

NOTTINGHAM CND

15515



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May/June 1993

Since the ending of the 'Cold War' nuclear awareness has been put on the back-burner, with a very few of us keeping it at a slow simmer. Nuclear disaster has not gone away but prowls more of our roads with increasing frequency.

On Saturday, June 19th we have the opportunity, within our own area, to draw attention to this. We do hope, that after hibernation, you will make the time and effort to join the action on the Toton roundabout.

Information on pages 2 and 3.

200 Club:

The membership of the 200 club has also declined and we learn that we are distributing more in prize money than is allowed under the Licencing regulations. We hope that lapsed members will rejoin, meanwhile N.C.N.D. is joining to remain with licencing regulations and not make reductions in the prize monies.

Some members have been allocated new numbers and for them the new cards are herewith. No new card means you keep the old number.

May Draw winners:	1st prize	£25	No. 29	Diana Lunzer
	2nd prize	£10	50	Jill Gross
	3rd prize	£ 5	15	Jane Goldsmith.

NO MOORS FOR STAR WARS:

Yorkshire and Humberside C.N.D. are organizing a 'Point a Finger at Fylingdales' demonstration on Saturday, July 3rd as a protest for the new use of the moors. So! Star Wars is to be withdrawn? but nuclear stratagies and weapons, by any other name, are just as deadly.

There will be many activities to cater for all grades of activists, with a Peace Camp on the Friday and Saturday followed by a demonstration at Mendith on the Sunday.

We are prepared to subsidize members who attend and will give us a report for the next - July - bulletin. Anybody wishing to go, please contact the office by Saturday, June 26th so that we may make arrangements. Perhaps car owners could take passengers?

Hiroshima Day:

There will be a memorial service, to the same format as previous years, at the University Park on the evening of August 6th.
Crane making at the St. Peter's Gate stall on the previous Saturday.

Green Festival:

This will be held on the Victoria Embankment on Sunday, September 5th. In the organizing of this N.C.N.D. will be booking the stall-holders and on the day will be serving drinks - hot and cold. There will be several food stall while drinks were in short supply last year. Anybody with heating equipment please let us know and all volunteers welcome.



Stop Trucking with Trident

Day of Action, Saturday 19 June

Martin Jones

Stop Trucking with Trident will be the message as CND activists and nukewatchers all over the country come out on Saturday 19 June to raise public awareness about the nuclear warhead convoys travelling up and down our motorways.

Britain's purchase of Trident is a major obstacle on the path towards further cuts in nuclear weapons and has enormous implications for international efforts to restrict worldwide proliferation. It also means that live nuclear warheads are travelling up and down our motorways and past our largest cities with increasing frequency.

Press interest in the convoys is developing rapidly. Many local newspapers are running major stories about them. We recently saw an excellent article in Commercial Motor and, on 6 April, Channel 4 featured the convoy in its Free for All programme.

Tapping into the growing public concern about convoys is a very good way to raise questions about Trident itself and proliferation. To many people, proliferation is just one more big word that probably means something but is of no apparent consequence to their life. A live warhead convoy going through the middle of Glasgow or round the M25 (used by up to 180,000 cars a day) is a much more obvious and substantial threat to their well-being.

There will be actions in Scotland, the North East and Yorkshire, on the M25 and at Wittering and possibly Burghfield. Full details of what will be happening in each area will be published in the next issue of Campaign. If you want to participate in the Day of Action, please write to Nicola Butler at the national office. She will send you a pack containing background information, details of actions, model press releases etc.

