

MYTH 6  
"YOU CAN'T DISINVENT THE BOMB"

We can't disinvent the knowledge of how to build nuclear weapons. But that's true of other things too - like chemical and biological weapons. Just because we could destroy the planet doesn't mean we have to.

Scientists say that it would take about 2 years for all Britain's nuclear bombs to be dismantled. The obstacles to disarmament are political not technical. Independent action by Britain would have a large effect on how people think about them.

It is possible now with modern satellites and listening stations to check whether any country is testing nuclear bombs or building the missiles,

bombers or submarines to carry them. So any agreement could be constantly checked.

There's still time to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. But it's the five nuclear nations that must start to disarm. Otherwise more and more countries will get the Bomb and sooner or later a nuclear war will be fought.

MYTH 7

"NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WOULD SPLIT NATO AND LET OUR ALLIES DOWN"

NATO members already hold a range of different policies on nuclear weapons. Seven out of sixteen NATO countries refuse to have nuclear weapons on their soil and France withdrew completely from NATO's military command structure in 1966.

The US is strongly opposed to closing down its nuclear bases in Britain, but there is no way of achieving nuclear disarmament unless someone is prepared to take the first step. Greece and Spain are also trying to negotiate the closure of US nuclear bases.

Even if British nuclear disarmament does upset the status quo in NATO, there would be good results as well as difficulties. It would certainly force other countries to think seriously about nuclear disarmament and to take a stand on what Britain was doing. And Britain could join with nuclear-free countries all over the world in pressing America and Russia to make real progress towards disarmament.

Britain has a right to decide its own arms policy. It's time it did.



I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN NCND.

MEMBERSHIP: £3.75 waged  
£4.50 family  
£1.50 unwaged

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL:

NCND 17-18 Queens Chambers,  
King St, Nottm. Tel: 472556

Nuclear weapons could cost us the Earth.  
We're better off without them.



