

editorial

Jane Travers
Vice Chair

Back to Basics

In these post-Cold War days one of the biggest problems for CND is that there is no longer a perception of danger amongst the general public with regard to nuclear weapons. Some may see the continued deployment as wasteful and even unnecessary, but without that acute sense of danger that was abroad in the early 80s the impetus for demanding change is also absent.

And yet, just as in 1982 we were on the brink of an incredibly dangerous period, with the introduction of cruise missiles and the new risks involved because of their nature, we now stand on the brink of an arguably even more dangerous period with the global proliferation of nuclear weapons. Once the 21 or so countries that stand in the wings ready and waiting to acquire nuclear weapons status do so, I fear that there will be no going back-only on and on, with more and more countries joining the club (if the planet lasts long enough). With this scale of proliferation, the eventual use of the weapons becomes inevitable. Have people forgotten what the results of a nuclear war will be? Have they forgotten that a nuclear weapon exploded on the other side of the planet can have a devastating effect in our green and pleasant land? I think maybe they have and I think it is time we reminded them.

We must alert the public to the inherent dangers of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and we must tell them what steps need to be taken to prevent it. Trident must be cancelled, not just because it is too costly, involves the dangerous transportation of warheads and is useless in defence terms, but also because it is proliferation in our own back yard. The moratorium on testing must be turned into a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, so that when the NPT comes up for review in 1995 we have a concrete foundation on which to build for a nuclear weapons free world.

Trident

On Saturday 23 October CND supporters from across Scotland will set out to Drive Out Trident. The aim is to have cars and minibuses travelling from towns and cities to converge at the Trident base at Coulport later in the day for a rally. Where possible the vehicles will travel together as a mock convoy along nuclear transport routes. Most of the cars and minibuses will come from Scottish groups, however we would welcome support from South of the border, especially as this will help to emphasise the routes used to bring up Trident.

Nukewatch in Scotland recently obtained photos which show once and for all that the convoys which rumble through the countryside on a regular basis do indeed carry nuclear weapons. Foden articulated trucks were caught on film offloading their deadly cargo in the heart of the nuclear depot at Coulport. Two containers were removed from the back of one truck which had just arrived from Burghfield. Faslane Peace Camp and Nukewatch members were amazed to

find out that the delicate operation of offloading the vehicles was not carried out under cover or using any specialised equipment. A telescopic crane was used to lift the nuclear weapon container onto a small forklift truck. At one point a container was bumped along and manhandled.

Although these photos show warheads for Polaris, the vehicles are more often carrying Trident warheads. It can be calculated that as many as 60 Trident nuclear warheads may be stored in bunkers at Coulport. This suggests that the government is going ahead with its plans to give Trident much more firepower than Polaris. In recent months the convoys have delivered enough warheads to equip HMS Vanguard with more nuclear weapons than a Polaris submarine. These convoys are scheduled to continue for several years by the end of which there would be a massive increase in the number of nuclear weapons deployed at Faslane and Coulport.

For further information please contact
John Ainslie on 041-339 4844.

This is my last contribution to CND Today as Chair. I'd like to thank all of the groups and individuals I've met throughout Britain in the past ten years as parliamentary officer, vice-chair and chair. You have left me with memories of tremendous spirit, dedication and commitment. I have also had the wonderful opportunity to meet with your counterparts on the Continent, in the US, Russia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and India.

The challenge of the 80's was alerting the public to the danger of a prospective nuclear war in the European theatre with destructive consequences - a nuclear winter - for the globe.

The challenge for the 90's and beyond is one which institutions and movements shaped by the Cold War must now grasp: nuclear proliferation. This issue, literally the spread of nuclear weapons, has been seized by those who want to keep Trident as their 'reason to believe'. This is the kind of thinking that allowed another institution shaped by the Cold War, the Labour Party, to go into the last election proclaiming that Britain would keep nuclear weapons 'as long as any other country in the world has them'.

We already know what the Government thinks - it can be no clearer than the rationale stated by Lord Trefgarne to the effect that having nuclear weapons kept us on the Security Council, making Britain one of the five most important countries in the world.

So who can blame India for believing it may need nuclear weapons because of its proximity to Pakistan and China? And why should Ukraine give up its 'bargaining chips' without extracting a security guarantee?

Britain should start playing by the rules and live up to its Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations as stated in Article VI, to negotiate disarmament in good faith.

