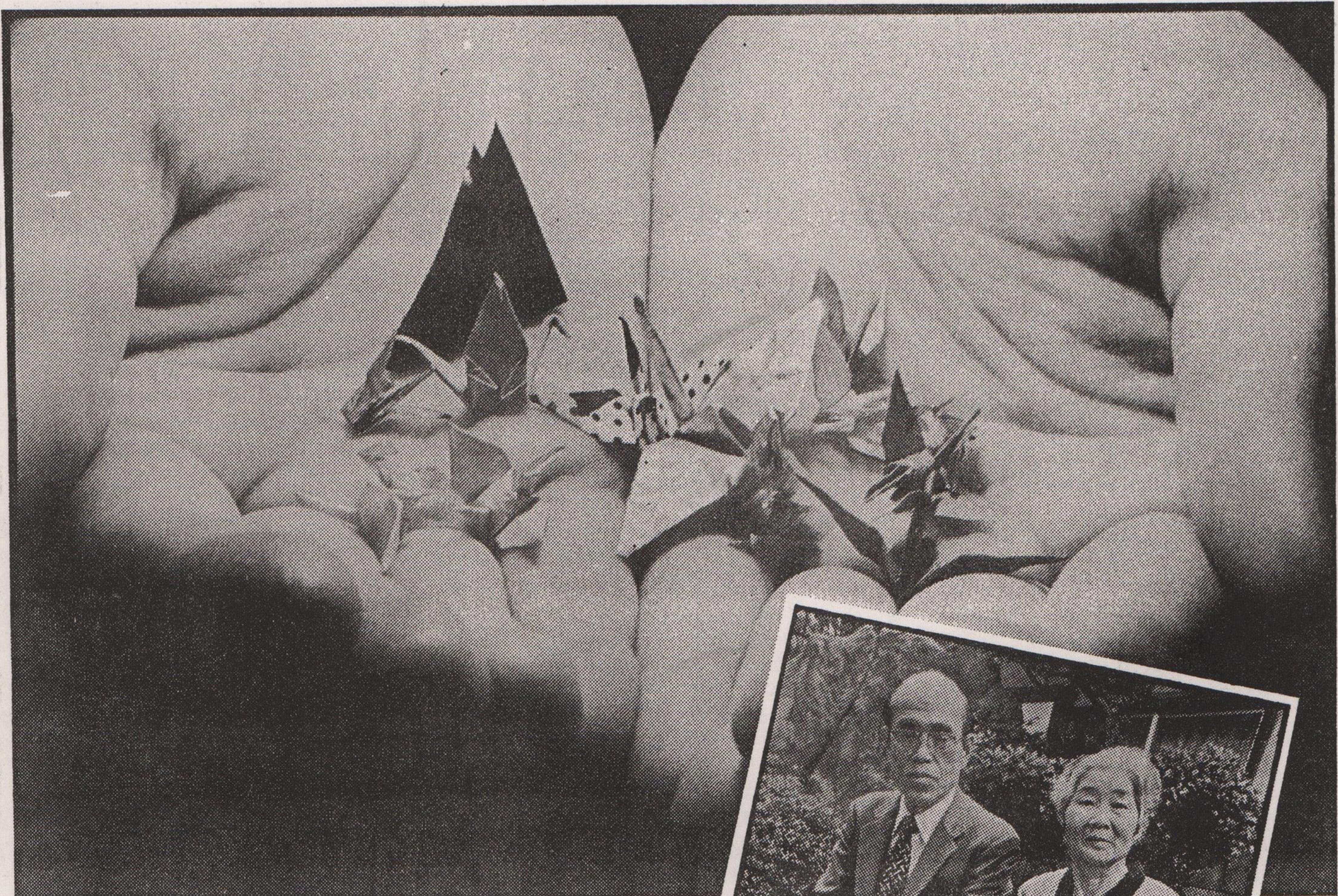


NOTTINGHAM CND

July BULLETIN 20p



**Remember
Hiroshima
and
Nagasaki
August 6th and 9th.**

Editorial

CND members in the Labour Party must have been as sick as a flock of parrots when they heard Neil Kinnocks "something for something" not "something for nothing" comments on nuclear weapons. Perhaps it was these sub-Thatcherite linguistic formations which annoyed as much as the indications of policy changes. Whilst his Labour Party opponent Tony Benn (himself someone who happily sat in a "nuclear" cabinet) could scarcely conceal his glee, M.P.'s less in need of point-scoring, David Blunkett for example, were clearly depressed. And now it seems - in the face of intense disquiet - Neil has backtracked, or rather, "clarified". Our position, and that of the Labour Party, is that nuclear weapons must go, unilaterally. Either you believe in nuclear weapons or you don't, if you have 'em, you've got to be prepared to use 'em (otherwise what's the point?). Fine if you can bi-laterally make deals with the Soviets, but the main point is that no socialist could dream of blowing up half of Russia, so, the nukes go. Regardless. The Labour Party is right on this one. But Neil should come clean-is he now prepared to blow up the Russians or isn't he? If he isn't, unilateralism is his only option.

WHERE DO WE — GO FROM HERE?

In view of the changing attitudes of the two major powers to Nuclear weapons and the "burn out" of a lot of members after long and constant campaigning, the question of where-do-we-go-from-here should become a major topic for discussion by the Policy Making Meeting in the near future.

The number of new members by no means equals the number of lapsed ones. This, in turn, will affect our financial viability. What options could we consider?

- a) ways of revitalization.
- b) changing our image to incorporate wider peace activities than implied in our name.
- c) seeking to bring all the local peace and allied groups under one umbrella.
- d) concentrate on national/local issues only.
- e) ? ? ? ?

There must be some good ideas out there.... Bring them in.

It would be a great tragedy if all our previous campaigning were to be nullified when we are changing world opinions. As nothing stands still, we must move forward. To maintain the organization merely against the time that it will be needed again - and that time will come - means idling along and idling along means slowly dying.

DOREEN GOWER.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

NCND is moving its office to 180 Mansfield Road (The Rainbow Centre). The move will take effect on 1st/2nd October. If you can offer any transport for that weekend please do so. In the meantime we are looking for storage space for irregularly used items, as there will not be so much room at Rainbow-have you any spare space? The current office will continue as normal until October.

FIRST WEDNESDAY

Monthly Members' Meetings, which have not been held regularly for some time, are to be held again - on the first Wednesday of each month at the WEA, 16 Shakespeare Street, 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

If you live in an area not served by a local group, or rather an active local group, here is a chance to meet other NCND members regularly. Some meetings will be talks given by speakers from various areas and related campaigns. Some will be discussions, others devoted to videos or films. We may even manage a few purely social evenings.