Nottingham Campaign  
for Nuclear Disarmament

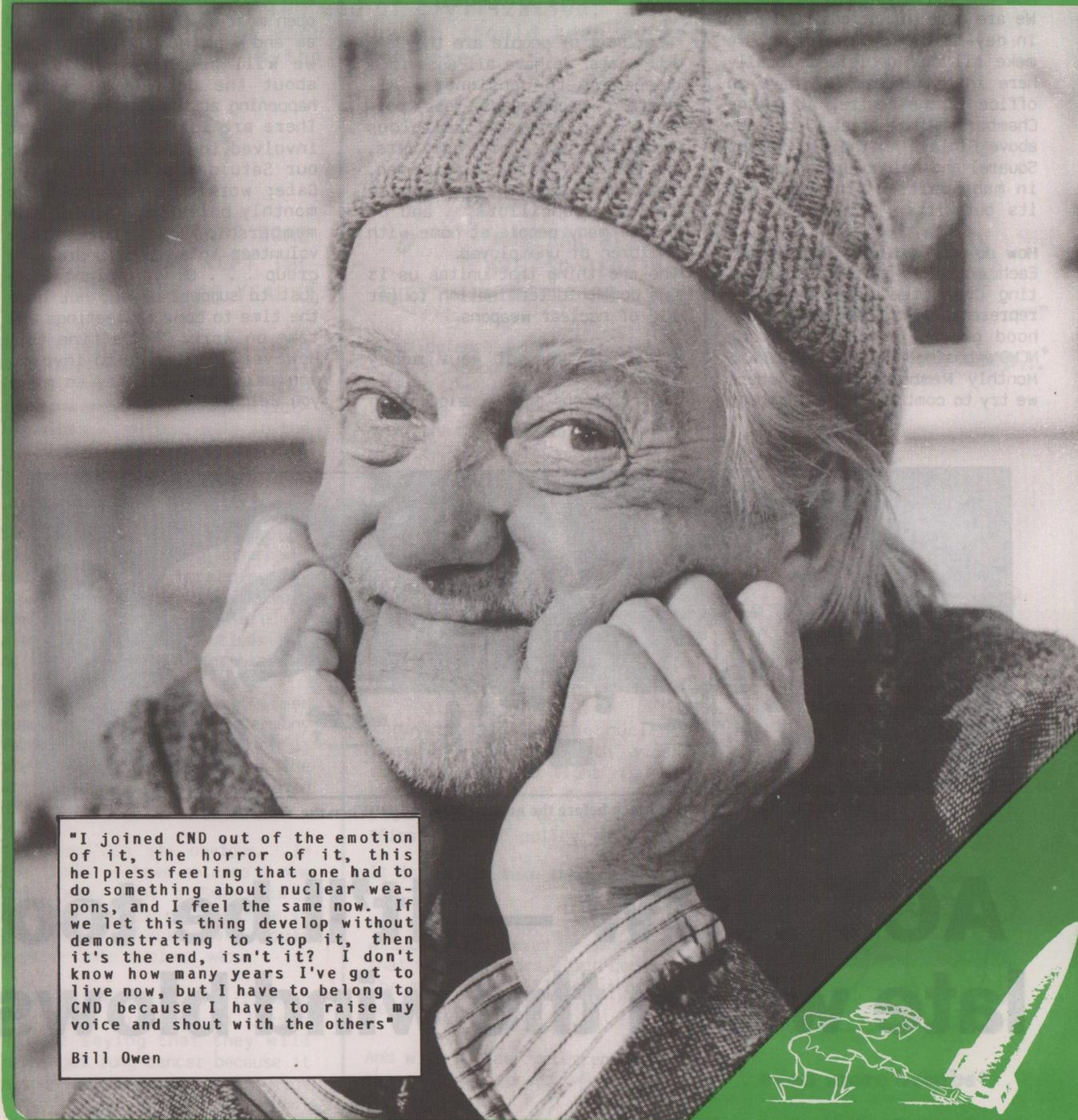


# RADIOACTIVE TIMES



NOTTINGHAM CND PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN NO.3

20p



"I joined CND out of the emotion of it, the horror of it, this helpless feeling that one had to do something about nuclear weapons, and I feel the same now. If we let this thing develop without demonstrating to stop it, then it's the end, isn't it? I don't know how many years I've got to live now, but I have to belong to CND because I have to raise my voice and shout with the others"

Bill Owen



# What is Nottingham CND?

**What are you trying to achieve?**  
NCND campaigns against nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We are working to make more people in Nottingham aware of the issues involved in the nuclear "defence" arguments. Ultimately, we believe Britain should decide, independently, to get rid of all nuclear weapons on its soil.

**How are you organised?**  
We are part of National CND but, in day-to-day campaigning, we make all our decisions locally here in Nottingham. We have an office in the centre, at Queens Chambers, King Street (3rd floor above Finlays in the Old Market Square) and neighbourhood groups in many parts of the city and its outskirts.

**How do you make your decisions?**  
Each month we have a Coordinating Committee meeting, where representatives from neighbourhood groups come to sort out NCND's business. There is also a Monthly Members' Meeting where we try to combine a small amount

of "business" with discussion, or have an invited speaker. The Members' Meeting makes NCND policy and elects an Executive each year.

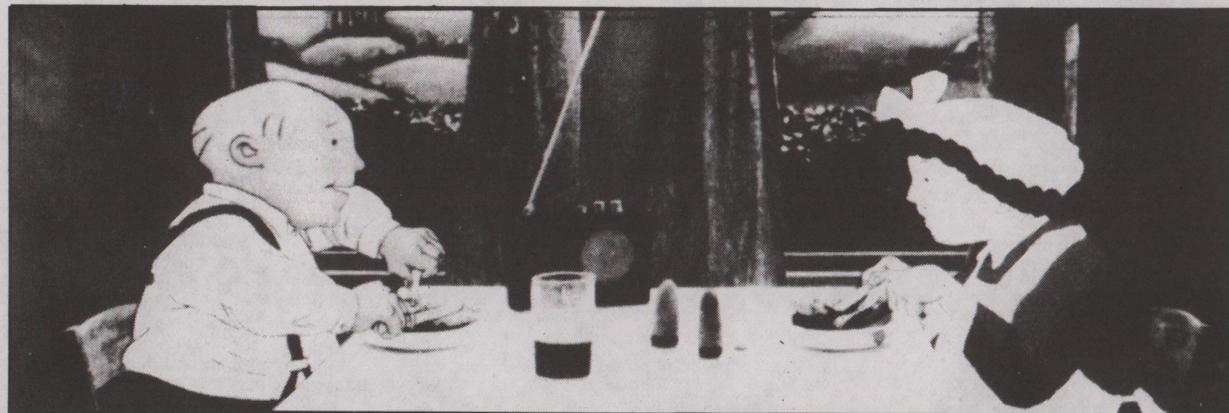
**How many members do you have?**  
It is difficult to tell exactly, because some people are members of their neighbourhood group and not of NCND. There are about 2,000 members altogether.