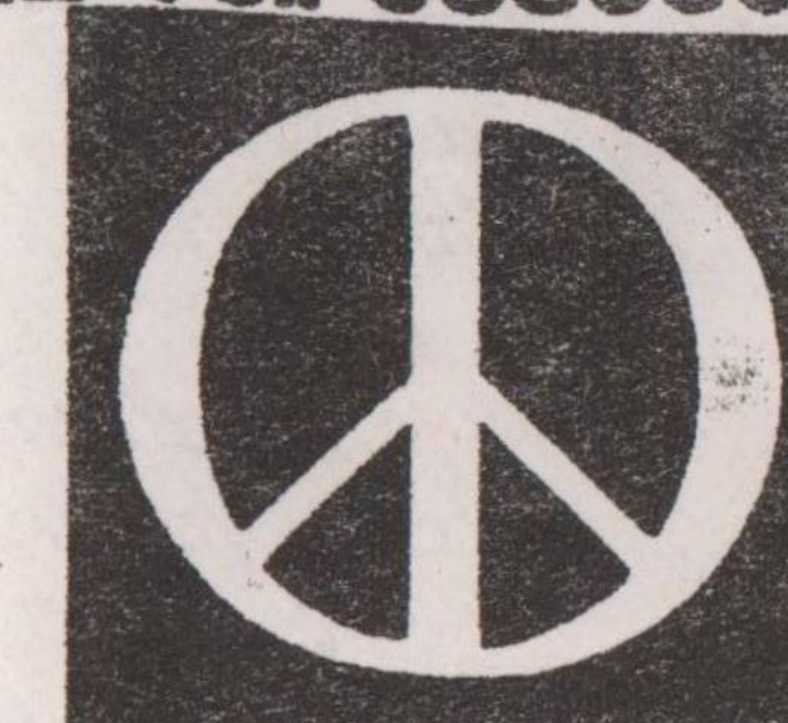
The proliferation equation, in a complex and changing world, is actually a very simple one - it puts unilateral disarmament back at the top of the agenda. Only then can we tell other nations they don't need nuclear weapons either!

MARJORIE THOMPSON
CND Chair

NOTTINGHAM CND

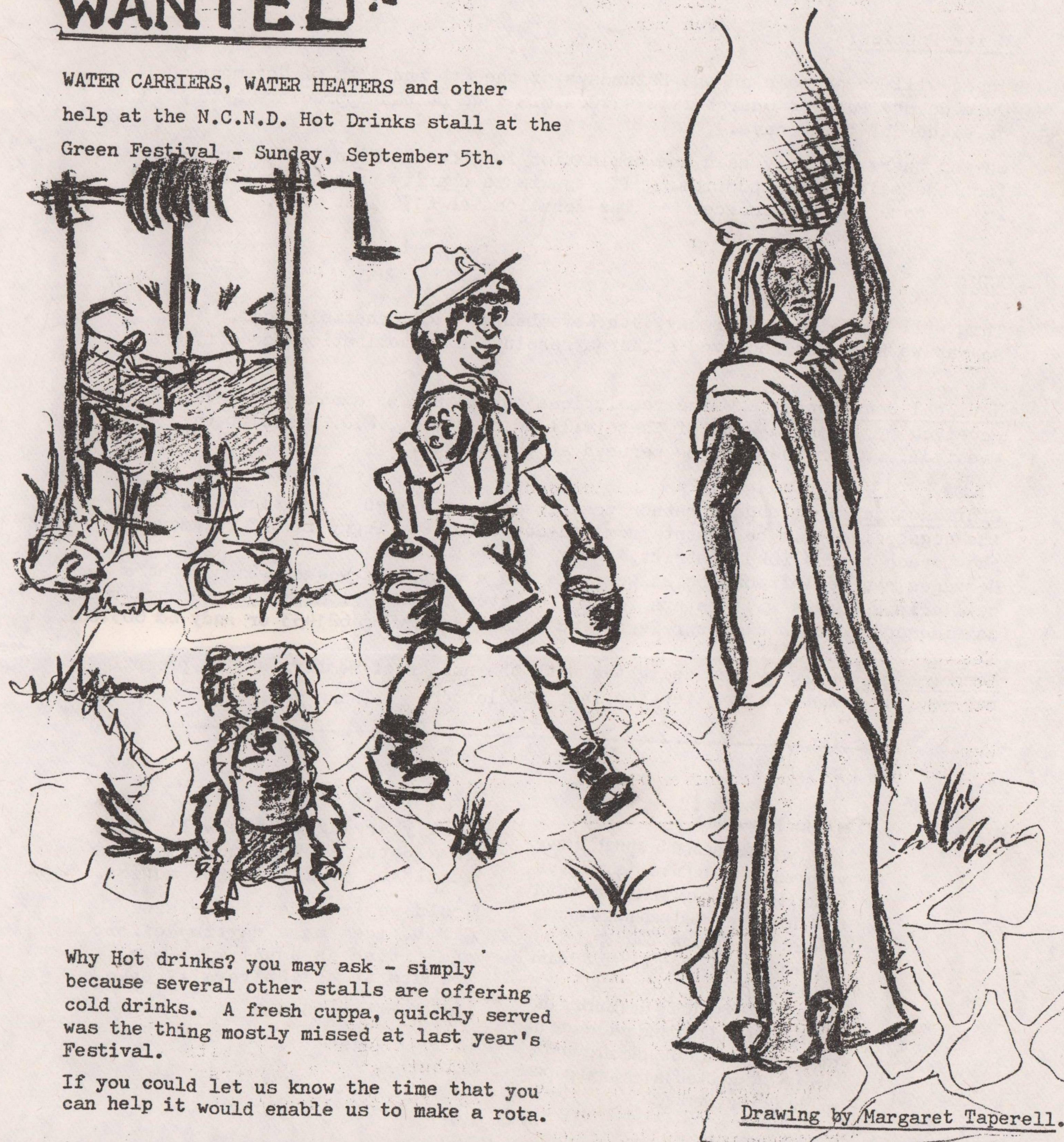
Box 33, 118 MANSFIELD RD. NOTTINGHAM, NG1 3HL Tel: 588586

AUGUST 93



WANTED:-

WATER CARRIERS, WATER HEATERS and other help at the N.C.N.D. Hot Drinks stall at the Green Festival - Sunday, September 5th.



Why Hot drinks? you may ask - simply because several other stalls are offering cold drinks. A fresh cuppa, quickly served was the thing mostly missed at last year's Festival.

If you could let us know the time that you can help it would enable us to make a rota.

Drawing by Margaret Taperell.

200 CLUB.

Owing to the omission of this item in our last news-letter we have the winners for three months.

June: 1st prize. Barbara Coulson No. 34 £25.
2nd prize. Tamsin Morris No. 7 £10.
3rd prize. S. & D. Greaves No. 70 £5.

July: 1st. Prize. Mary Riddell No. 74 £25.
2nd. prize. Tamsin Morris No. 7 £10.
3rd. prize. Jean Hart. No. 61 £ 5.

August: 1st. prize. Louise Jessop No. 1 £25.
2nd. prize. Jean Hart No. 63 £10.
3rd. prize. Susannah Zabulis No. 48 £ 5.

White Poppies:

These will be on sale on the Saturdays of the 6th and 13th of November. Outside St. Peter's Church from 11:00a.m. We should appreciate help on either of these days.

So far there has only been one nomination for the donation of the proceeds from the sale of the poppies. If you wish a charity to benefit please send in the name of your choice. The donation was £176 last year.

AGM.

This will be held on Thursday, 4th November at 118, Mansfield Road. So far we have not received either a resolution or nomination for officers.

National Conference: The resolutions submitted for amendments have been received by us and a copy of these will be on the N.C.N.D. stall at the Festival.....or they may be perused at the office.

Staff Holidays: sounds rather posh doesn't it? when all it means is that the dogsbodies will be absent from mid-September. Peggy is off to America and Doreen to the Lake District. Messages can be left on the answerphone for a couple of weeks. Should there be a crisis Doreen will return forth - or even fifth - with, meanwhile anything considered urgent could be referred to either Jeremy or [redacted].

Membership: Peggy was delighted with the number of members who so promptly renewed their memberships after the last newsletter. Thank you.

