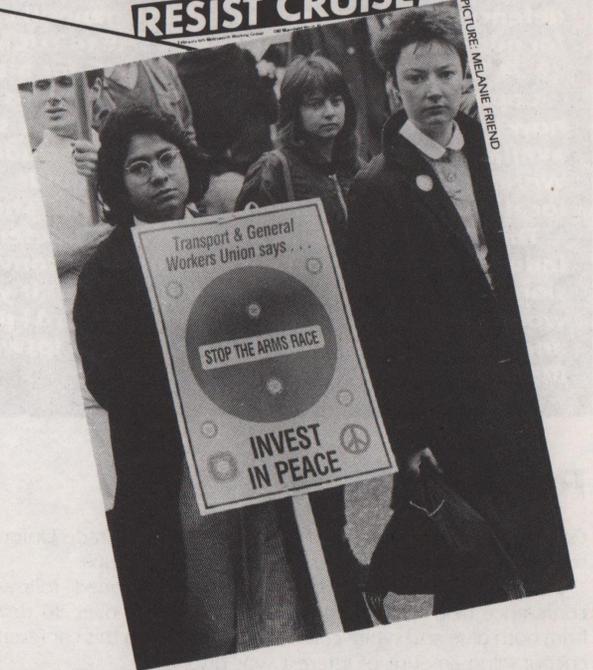
Cruise Missiles are very powerful — each with an explosive power of about 50 kilotons, equal to about 4 Hiroshima bombs. They have a long firing range and are able to reach targets in the Soviet Union and are able to hit their targets with virtual pin-point accuracy. With such accuracy it is able to destroy missile silos — Cruise is a nuclear war fighting weapon.

CND NATIONAL ACTION

SIT-DOWN BLOCKADE MOLESWORTH



THURSDAY FEB 6 RESIST CRUISE



PICTURE: MELANIE FRIEND

If the United States and British Government were seriously approaching the Geneva talks with a view to beginning disarmament, they would cancel all future shipments of Cruise — be they land-based or sea-based. They would also be planning to return all Cruise Missiles to the US.

The blockade is fully supported by Trade Union CND. Prior to the event we are approaching the appropriate unions which may have members working on the site asking them to consider supporting the action.

We will also be talking to local and regional unions in the East Anglia area.

We think that it is essential that there is a good turnout from the trade union movement on the day.

Help CND non-violently blockade the Molesworth base!



Trade unionists at the October 26th national rally.

PICTURE: LAWRENCE POLLOCK

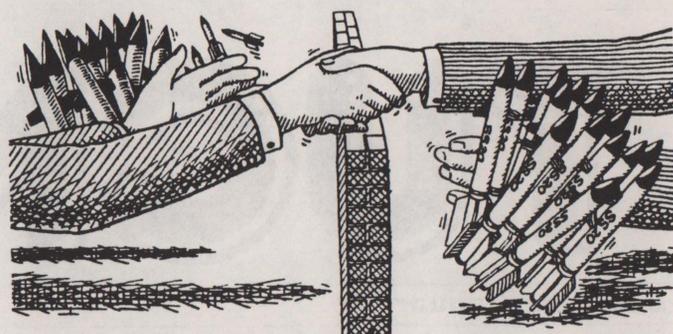
Rallying for the Human Race!

Over 100,000 peace movement supporters from all walks of life came out for the CND National Rally and March on October 26.

Trade Unionists were well to the fore at the rally demonstrating the increasing support for CND from the Trade union movement.

Norman Willis TUC General Secretary, sent a message of greeting to the rally — a first for the TUC. In his message Mr. Willis said "I sincerely hope that the rally will send a new, strong signal to governments which will bring progress leading to the elimination of all nuclear weapons".

Joan Ruddock and Bruce Kent were two of the main speakers at the rally in Hyde Park. Joan Ruddock stated that the message of the rally to the people of Britain was simply "You must make a choice. Nuclear race or human race. For we have exposed the myth that they can co-exist". She further said "The fear that the nuclear arms race has engendered has produced in governments a fanatical obsession with military hardware and new technology which has totally



removed them from the realities of human existence. As Bruce Kent said "The world can feed its hungry, it can look after its sick, it can care for its aged, it can educate its children, but not while it wastes its resources. There is no bigger theft than the money spent on Trident. Immoral, illegal and costing at least £12 billion, it does nothing to defend us — unless risking suicide is supposed to be a defence policy."

The rally has convincingly demonstrated that the nuclear disarmament movement is not dead — rather is very much alive and kicking.

Goods from TUCND

TUCND has prepared a set of guidelines for resolutions for trade union gatherings. The resolutions cover such issues as Star Wars, civil defence, arms conversion and the general case for nuclear disarmament. Send a SAE to TUCND, 22-24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG for a set.

Copies of the guide for CND local groups on how to work with trade unions are also still available. Costing only £1.00 (p&p included) Working Together is a very useful guide for local activists. Send your order to the CND Shop.

The TUCND video on the crisis in the defence industries and the alternative of arms conversion — Peacework — is getting around. If you would like to hire a copy, contact Concord Films and Video Council, 201 Felixstowe Rd, Ipswich IP3.

TUCND AGM

Trade Union CND's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday February 15 in London.

Speakers at the meeting will include Joan Ruddock from British CND and a leading national trade union official.

The AGM is open to delegates from trade union organisations affiliated to British CND and to observers from local CND groups or non-affiliated unions.