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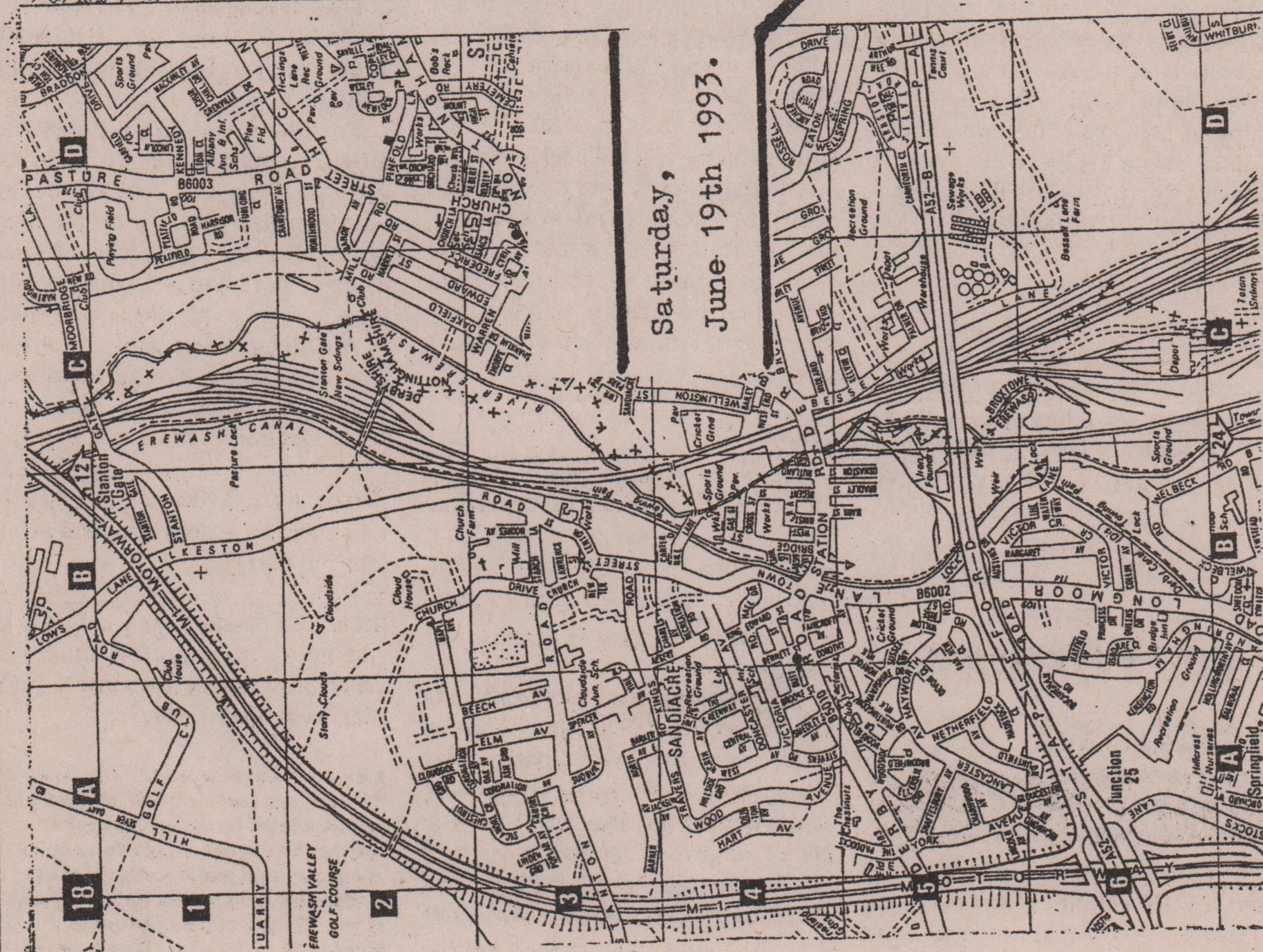
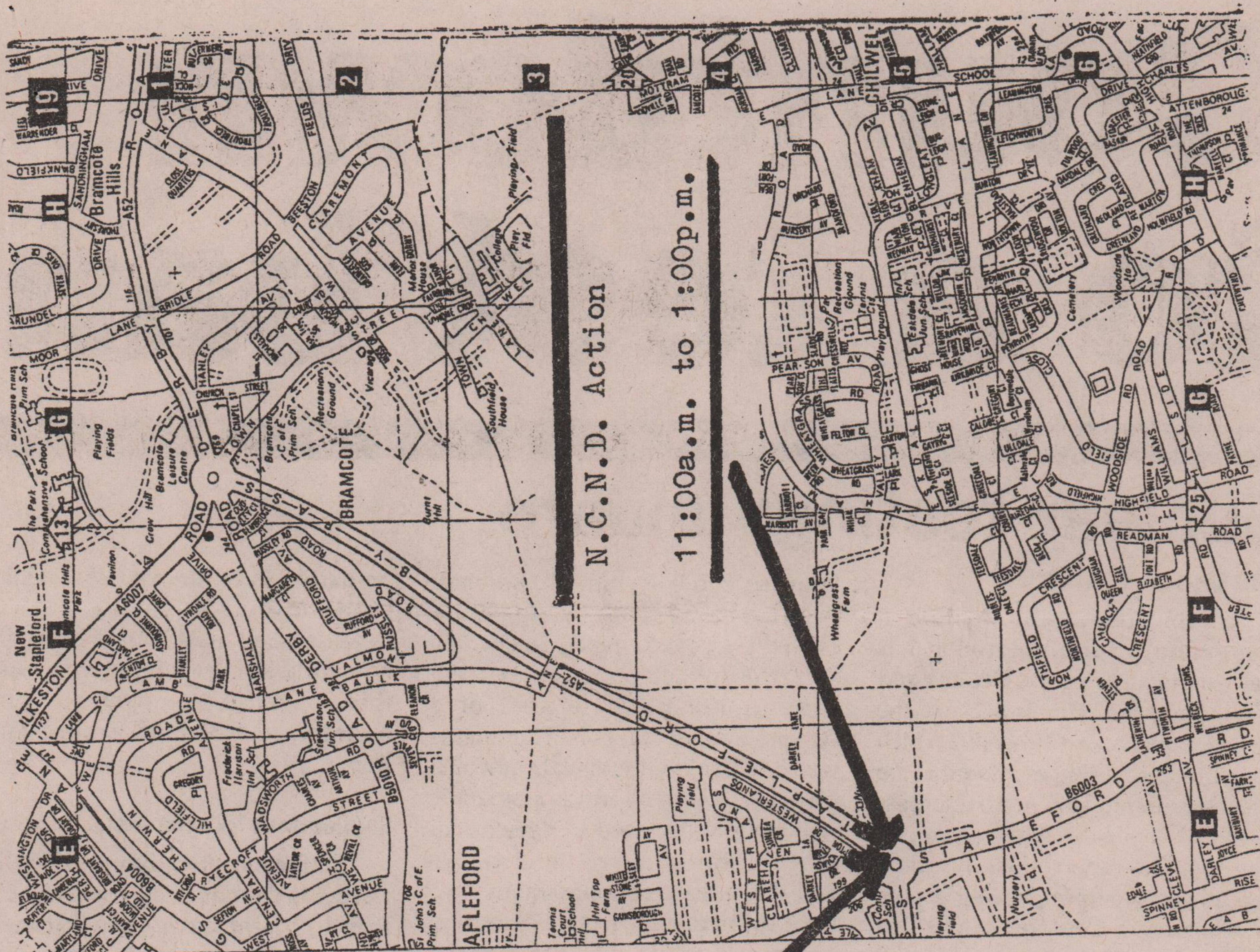
Nottingham C.N.D.'s action will be at the Toten Roundabout on the A.52 (Gregory's Roundabout) between 11:00a.m and 1:00p.m on June 19th.

The action will be in the form of placards and leafletting.

The site has been chosen for its proximity to the M.1, down which convoys sometimes travel before cutting across to the A.1. They have not used the A.52 for this purpose.....yet!

This is the first local action for years PLEASE COME.

If you need, or can offer, transport please contact the office before 12th June.



Countdown to a test ban

Janet Williamson, Press and Campaigns Worker

Nuclear testing: update

THE UNITED STATES

The US suspension (called a moratorium) of nuclear testing has been extended, at least to October and possibly beyond. This is because the legislation passed in October 92 which set up the moratorium requires that the President submits a report to Congress a clear 90 days before testing can be resumed. The report must include a schedule for resuming testing, a plan for achieving a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by 30 September 1996 and information on safety features of stockpiled nuclear weapons. This has not yet happened, and because of the timing of US legislation cannot now happen before 1 July, which would make it 1 October before the US (and therefore the UK) could test.

BRITAIN

Because the UK tests at the US Nevada test-site, it is also subject to the extension of the US moratorium. The UK government has found itself internationally isolated on the issue of testing, being the only one of the five nuclear powers except China not to announce a moratorium. It has even described the US moratorium as

"unwise and misguided". Recently there has been a subtle but significant shift in the government's policy. The Prime Minister stated that "We support the ultimate goal of a comprehensive test ban. The factors which will influence the rate at which progress towards a ban can be made will include the need to develop an effective system of verification. We will also need to be confident that we have the necessary technologies and expertise to maintain the safety of our nuclear weapons at the highest level without testing." (Hansard 22.3.93) This means it is using the excuse of technical problems in order to avoid addressing the real political issues. On safety, the Government has said that no further testing of Trident is needed. On verification, the technologies to verify or monitor a CTBT have been developed; the political will to spend money to put these systems in place is lacking.