**What sort of people are they?**  
All sorts. We have all ages from teenagers to pensioners. All sorts of backgrounds, jobs, political beliefs and religious convictions - lorry drivers, doctors, vicars, servicemen, solicitors, carpenters, magistrates, councillors . . . and of course many people at home with children or unemployed. The one thing that unites us is our common determination to get rid of nuclear weapons.

**Where do you get your money from?**  
Subscriptions mostly, along with

donations from supporters and fundraising events such as discos and jumble sales. We also have received grants from the City and County Councils.

**How can I get involved in NCND?**  
You can phone the office (472556) and ask to be put in contact with the Neighbourhood Group near you. Or, just pop in and talk to us. The office is open most of the time between 10 am and 4 pm Monday to Saturday. We will be able to tell you about the details of what's happening at the moment. There are lots of ways to get involved in NCND: helping run our Saturday stall in Lister Gate; working on our regular monthly bulletin; joining the membership team, the office volunteer rota, the fundraising group . . . Or you might like just to support us but not have the time to come to meetings and take on work. That's fine too. However you decide to involve yourself, we will try to make you welcome.

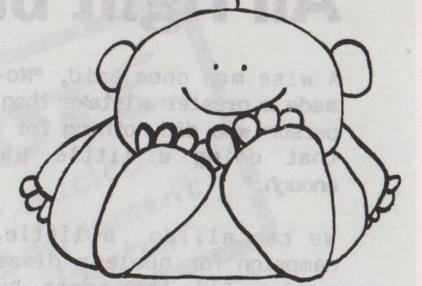


Jim and Hilda Bloggs enjoy lunch before the nuclear attack, in "When the Wind Blows".

## ACT NOW — It'll be too late when the wind blows

# THE SEVEN DEADLY MYTHS ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

My Mum and Dad



say

it'll never happen...

Nobody likes nuclear weapons. We all know that to use them would probably mean the end of civilization. But many of the things people believe about why we should keep nuclear weapons are, in fact, myths. Myths like these:

MYTH 1

"THE BOMB HAS KEPT THE PEACE FOR 40 YEARS"

No. In the past 40 years there have been over 250 wars of all kinds and degrees. The two superpowers have armed conflicting sides in various wars in the third world. The bomb has not stopped those wars.

It is true that the US and Soviet forces have not fought directly with each other in Europe. But the "armed peace" which has reigned is vulnerable and unstable, and there is always the risk of nuclear war by accident or misunderstanding.

Remember that there was armed peace between France and Germany for 40 years before World War 1; when war did erupt, it was the most destructive war the world has known.

The parallels are obvious. In the 1980's we have entered a new Cold War, and a Superpower crisis, in which neither side is prepared to back down, could explode into nuclear war.

Saying that the bomb will keep the peace for ever is like a smoker saying that they will never get lung cancer because it hasn't happened yet!

MYTH 2

"NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE SO TERRIBLE THEY WILL NEVER BE USED"

With defence policies based on nuclear weapons, we are gambling with life on earth. They are based on the threat of murdering millions of citizens of another country, and through inevitable retaliation, our own people. It is like holding a pistol to the heads of our own children, wives, husbands and friends.

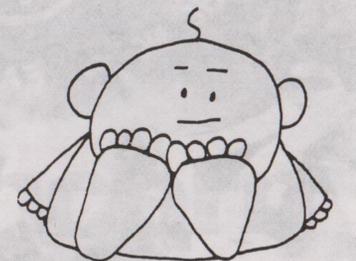
As Chernobyl has shown - the effects of radioactivity released over the Soviet Union are felt over Europe. In war, the fall-out would be on a far, far larger scale.

And yet, to make the nuclear threat "credible", both sides are preparing to fight nuclear wars. NATO even says it is ready to start one and has a "first strike" policy.

It is mad to take these risks.

How can we be sure that nuclear weapons will never be used? Or that the computers which control the missiles will never break down?