This year it is planned that there will be a large number of workshops covering issues like arms conversion, regional TUCND work, women in trade unionists and CND, nuclear power/nuclear weapons, civil defence and working as a local group Trade Union officer.

For details of the AGM contact Andrew Hewett, Secretary Trade Union CND, 22-24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG.

Yorkshire and Humberside: Martin Millgate 18 Taunton St. Shipley BD18

Scotland Bill Clarke Scottish CND 420 Sauchiehall St. Glasgow

Northern Paul Mellor 29 Linslade Walk Cramlington NE22 8EU

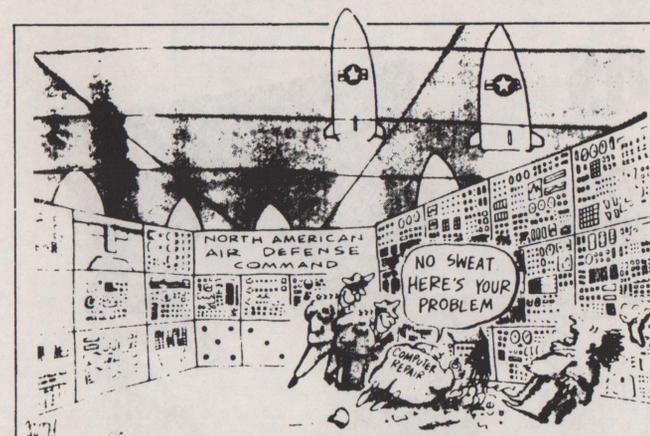
Greater Manchester Robert Twigg 12 Norris Bank Terrace Heaton Norris Stockport

London Ian Ray 32 Crescent Rd. London N22

Northern Ireland Brenda Callaghan 56 Glenside Pde. Belfast BT14

Merseyside George Strattan 26 Trevor Drive Liverpool L23

West Midlands c/o 54 Allison St. Birmingham B5



A lot of us have tended to think that nuclear war, if we are not successful in abolishing nuclear weapons, will come about as a deliberate decision of the Pentagon or their counter-parts in the Kremlin.

But there is an increasing chance that nuclear war could start by accident. This is because there has been a decrease in decision time with the modern nuclear weaponry and also because of the increasing role of computers in the command and control systems.

Already over the history of the nuclear arms race, there have been a number of accidents with nuclear weapons, and several serious computer malfunctions.

To give a few examples:

January 23 1961 — In North Carolina a B-52 bomber had to jettison a 24 megaton bomb. Five of the six interlocking safety devices were set off by the fall. A single switch prevented the bomb exploding.

January 21 1968 — A B-52 bomber attempting an emergency landing in Greenland crashed. The high explosive components of all four nuclear weapons on board detonated producing plutonium contamination over an area 300-400 feet wide and 2,200 feet long.

But it has been with computer malfunctions that there have been scares recently. For instance on June 3 1980, a 46 cent computer chip failed early in the morning with the result that the North American Air Defence "detected" a Soviet missile attack. About 100 B-52s were prepared for take-off, as was the President's airborne command post!

Another serious problem is with the people who are actually in control of the missiles and bombers. During the years 1975-77 something like 5000 persons a year were removed from access to US nuclear weapons because of drug abuse, alcohol abuse or mental illness. Mike D'Arcy, a drug counsellor with the Berlin brigade is quoted as saying that of all the GI forces stationed in Europe, 65 per cent use heroin recreationally, 85 per cent are regular users of soft drugs and between 7-10% are hard core heroin users.

All of the problems outlined point to the precarious situation that we find ourselves in. It points to the real need for nuclear disarmament now.

WHAT'S ON

December 7
Trade Union CND in Wales. 2pm NUPE offices, 158/9 St. Helen's Rd, Swansea.

January 24-26
Northern Ireland TUCND school. Details Robin Wilson, Belfast 665368

February 6
CND Non-violent Blockade of the Molesworth Cruise Missile Base. Details CND.

February 15
Trade Union CND AGM. Details TUCND.

MOLESWORTH



THURSDAY FEB 6

RESIST CRUISE

Work for peace. Join CND.

Yes, I'll join the CND

Name _____ (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address _____

Post Code _____ (IMPORTANT)

MEMBERSHIP
RATES Adult £9 Two people at same address £12 Student £3
Unwaged & Pensioner £2 Youth CND (21 and under) £1 (tick one)

Please find enclosed £ _____ for membership
£ _____ donation (tick for donation receipt).

I'd like more information about CND and the Trade Unions.

My Trade Union is _____

Please send me details of how to affiliate my Union organisation to CND.

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to CND and send with completed form to TUCND, 22-24 Underwood St., London N1 7JG. Telephone: 01-250 4010.



REGIONAL NEWS

Gail Squires, the Secretary of the East Midlands Trade Union CND reports on the progress of this new regional group.

East Midlands Trade Union CND was formed following a conference held in Nottingham last June. With over 30 delegates from both blue and white collar unions attending this conference, an encouraging amount of interest was displayed.

Since then contact has been made with most of the major unions in the region and we have succeeded in gaining a number of new affiliations to British CND.

Three regional meetings have been held so far and the group has decided that the highest priority will be to encourage the growth of workplace groups. Already we have had some success in this area. Activity around the theme of Jobs for Peace is to be the next major area of work. We hope to develop campaigns in conjunction with the appropriate unions.

Anyone interested in developing trade union campaigning for nuclear disarmament in the East Midlands Region (which for the purposes of TUCND includes Notts, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Northants) should contact Gail at 0602-816094.

Other regional Trade Union CND groups can be contacted through these people: