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Laurens Otter, College Farm House, Mill Lane,  
Wellington, Telford, Shropshire.



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OCTOBER  
1988

NO. 90

OCT. 15

MAKE YOUR  
MARK FOR PEACE

UPPER HEYFORD

DEMONSTRATE  
FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE BRITAIN

CHAIN REACTION

## DIARY

- Sat. 1st Oct. Survival Saturday.  
The Square, Shrewsbury.
- Sat. 1st Oct. Capenhurst 5th Anniversary demo.  
Details: Judy Gallacher, Whitchurch 2681
- Weds. 5th Oct. TANG business meeting .  
7.30 pm. 16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.  
All very welcome.
- Sat. 15th Oct. Make Your Mark For Peace  
Minibus to Upper Heyford ,  
See elsewhere in this issue.
- Weds. 19th Oct. Chain Reaction meeting.  
7.30 pm. 6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.
- Fri. 21st Oct. 'One World, many women'. International  
- Sun 23rd Oct. Gathering at Greenham Common. See article.
- Sun. 23rd Oct. Peace Concert with anti-war singers "The  
5.00pm. - 7.00pm. Fergusons". The Abbey , Shrewsbury.
- Weds. 2nd Nov. TANG business meeting. As 5th Oct.
- Weds. 9th Nov. TANG A.G.M. See Agenda elsewhere in  
7.30pm for 8pm. this issue.
- Fri. 18th Nov. CND Annual Conference, Salford University.  
- Sun 20th Nov. TANG delegates will attend.

### CHAIN REACTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, letters etc. are always welcome. These may be typed to fit into our page directly, typed roughly, or hand written legibly. Please send or give to any of the following:

Mark Stokes, 7 Burton Close, Dawley. Tel: 501263  
Tot Dawes, 6 Myford Cottages , Horsehay. Tel: 507040  
Laurens Otter, College Farm House, Mill Lane,  
Wellington. Tel: 641852

Deadline for next issue: 19th October



## TANG'S 1988 A.G.M.

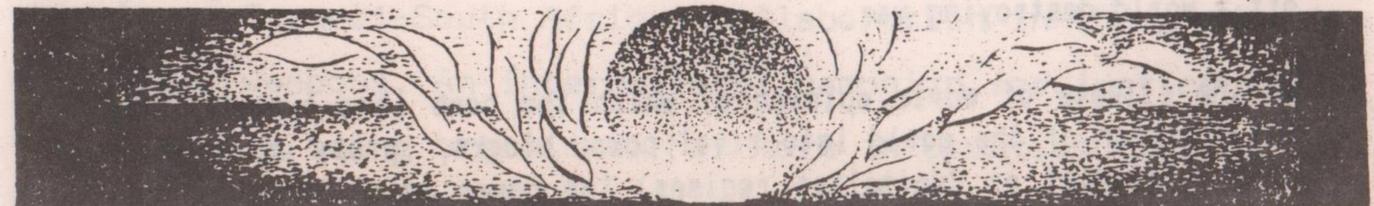
The 1988 A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 9th November in Meeting Point House in Telford Town Centre.

All subscribers to CHAIN REACTION are welcome. Please come and air your views whether you are satisfied with TANG as it is or opposed to the current way of doing things, or hold any position in between.

The literature stall will be open for books, leaflets, badges , Christmas cards etc. at 7.30 p.m. , coffee and tea will be available then. The business meeting will start at 8.00 p.m. .

### AGENDA

1. Chair's opening remarks.
2. Reports:
  - Secretary's
  - Treasurer's
  - Publicity Secretary's
  - Literature Secretary's
3. Peter Nias will introduce a discussion on the proposals to change TANG's name and future role. (Any concrete motion on change of role or name will be taken at this point).
4. Elections.
5. Any special extra business occasioned by 3.
6. A.O.B. and adjournment.



There is a temptation, when publishing a regular bulletin on behalf of a group based on one central principle, to fill it with material that those who hold the basic premises of the group need for their activities, and neglect to state - or restate - the basic principles. (Some years back, in recognition of this national CND brought out a series of 'basic case' leaflets but unfortunately they failed to carry the full message.) May I try, starkly & crudely, if necessary, to restate this basis?

### The moral equivalent of Belsen

The first Aldermaston March was organized on the basis that the nuclear bomb is the moral equivalent of concentration camps and gas chambers. That sort of moral premise is not subject to rational debate, it is a matter that one either believes or doesn't, if one does, failure to agree can only strike one as wilful moral blindness; if it is not obvious to an individual he/she will probably regard the assertion as hysterically irrational.

As one who believes in that moral equivalence, it is almost obscene to start discussing supporting or subsidiary arguments.

1) The bomb is totally indiscriminate, because of nuclear fall-out, the chancy nature of winds & so forth, they cannot be used only against a military target. Civilians, and not merely civilians of the target country, but people throughout the world, will be killed.

2) Because of the need for secrecy, and for rapid response, those who man bomb-related radar, planes, rocketry etc. have to live in such an alert state that it must damage their mental stability. Right back in the mid-50s it was found that two-thirds of the airmen who had flown Strategic Air Command bombers were mentally disturbed. Moreover both the inventor of radar and the inventor of the Early Warning System have said that the limitations of human reflexes are such that accidents in detecting supposed enemy weaponry are bound to happen (c.f. recent events in the Gulf). For these two reasons alone, though there are other points, war by accident is a very real possibility.