CHINA

China never announced a testing moratorium, and May is the usual time for China's nuclear tests. There are indications that China may be

preparing to conduct a test. Satellite images of China's test site at Lop Nor have detected that China is drilling a hole for a test. If China were to test, this would jeopardise the moratoriums of both France and Russia.

Implications if China tests

The French moratorium officially ran out in December 92. However, the French government has said that it will not test as long as no other country is doing so. If China tests, this would allow the French to justify resuming testing.

President Yeltsin of Russia has already come under considerable pressure from the Russian military who want Russia to be able to continue testing. If France tests, it will be very difficult for him to resist this pressure, especially given his present position.

A Chinese test would also detract from the UK position of isolation. It would be unlikely to alter the position in the US unduly since both President Clinton and Vice-President Gore are personally in favour of ending testing, and there is a powerful anti-testing lobby in the US.

Eye Witness Account

Anne Harrison,
former West Region CND Worker.

"A few weeks ago, I returned from 14 months in the US. Spending time at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site, and with anti-nuclear activists from all over the States

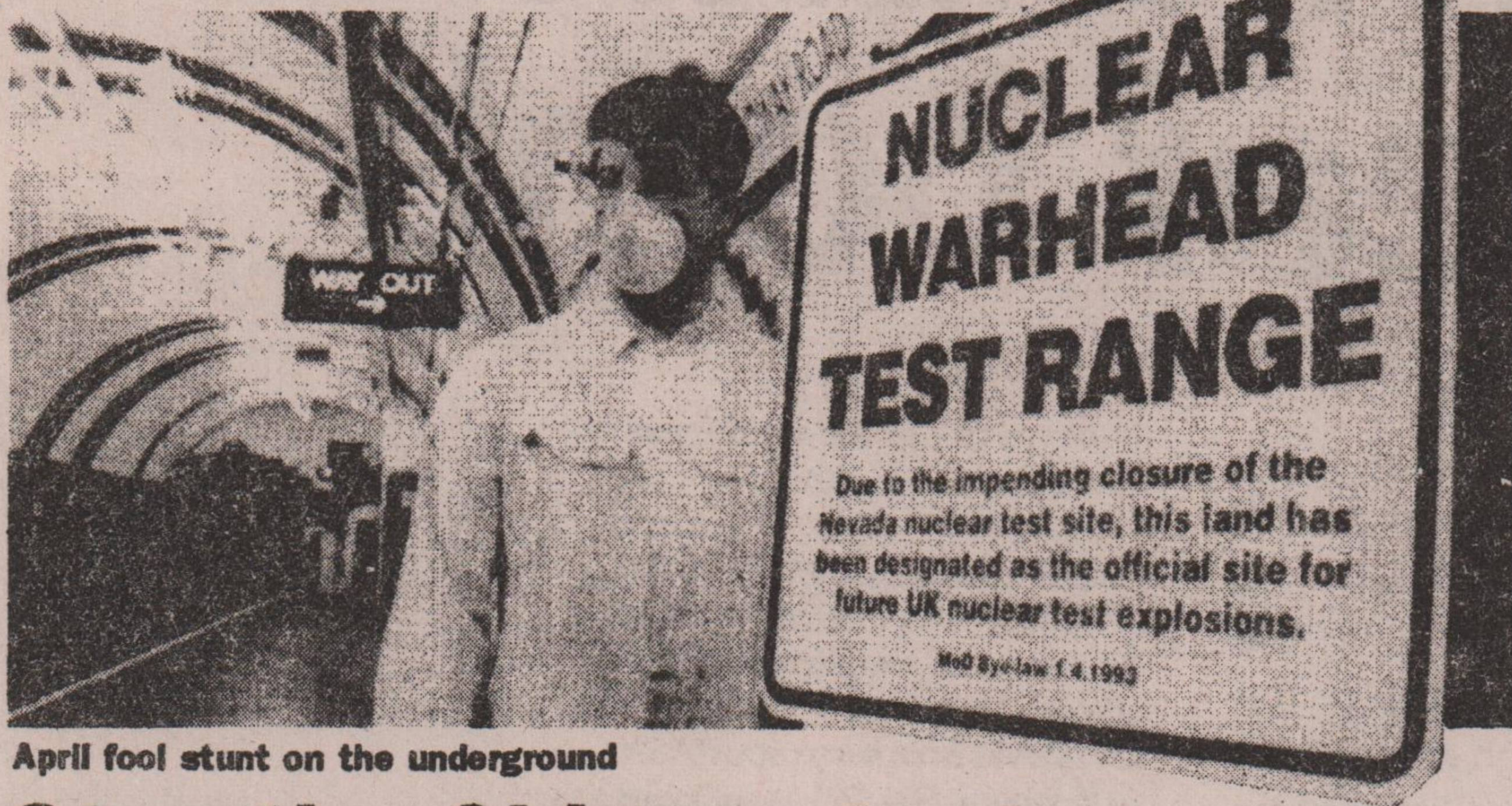
has added to my sense of urgency that testing must stop.

The issue of testing is probably seen to be more urgent in the US because of people's proximity to the test site. I met many people suffering the devastating consequences of life 'downwind', not only Native Americans but also people from the Mormon communities in Utah. Until the 1950s they had a very low cancer rate due to their low-risk lifestyle. Subsequently, as one woman said, 'cancer

has become the story of my people'. Since testing went underground, US government figures show that half of all tests have released radiation."

Anne Harrison took part in the European Peace Pilgrimage, a 2600 mile walk in the US calling for an end to nuclear testing. She is now available to do talks about the walk and the effects of the nuclear industry on the Native Americans of the US. She can be contacted c/o 28 Manor Drive, Chorlton, Manchester M21 2GQ.

Action against Testing



April fool stunt on the underground

Stop the Chinese test

pen power

WRITE to the Chinese Ambassador (Chinese Embassy, 31 Portland Place, W1N 3AG) on the cut-out postcard below and ask him to put pressure on the Chinese government not to test. Explain the importance of achieving a CTBT and how a Chinese test would jeopardise the fragile progress that has been made towards that end.

people power

PROTEST outside the Chinese Embassy if China does carry out a test. We will be organising an evening vigil leaving a giant mushroom on the doorstep of the Chinese Embassy if there is a test at Lop Nor. If you would like to participate in this, please contact Janet Williamson on 071-700 2350 or write to the campaigns department, giving your daytime and evening telephone numbers as the vigil may be called at short notice.

Change British policy

pen power

Write to the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Whitehall, SW1A 2AL and give your views on testing. Make the point that Britain is internationally isolated, that this is a political embarrassment and an error of judgement on the Government's part. Make the point that the technologies to verify a CTBT exist and

that it is political will, not technology, that is lacking. You could send a copy of your letter to your MP as well and ask for his/her comments too. Please send copies of any replies to the campaigns department at the CND office so we can monitor the Government's response.

The nuclear test

people power

One reason the British government has been able to continue its intransigent stance on nuclear testing

is that many people are not even aware that Britain carries out nuclear tests, let alone what this entails or where they take place. Find out what people in your area know and spread awareness about testing by conducting a LOCAL NUCLEAR TEST. Send an SAE to the office for a test sheet, which will contain questions and answers about nuclear testing. The main point will be to ascertain how many people are actually aware that Britain is still exploding nuclear bombs. The results can be used locally and perhaps nationally for press work - see details in future issues of Campaign! And please send the results from your area to Janet Williamson in the campaigns department at CND.

TEST-BAN APPEAL & STALLS

Please continue gathering signatures for the Appeal for a Nuclear Test Ban included in the last issue of Campaign! Because of the extension of the moratorium there is still plenty of time - they will not be presented until the Autumn. Why not run a NUCLEAR TESTING STALL with the LOCAL NUCLEAR TEST and gather signatures for the Appeal at the same time? For leaflets, Appeal forms and other materials produced by the Coalition Against Nuclear Testing, see the enclosed flyer.

Dear Ambassador,

As you are aware, the US, Russia and France have all suspended nuclear testing. I am aware that China is currently preparing for a nuclear test.

This action would undermine the tentative progress that has been made towards negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), as well as polluting the environment and damaging the health of the local populations.

China has officially stated in the past that it would work for a CTBT if other states were doing so. I request the Chinese government not to conduct a nuclear test while other states are not testing, and request that China officially announces its own suspension of nuclear testing.

Yours sincerely

The Ambassador
Chinese Embassy
49 Portland Place
London
W1N

Please cut out and stick to a postcard before posting.

De Klerk admits to nuclear bomb

In a surprise move at the end of March, F W de Klerk hurriedly summoned a special session of the tricameral parliament to announce that the Pretoria regime had embarked on a nuclear weapons programme in the early 1970s. His revelations have highlighted the importance of keeping a strict embargo on all nuclear collaboration with South Africa, at least until there is a democratic government in power.

DE KLERK claimed that 'the objective was the provision of seven nuclear fission devices ... the minimum ... for the maintenance ... of credible deterrent capability'. He continued, 'when the decision was taken to terminate the programme, only six devices had been completed'.

In what can be seen now as a cynical move to woo international opinion, De Klerk sought to take credit for terminating the programme once he became state president. In doing so he conveniently downplayed the fact that he had previously been the minister responsible for the Atomic Energy Commission and was therefore fully briefed on the programme.

However, De Klerk's announcement has opened a Pandora's box of disinformation, half-truths and lies. De Klerk claimed in parliament that:

- 'at no time did South Africa acquire nuclear weapons technology or materials from another country';

- 'it was never our intention to use the devices and from the outset the emphasis was on deterrence';

- 'nothing had been found (during IAEA inspections) to suggest that South Africa's inven-

tory of nuclear materials and facilities was not complete';

- 'nor was there anything to suggest that the list of facilities and materials submitted (to the IAEA) for controls were incomplete'.

Prompted by evidence presented two days after De Klerk's speech to an ANC press conference in Johannesburg by Abdul Minty, director of the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, the media began to dig deeper. The regime was compelled to move. After first declaring that no further information would be disclosed, it was forced to release more details into the public domain and even allowed journalists to visit a secret nuclear facility.

The overwhelming weight of evidence of extensive nuclear collaboration with South Africa involving the US, the UK, France, Germany and Israel - as summarised on page 2 of *Anti-Apartheid News* - meant that De Klerk's claim that South African had not acquired technology or materials from other countries was simply not credible.

On the day following the press conference, Armscor was compelled to admit that the nuclear test site in the Kalahari

desert, closed down in 1977 under intense international pressure, had been reopened in 1987 in response to waning South African military superiority in Angola. The normally well informed *Independent* journalist, John Carlin, was moved to claim that 'Pretoria came close to dropping a nuclear bomb on Luanda'. De Klerk's claim that it was never the regime's

intention to use the bomb was seen to lack all credibility.

De Klerk's other claims are equally questionable. Far from IAEA inspectors being satisfied that they had a complete inventory of South Africa's nuclear material, it was leaks from suspicious IAEA staff which first led to reliable sources in Washington estimating that South Africa had stock-

350kg of weapons-grade uranium, enough to make about 70 nuclear warheads. Likewise, South Africa never included the Kalahari site on its list of nuclear facilities provided to the IAEA. Now it has been compelled to admit that it was fully operational as recently as the late 1980s.

All this raises the question as to De Klerk's motive in admitting South Africa had embarked on a nuclear weapons programme. Was it to preempt the truth from being revealed? But there are even bigger questions. How could the major western powers have allowed apartheid South Africa to acquire nuclear weapons over so many years? Is it possible that their intelligence agencies did not know what was happening? Why did they persistently veto moves to impose a mandatory ban on all nuclear collaboration with South Africa? Could it be that Reagan and Thatcher so detested the African liberation movements that they were prepared to acquiesce in South Africa's becoming a nuclear power? The British government has been spearheading a campaign over the past two years to get the European Community ban on nuclear links with South Africa lifted on the spurious grounds that South Africa has now signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Prompt international action is required to establish how South Africa was able to develop a nuclear weapons capability and to ensure that all appropriate facilities in South Africa are rigorously inspected and that any existing or potential capacity to produce nuclear weapons is destroyed.

British plutonium sent secretly to Japan fuels arms race fears

Guardian

Geoffrey Lean
Environment Correspondent

BRITAIN has secretly shipped more than a ton of plutonium — enough to make 100 nuclear bombs — to Japan, an *Observer* inquiry has established.

The revelations, which have taken nuclear experts by surprise, will be raised this week during international negotiations in New York on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Japan's neighbours are already concerned about its growing stocks of plutonium which, it is feared, will help fuel a nuclear arms race in the Far East.

Until now only two shipments of plutonium to Japan — both by sea from France, in 1984 and 1992 — have been made public. Both created a storm of international protest from countries along the route.

