

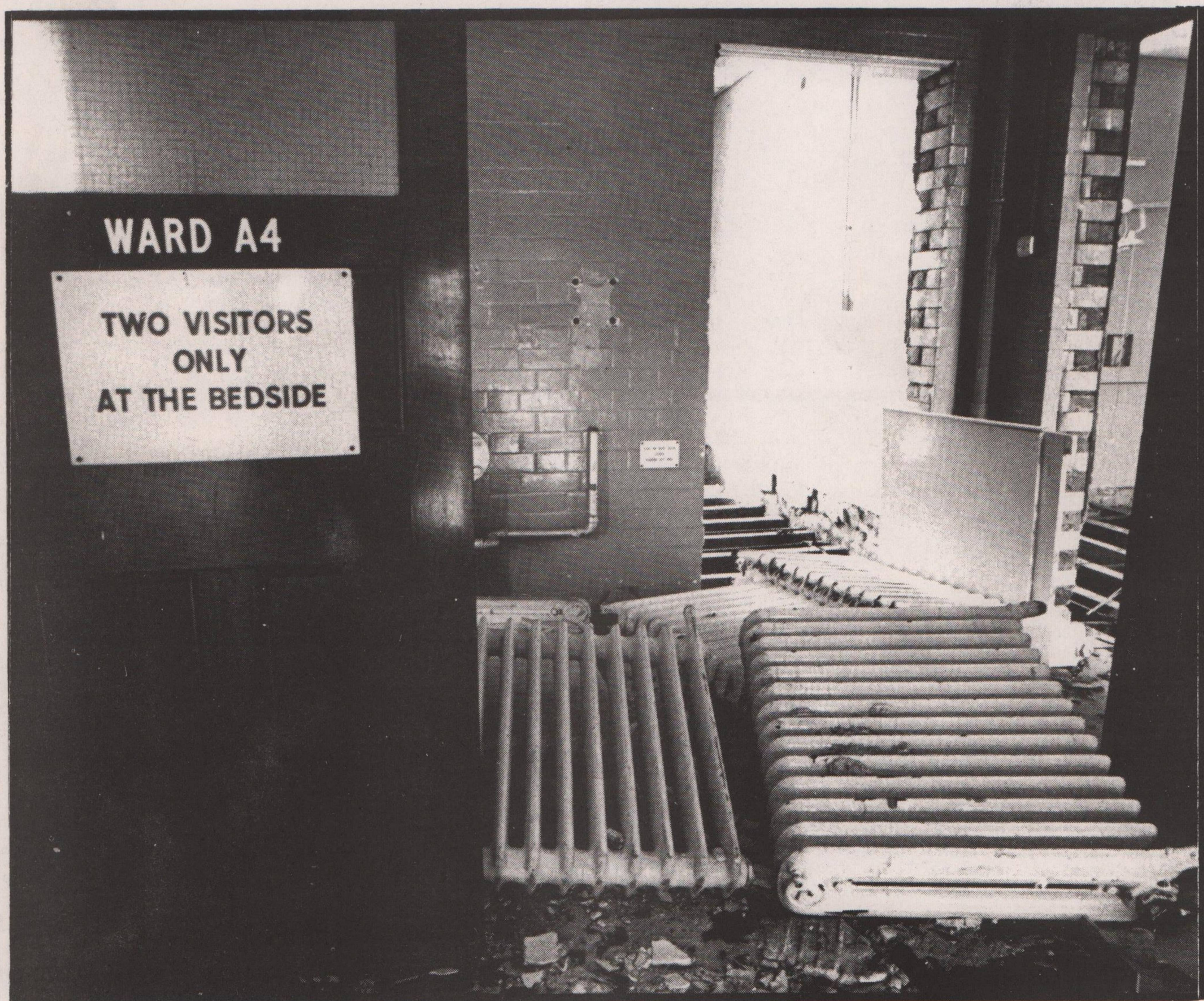
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NOTTINGHAM CND

APRIL BULLETIN 20p



MONEY FOR DEATH OR MONEY FOR LIFE?



SCRAP TRIDENT SAVE THE NHS!

Vanunu found guilty of treason



STOP PRESS: MORDECAI VANUNU GETS 18 YEARS FOR "TREASON".

SEE NEXT MONTH'S BULLETIN FOR A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF EVENTS IN ISRAEL BY KEN FLEET AND A REACTION TO THE COURT'S DECISION FROM MEIR VANUNU.

"I'VE NEVER KNOWN OF A CASE WHERE SOMEONE HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AND CONVICTED OF TREASON AT THE SAME TIME."

Prof. Richard Falk, international law expert.

LOCAL UPDATE

A message on the NCND office answerphone last week ended "it seems that all that's left of CNND is an answerphone." Although I can understand how people come to that conclusion and it worries me that they do, it remains a long way from the truth. You might have read it here last month and you'll probably read it here again, but a lot of work IS being done by an increasingly smaller group of people. Help is needed to maintain NCND's campaign so if you have any spare time to offer, please contact the office. You might get the answerphone.

ALDERMASTON

You're either going to go, going, gone or didn't go. Let's hope it's a worthwhile demonstration and that those who don't go feel they missed something special. Although it's "back to Aldermaston" for some, for many it will be a first time visit, which gives April 4th an unusual perspective on the Peace Movement.

Following NCND's age old tradition, nobody is buying tickets in advance (me included). At an Executive Committee Meeting last week, NOBODY out of 15 people had bought a ticket (next month I'll tell you how many went).

THANK YOU BIRDCAGE

A big thank you to Birdcage on Bridlesmith Gate for putting up (with) our stall for such a long time. With nowhere else to keep it near Listergate - it won't go in the office lift - a new lighter (much lighter) stall has been made that can be kept at the office.

The stall is a vital part of our campaign in Nottingham, it is our public image. If you can spare an hour on a Saturday, please contact the office at 472556 or Hilary at 625198.

NCND OFFICE

It seems likely that NCND will be moving this year, due to increased costs. A discussion at the last Executive Committee meeting produced a useful list of priorities for choosing new premises. Several properties have been looked at, but the feeling is that the decision should not be rushed. If you know of any likely sites, please contact the office or your group representative.

200 CLUB

This month's lucky punters are:

1st prize £50 Simon Chuda
2nd prize £10 Pat Robson
3rd prize £5 Vera Haines

I tried to get them reversed Vera, but they wouldn't have it. (Simon's won before.)

PALESTINE OPEN MEETING

Or, if there's anything you didn't know about the Palestine/Israel conflict, this WAS your chance to find out. Organised by Forest Fields Peace Group, this was an excellent meeting.

The speaker was John Gee, who is the Information Officer for The Council For the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU). He's been involved in the fight for Palestinian rights for twenty years and it showed. Every chair was filled and, after a concise history of this complicated issue, the questions flowed thick and fast and were answered and elaborated upon.

What with the Vanunu meeting in February, it shows that well organised open meetings with the right speaker can be really worthwhile. Look out for further meetings in future bulletins.

NCND GOES TO THE DUKERIES

And finds out that young people know a lot more than I for one thought they did about political issues. No they don't just think about pop music, clothes and sex - maybe you already knew that! - they DO think about nuclear weapons, world starvation and government corruption.

Out of the dozen or so in the group I spoke to only one of them believed in nuclear deterrence and he was the only one who said he'd vote Conservative. None of them liked Ronald Reagan. But did they think there was anything that could be done to rid the world of nuclear weapons? No they didn't. But at that age I didn't even know there was anything wrong in the world, so there's hope for us yet, or should I say for them?

Geoffrey Young

Editorial

It is difficult to "think CND" when, as we go to press, the papers are full of the war in the North of Ireland. CND has cannily stepped aside from any comment on Ireland - there is no obvious nuclear connection or threat to world peace. And yet there ARE nuclear-related issues.

Specifically we refer to the constant pressure on the 26 county Irish state to end its traditional neutrality - perhaps this is part of the hidden agenda of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

We are also concerned that the technology practised in Ireland is used on peace dissidents in Britain. We are also concerned at the general issues of power and militarism.

If this sounds like avoiding the issues, you might be right. But what can we say? We know that no military solution will work. Can we say more?

As a single-issue campaign whose nuclear unilateralism is supported by Sinn Fein and Loyalists like Enoch Powell, we may have our hands tied. We'd appreciate comments from our members on this issue.

Ross Bradshaw
Bulletin Editorial Team

THE REAL COST OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In recent years, the British people have been shortsighted enough to return to power, twice, a government hell-bent on transferring resources from the public to the private sector, regardless of the cost in human terms. Successive legislation has not only sought to centralise political power in Whitehall by stripping it away from local authorities (sometimes by abolishing them altogether), but has also starved the public sector of finance by ensuring that the allocation of resources is firmly under the control of central government.