H is for Hiroshima

Do you live near a hospital? Have you seen the hospital road sign? It's a white H on a blue background. Bristol CND have suggested hanging a simple placard from the sign, reading:

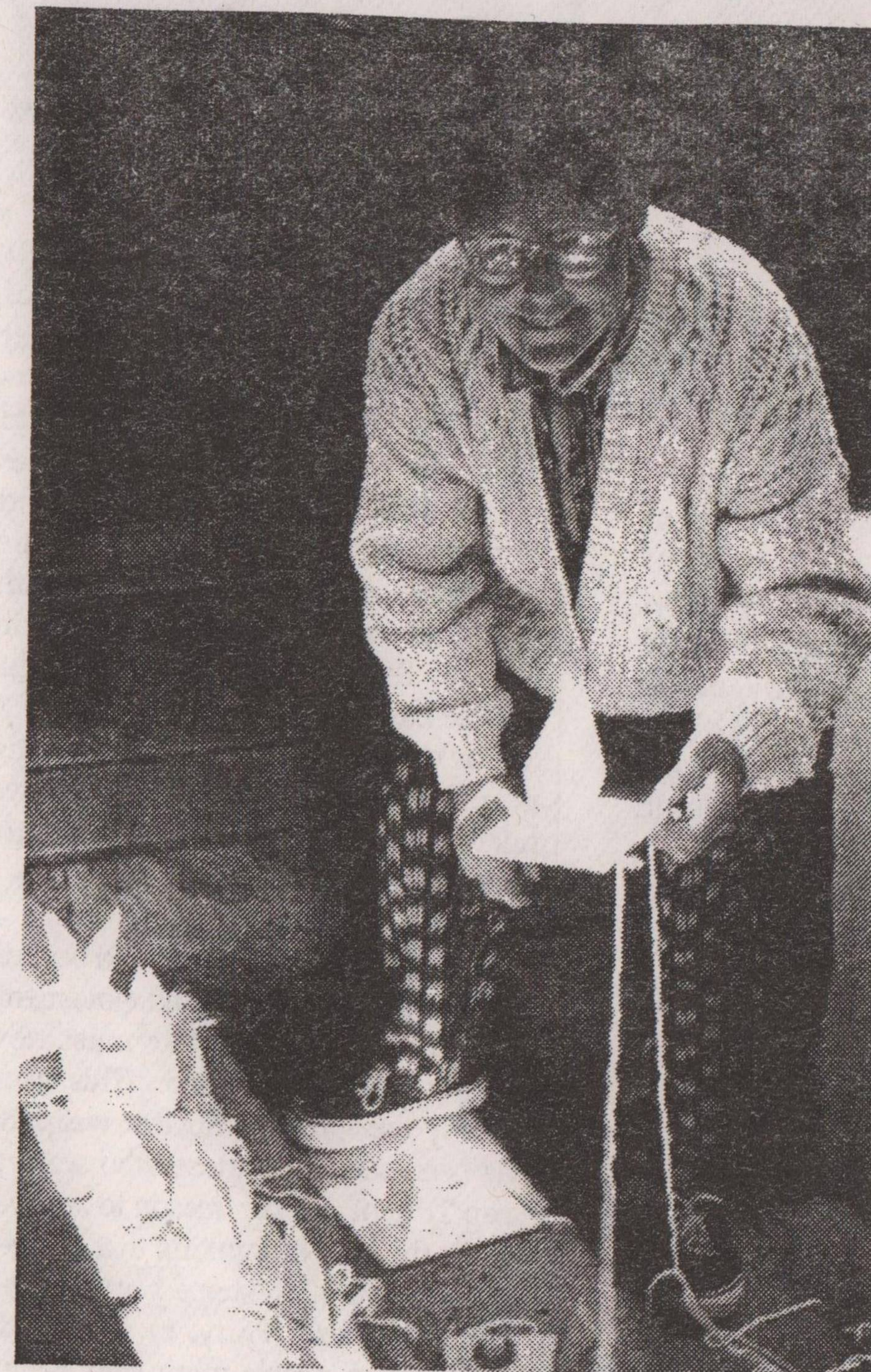
Hiroshima, 6 August 1945, 8.16am
240,000 dead

They suggest doing this during the morning rush hour and returning in the evening with the placard and a wreath. A small ad in the local paper might also be effective.