But 10 days ago, in a three-paragraph paper presented to an obscure United Nations

meeting in Vienna, Japan admitted there had been nine sea shipments of fissile plutonium 'into Japan from Europe during the period from 1975 to 1992'.

The paper gave details only of the two French shipments, but *The Observer* has established that at least five of the others, carrying a total of 465 kilogrammes of fissile plutonium, came from Britain between 1975 and 1981. The plutonium was reprocessed at the Sellafield nuclear complex in Cumbria from spent fuel produced by Japan's Tokai-mura reactor.

The other two shipments remain a mystery, but Japanese sources suggest they contained plutonium bought from Britain and France.

Inquiries also show that another 660kg of fissile plutonium, also from spent Tokai-mura fuel, were transported by air from Britain to Japan in eight separate shipments in the Seventies and Eighties.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade said details of plutonium shipments were 'confidential' and would not be discussed publicly 'either in prospect or in retrospect'.

The plutonium is thought to have been used to fuel experimental fast-breeder reactors in Japan, but it is also especially suitable for weapons. Tokai-mura is a Magnox reactor, a design which originated in Britain to produce plutonium for bombs. Only 10kg of plutonium is needed for each nuclear weapon.

Japan's plutonium build-up is being cited by North Korea in defence of its recent decision to cease to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, increasing fears of an arms race in the Korean peninsula. The United States is anxious that South Korea may also seek to develop nuclear weapons.

British Nuclear Fuels, which has opened an office in Seoul, is

hoping to sell plutonium to South Korea, even though the country is on the Government's official danger list for exports causing 'strategic and proliferation concerns'.

Independent estimates suggest that Britain's plutonium exports to Japan will soar to 26 tons between now and the end of the decade if Ministers give the go-ahead for Sellafield's new Thorp reprocessing plant.

Yesterday Damon Moglen, head of Greenpeace's international plutonium campaign, said the disclosures about Britain's exports would be raised this week at the UN in New York, when governments meet to start renegotiating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

He said: 'This is brand-new information. It will cause a lot of distress to the US Government, while North Korea will go through the roof.'

This article from the Guardian of Thursday, May 13th is very bitter reading.

You will remember that in our last issue we had learnt, again from the Guardian, that the Japanese Government had announced the suspension of the shipment of Plutonium and that the reconditioned ship 'Pacific Crane' would be taken out of commission.

also stated 'To stockpile the plutonium would be politically impossible because of international proliferation agreements!.

This with the news on the facing page makes non-proliferation pie in the sky, when we die, unless we regroup and infuse our campaign with new vitality.

Contributions from Marguerite Oldham.

We think that we deserve a little unrelated amusement, so

Beneath a notice on the Bulletin Board at the University of Cincinnati announcing a lecture series called "Surprises in Obstetrics" was scribbled "Mary had a little lamb"

A recent junk mail circular from Readers Digest read "Dear Mr. X, 'the odds are getting better all the time. At every stage of a Readers Digest Prize Draw people are eliminated"

Why have a war with R.D. on the job?

Report from Gallop Poll director Bob Wybrow 'We have three sexes: men, women who are housewives, and other women'.....and there is the Middlesex Regiment, isn't there?

Excerpt from assessment instructions for English Tests:

"For PC3(writing) first examine the constituent AT levels, based on the NC test and the TA level in the case of AT 4/5. If the TA in the AT 4/5 (presentation) is at level M and the NC test level for AT3 (writing) is at level 8, then the PC level is the AT 3NC test level".....if the TA at 4/5 is not at level 7 but is higher than level 4. Then the PC level is worked out as follows:
AT 3NC test level x 8 plus AT 4TA level x 2, divided by 10. Now you know!

THE ACCIDENT THAT COULDN'T HAPPEN

Disaster at Chernobyl: Weekend, May 8
Telegraph - Sat. 15th May

Once is too often in the nuclear age

ON MAY 2 a small explosion and fire in a transformer shut down a reactor at the Sizewell A power station in Suffolk. It was, by any standards, a minor accident. But Nuclear Electric press officers had to leap into action, cranking out the press releases, reassuring people that there was no radiation threat, endeavouring to pre-empt yet another spasm of "wholly unjustifiable public anxiety".

Ever since Chernobyl, it's been uphill all the way for the nuclear industry. Most people are fearful of the risks involved in nuclear power. They remain obstinately and (some would say) irrationally sceptical about the industry's claim that the likelihood of a catastrophic nuclear accident happening in the UK is no more than once in 10,000 years.

But it's that "once" that makes all the difference. However safe those reactors may be in the normal course of events, it only takes one accident to make worthless confetti of all those safety statistics and comparisons with other industries. And since Chernobyl, people are aware that "once" could just as easily happen in their lifetime as in 10,000 years.

Piers Paul Read's fascinating new book *Ablaze*, extracts from which were published in Weekend last Saturday, illuminates that whole area of human error by focusing directly on the characters involved. Warts and all. The chief actors in Chernobyl's control room at the time of the accident have since then been made to carry the can for the worst man-made disaster in history. But the combination of human factors involved will be familiar to almost everyone: personal rivalry, bureaucracy, bad luck, tiredness, stress, weak links in a chain... We've all been there, obviously in humbler and less dramatic circumstances,

but that's why we remain intuitively nervous of using technologies that depend on people like us never getting it wrong. Not once in 10,000 years.

Which is why the nuclear industry in the UK can never entirely distance itself from what happened at Chernobyl in 1986, or at Three Mile Island in 1979, let alone at Windscale in 1957. (Did someone say 10,000 years?)

It may also explain why they are so nervous at the prospect of another serious nuclear accident in Russia or some other eastern European country. For that too, as with Chernobyl, would be marked down to the industry as a whole, and no amount of huffing and puffing about inferior reactor design or inadequately trained opera-

tives would stem the tide of public anger and anxiety. Such an accident would almost certainly sound the death knell for the whole industry.

And nuclear experts are only too aware of the number of candidates lining up for this historic role. There are still 16 RBMK reactors in operation in the former Soviet Union, as well as some elderly pressurised water reactors of a highly questionable design. For safety reasons, they should all be closed down as soon as possible. But as yet that has proved impossible both politically and economically.

'Wholly inadequate resources have been devoted to improving safety'



JONATHON PORRITT

In the chaotic free-for-all of Western nuclear companies jockeying for position in this "future growth market", wholly inadequate resources have as yet been committed to improving reactor safety. Indeed, according to Friends of the Earth, nearly three times as much money is

being invested in new or partly built reactors as in making existing reactors safer. It's a high-risk strategy for the industry. For they won't be getting much back on that investment if Sosnovy Bor near St Petersburg goes up, or the infamous Kozloduy in Bulgaria, or Bohunice just 35 miles from the Austrian border.

Closer to home, there is still considerable anxiety at the decision taken in 1991 to extend the life of some of our older Magnox reactors. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate believes that the corrosion problems that they are suffering from (where welding has been made brittle by more than 20 years' exposure to radiation) are not sufficiently serious to close them down. Environmentalists have dubbed this the "go till they blow" approach.

As can be imagined, communities near these reactors continue to campaign for closure. The nuclear industry continues to argue that they are completely safe, and the inspectorate itself has said that it would not have licensed them unless it felt that "there is no chance of an accident".

Foolish words? Just as there are no fail-safe humans, so there is no such thing as "no chance" of an accident. Though the chance may be very slim indeed, it still exists. And that is why Chernobyl still resonates so deeply in people's minds.

The article by Jonathon Porritt from the Telegraph of Saturday, May 15th, has been shortened for inclusion in the bulletin.

It makes the message all too clearly that the making of plutonium - though presented as an essential peaceful use of nuclear energy - can be almost as lethal in effect as a nuclear warhead - without a war.

Telegraph - Sat. 15th May

Blue fields neutralise Chernobyl fall-out

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

THOUSANDS of acres of Wales and Cumbria could be turned blue in an attempt to neutralise radioactive fall-out from Chernobyl seven years ago.

A chemical compound which turns vegetation royal blue for about two months has been tested on experimental plots in the Carneddau Mountains, north-east of Snowdon, to lock up caesium 137, which was deposited by Chernobyl-contaminated rain clouds in 1986.

The compound, ammonium ferric hexacyanoferrate (AFCH), has also been tried out on contaminated land near Sellafield, Cumbria.

Results are now being compared with other treatments by the Government's Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth, Dyfed, before the compound is spread over hills and moorland.

This would free farmers from tight restrictions on the movement of sheep, imposed after Chernobyl to protect the public.

Much of Britain's uplands are still heavily contaminated with radiocaesium and more than 482,000 sheep on 631 farms remain under restriction to prevent contamination in the food chain.