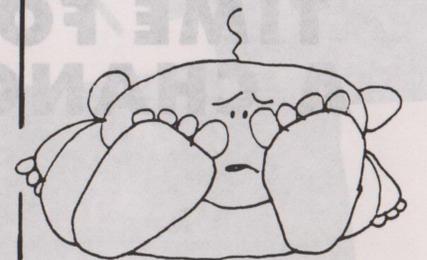
And with nuclear deterrence, you can only fail once.



...but why do they keep...



...helping to buy...



...even more bombs?

# All right but . . . WHAT CAN ONE INDIVIDUAL DO?

A wise man once said, "No-one made a greater mistake than the person who did nothing for fear that doing a little wasn't enough."

We can all do a little, to campaign for nuclear disarmament. All the great human advances and achievements of history have happened in this way... through ordinary people like you, doing simple things.

- 1 I can wear a badge
- 2 I can put up a poster in my window, or at work
- 3 I can join Nottingham CND or National CND
- 4 I can send a donation to CND
- 5 I can talk to my friends and family about nuclear disarmament
- 6 I can offer to help Nottingham CND with its campaign work
- 7 I can get pamphlets and books to find out more about the nuclear arms race.

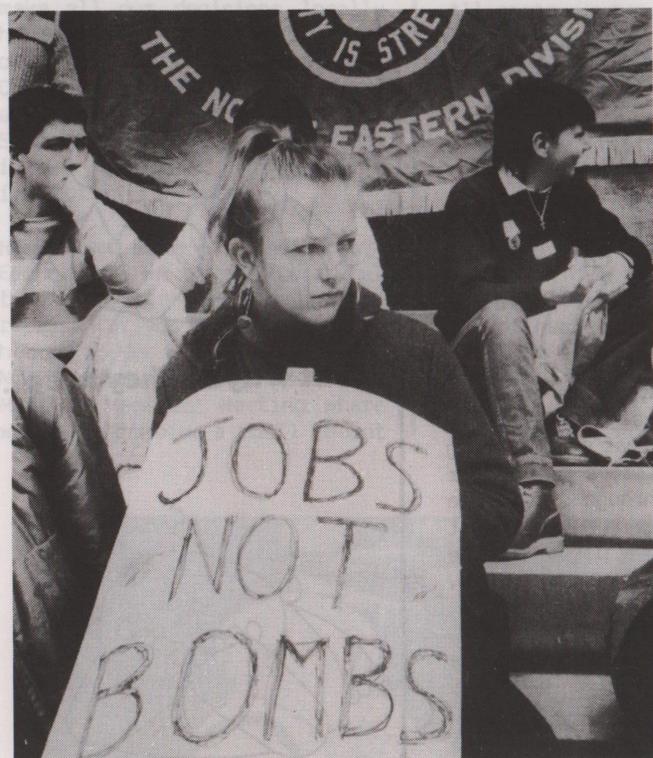
- 8 I can write to my M.P to tell him/her what I think about nuclear weapons
- 9 I can send a letter to the local paper, or take part in a local radio phone-in
- 10 I can use my vote at election-time, to support the candidate who will do something about getting rid of nuclear weapons.

There is a list of ten things we can do as individuals to help bring about nuclear disarmament. At the end of the day, the only thing that really counts, is **WHAT WE DO.**

If you really believe we should get rid of our nuclear weapons, look down that list again, and decide which of these simple things **YOU** are going to do.

**VOTE**  
for nuclear  
disarmament  
for Britain.

## Join a growing concern



Before the last election only 16% of us wanted to get rid of nuclear weapons from Britain.

Perhaps the arguments were too confusing, it was too frightening to think about, and anyway . . .

What difference could we make?

But now 44% of British people have decided they no longer want nuclear weapons in Britain (Gallop Poll September 1986).

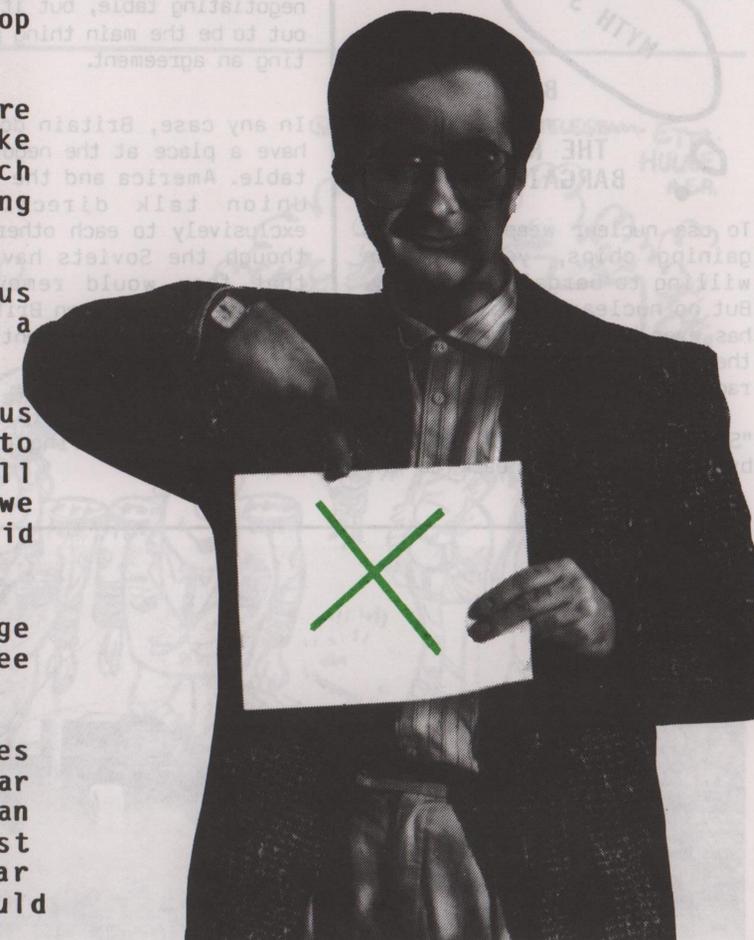
Perhaps they have realised we are **NOT** safe with weapons which make us a target for attack and which we could never use without being destroyed ourselves.

Nuclear weapons are a dangerous bluff - when what we need is a **REALISTIC** defence policy.

Nuclear disarmament concerns us all. Even if we choose not to think about them - we are all affected by nuclear weapons and we can all play a part in getting rid of them.

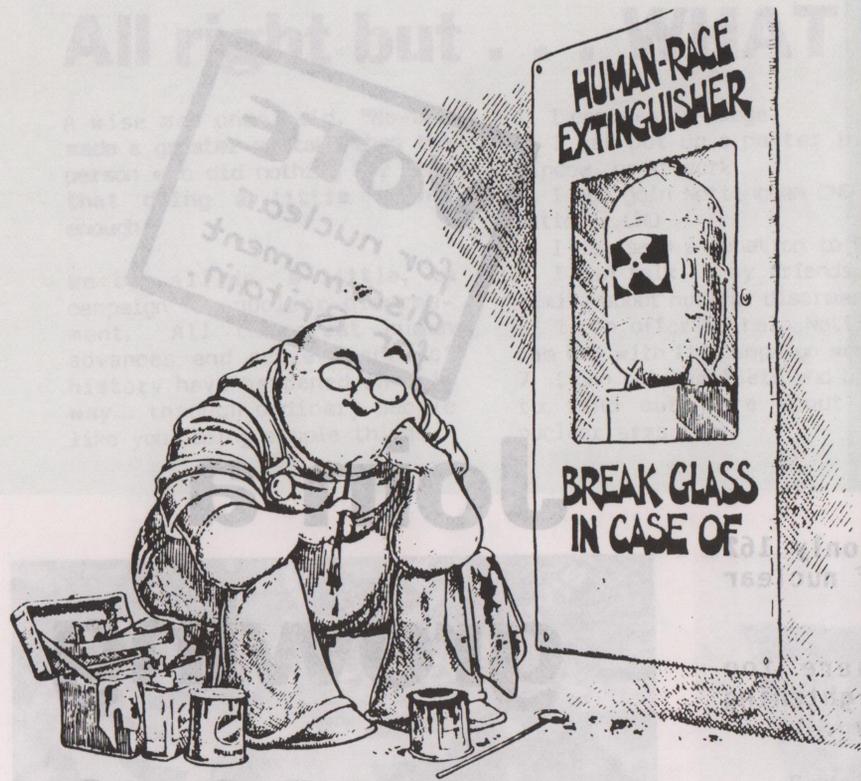
Using our votes is a first stage to making Britain a nuclear-free democracy.