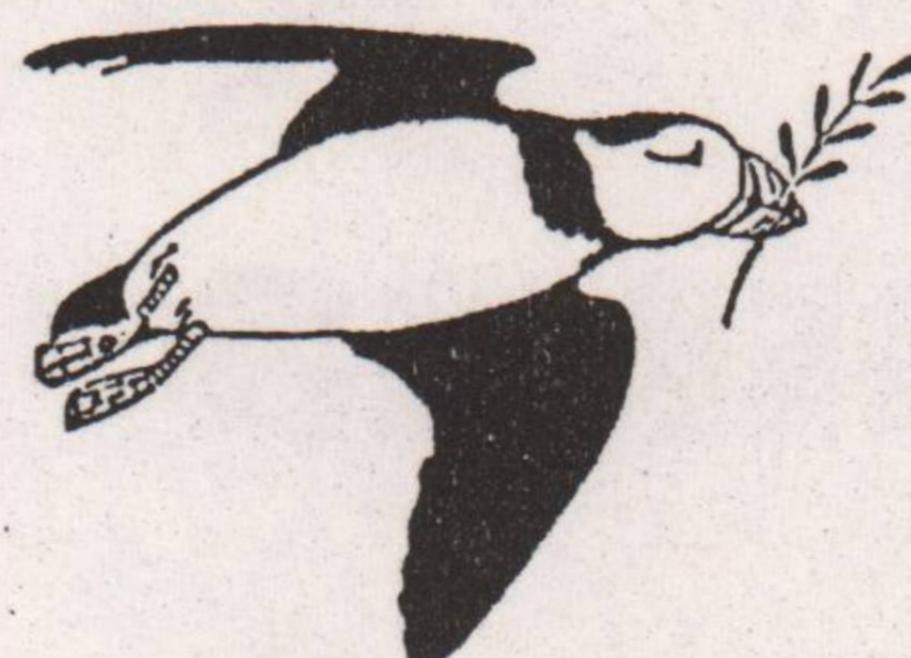
September Kick-Off

The programme kicks off in September. Early talks include a slide lecture by Doreen Gower and Peggy Westaway about their experiences when they managed to escape from the NCND office and travelled to the USSR to meet Soviet Peace Groups.

You can help in two ways. The first, of course, is by supporting the meetings, making it worthwhile to carry on the programme. The second is by doing a bit of research of your own and suggesting subjects and speakers.

Watch out for further details next issue. See you at the Members' Monthly Meeting.

Jeremy Jago.



**North Atlantic Network
6th Annual Conference
to "DISARM THE SEAS"**

Glasgow, Scotland, 15-18 September'88

venue: Queen Margaret Union
Glasgow University
University Gardens, Hillhead, Glasgow

**Anyone interested contact Rob
Fares paid
if necessary.**

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI DAY

EVENTS —

Nottingham CND will be focussing on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki day with:

Shadow painting
White poppies
Listergate stall
Leaflets
Crane floating event

It is over forty years since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In spite of the intense desire of the A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the people of all the world that such tragedies must never be repeated, nuclear weapons over one million times more destructive than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs are now stockpiled, the result of the on-going nuclear arms race.

The use of nuclear weapons will destroy the whole human race and civilisation. It is therefore, illegal, immoral and a crime against the human community.

Humans must not coexist with nuclear arms.

Let us work together to ensure that there is never another Hiroshima or Nagasaki anywhere on earth.

Saturday August 6th

10.00 - 12.00: Chalk shadowing at Listergate

White poppies to sell to people who wish to remember and pay tribute to those who died at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Crane making (see further details below)

Leafletting to explain the significance of these events to passers by.

We will need lots of people to make these successful and effective events - please put the dates in your diary and come along!

Tuesday August 9th

SADAKO MEMORIAL EVENT

"Look at the Children's Monument.

Decorated with thousands of folded paper cranes, it is a memorial to all young people who suffered from the bomb. But it was not erected until 1958, after the death of Sadako Sasaki.

Sadako has been called the Anne Frank of Hiroshima. Her death from delayed radiation effects twelve years after the bomb fell, seemed to symbolize man's inhumanity to man more than all the statistics and scientific facts about the nature of nuclear weapons.

Sadako was only two at the time the pikadon exploded a mile from her home, and she seemed unharmed. She appeared to be a normal, healthy girl until she was in the sixth grade. Then she suddenly developed the signs of leukaemia so well known among Hiroshima survivors.

"I don't want to die"

According to the legend which has grown up around her, Sadako was very brave in hospital. "I don't want to die", she wrote solemnly in her diary, yet she managed to laugh and sing gaily when her classmates came to visit her. And she folded paper cranes.

There is an old belief in Japan that a crane can live a thousand years. If you fold a thousand paper cranes, they will protect you from illness. But Sadako did not have the strength or time to reach a thousand. In October of 1955 when she had made only 964, she died. Her friends added the missing cranes and placed them all in the coffin with her.

Monument to Sadako

And then, as if the young people of Hiroshima could no longer bear watching their friends die slowly over the years they rose up together to do something about it. They would erect a monument to Sadako in the Peace Park to remind the grown-up world what the bomb had done to the first children who experienced it.

With the zeal of crusaders Sadako's classmates started a campaign to raise money from all over Japan. To the amazement of their impoverished elders in that struggling city, they collected the miraculous sum of seven million yen (twenty thousand dollars) and commissioned a distinguished sculptor in Tokyo to design their monument for them.

A Golden Crane

It is a powerful memorial. On the top of an oval granite pedestal, which symbolizes Mt. Horai, the fabled mountain of paradise, Sadako stands, holding a golden crane in her outstretched arms. Beneath her are colorful paper leis (garlands), each a thousand cranes, that people from all over the world have placed there as offerings.

At the base are the words: "This is our cry, this is our prayer: peace in the world."

Betty Jean Lifton
"Return to Hiroshima"

NCND is hoping to have a memorial event on the evening of Tuesday 9th August, where we will float paper cranes with lighted candles on them. Full details have yet to be confirmed but we hope to produce a leaflet in time for bulletin distribution—otherwise contact the NCND office (472556) or Cath Wakeman (620459) for further details.

A RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE

Having just returned from my first visit to the Soviet Union, I find that the question I am invariably asked is not so much, "What did you see?", but "What were your impressions?"

Vastness

Our journey took us from Moscow, 2,500 kilometres south to Central Asia, then back to Leningrad in the far North and, from that alone, we realised the vastness of the Soviet Union and the diversity of its peoples and their Republics.

We arrived in Moscow after dark. The lighting in the reception was subdued. The immigration officials, enclosed in their protective kiosks and wearing military-type uniforms, somehow did seem rather threatening.

Our stay in Moscow was very brief, with only time for a City Tour. My immediate impression was of the monotonous uniformity of the buildings and the overall lack of colour. Spring had not yet arrived, so there was no foliage to break the monotony. The Kremlin is certainly magnificent and Red Square impressive. The Muscovites appeared quietly reserved, almost to a point of dourness.

Friendliness

All this was a marked contrast to the friendliness, warmth and colour of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The people there are black-haired and handsome and the rainbow colours of the silk dresses quite dazzling. The cities with their parks and fountains, wide avenues, decorative buildings, hospitals, universities, schools, theatres and museums are truly remarkable in a region where, seventy years ago, the people were peasants and ninety per cent of them were illiterate.

Cost of Living

Admittedly there are fewer cars to be seen. Goods in the shops seem of an inferior standard and appear short in supply and expensive, according to our rate of exchange. (1 rouble - £1) We noted that the cost of a heavy Winter coat was 200 roubles. Our Guide told us that was the equivalent to two months of his wages. On the other hand, the rent of his flat was only 15 roubles per month.

As for the quality of life in the Soviet Union, I found it relaxing to walk on the streets. There is not the hustle and bustle that we are accustomed to or the roar of traffic.

There is no litter, no graffiti. One is not eternally confronted with advertisements. People are neatly dressed. I saw no sign of poverty, no homelessness, no rowdiness, no drunkenness. Russian children, however, have begun to pester tourists for chewing gum or cash and young men do sidle up and offer illegal exchange for sterling or cigarettes and, in Leningrad, I saw old women begging outside the Church of Alexander Nevsky. I had gone to attend a Russian Orthodox Service.

Peace theme

I left the Soviet Union with two outstanding impressions. The first is that there is one word now predominant in their language. It is (M P) pronounced MEER - meaning PEACE. The message was displayed prominently in every city we visited. Peace was the theme of the May Day Parade in Bukhara. The placards also bore symbols depicting nuclear disarmament. Finally, there were the unforgettable moments we experienced in Moscow at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior and, in Leningrad, at the Communal Cemetery where we witnessed the "feeling" the Soviet people have for Mother Russia; It is displayed in the quietness with which people come and go incessantly, pausing only to leave their few flowers; in the reverence the visiting soldiers showed as they stood, removed their peaked caps and bowed their heads; in the gesture of the young bride who, with her groom, had come straight from their wedding to lay her bouquet amongst the other flowers.

I know it is an experience that I shall never forget. I also know that I will be going back one day.

PEGGY WESTAWAY.

ONE WORLD



MINSK

The British-Soviet Friendship Society are organising a delegation to Minsk, our twinning city in the USSR, in the autumn and have invited Nottingham CND to belong to this delegation.

Travel will probably be by rail direct to Minsk, but returning by air via Moscow. Hospitality will be provided in the USSR and there will be a full programme arranged by the House of Friendship in Minsk.

We would like to be able to take advantage of this offer and send a member on our behalf. We are assuming that the cost will not exceed £200 and hope that some of this will be met by donations.

In return, we would wish that the member elected to visit the Soviet Union would attend most of the meetings laid on and report back to the NCND Executive Meeting, write a comprehensive report for the bulletin and be available to speak with the neighbourhood groups.

If you wish to apply to be our delegate, please write to the NCND office.
Could neighbourhood groups please send a donation to help with the delegate's expenses - mainly transport costs.

LOCAL UPDATE

The rivetting saga of the NEW OFFICE goes on.... and on. The unexpected, indeed, startling news is that a decision has been made. After the rather confusing Executive Meeting on May 18th, when it was widely feared that we would still be discussing this in several years' time, the wood can suddenly now be seen despite the trees. At a full policy-making members' meeting on June 9th, it was overwhelmingly agreed to move into an office in the Rainbow Centre as from October this year. This is to be for a 6-month trial period to begin with, after which the situation will be reviewed. The officers are continuing to keep a beady eye open for suitable premises that may become available. Further news on the office is on page two.

Membership

Other items that came up at the policy-making meeting included a report from Peggy and the membership team that recent months have seen a dramatic increase in new members. Nevertheless, the overall trend is still downwards. All available evidence shows that NCND members lapse for the simple reason that no-one calls round to ask them to re-join!

Bulletin

Unfortunately there were a few moans about the BULLETIN expressed at the meeting. More information about what is happening in the movement around the country and better advance notice of meetings, etc. were called for. We'll do our best.

After the ticking off, the BULLETIN team can take some comfort from the requests that are flooding in from around the country to re-print their articles. So far, London Region, East Anglia Region and Newark have lifted articles from the Bulletin for their own publications.

CND 200 CLUB

Even more unfortunately, Simon Chuda came third in the 200-CLUB ! This is the one-hundred-and-thirty- seventh time that Simon has won, but apparently he isn't going to give up his job and retire into a mansion in the country and he doesn't want his new-found wealth to change his life in any way.

This month's results are:

1. Martin Willis - £50
2. Barbara Lacey - £10
3. Simon Chuda - £5

And, still on the Bulletin, heartfelt thanks to WEST BRIDGFORD GROUP who have kindly offered to do the collation on a regular basis from now on.

Peace Festival

News from the PEACE FESTIVAL group is that everything is developing nicely. All the site-services that were available last year will be there again. The entertainments programme is almost complete as we go to press and stall bookings are coming in slowly and steadily. See you on the Embankment on July 10th.

Still needed in terms of help for the Festival are "navvies" to help lift and carry things from here to there and back again on the day itself and "guards" to sleep over on the site and take care of the bits of equipment that will be there.

Lord Byron

Lord (local-boy-made-good) Byron was celebrating his 200th birthday last month which made for a more interesting and enjoyable Nottingham Festival than usual. Some anonymous local peace people made what I think is known as a CULTURAL INTERVENTION into the Festival by producing and distributing some posters with the title LORD BYRON'S DREAM. The poster included a few lines from the great man's poem "Darkness", an image of Hiroshima and the words STOP THE NUCLEAR MADNESS. "Darkness" is a brilliant and absolutely searing account of a dead planet and must rank as one of the most prophetic pieces of literature about the nuclear age. Look it up.

Neil's Clanger

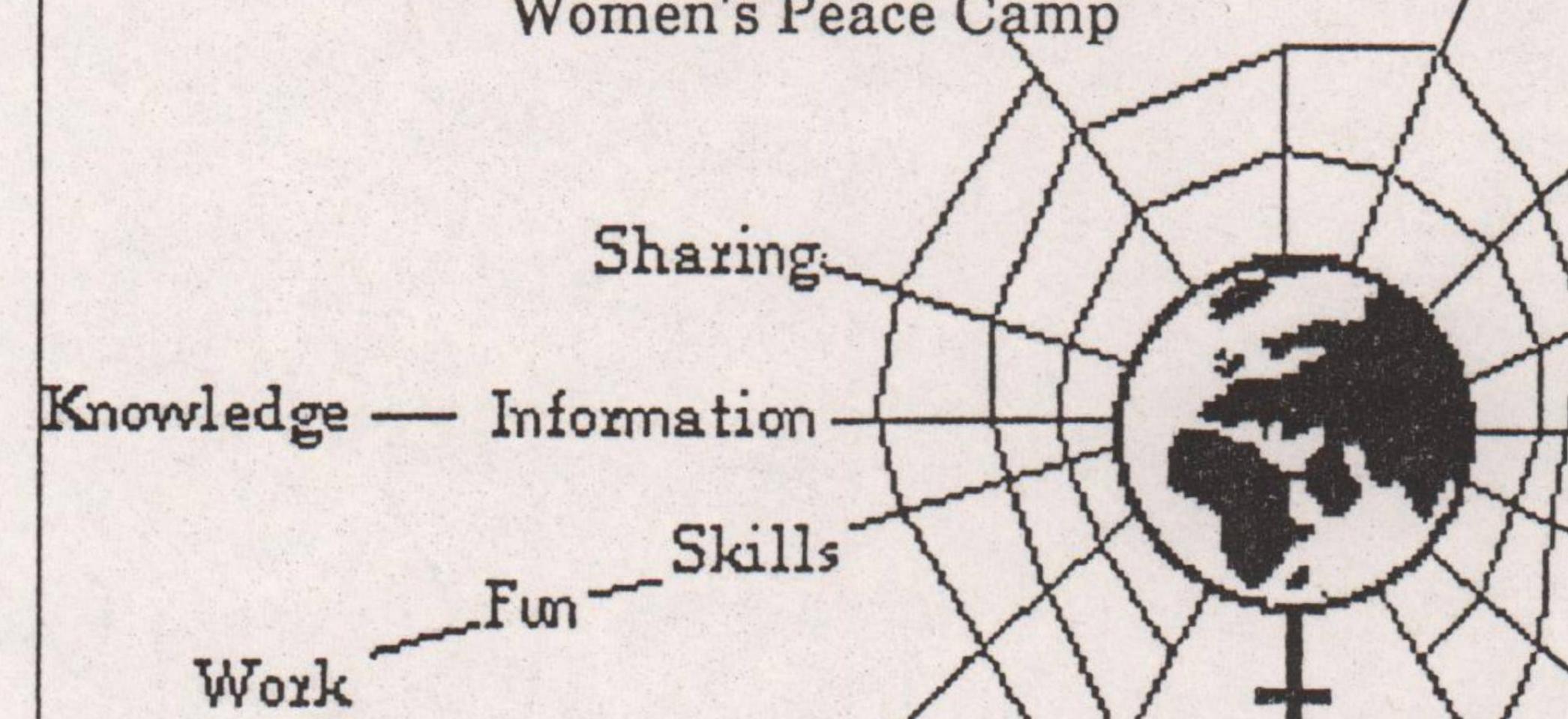
Finally, if any NCND members are finding it difficult to stomach their continued membership or support of the Labour Party after Neil Kinnock's recent pronouncements on something-for-somethingism and are beginning to look elsewhere, I'm afraid we have some bad news. Apparently, the Nottingham branch of the Green Party doesn't meet: because there is no-one prepared to take on the officers' jobs at the moment. It seems astonishing to me that the 6th largest city in England hasn't got an active Green Party. The Bulletin predicts that a Nottingham CND hack will be changing this....

Pete Strauss

One World, Many Women

October 22nd and 23rd
An International Gathering
at Greenham

Organised by
Greenham Women Everywhere Network
and the
Women's Peace Camp



- recognising all the connections within the nuclear chain, and with world-wide repression and injustice.

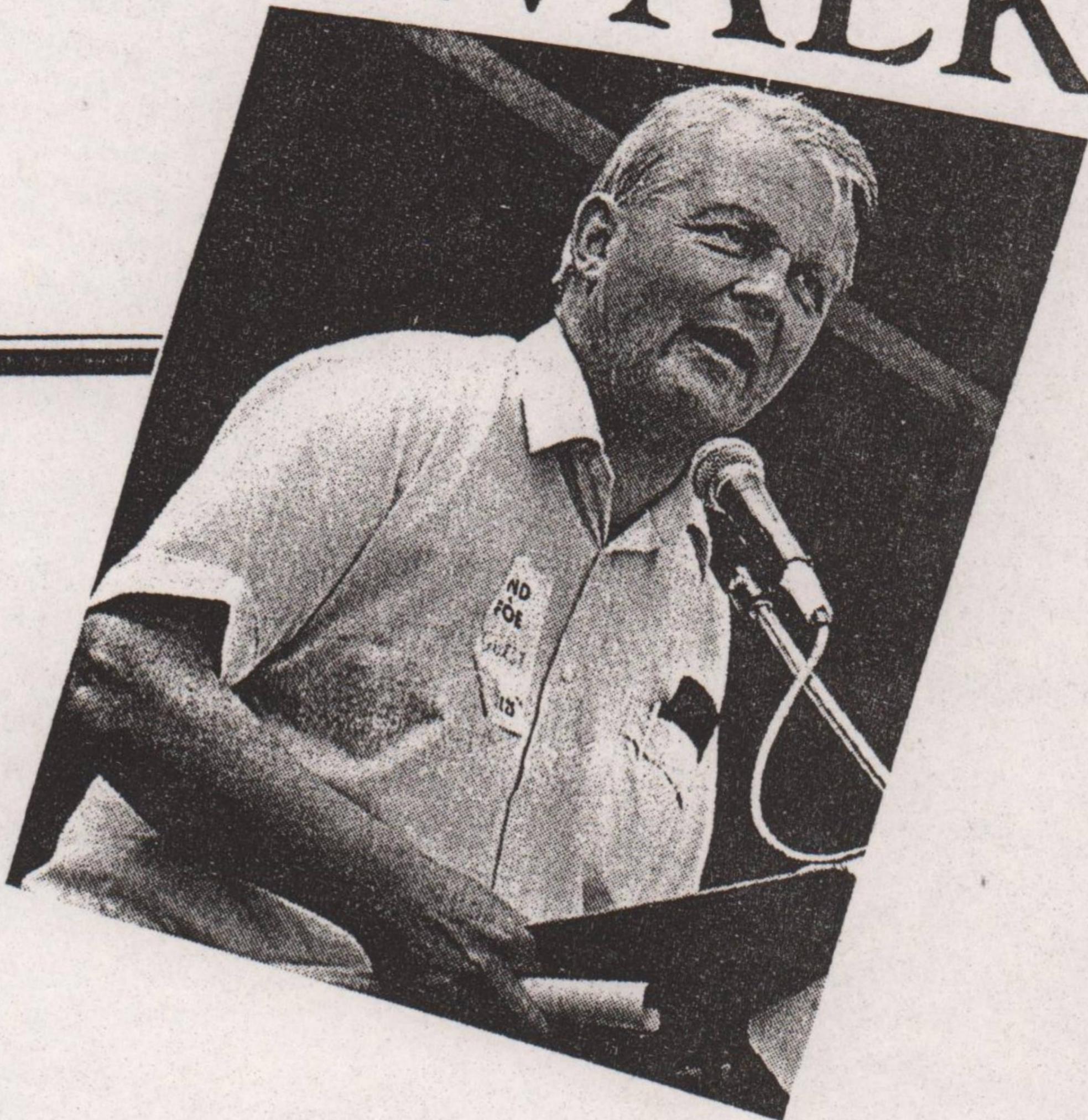
Contacts: Indra, Woad Gate, Bury's Bank Rd,
Greenham, Newbury, Berkshire;
and Evelyn 0635-253231.

BRUCE KENT'S ONE WORLD WALK

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

12th May 1988

Nottingham CND



Dear Nottingham CND Members

As you have probably heard, I hope to set out early in July to walk the thousand miles from Warsaw to Brussels. By doing so, if my legs are up to it, I hope to underline the need for a bloc-free, nuclear-free and peaceful Europe. Part of the purpose of the march is to raise funds on a sponsorship basis for CND but a substantial part of the proceeds will also be going to projects in war torn Mozambique and Nicaragua. In other words the walk will have both an East/West and North/South dimension.

Sponsorship forms are being prepared now and anything you can do to increase support would be much appreciated. At this post INF/Modernisation time we really do need to give people a new vision of what Europe might be if only a few practical steps towards peace could be taken.

All good wishes and thanks in advance

Yours sincerely

B
Bruce

Bruce Kent
Chair, CND

ONE
WORLD

ONE WORLD SPONSORED EVENT

NAME OF EVENT _____

DATE _____

PLACE _____

NAME OF PARTICIPANT _____

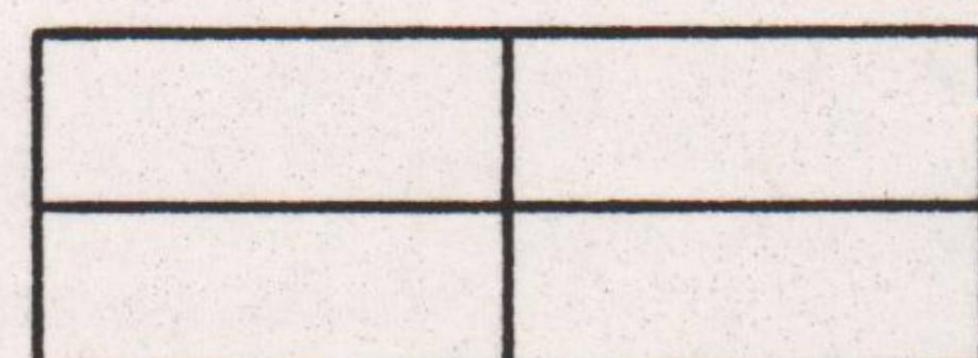
ADDRESS _____

TEL. NO. _____

NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT PER PERSON	TOTAL	DONATION
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TOTAL

CONTRIBUTION TO BRITISH CND



I cannot take part in the CND One World Sponsored Event but I enclose a donation of £ instead.

Name: _____

Address:

Please send your donation to CND, 22-24 Underwood Street, London N1 7IG

DUKAKIS WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE?

Michael Dukakis, diminutive, second-generation, Greek-American, Harvard Law School trained Governor of Massachusetts and NOW Democratic Party nominee for the Presidency, looks increasingly like a winner as Republican Party nominee George Bush's campaign begins to flag. Just what kind of President will Dukakis make and what will his Presidency mean in real terms on the foreign affairs front and, in particular, for Europe, NATO and the Superpower face-off in central Europe? These are the questions that must be exercising the minds of the American electorate, Western Alliance governments and, not least, the other Michael in Moscow.

Reagan's weird confection

It is in the light of domestic affairs that Dukakis's foreign policy must be understood. With a currency debauched by the present Reagan Administration (as part of the deliberate Republican strategy to foreclose any Keynesian option open to future Democratic Administrations) Dukakis faces the unenviable task of trying to implement caring government with no cash. As Reagan's weird confection of "voodoo economics" remains around to haunt his successors' plans - in Dukakis's case: to implement a nationwide health insurance; improve the status of educators; and, mend the social fabric rent by drug-driven crime - Dukakis will need to shed all the superfluous military commitments entered into over the past eight years.

As Dukakis moves to heal the necessarily-inflicted internal wounds in the scramble for the Party's nomination, he will no doubt use another tried unifying technique - turning his attack to the opposition, the Republicans. In seeking inter-Party co-operation, Dukakis will want to highlight partisan solidarity by pointing up the key differences with Reagan's administration, and by implication, Bush's. The first indication of this shift in mode came with Dukakis's speech on defence, given to the Atlantic Council on June 14th. This speech served another central purpose in the Dukakis campaign strategy - up till now he has been attacked for supposed lack of understanding of foreign policy. At the same time, defence is now a locus of vulnerability in the Republican plank, with Reagan's sudden defection from the eyrie to the dovecot. With the Republican plumage mussed up by Reagan's conversion, Dukakis and the Democrats stand to benefit electorally.