3) The Bomb is not a deterrent, there have been more wars, and more people killed in wars, in the last 43 years than in any similar period of history. It does however deter people from expressing solidarity with rebels against injustice, for fear that such solidarity might set off a world destroying war.

4) The climate of world opinion of which the bomb is a symbol, and the division of the world into rival power blocks, props up (whether under Stalinist or Capitalist regimes) the power establishments; all critics are portrayed as agents of the rival ruling elite.

### The moral equivalent of Belsen

.....continued

5) Nuclear weaponry is an incredible expense. Even if it were not harmful, the expenditure of such fantastic amounts on things that even their supporters concede will be useless (if used), in a world where masses of people starve, cannot be morally justified.

6) Because of the limited life of radio-active material, nuclear weapons very soon decay and become dangerous. In the past this meant that weaponry was subjected to frequent "testing" as a way of using up obsolete bombs. Nowadays fissile material is reprocessed. The tests spread an enormous amount of radio-active contamination and fall-out directly; and, there is good reason to believe, were responsible for thousands of deaths, still-births and deformed babies. The reprocessing increases the amount of nuclear waste around, and may well have the same effect.

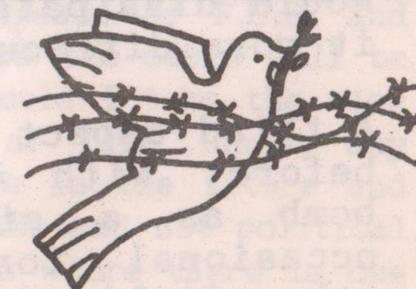
7) All governments - with the possible exception of Israel and South Africa, who do not need to exercise the same hypocrisy - that have made nuclear weapons, have done so in secret. This means that governments have been able to use the work of thousands of the best scientists and engineers of those countries, to divert vast capital sums, to devote enormous factory complexes, all to weaponry that doesn't appear in budgets, (likewise buildings not on maps). This has led to governments' need to increase exponentially the powers of "security services" (i.e. secret police) with a consequent lessening of the liberties of the subject.

Laurens Otter

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### PRISONERS FOR PEACE

Nearly two years ago Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli scientist was kidnapped on the streets of London by Israeli secret police. On March 27th 1988 he was sentenced in Jerusalem to 18 years imprisonment, his crime blowing the whistle on Israeli-South African collaboration in the production of nuclear weapons. An international campaign for justice for Vanunu is being organised. For more information contact Margo Sweeney, CND, 22/24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG.



## TANG'S FUTURE : the discussion so far

There have been two contrasting aspects to the discussion so far on TANG's future (more views are expressed in this month's edition, and the AGM on Nov 9th will be the main platform).

One is to lean more towards green or environmental issues, perhaps by becoming a specific Telford Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace or similar group. The campaigning would concentrate on those issues. Although opposition to the bomb would be supported, it would not be central to the group's activities.

The second aspect is to maintain the centrality of unilateralism & opposition to the bomb in general, but to widen the scope even more to show that the rest of society needs to change before the bomb and the 'bomb culture' can be permanently removed. (Such topics as civil rights & secrecy, non-violence, the environment, Third World development, facism, racism, sexism, class, militarism, communism and others would all be legitimately covered). This, it is argued, would dissipate the message somewhat, making it more difficult to campaign upon.

A third aspect is, of course, to continue as before, with unilateral opposition to the bomb as a single issue campaign, making occasional forays into environmental and other fields as opportunities arise.

Further thoughts or preferences are welcome.

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## Dear Editors,

Some months ago I was ready to give up completely on TANG mostly due to the fact that the energies of the group seemed to be directed solely at constant carping, through the pages of CHAIN REACTION, on every aspect of Government policy. However, I preferred to bide my time and just not pay my overdue subscriptions!

Then August came around and on enquiring I found that no public remembrance of Hiroshima was to be held. "Wonderful" thought I; on the so-called 'Baker Education Bill' there was a strident call to action (with no thought, of course, that some of us lesser humans out here might actually support it) but re. Hiroshima a kind of limp acknowledgement and a kindly instruction to 'do my own thing' as everyone else was busy. Well thanks, I did and so did my kids who thought it worthwhile not to be busy for one day. Then, in language seemingly trying to be non-political we hear of a possible change of direction and general working of TANG as a group. Could I be the only one who brightened up at this prospect? No, for there in the August/September CHAIN REACTION was a super letter from Laura Horton and how I agree with her and I guarantee so do many other so-called 'sleeping members' of the group who thought that they had joined to make a small but positive attempt to make the world a better place, give their kids and grandchildren the hope of a green and pleasant world etc. and not find themselves affiliated to a group of disorganised political agitators. So, tell me, should I just go away and join Greenpeace or F.O.E. and take the view that if the Bomb drops the seals will be put out of their polluted misery or should I take the view that if Laura Horton sees a chance of TANG (under any other name) doing something worthwhile in the future and even manages to say so in normal English and not political jargon, then I should stick with it 'cos where there is one Laura there could well be more? And who knows, all those of us with no political aspirations might just turn up to a demo on something we know we care about and takes no political stand. Then maybe we might create some interest in Wellington or wherever and not just be a few 'bloody nuisances and leftie cranks' interfering with the shoppers!

*Always at the ready,*

*Ingrid Brown*