The outcome of this process is proving disastrous for those of us who depend on public services (and that means the vast majority of us). Public sector housing is in desperate need of modernisation and renewal, but the money required by local councils to do this is being denied them. Such is the extent of the problem in some areas that local authorities are being forced into taking draconian measures; recently, Labour-controlled Camden Borough Council announced its intention to repatriate Irish people because of the local housing shortage.

Education is another victim of present Government policy. How many times have your children or those of your friends, approached you to sponsor them in yet another fund-raising event to buy equipment and materials which should already have been provided? As poverty and unemployment escalates, social services face increasing demands, but lack the money to meet them. Jobs

are lost and working conditions suffer as many councils are now being forced to make substantial cuts in their budgets.

The list of casualties is virtually endless, although the best-publicized aspect in recent months of public sector decline has been the plight of the National Health Service. Appalling pay levels and poor working conditions now make it difficult to attract the specialized staff so badly needed. Waiting lists grow daily, whilst medical staff are expected to "play God" by making agonising decisions about who should receive vital operations. Meanwhile, the public are encouraged to join private health schemes, allowing the NHS to fall that little bit further.

The saddest thing about all of this has to be that none of it is really necessary. Time and time again we are told that there is no more money, that the wasteful excesses of past governments' policies and "loony left" councils are to blame for our present predicament. This, of course, is simply not true. The real problem is the current government's spending policies, the fact being that tax-cuts and defence expenditure are a higher priority on the Tories' political agenda than extravagances like decent housing, education and the Welfare State.

Treatment not Trident

Slogans such as "Treatment, not Trident" and "Welfare, not Warfare" should be utilised to the full in the present political climate, to ensure that the public clearly recognise the connection between our expanding nuclear defence programme and the shameful neglect of the public sector. CND should be congratulated on its work with the public sector trade unions, many of whom have successfully campaigned on the issue of nuclear disarmament by making the link with their members' jobs. If the good work continues, then it shouldn't be too long before we see generals on the street-corners, holding a flag-day for Trident!

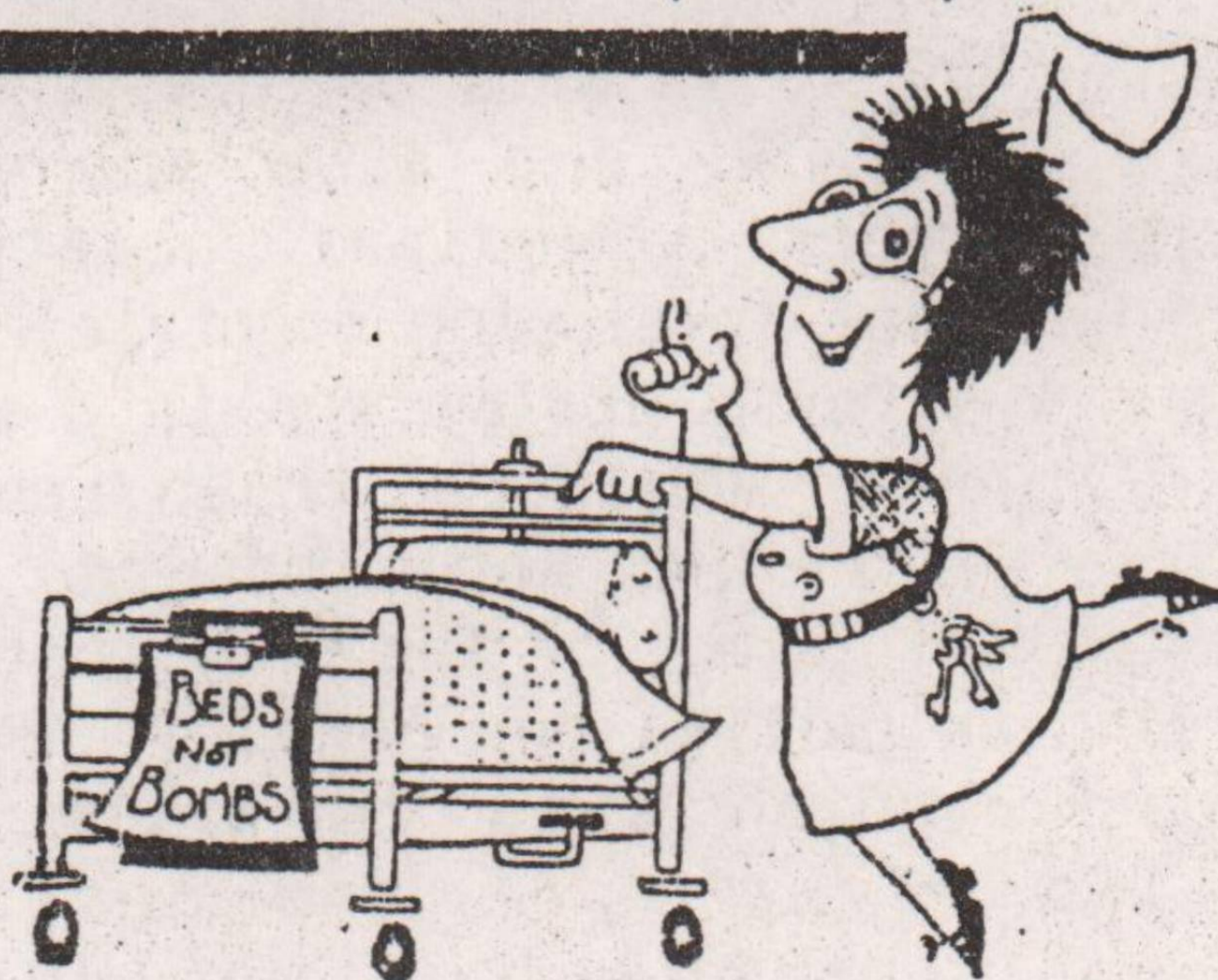
Gail Squires
Notts. NALGO/Trade Union CND.

A conference on the theme of "Poverty and the Arms Race" is to be held on Saturday 23rd April at County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

Speakers from Shelter, Poverty Action Lobby and Trade Union CND.

All welcome.

For details, please try Gail (home 816094, work 824256) or Bronwen/Geoff (788655).



HOW MUCH SHOULD WE PAY FOR DEFENCE ?

The years, 1979-85, saw a 29% real increase in defence spending. Britain was one of the few countries which actually met its 1977 pledge to NATO to increase its annual budget by 3%. Currently, defence takes up 4.6% of Britain's national income, compared with a European average of 3.4%.

Since 1985, the defence budget has been falling slowly each year in real terms, partly because of the desire of the Treasury to make room for tax cuts and partly because of concern for investment in civil sector research and development: consequently British industry's ability to compete in the international market for civil high technology products have been seriously impaired.

Britain is one of the poorest countries in Europe, but spends almost as much on military Research and Development as France, West Germany and Italy put together.

At the last election, Labour promised to divert all savings from Polaris and Trident into conventional arms. If it continues with such a policy at the next election, when most of the money allocated for Trident will have been spent or committed, Labour will be advocating a larger total defence budget than the Tories!

NATO already spends much more than the Warsaw Pact on the military, has roughly the same number of men under arms and has better equipment. There is no need for more conventional spending, but a massive case for a policy of re-allocating funds from defence into social services. Polls show that such a policy could attract considerable support well beyond traditional Labour voters.

(This is a precis of some of the points in an article by Malcolm Chalmers in the March issue of "New Scientist")

Ann Kestenbaum

WHY DOES OUR WORLD NEED SO MANY CHILDREN'S COFFINS ?

The above was the title of a lecture organised by Nottingham M.C.A.N.W. and also sponsored by Nottingham University Medical Society on the paediatric needs of developing countries.

The speaker was David Morley who is a Professor at the Institute of Child Health in London. The meeting was at the QMC and attracted over 120 people. This event is one of the many that we will be organising as part of our campaign "Before The Bomb Drops", which aims to emphasise the devastating effects of the nuclear and conventional arms build-up worldwide and



especially on poverty, starvation and environmental devastation in the developing world.

The speaker covered the problems of resources and an expanding population in less developed countries and gave us some figures. In India, for example, there are 13,000,000 added to the population every year and so to maintain the present level of education India needs to build 127,000 schools and find 373,000 extra teachers every year. Poverty is the driving force behind the rapid population growth and much of the destruction of the environment that is occurring in the poorer countries.

He then looked at differences in child mortality in the North and the South; education in general, but particularly that of mothers, being a crucial factor in this difference.

This was followed by a look at the opportunities for improving the health services in less developed countries, the lack of resources, the importance of primary health care and the irrelevance of the large urban hospitals to all but the better off.