The majority of other countries protect themselves without nuclear weapons. When we join them we can take a lead in building the trust needed for worldwide nuclear disarmament to begin - it could start with **YOUR** vote!



## TIME FOR A CHANGE





MYTH 4

"NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WOULD LEAVE US OPEN TO BLACKMAIL"

Having the Bomb didn't help the US in Vietnam. It hasn't helped the Russians in Afghanistan. And Britain's Polaris didn't stop Argentina from invading the Falklands

The reasons are obvious. Because we know the horrors of nuclear weapons from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, any country using nuclear blackmail would be condemned by the whole world.

It would be an enormous step just to threaten to use them. The blackmailer would have to be pretty sure that the country being threatened would give in, or it would face the prospect of dropping one, two or perhaps many nuclear bombs. No-one could be sure that such an action would not trigger World War Three and suicidal destruction.

As Chernobyl reminded us, fall-out knows no frontiers.

Keeping nuclear weapons 'in case of nuclear blackmail' gives every single country a reason to get them. It makes arguments about trying to stop the spread of nuclear weapons hypocritical and weakens the international moral pressure not to get them. The more countries which have nuclear weapons, the more tense and complicated international relations will become.

Our last edition of RADIO-ACTIVE TIMES carried an article about the nuclear warhead convoys that regularly travel down our main roads. This one was photographed on the A1 in November.

In January a similar vehicle carrying nuclear bombs was involved in a collision near Salisbury. It ended up on its side in a field. A wide area had to be cordoned off because of the very real danger of radioactive contamination.

MYTH 3

"ONLY BY BEING STRONG CAN WE GET THE RUSSIANS TO BARGAIN WITH US"

To use nuclear weapons as bargaining chips, you must be willing to bargain them away. But no nuclear weapons system has ever been bargained away in the history of the nuclear arms race.

"Star Wars" was supposed to bring the Russians back to the

negotiating table, but it turned out to be the main thing preventing an agreement.

In any case, Britain does not have a place at the negotiating table. America and the Soviet Union talk directly and exclusively to each other. Even though the Soviets have said that they would remove any weapons targetted on Britain if we disarm, our government flatly refuses to consider it.

So much for the diplomatic advantages of having nuclear weapons.



MYTH 5

"ONLY THE BOMB STOPS THE RUSSIANS FROM INVADING WESTERN EUROPE"

There are three assumptions here. One is that the Soviet Union actually wishes to attack and take control of Western Europe. The second is that it has the overwhelming superiority in conventional weapons necessary to succeed. And the third is that in this age there is no other deterrent than nuclear weapons.

You don't have to believe the Russians are pacifists to disagree with all three.

What would the Russians gain by

invading Western Europe? They already have problems in trying to control the countries on their borders - not least a war in Afghanistan that they haven't been able to win. It's difficult to believe that they would want to take on the resistance of all the peoples of Western Europe as well.

But, even if they wanted to, they couldn't. The overwhelming Soviet superiority in conventional weapons is a myth, one built up by our own government to justify its massive spending on weapons (a greater proportion than any other European country). Both sides exaggerate the other side's strength. It's a vicious circle that gets more and more dangerous.

The International Institute of Strategic Studies brings out a book on 'The Military Balance' every year and regularly concludes that Soviet aggression is highly unlikely.

People have a right to defend their way of life and their freedoms. But a defence policy based on nuclear weapons is seen

as aggressive and threatening by others.

A non-nuclear defence policy is a realistic alternative. In Europe, countries such as Sweden, Yugoslavia, Austria, Switzerland and Finland do not have or want nuclear weapons. Even countries within NATO like Norway and Denmark refuse to have nuclear weapons on their land.

As an increasing number of military leaders are now saying, the advanced technology of modern conventional armaments, like anti-tank weapons and interceptor missiles, as well as strategies of civilian resistance, make it perfectly possible to defend Britain without nuclear weapons. Most important, we would not be inviting 'pre-emptive' attack from any country afraid that we might 'win' by getting our nuclear strike in first.

Such a policy would make us less likely to suffer nuclear attack. It would also be a vital first step away from the growing nuclear confrontation in Europe.



"THE BEAUTY OF OUR POSITION IS THAT IF THEY SHOULD HAPPEN TO BE RIGHT, THEY WON'T BE AROUND TO SAY 'I TOLD YOU SO'"