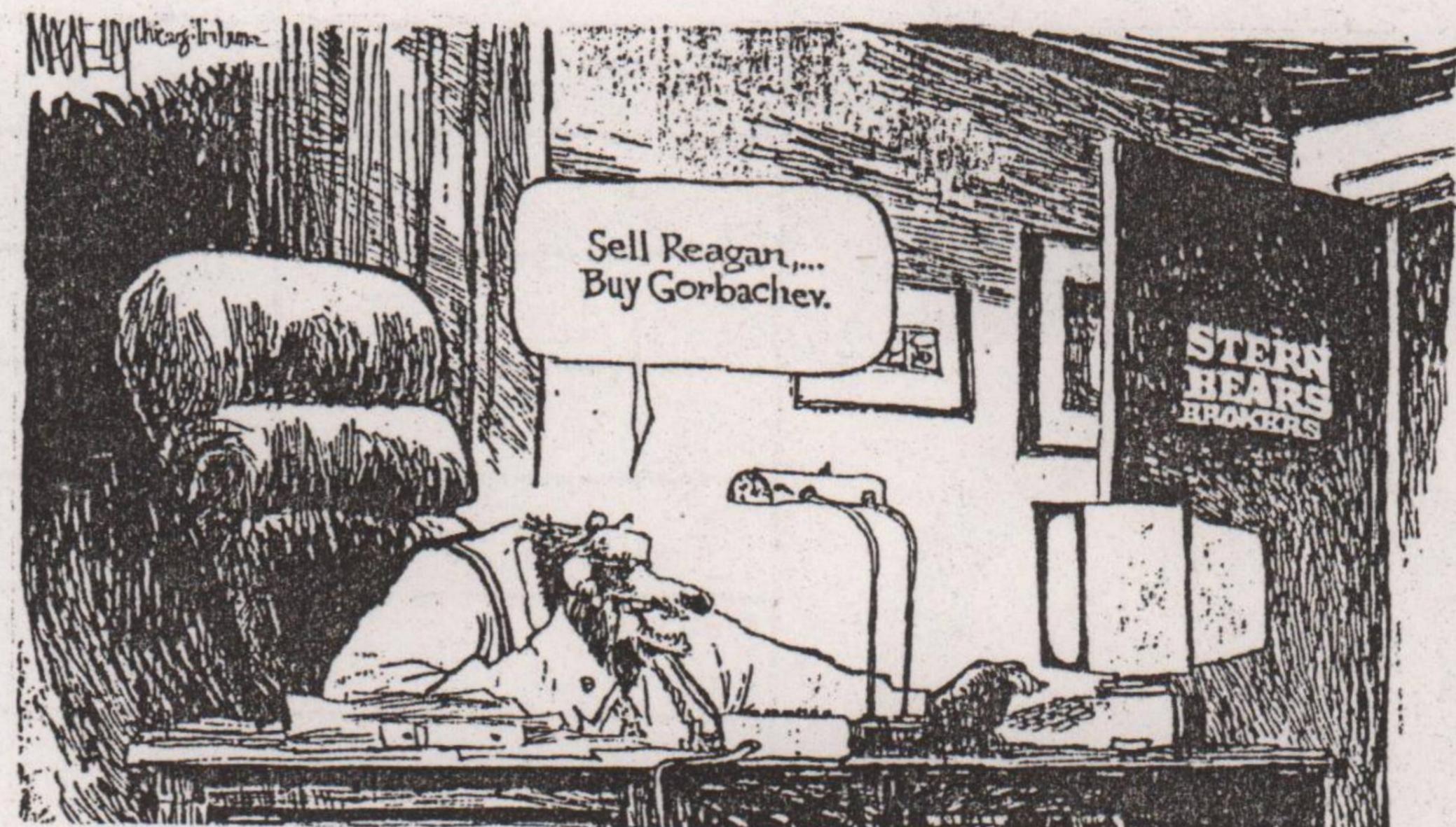
Too dove-ish?

In the June 14th speech, Dukakis, as is now well reported, promised to scrap the SDI programme. Less forcefully, he also promised to oppose the mobile MX missile project and to abandon the Midgetman. In addition, he stole some of the remaining Republican platform, by promising to build on the INF treaty. However, he has been careful to avoid the danger (electorally speaking) of appearing too dove-ish, with his promise of CDI - Conventional Defence Initiative. Yet in the same speech, he hints that even this expenditure may prove unnecessary if the Russians will show proof of good intent by winding down their conventional military involvement in Central Europe.

There are good reasons to hope (barring a Gorbachev assassination, or overthrow, or a too sudden and violent collapse of Eastern Bloc hegemony) that a Dukakis Presidency would be able to shelve even this expenditure as superfluous. The reasons are clear. A Dukakis Administration would coincide with a unique constellation of contingencies that would enable a virtual winding up of the Cold War.

Russia to join European Bloc?

Both Russia and America find themselves



increasingly impotent internationally and economically in difficulties at home. Gorbachev will need to deliver the consumables if PERESTROIKA is not to founder while, in the long run, he will want to move Russia closer to Europe to avoid the perceived threat from Muslim east and south. GLASNOST, particularly towards White-Russian culture and Orthodox religion, complements the pragmatic attempt to salvage Soviet claims to superpower status. However, minus the weapons, it is really unlikely that Russia will remain in the front league. Other things being equal, I would predict that Russia will join the European Bloc (that will form rapidly post 1992) somewhere at the start of the next century. In the interim, like post-war Britain, it will have to get used to loss of empire and carry out economic restructuring.

Domestic priorities

How Dukakis solves the US deficit problem and how he orders his domestic priorities will be the key issue that determines how the Dukakis Presidency pans out. If the budgetary measures are too restrictive, they could cause global dislocations. If the measures are not restrictive enough, they could cause domestic problems that lead to protectionism and isolationism AND global dislocations. If Dukakis can get it right, and I doubt that anyone else in the Presidential race could, then we look set for the optimistic scenario. My guess is that the "zero real growth" strategy of CDI will be used to keep government spending high enough to keep up demand, while education, leisure and high-tech areas are propelled by intervention, along with health, into economy regenerators. Yet there are so many antecedent conditions that need to be fulfilled for things to work out as desired, that one must expect to be kept in suspense about the outcome until it comes out.

Most germane, in this respect, is the stance to be taken by the British and French governments over their own nuclear arsenals. Additionally, for the Dukakis programme to work out, there will have to be a gradual but increasing financial cost borne by the European members of NATO in their conventional defence.

The Survival of our Species

I have been deliberately upbeat about the potential for the Dukakis Presidency because I see a period where we may well go beyond seeming oppositions as we come to realise that such conflicts and disagreements are in fact bounded by a far more compelling totality - the survival of our Species in harmony with our terrestrial environment. Historically we have never been at a more promising juncture, while at the same time facing the possibility of utter chaos should we fail. In Michael Dukakis, we may well have the most intelligent President since Thomas Jefferson, although one not as creative. However, the System has changed since the Founding Fathers and, like his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev, Dukakis is a man who displays the kind of problem-solving renovative (yet non-revolutionary) skills that the structure permits.

Apart from this pragmatic intelligence, Dukakis is a highly moral man who has managed to combine ambition with principle. He has integrity and even his strongest political opponents in the Massachusetts Statehouse give him credit for this.