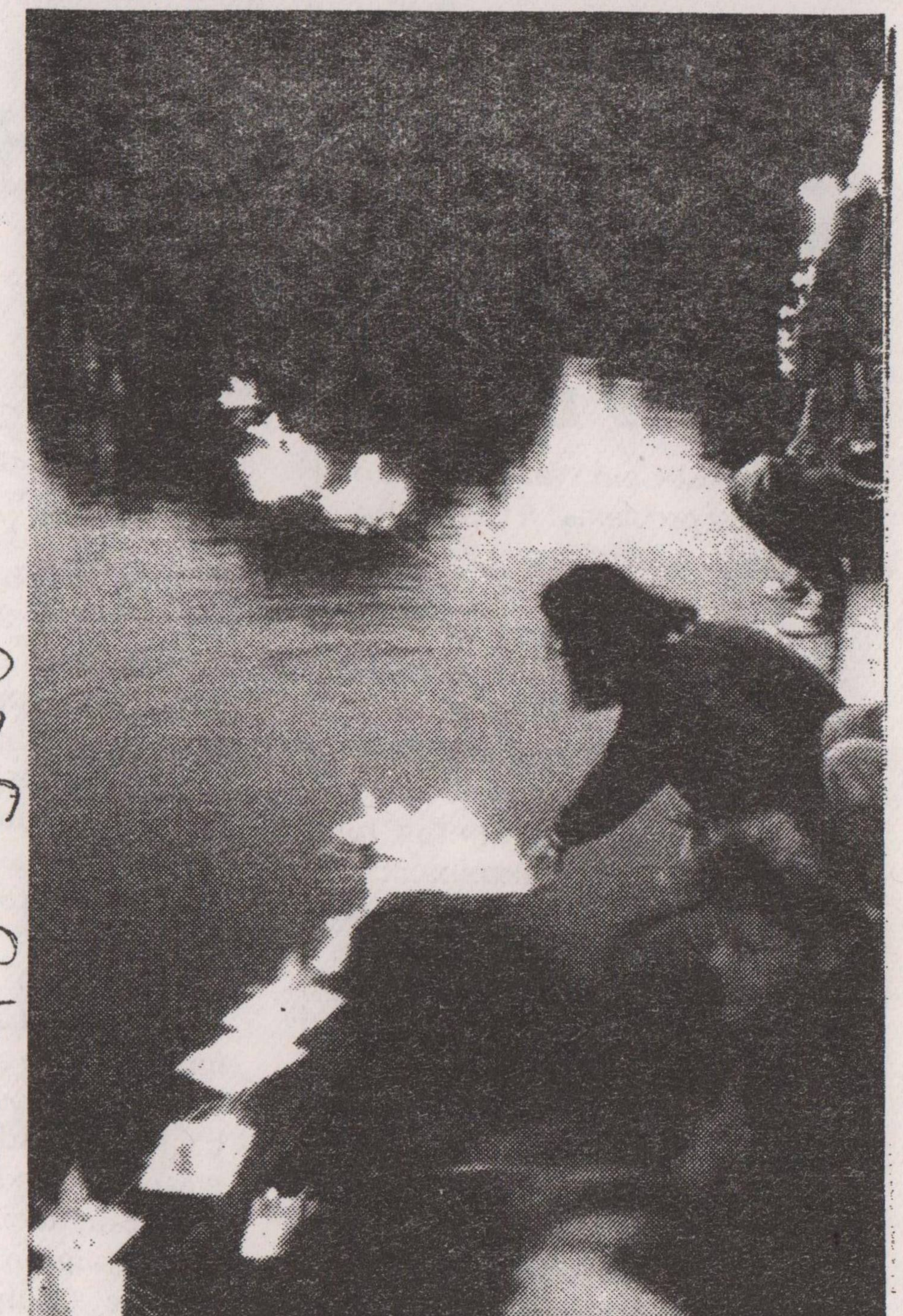
Next year August 6th will fall on a Saturday when more members should be available for action.

Could we include the Bristol C.N.D. idea as a daytime effort and finish as usual with our tribute at the University Lake?

Any further ideas?



Photos by Jeremy Jago



The evening of 6th of August was cloudy but pleasant, and the University Park Lake placid. There were about 40 members present to pay tribute to the victims of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima 48 years ago.

We wish to thank Barbara Lacey, the Clarion Choir, The Nottingham Parks Dept., and the Parks Attendant for making the service so moving. The cranes and candles skimming the dark water of the lake provided, as usual, a fitting and peaceful finale to the act of remembrance.