One of the most important points brought out in the talk was that the choice is ours as to how the Earth's resources are used. For example, providing primary health care - including water and sanitation, trained workers, communicable disease control and basic drugs - would cost each person in the world an extra \$12.50 a year for 20 years or 2/3 of world spending on cigarettes or 1/15th. of world military spending. The large military budgets of many countries stand in stark contrast to social spending - one Harrier plane costs more than Tanzania is able to spend on health care for a whole year.

We concluded with a discussion of the health priorities of children in developing countries.

The evening was a great success for M.C.A.N.W. and we signed up a few new members. In the next three months we will be having speakers along to our monthly meetings discussing Namibian uranium, anxiety in children and arms conversion.

4 Nick Armstrong.

"LISTEN WITH MOTHER"

Public intrusions into Labour's Policy Review.

Labour is in the middle of its "listening" campaign. No, don't laugh, because out of all the interminably boring and meandering sessions being staged around the country will come something of the outline policies that the Party will take into the next general election. It is into this populist pot-pourri that CND has thrown its own proposals about defence strategy -

BRITAIN IN THE WORLD

CND's Strength

It is a measure of how far CND itself has moved over the last decade that the document is not focussed solely around Britain and Europe, not obliged to dwell on the "deterrence" argument and not indifferent to global issues of justice and inequality. The great strength of CND's submission is that it is a challenge to the Labour Party to come up with a defence and foreign policy which is both non-belligerent and internationalist; a policy which confronts the fear, suspicion and mutual hostility that permeates this country today and which would break through the paralysis of cold war mentality that still shapes defence thinking.

"The first thing it [the Labour Party] ought to do is to make clear that this country and the world face many threats to which there is no military solution and which have to be faced by the whole human community - AIDS, the international debt crisis, famine (in a world of food surplus), conflict resulting from social injustice and racial discrimination and future Chernobyls".

Alternatives

Against this, CND sets out the destabilising effects of the nuclear arms race and the risks involved in arms proliferation and the expansion of civil nuclear power programmes. What was less convincing was the practical process of putting together the alternatives. True, the submission set out an array of proposals under the heading of "How we can work for peace", but it was lightweight in the areas we have always been vulnerable on. My own belief in CND's arguments should not blind me to the realities of the society that Mrs. Thatcher has created around herself. Fear, division, selfishness and insecurity are essential elements in keeping the Tories in power. History is littered with examples of grossly unjust and unequal societies that have been propped up by internal repression and the external threat. What the peace movement and the Labour Party have failed to do is to break through the illusions of "the Russian Threat". So, for all the government

hypes about East-West dialogue, the glories of Glasnost and the Summit agreements, none of us should pretend that the old fears will not be rolled out, whenever N.A.T.O. or nuclear weaponry are seriously questioned.

Far from sharing CND's optimism that "the people of this country are antagonistic to nuclear escalation", my fear is that Thatcher could easily mobilise widespread support for a Eurobomb initiative that would "protect us" from even the most illusory reductions in US/NATO nuclear firepower in Europe.

Appeasement?

In 1983, Labour failed to argue the non-nuclear case. In 1987, we failed to argue it convincingly. Where and how do we begin to do so now? What CND's paper did not address (and what the Labour Party has so far ducked) are the questions of what exactly we see ourselves defending and what is the reality of the external threat.

Labour Must Bite the Bullet

The tragedy of this country is that we have no trust in (or understanding of) peaceful co-existence. Large numbers of people with no experience of the last war still believe that it happened because we had let our defences drop; that appeasement and military unpreparedness caused the war and almost buried the world in fascism. This is not the place to detail the role that British capital played in promoting Hitler's rise to power and the lurch into authoritarianism in pre-war Germany. What is important is to set out unequivocally that the lack of a clear alternative will be the undoing of the non-nuclear case in the next election and beyond. At some point, the nuclear alliances have to be challenged and Labour must bite on the bullet of NATO.

When the USA tells us again and again that NATO is a nuclear alliance and will remain so, who can blame the public for questioning the credibility of Labour's proposals for Nuclear Free Zones or common security corridors?

Common Security?

The challenge to the Labour Party is whether it will pick up the invitation to open discussions with other European countries, aimed at the development of common security arrangements covering the whole of Europe (East and West). If we did, the Tories would go barmy. We would be accused of undermining NATO, weakening the prospects of superpower summit agreements, playing into the hands of the Russians, being crypto-communists, etc., etc., etc. But that is the cutting edge of a genuinely non-aggressive, non-nuclear defence policy.

For my money I would rather Labour were confronted with this now and began to make the practical European links, to follow this through rather than leaving it to the run-in to the next election. There has to be a time when Labour leads as well as listens. And the time to do so on defence issues is sooner rather than later. To build such European links would be a fundamental challenge to the government's authority as well as their, so far, unchallenged monopoly of military imperatives.

The Real Challenge

To do so would be a radical move indeed for the Labour Party; a high risk strategy indeed for a

Party more apparently in search of the middle ground. But the truth is that neither the peace movement nor the Labour Party has much to gain from marginal accommodations with Thatcher's re-written social and economic priorities. The real challenge to us all is, can we construct a practical and credible alternative to what she offers? Thatcher has changed structures as well as values in this society. To defeat the Tories, Labour must do the same; it is such structural alternatives that we are likely to be judged on. This will not come from tinkering with the edges of NATO, not from re-defining (and relocating) nuclear arsenals. It is the replacement of fear by trust, isolation by common security that prevents the biggest challenge to us all. What is uncertain is whether society, let alone the Labour Party, is ready to risk it?

Alan Simpson.

JUST AS MAGGIE THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO AHEAD WITH TRIDENT

—ALONG COMES CND'S MASS LEAFLETS CAMPAIGN—

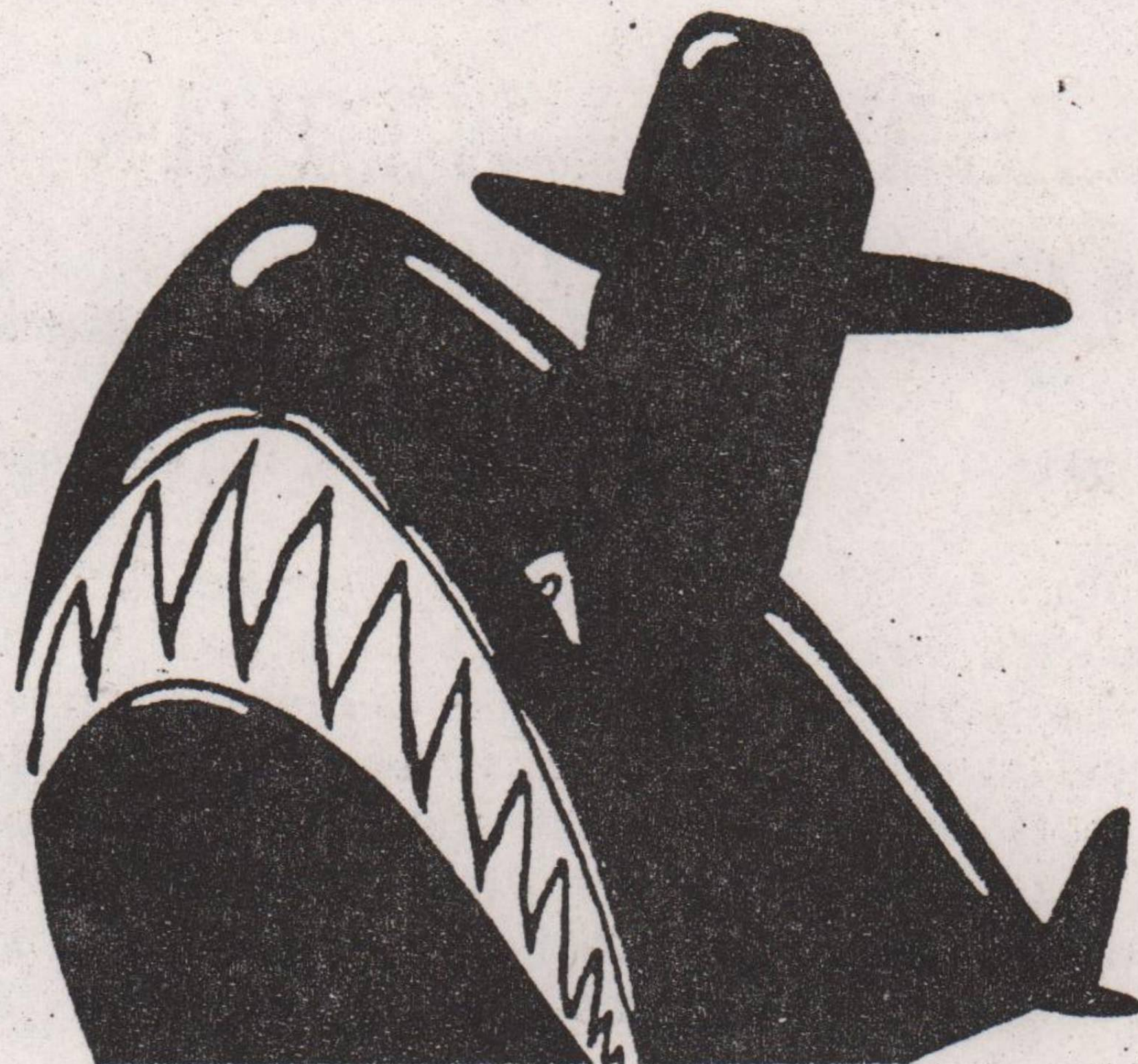
National CND aims to deliver over two million anti-Trident leaflets throughout Britain during Disarm the Seas Week - 22nd to 30th May - and they are calling on every supporter here in Nottingham to help out.

But everyone knows leaflets are a waste of time. WRONG! Advertisers and marketing experts dream of mass leafleting campaigns because they have found a far higher response from leaflets than from newspaper and TV ads. So, what's so special about this leaflet? Tests have shown that leaflets must be two things if they are going to work. They must have so few words that they can be read "between the letter box and the bin" and they must look different. The "Jaws" leaflet is both of these things. It has been tried out and found to be very effective.

But leafleting is so boring. Wrong again. Like anything we do, leafleting is as interesting as we make it. End your leafleting evening with a social gathering or down at the pub; go together with others from your group to estates or areas that have previously never been visited; rush all your group business through in the first half hour of your meeting and then all go leafleting together; work together with other groups (churches, trade unions, Labour Party branches) and share the delivering with them.

Leafleting takes such a long time. Only if one or two people try to deliver thousands on their own. Far better for those two people to spend their time phoning ten others and asking them to deliver, say, 100 leaflets each.

Forest Fields Peace Group started a programme of mass leafleting several months ago. They divided



their area up into about a dozen smaller sub-areas or roughly 250 dwellings each. They then systematically phoned every member of the group and asked them to help leaflet. Nine out of the members agreed to help. Some were positively pleased to be asked to do something at last! Each leafleter was given a map of their sub-area and allowed a period of a week to deliver the leaflets at a time that suited them best. AS A CONSEQUENCE, FFPG HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH DORMANT MEMBERS, INVOLVED THEM IN ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING AND DELIVERED THREE BATCHES OF 2,500 LEAFLETS IN THE COMMUNITY. FFPG MEMBERSHIP IS NOW CREEPING UP! Get in touch with your group and find out what they are planning for the mass leafleting campaign. Your group can order the Jaws leaflet from NCND, at a cost of £6.50 per thousand. If the group hasn't planned anything yet, then make some suggestions yourself. What better way to strengthen popular opposition to Trident and, at the same time, re-energize your local group?

Pete Strauss



CAMPAIGNING FOR THE 1990s

Readers will know that the Labour Party National Executive have set up 7 Policy Review Groups. Local branch and ward secretaries are asked to ensure that the various aspects of policy under review are discussed at their meetings over the next few months. This is an opportunity for NCND members who belong to the Labour Party to make their views known.

If you are a Labour Party member, DO make sure that your branch or ward does discuss DEFENCE AND FOREIGN POLICY, that a report - however brief - is sent in to Walworth Road. There will undoubtedly be strong pressure to ditch Labour's commitment to complete nuclear disarmament. Grass roots support for no change could be very important.

Jos Wood.

AFTER INF

I cannot agree with Geoff Young (see "No Substitutions" in March Bulletin) when he says that things haven't really changed since the INF Treaty.

True, militarily INF is insignificant with less than 4% of the world's nuclear arsenal being scrapped and with the USSR making the main contribution - 2,100 warheads to 348 US ones. Moreover, since the "modernisation" programme agreed by the NATO planning group at Montebello in 1983 is unaffected, it is still proceeding - although, after the recent NATO summit, not entirely according to plan. NATO could soon have enough substitute weapons such as air-launched cruise missiles to compensate for those lost through INF. Details of the Montebello agreement have never been revealed to Parliament and, until George Younger inadvertently (?) referred to its implementation last November, the Government denied that British forces were affected.

It is the psychological and political effects of INF that are important. INF affects the fundamentals of the arms race and, alongside the US economic crisis, marks a new departure in international relations.

The recent NATO summit in Brussels revealed some of the changes that are going on. The summit, which unsurprisingly was called at the instigation of Britannia Thatcher, was the first for 6 years and the first to be attended by a French president since de Gaulle walked out of NATO 22 years ago.

It was patently a public-relations exercise intended to paper over NATO's widening cracks. Despite her strident behaviour in Parliament, Mrs. Thatcher did not get the unequivocal commitment to "modernisation" (i.e. substitution) that she had set out to get. This was her second set-back in Europe in less than two weeks, after failing to get sweeping Common Market budget reforms.

Chancellor Kohl, with two elections in the offing and a thriving peace movement to cope with, could not afford to be seen to be agreeing to the deployment of any further nasties on German soil. He had nipped over to Washington the previous week and apparently done a deal with Ronnie. In exchange for Kohl not pressing the third zero, Ronnie would go slow on "modernisation".

"The Times" said that the final communique had "something for everyone". Ronnie got approval for his target of an agreement with Mikhail for a 50% reduction in strategic (long range) weapons - an agreement which could affect Britannia's Trident programme. In exchange, Ronnie went some way to settling NATO's major worry by promising to keep US troops in Europe "as long as the common defence of our democratic way of life requires them". Will his successor agree, though, when faced with growing emphasis on the Pacific as the major US sphere of interest and with the need to reduce overseas spending?

The catalyst of all this is, of course, the new

management set-up in the USSR - Comrade G. + glasnost and perestroika.

It is Gorbachev who has accepted the Peace Movement's argument that numerical parity has no meaning in a nuclear age. The zero option, i.e. doing away with Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe, was first proposed by Reagan in 1981 because, as General Rodgers has subsequently admitted "we believed the Russians would never agree to it". But Gorbachev did agree and, as we all know, has proceeded to take the stage with offer after offer and talk of a nuclear-free world by the year 2000. The myth of the Soviet threat has become utterly threadbare and we should never forget that the maintenance of the arms race depends on the presentation of a plausible enemy.

Mrs. T. gave the enemy image a good polishing at the NATO summit and in doing so revealed the fundamental contradiction in the theory of negotiating from strength. Gorbachev's tenure of office depends on his being able to convince his own hawks - and the millions of ordinary people who still remember 1941 - that his concessions to the West are paying off and are not weakening Soviet defences. Mrs. T.'s performance in Brussels was utterly unhelpful to the man she "could do business with".

CND is now more important than ever. Thatcher is becoming increasingly out of tune with other NATO leaders and with growing numbers of people in this country who fear her commitment to things nuclear - power as well as weapons. We have to bring out into the open her plans for deploying a new generation of nuclear weapons and nail, once and for all, the "claptrap" (her word) about the Soviet threat. Times are ripe for change.

Jos Wood.



**AMAZING WHO'S
INTO NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT
THESE DAYS**

LESSONS FOR THE PEACE MOVEMENT

Researchers from Reading University are currently drawing together the results of their opinion polls, from last summer, into people's attitudes to British defence policy, the superpowers, accidental nuclear war and proliferation. The full results have yet to be published, but early findings are of considerable importance to CND.

Attitudes to the Superpowers.

There has been a remarkable turn-around in people's perceptions of which side is most responsible for the arms race. Most people now believe both sides to be equally to blame or the USA to be slightly more guilty. Parallel to this, most people do NOT make any link between superpower arms race/arms talks and British defence policy. The British bomb is a quite separate and different matter.

British Defence Policy.

Views about Britain's bomb haven't changed much over the last five years....about 65% for; about 26% against. On the question of first-use, there is a striking degree of ignorance about what Britain's policy actually is. Only 7% are aware that Britain is committed to first-use of nuclear weapons and 49% believe it is our policy to possess nuclear weapons but NEVER to use them. On deterrence, most people (59%) agree that nuclear weapons keep the peace - including a third of all the people who want to see them scrapped!

How a Nuclear War could Start.

Conflict in the Middle East is seen as the most likely cause of all, of a nuclear confrontation. Furthermore, two thirds of British people believe that even if a nuclear war doesn't start on purpose, an accident is bound to happen sooner or later.

Personal Survival.

It appears that the peace movement has succeeded in educating people about their chances of survival in a nuclear war. 82% now believe they would NOT survive.

Proliferation.

There is a greater awareness now that a nuclear war could begin not through a superpower clash, but from a "regional" conflict. This leads many people to feel even more determined that Britain must keep its bomb, in order to counter threats from other countries (i.e. the Gaddafi factor).

Political Parties.

All three main parties face problems over defence. For Labour, it is that half their

supporters believe we should keep the bomb and half think we should scrap it. For the Alliance, over 70% of their supporters are opposed to developing joint nuclear weapons programmes with France and Germany (The Eurobomb). And, for the Tories, 85% of their supporters support the idea of a nuclear freeze (so potentially could be come opposed to Trident).

Lessons for the Peace Movement.

- (i) We have to understand that opinions HAVE changed dramatically over the last few years, often in our favour. ("Say not the struggle nought availeth".)
- (ii) People are perfectly capable of holding contradictory views about defence and disarmament....e.g. the disarmers who believe in deterrence; the deterrers who oppose proliferation.
- (iii) First-Use is a glaringly weak link in the pro-nuclear weapons argument. We have yet to succeed in educating people about this and, if we can, should be able to dislodge some supporters of nuclear "defence".
- (iv) The Soviet Threat is being replaced by the Gaddafi Threat.
- (v) Deterrence still survives as one of the most enduring and powerful beliefs sustaining nuclear defence policies.
- (vi) Perhaps most importantly, we have got to find a way of helping people to make the connections between what happens here in Britain with British defence and foreign policy and what happens around the world.

Pete Strauss

* Note - this research was done before the SLD/Owen split.

JUMBLE * JUMBLE * JUMBLE

Wollaton CND group urgently need jumble for their sale on Saturday, 30th April at the Sheila Russell Community Centre, off Strelley Road, Bilborough, starting at 2.30 pm. Adults 10p - Children Free.

Also any offers of help would be gratefully accepted.

Enquiries to:
OR





Dear Bulletin Team,
I wondered if you had ever contemplated producing what would no doubt prove to be a very much appreciated, worthwhile and probably small-scale service to those of us who are partially sighted or anyone who finds it difficult or impossible to read the Bulletin - that is to produce a tape cassette version of the Bulletin.

It's pretty straightforward to do - just requiring a few different readers, a little time and a reasonable quality machine to produce the master (or should that be mistress) copy.

I'd be willing to help/advise etc. We produced "Sneinton Voice" on cassette for a while.

Obviously, you'd need to check the potential take-up first - but how about it? It's done with Sanity, so if National CND can do it, surely Nottingham CND can!

Liz Silver. [REDACTED]

Dear Friends,

I am writing on behalf of Sheffield Women's Peace Group who are in turn part of "Women working for a nuclear free and independent Pacific" in order to inform you of two forthcoming events.

On Monday April 25th, at 7.30 p.m., Bernice Keldermans will speak at a public meeting in Sheffield Town Hall. She is a woman from Belau and will be speaking on the subject of her people's struggles. The Republic of Belau in the Pacific is at present in turmoil because of the attempts by the U.S.A. to overturn its nuclear free constitution; take one third of the land area for jungle warfare training and to use the deep water harbour for nuclear shipping. The people who are active in defence of their constitution are suffering from violence and intimidation unprecedented in Belau's traditionally matriarchal society.

The second event is on Monday May 16th at 7.30 p.m. at SADACCA on the Wicker. In the year when white Australia is celebrating its bi-centennial, an Aboriginal woman, Joan Wingfield, will be touring Britain to give the Aboriginal account of the last 200 years. She is a member of the Kokotha tribe whose lands were first contaminated by the British nuclear tests in the 1950s and whose sacred sites are now being destroyed by B.P.'s uranium mining activities. The uranium from the Roxby Downs mine will be used in British power stations in the near future.

As you can imagine, the publicity and travel expenses for these events are quite high and we are asking interested groups/individuals not only to publicise them as widely as possible and to support these events, but also to make a donation towards the costs if they are able to. Please make cheques payable to "Sheffield Women & Nuclear Disarmament".

SUE CHANT. [REDACTED]

Dear members,
Yes, it's that time of the year again - time for 1988's version of a now familiar annual event ... the desperate Peace Festival Appeal.
The Festival is going ahead on Sunday July 10th. on Victoria Embankment.

This is not an appeal for money. This time we need people - specifically a stalls booker. This duty involves sending forms to listed stallholders and organisations and keeping track of acceptances. It doesn't involve site-planning which is done by an existing member.

The present team is laughably small as it is. If no-one else volunteers, the Festival will go ahead regardless - but with organisers taking on triple and quadruple instead of merely double duties. This is unnecessary and ridiculous when there are 800-odd Nottingham members.

This is the eighth Festival year. The enthusiasm of participants has built up each year and attendance has grown. We are receiving eager enquiries and even envelopes of money four months in advance. Please will someone match this keenness?

Phone me with any enquiries on 621453.

Jeremy Jago. [REDACTED]

MAYDAY '88 is the first international festival to celebrate May Day in Nottingham. Four days of music, performance and education from different cultures will demonstrate the potentials of internationalism and the ability of people to define their own communities and share their experience with others.

The MAYDAY '88 themes of internationalism, community and self-representation are important to anyone concerned with peace and disarmament. Only by taking an international perspective can we expose the myth of threatening enemies handed down to us by the military and the government; only by forging links, superseding our own divisions and working together in communities can we create and maintain the strength to transform our society.

MAYDAY '88 features music and performance from The Cookie Crew, Premi, Joan Collins Fan Club, Orchestra Jazira, Dick Gaughan, Patti O'Doors, Fieldwork, Strathcona and Perspectives theatre companies and more. In the free "People for Themselves" workshop sessions, the Merseyside Unemployed Activists, the Trader strikers, community radio and newspaper producers, indigenous people's land-rights pressure groups and many others demonstrate possibilities for self-representation and positive change.

The MAYDAY '88 group is voluntary and independent. Staging the festival is expensive and we're raising money to help finance the many free events with a series of benefits at the Yorker on Mansfield Road, every Friday during April. Please support us.

A full programme of events is available from Mushroom Bookshop and all the usual places, or phone MAYDAY '88 on 782463.

John Cromby
for MAYDAY '88. [REDACTED]

BALLAD FOR THE EIGHTIES

"Mother I'm home!"
Young Gweneth cried,
But her Mother just frowned
And pulled her inside.

"Mother what's happened?
Why are you sad?"
But Mum was intent
On finding her lad.

"Enough of your questions!
Where's David today?
Hurry now,
Before it's too late!"

"Why, Mother, why?
I don't understand!"
"Do as I say!
Obey my command!"

Her brother came in,
He was shaking with fright,
"Mum says we'll be dead
By the end of the night."

"Why, David, why?
I don't understand!"
Block the door!
Obey my command!"

They huddled together
Beneath the stairs,
The door barricaded
With tables and chairs.

A deafening bang!
A flash of light!
"Is that why, Mum,
We'll die in the night?"

"Hush, dear, hush
We'll wake alive,
We'll be alright,
If we survive.

Go on David,
Look outside,
Is the world a mess,
Have the media lied?"

David obeyed,
He completed his task,
Soon darkness had come,
Like a sinister mask.

David was trembling;
"We have no roof,
For once, Mother,
They were telling the truth."

He spoke of destruction,
A mushroom shaped cloud,
A column of smoke,
Rising up from the ground.

David felt ill,
He was covered in sores,
His hair fell out,
Because of the wars.

Gweneth sobbed,
For David had died,
"This is the end"
Her Mother cried.

The days dragged by,
Each one like a year,
They ran out of food,
"Don't worry dear."

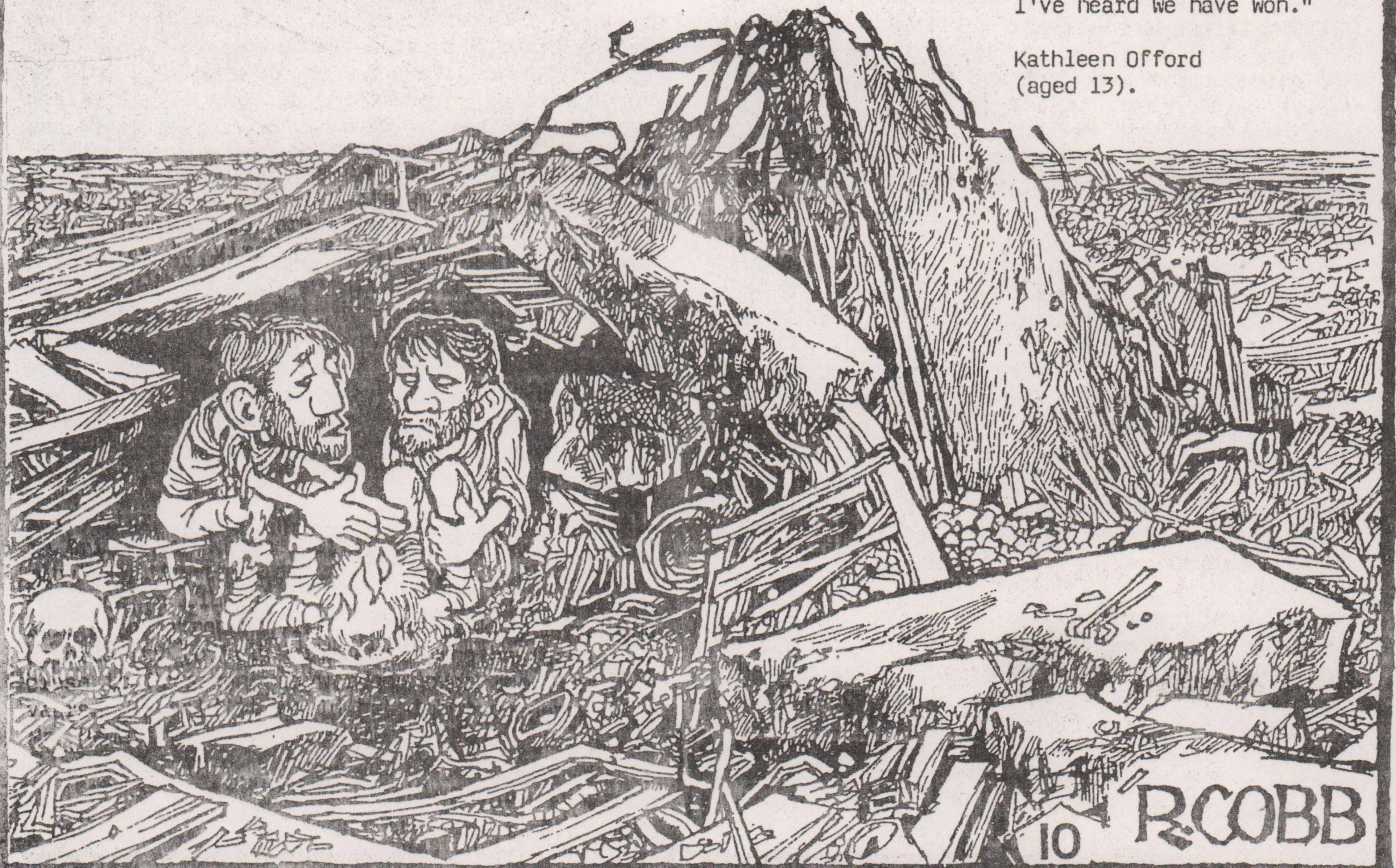
But Mum was worried,
Gwen could tell,
For Mum had not
Been feeling too well.

Now Mum could no longer
Contain her grief,
Because of David
And because of Keith.

And now she cried,
"My husband! My son!"
"Don't cry Mum,
I've heard we have won."

Kathleen Offord
(aged 13).

**"THERE'S A RUMOR
GOING 'ROUND
THAT WE WON..."**



30

THIRTY YEARS OF CND

We continue the series on CND history by interviewing Ron Gardner. Ron is a teacher, aged 49, and delivers Bulletins.

Q. How did you get involved in CND?

RG. During my national service I became very conscious of threats to peace - the invasion of Lebanon by US marines, the Suez crisis and so on. My own army role was not very military: I was a private in the pay corps. It never occurred to me to be a conscientious objector - I didn't know you could - I just got neurotic about nuclear war. Coming out of the Army, I joined Sutton CND and went on an Aldermaston march. It seemed very natural at the time - I was terrified of being blown up, still am, and lived in South London, just the sort of place which wouldn't have nice time if the bomb went off. I thought anyone who was remaining calm didn't understand the situation and I got involved in the round of public meetings, demonstrations: I remember giving a talk at a youth club, outlining the failure of arms negotiations. We invited civil defence to speak to us - I doubt either side was converted, but they "wished us all the best"! I was arrested, I think 3 times and when the Home Secretary banned our meeting in Trafalgar Square - at that time, the police were very gentle and I was fined £2 or £3 - on one occasion my principal at college paid the fine! At one time, I panicked and went to live in Cornwall forever, thinking I'd be safer there.

Q. And you ended up in Nottingham....

RG Yes, at my first or second meeting of Nottingham CND, I became secretary. I didn't make a very good job of it - I wasn't on the phone, so I was trying to fix up coaches from coin boxes down the road. We did a lot of fly-posting though. So many things seemed important at the time - sitting on a wall and being told to get off by a policeman - utterly trivial, but I felt my basic rights were being infringed. I was attracted to flower-power, I gave a daffodil to Michael Foot - was that "flower power"?

Q. Why did you leave CND?

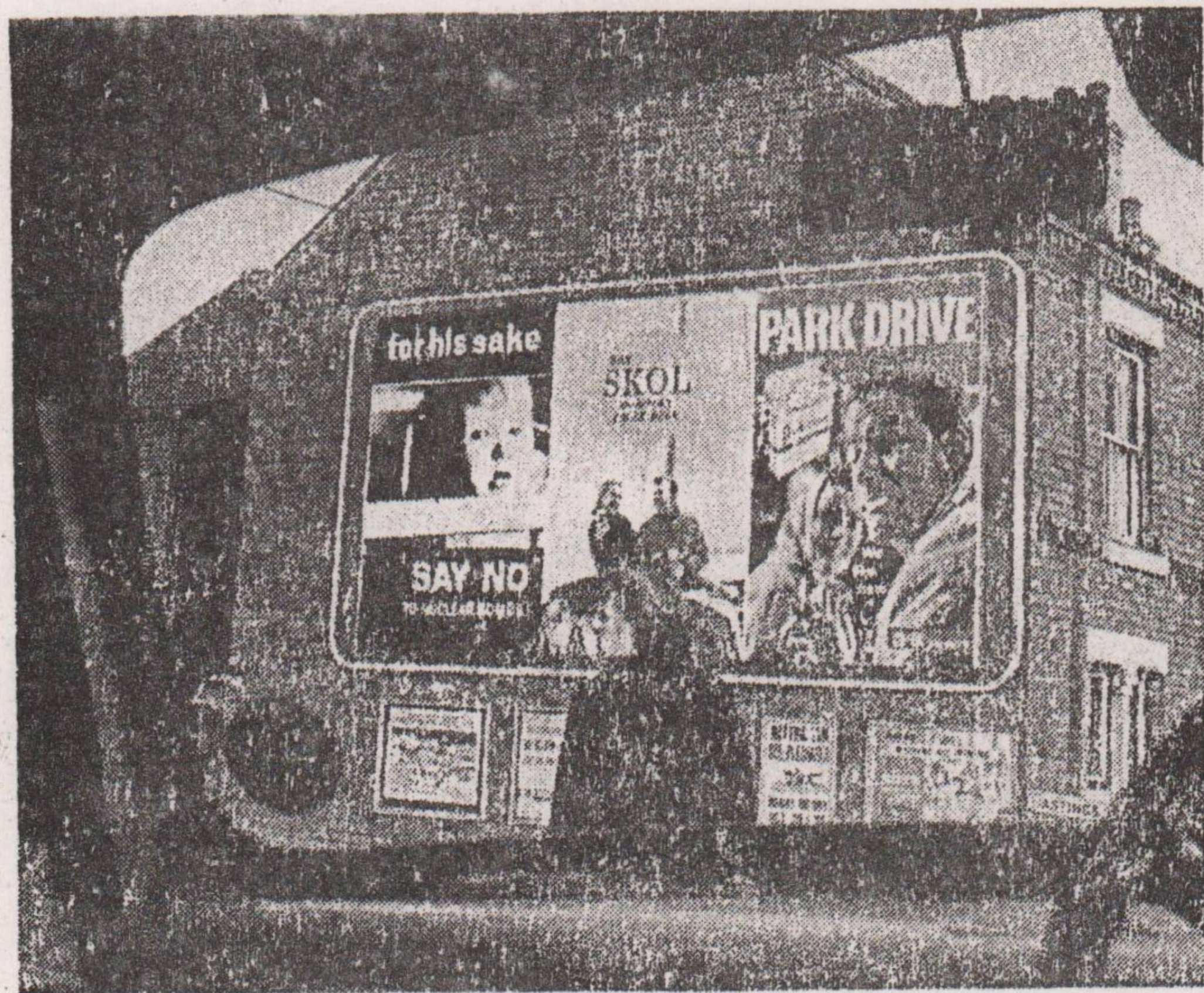
RG I never became uncommitted, but got sidetracked into the United Nations Association, Rhodesia, the Anti-Colour Bar Campaign, then Vietnam. I never made a conscious decision to move away from CND. Other issues come up - anti-apartheid. Vietnam was a dilemma; how can you be a pacifist, but not support the people fighting the Americans? I was at University then - I remember sitting-in to stop the South African ambassador speaking, a policeman pointed me out as "that hooligan from the City" - high praise for someone as meek and mild as me. I wrote to CND around then, asking them to stop sending me material. I couldn't face it and kept going to pieces whenever there was an international crisis.

Q. But you got involved again later.

RG "Protest and Survive" reassured me that I was not alone. I heard that Pete Maguire had called a meeting in Colville Street, so I duplicated 200 letters and delivered them round my area. 12 people came and that was the start of Forest Fields Peace Group. If I hadn't done it, someone else would have - it was pretty chaotic and ad-hoc at first, but soon people with greater organising ability took over. I don't want you to think I was ever superactive; these days I collect the subs and deliver the Newsletter.

Q. Do you think CND has had a value?

RG Personally, apart from anything else, I've met people I liked and have been encouraged not to feel hopeless. If any arms agreements are made, it's because CND has raised consciousness and awareness of nuclear madness. We've alerted people. When people are alerted, we're much more in control. I do believe disarming is a calculated risk, but one worth taking; nuclear weapons are such an appalling waste of resources.



Q. Two things: you are religious - has that mattered? Also you have a big family - has it bothered you, having so many children, as it were in the face of nuclear weapons?

RG I'm now, I supposed, a lapsed agnostic! If anything, Christianity militated against CND: the Anglican Church was never sympathetic. Off and on, I attend Quaker meetings - I admire their serious pacifist commitment. As to children, we can't act - even if at times we feel so - as if war is inevitable. I want to live as if life is worth living - in my work and family. My son, Dom, has been to prison for peace, but his mother has been more of an influence on him than I.

Q. Will you stay involved?

RG Yes - I hear the alarm bells ringing and here we go. Some kind of gesture - even minimal - is always worth it.

GREENHAM

BYELAWS ILLEGAL!

After a year-long legal struggle, the Women at Greenham Common have secured a ruling in their favour and the Greenham Byelaws have been declared illegal.

The decision was made at an appeal against conviction for trespass of Jean Hutchinson and Georgina Smith at Reading Crown Court. The court had originally refused to hear the women's appeal in 1986 and was eventually forced by a House of Lords ruling last year to proceed with the case.

The outcome has, of course, delighted Greenham Women Everywhere and left the Ministry of Defence with proverbial egg on its face, as it would seem that Michael Heseltine was more than a little hasty when the byelaws were drawn up in 1985. He then failed to notice that Greenham Common is legally still just that, common land, and the Military Lands Act of 1892 prevents any Secretary of State for Defence from interfering with common land rights.

The implications of the ruling will hopefully be far reaching. Hundreds of women have been charged with trespass under the byelaws over the past three years and already other women have issued complaints of wrongful arrest, seeking to have their convictions quashed and those who refused to pay fines are to claim damages for illegal imprisonment.



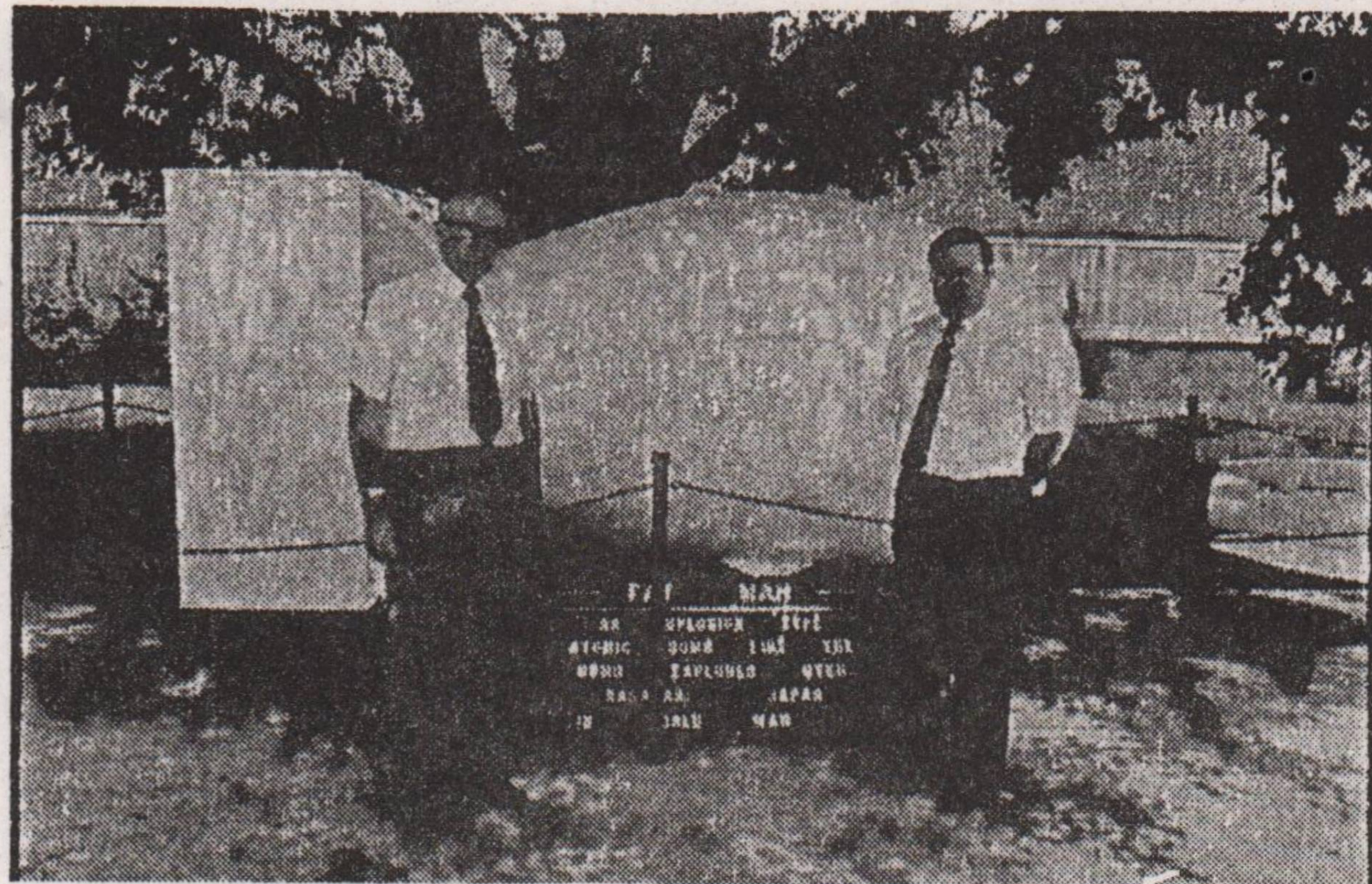
In the meantime, a quote from the Guardian implied that women are now happily wandering the base again, as in the good old pre-byelaw days!

Jill Robson

At Work in the Fields of the Bomb
Robert del Tredici (Harrap £9.95).

"At Work" is a glossy photographic study, complemented by interviews and notes, of "the bomb" - its factories, sites, inventors, programmers and practitioners, its victims and dissidents.

Del Tredici's book though goes beyond the familiar and, maybe ultimately passe, icons of mushroom clouds, Hiroshima victims and protest demos. These photos give more of an inside view of the nuclear machine. The human studies - the nuclear physicist in the garden at home with his dog, an ex-maintenance worker ill in bed with cancer and many similar - are telling.



It's difficult to discern what causes some to invent, some to dissent. Everybody looks quite reasonable, but what they say and do are matters of life and death.

It's worth pointing out that the American photos taken inside the military complexes probably could not be taken in similar circumstances here, because of Britain's obsessive secrecy.

A useful book for camera buffs and, if they're still allowed to use such things, teachers.

Ross Bradshaw.

A NEW SANITY

From May onwards CND's monthly newspaper Campaign! is to be combined within a new and restyled Sanity as a separate pull-out section. The new publication will aim to build on the best aspects of both the current publications.

In Sanity the features will become shorter with an emphasis on forward-looking political articles and controversial interviews. The aim is to make Sanity a more interesting magazine whilst still providing the broader background and political implications of the issues which face the Peace Movement.

The Campaign! pull-out will maintain it's own design identity and provide groups with in-depth information about the campaigning activities of the Peace Movement.

Although the new magazine will be slightly more expensive, those people who have a current subscription made through NCND will continue to receive copies at no extra cost. If you are not already receiving Sanity, please fill in the form below and return it to the NCND office. Ordering your Sanity through NCND enables us to place bulk orders and offer a much reduced subscription rate compared to the normal cover price.

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE TO SANITY

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE TEL

I enclose payment of £4.00 payable to NCND. Please return this form to Nottingham CND, 17/18, Queen's Chambers, 3 King Street, Nottingham.

OTHER CAMPAIGNS

An irregular series on what other people are up to.

THE VIRAJ MENDIS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN.

THE HOME OFFICE WANT THIS MAN TO DIE



WE MUST STOP THEM NOW

Viraj Mendis has lived in Britain since 1973. On the day of the deadline for this April Bulletin, he will be spending his 450th day in sanctuary in a Manchester Church, to avoid being deported to his death in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, the Home Office, the "Tactical Aid Group" and James Anderson's special "Viraj Mendis Squad", who keep the Church, the Campaign and its members under constant surveillance, are planning to smash into the sanctuary if Viraj's forthcoming Appeal goes against him.

SRI LANKA

The Home Office have been trying to deport Viraj to Sri Lanka since 1984. Amnesty International and the World Council of Churches have frequently informed them that, as a known opponent of the Jaywardene regime and life-long supporter of Tamil self-determination, Viraj would face instant death in Sri Lanka, where over 10,000 people have been murdered in the last five years. Dr. Robert Bradnock, a Liberal Foreign Affairs spokesperson, said after a recent visit to Sri Lanka: "I had the opportunity to talk with a man who has been very close to President Jaywardene over the last two years. He said it would be highly dangerous for Mr. Mendis to be returned to Sri Lanka."

BRITISH INTERESTS

The Home Office insist that Sri Lanka is "a democracy where the rule of law applies", although recently they have conceded that the situation there is "confused". But, in February, this did not prevent them from deporting three Tamil refugees, making us the only country in Western Europe to do so. Britain remains more concerned with protecting economic and military interests in the area. 42% of Sri Lanka's exports is Tea and Britain controls 90% of World Tea Trade. The Government has also sent "military advisers" to Sri Lanka to prevent a potential deep-water base at Trincomalee harbour from falling under Tamil control.

VIRAJ'S CONDUCT.

During an Appeals Tribunal in 1985, the Home Office revealed their second reason for trying to deport Viraj Mendis. Although he has lived in Britain since 1973, "his conduct during this period has to be considered... he has actively campaigned against immigration controls".

Viraj is a communist who has played a key role in winning over twenty anti-deportation campaigns and organizing three other sanctuaries, all of which have now won:

"The Home Office understands the significance of Sanctuary, that it is a threat to the trouble-free implementation of Racist Immigration Laws. In the context of the New immigration Bill, the significance of Sanctuary is dramatically increased. The New Laws will destroy the right of appeal for a wide section of Black people. The only defence they will have against instant deportation will be to go into Sanctuary. The preparations that VMDC has made will be vital to the future growth of sanctuaries throughout Britain".

ANTI-RACIST FIGHTBACK.

The Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign has become the focus for the fightback against Britain's Racist Laws, laws which are today responsible for deporting fifty people a week and dividing thousands of families. VMDC has always assisted other campaigns and worked for unity in the anti-deportation struggle. It is democratically organized and open to any group or individual who supports Viraj's right to stay and wants to stop ALL deportations. VMDC is already supported by numerous campaigning groups and organizations from a variety of political and religious persuasions. Future events include the Appeal (date to be announced) and a National Demonstration in Manchester on Saturday, May 28th. For more details, copies of the fortnightly Bulletin and information about local VMDFC Meetings, contact: Nottingham VMDC at P.O. Box A, Hiziki Wholefoods, 15 Goosegate, Hockley, Nottingham.

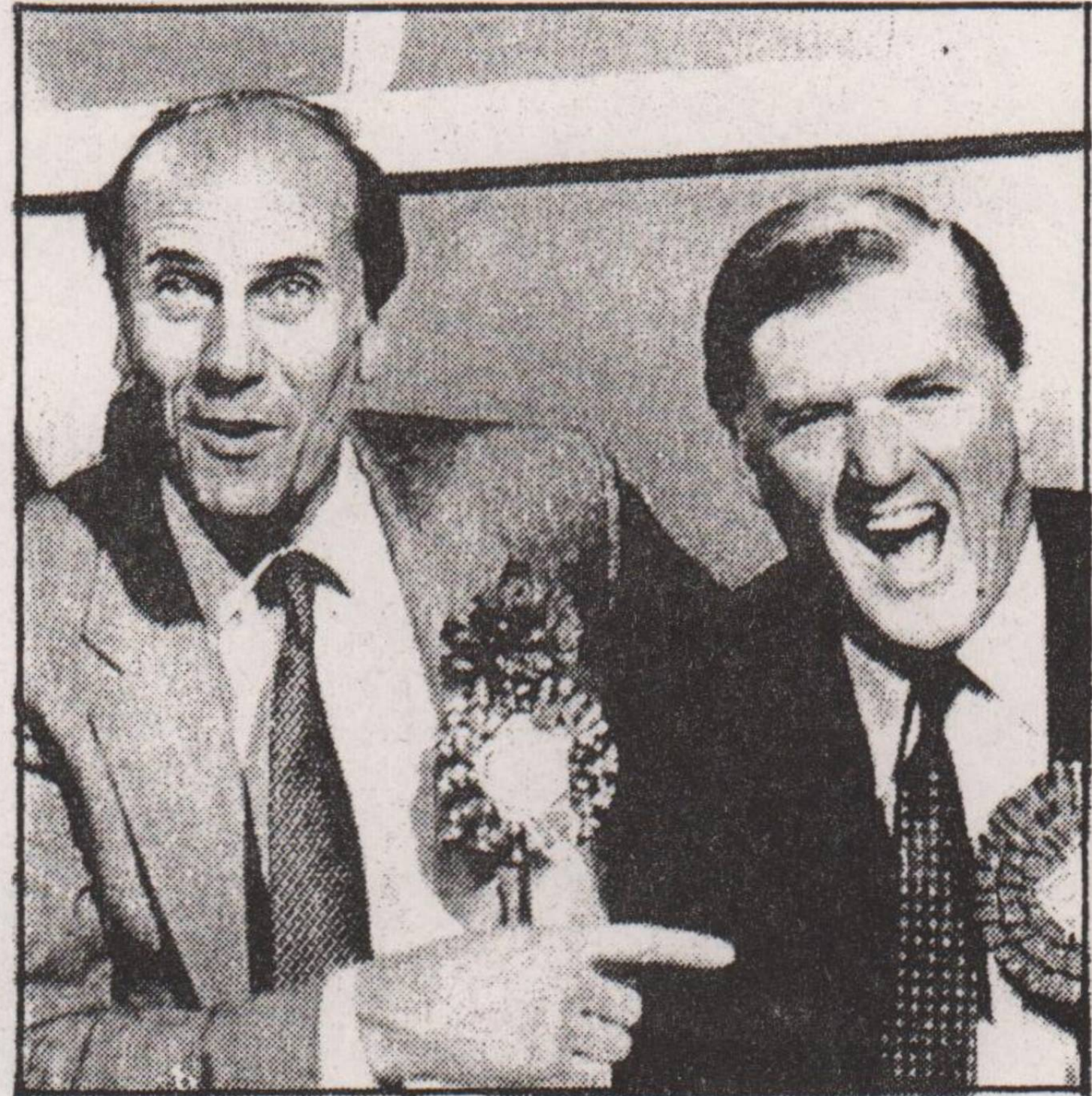
CONTACTS CONTACTS

WIN FREE FILM TICKETS!

CITY LIGHTS C·I·N·E·M·A

City Lights Cinema have kindly offered NCND FREE entry for two to a film of their choice each month and YOU could be the lucky winner!

All you have to do is to think up the funniest or wittiest caption that fits the photograph below. We've given you an easy one to start off with, so get thinking and send your offering to NCND Bulletin at the office address, closing date April 18th.



IF THE CAPTION FITS!

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to those of you who responded to our last appeal for office volunteers, but we need still more of you. Saturday is an especially bad time and the office seems invariably to be closed on that day. Can anyone out there spare one Saturday a month?

A list of "occasional volunteers" is also being drawn up to attempt to fill in gaps and to cover at short notice. If you can help us, PLEASE ring Jill on 222578.

Jill Robson.

PROCESSION OF PRAYER AND PEACE

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, with other committed Christians invites everyone to our

FOURTH ANNUAL PROCESSION OF PRAYER AND PEACE

at

USAF MOLESWORTH

on

HOLIDAY MONDAY 2nd MAY 1988

Commences at NOON with Eucharist at OLD MANOR FARM (just north of the pub in Molesworth village).

GORDON ROE Bishop of Huntingdon will speak at 2.00 at PEACE CORNER

REFRESHMENTS AT THE FARM AT 4.00 P.M.

Please bring banners, music, sensible clothing and footwear and lunch to eat just before arrival.

April Bulletin Credits:

Editorial: Ross Bradshaw, Geoff Young
Pete Strauss, Ann Kestenbaum, Rob Raynham.

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Layout: Cath Wakeman, Geoff Young

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