However, Jackson's strong performance in the lead up to the nomination ensures that his views will impact on the Dukakis Presidency. Minority issues, Third World debt and Apartheid will come off the back boiler. This will be the price that Jackson extracts from Dukakis in return for a "statesmanlike" agreement not to press for the Vice-Presidency in the Party's interest.

Trouncing Bush

So, remaining politically savvy to the end, Dukakis has managed to retain the essential Black vote. 55% (to 25%) of Black voters feel he has treated Jackson fairly. Even if he did the morally right thing and took Jackson on his ticket, a national telephone poll suggests that he would still beat Bush by 47% over 42%. Either way, as Dukakis selects his Veep with the same care as he has constructed his campaign so far, there can be little doubt that he will trounce Bush at the Poll of polls to become a President who will make a difference. Coming after a showman like Reagan, it may well be a pleasant surprise to have someone of substance in the White House.

CHRIS LOTINGA.

WORLD

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

by GRAHAM ALLEN,
Labour MP for Nottingham North
and CND Member.

A number of developments have taken place since my last report from Parliament, most notably, the Reagan-Gorbachev media show.

Difficult as it may be, we, as campaigners, should try to avoid being cynical and pick out the positive features of the visit.

President Reagan's remarks, broadcast on Soviet television, as reported in the Sunday Times, amounted to another condemnation by him of nuclear weapons.

In 1983 in his Star Wars speech, he declared that nuclear weapons were immoral and should be made obsolete. Now, in his latest remarks on Soviet television, he has declared that nuclear weapons are the most destabilising weapons and should be eliminated. Mr. Gorbachev also has expressed his belief that nuclear weapons should be eliminated.

When will Mrs. Thatcher and the British Government get the message?

While the leaders of the two most powerful countries in the world - controlling between them 50,000 nuclear warheads - strive for a nuclear free world, the British Prime Minister still lives in the nuclear past, frantically looking for ways to circumvent the INF Treaty and glorifying nuclear weapons as in the recent White Paper on the Defence estimates.

The British Government should now wholeheartedly welcome President Reagan's remarks and give full support to him and to Mr. Gorbachev in their quest for a world free from nuclear weapons.

The other development has been the publication of the Defence White Paper.

The front cover of the Defence White Paper with its glossy photograph of three Polaris submarines sums up both the White Paper and the Government's policies.

The paper and the policies glorify and romanticise nuclear weapons. An ever-increasing proportion of our defence resources is being spent on nuclear weapons and this means a cut-back in our non-nuclear defences.

ONE

The White Paper is also extremely negative on the question of further talks to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons in Europe. The White Paper rightly points out that the Soviet Union has some superiority both in battlefield nuclear weapons and in short range nuclear missiles. Yet Mr. Thatcher and her Government are totally opposed to sitting down with the Soviet Union and negotiating these weapons away. Indeed, the Government has now decided to add to Britain's nuclear arsenal by putting nuclear missiles on the Royal Air Force's Tornado aircraft.

The White Paper makes it clear that, even if NATO were able to secure a total conventional balance with the Warsaw Pact - matching them tank for tank and bullet for bullet, Mrs. Thatcher would still want nuclear weapons. It is quite clear that the British Government is not interested in any form of nuclear disarmament, not even in multi-lateral nuclear disarmament. It is that message that we must repeat over and over again in Nottingham and the rest of the country for, until we win people over, then even the most perfect Labour Party policy will find no echo among our people.

Graham Allen
R
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

THIRTY YEARS OF CND

Our series continues this month with an extract from Ray Goslings autobiographical "Personal Copy - a memoir of the sixties" (Faber). The chapter from which this is taken is called "CND on Sundays".

I liked Sundays. The band played in the park. I liked Lyon's tea shop on my own. Cartoons at the News House, playing musical chairs. Sally Bash outside. They rattled their tambourines down to the square where they held a service, followed by the Communist Party who brought a soap-box, the real thing, pulpit-like, along with them in a little van. The Ethical Society, they came too.

The square on a Sunday was like watching a trooping of the colour. There was a real ritual to it and big audiences. Speakers all speaking at once like a bank of television sets tuned to different stations in a shop window and they spoke sincerely and made sense. CND were slap-happy about speaking, and sometimes only turned up to drink afterwards.



Reasoned arguments

CND also held public meetings in the week, at the Friends Meeting House, a modern building in the Swedish style of light and wood. I sometimes went to hear the reasoned arguments, in reasoned tones by reasonably respectably dressed people, that Britain should stop making the atom bomb, and take her own initiative, unilaterally disarm and set a moral example to the world. It was all sensible. I agreed. What could we do? During question time, people I'd seen on the square soapboxing would try to break the Quakers' peace and style. They'd swear and shake their fist but you never got a Quaker to lose his temper. Some of the Sunday rafters had discovered there was a regional seat of government where the top politicians of the town would go for shelter and to be safe during a nuclear war. They were for physically occupying these loony centres. But direct action the Quaker way would always be peaceful. And after every meeting they smiled on everyone and proffered coffee in small thick cups.

Was it Elizabeth Taylor?

There was a mass meeting-billboards, leaflets, advertising on the buses too, and a rally in the Co-op hall for which a very large audience turned up. "Faces" from the television were there and there was much apologizing for the absence of - was it Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton or Stanley Baker who'd sent a telegram? Afterwards, the CND campaigning leaders retired for a sherry and those sandwiches with the crusts removed in a private room at the coaching inn, the George.

After the sherry at the CND rally, the two professional CNDers - George Clark and my pal Stuart Hall - were captured from the Quakers, and taken to a Bohemian house for real beer and political guts with the Sunday speakers from the square.

CND Roughs

Opening time on Sundays was seven, and the CND roughs and the CP zealots would tail away to the Flying Horse hotel. Oh it was so lovely: the real county town hotel the townspeople could use. There was a long room, oak-panelled, where you could only be served by a waiter, and here on Sunday night the political agitators went and sat at tables on chairs with arms 100 years old, dusted and never having to be restained.

review

"MOTHER WIT: A feminist guide to psychic development", by Diane Mariechild.

I was glad I suspended judgements long enough to read this book. By the end of it I felt refreshed. And I felt I understood a little more clearly why feminism and peace are so interconnected. Likewise I had a better recognition that, whatever our gender, we all have "male" and "female" qualities and that health and vitality, from individual through to society depends, in part, on us recognising and embracing that, rather than denying it.

Not surprisingly, Diane Mariechild believes that it's the female matriarchal qualities that have been rejected in our society. She talks here of love, unity and peace, of giving a high valuation to the inner life of feelings, emotions and intuitions and suggests that the essence of the "matriarchal principle" is a sense of the earth as something sacred, nurturer of all that is: nature as teacher, a life force to live with in harmony.

Marginalisation

Such qualities have low status in a patriarchal society that is not only male-dominated in the obvious senses, but is one where law, order and rational modes of thought are excessively valued, at the cost of rejection or marginalisation of matriarchal qualities. Nature, therefore, becomes a force to be harnessed or overcome.

"Mother Wit" asks the question: "How can we live in co-operative harmony, as human communities, if we cannot co-operate with the natural forces that nurture us all?" Seeking a peaceful world is seeking an answer to that question. The book's explorations are ways of seeking answers. Yet I am conditioned to reject such explorations as mystical-spiritual mumbo-jumbo. Even though our bleeding world is crying out for sensitivity, emotionalism, receptivity and passivity - the qualities that these explorations are rooted in.

Explore the spirit

I recommend this book to anyone, female or male, who is prepared to let go of a hyper-rational view of the world in order to explore the spirit and emotions behind a feminist vision which is also a vision of a peaceful world based on co-operation rather than conflict. You cannot prove what Diane

Mariechild writes about the spiritual world to be either right or wrong. But, if you allow it, that can lift burdens rather than create them.

Perhaps, like many people, I've believed that either a person gets involved in "political" analysis and action in the "real" world or she or he opts out and gets immersed in a subjective and escapist "inner" world. Mother Wit has helped me to see that not only is it possible to do both things, but that maybe it's essential - peace has to be found on the inside and the outside!

Les Parsons.

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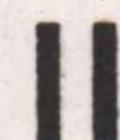
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Diary of Events

July Members Meeting - July 6th
PEACE FESTIVAL - July 10th
One World Walk starts - July 11th
July Exec. Committee - July 13th
Aug. Bull'n deadline - July 18th
Aug. Members Meeting - Aug. 3rd
Hiroshima Day Events - Aug. 6th*
Sadako Memorial Event - Aug. 9th*
Aug Exec. Committee - Aug. 10th
NCND A.G.M. - Oct. 13th

Nominations for NCND officers and resolutions to the AGM must be published in the August NCND Bulletin.

Please ensure that nominations and resolutions reach the NCND office by Friday July 24th.

* Further details in the Bulletin

July Bulletin credits:

Editorial: Pete Strauss, Ann Kestenbaum
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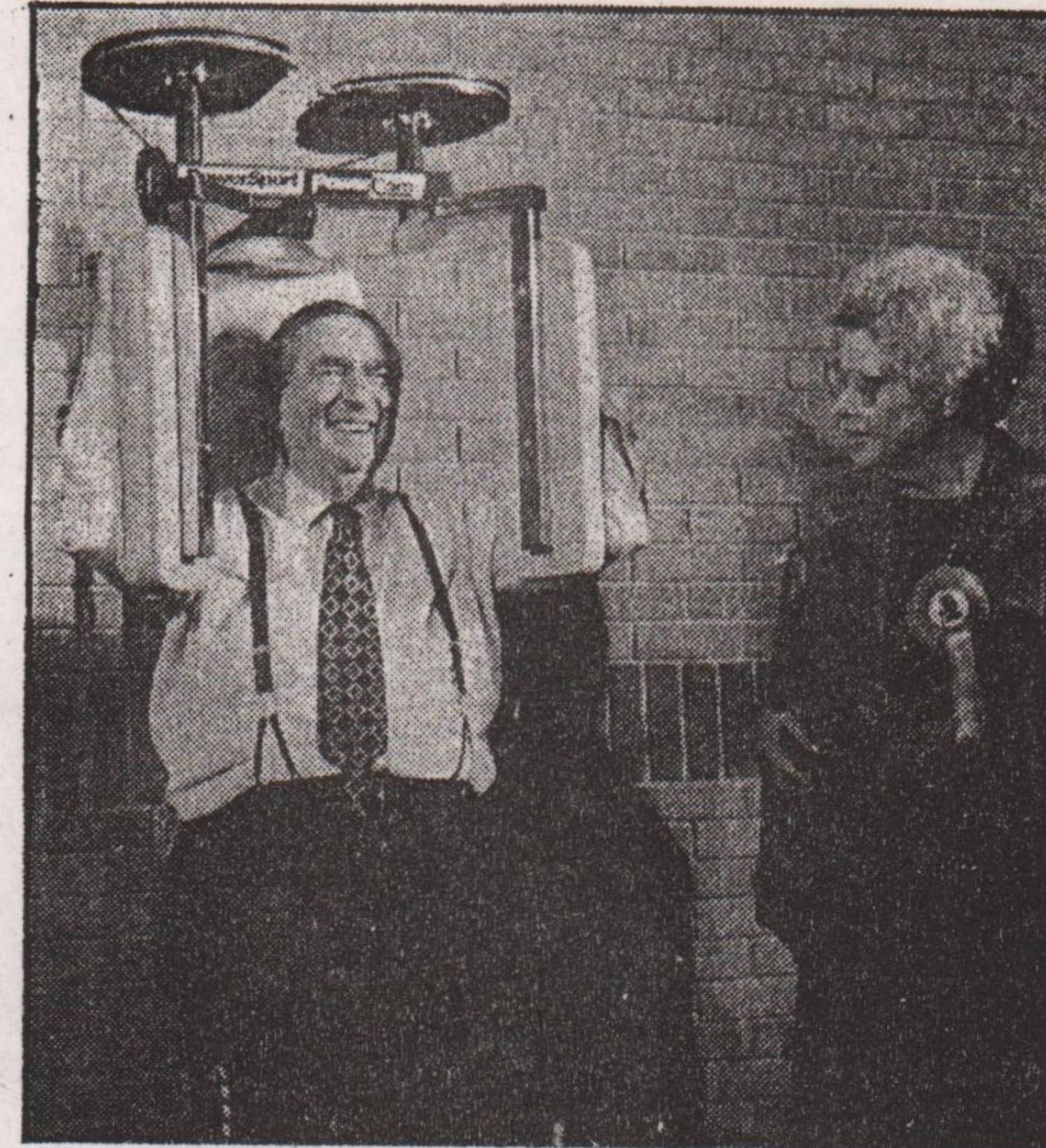
August Bulletin deadline: JULY 18TH.

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Caption Competition

Well, it's still here, so you can still win free tickets to City Lights. It's quite easy too, just ask the Jago Family, one of whom has won again with:



"What do you mean, unnecessary arms build up?"

Well done Jeremy, you win.
Here's this month's picture:

