

CHAIN REACTION

Peter

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUPS

Radioactive fall-out from Donnington

We now have proof of radioactive contamination as a result of the fire at C.O.D. Donnington.

Chain Reaction readers will recall that at the time, the M.O.D. and the army denied the presence of any toxic substance. They also denied the presence of asbestos in the fall-out from the fire until 5 days later Wrekin Council tests showed that the debris was 30% asbestos.

On the 9th January, the Department of Environment issued a certificate to Birds Commercial Metals of Stratford on Avon, permitting them to accumulate and store rubble contaminated with radioactivity at C.O.D. Donnington. This permission has to be granted under the 1960 Radioactive Substances Act, under the section dealing with low level radioactive waste.

Wrekin District Council sources now tell us that, (1) During the fire, the Army were monitoring for radioactivity despite assuring the Fire Brigade and the rest of us that there were no toxic substances involved, (2) In October, during the demolition of the building, two workers were continuously monitoring for radioactivity, (3) The Property Services Agency agreed to provide W.D.C. with full details of the fire's waste products and to pass on the monitors' readings. They have so far failed to provide them despite requests. The public also has no way of knowing the results of the 3 secret enquiries which have been sent to the M.O.D.

The army's story so far has been to say that the radioactive rubble is from watch parts. You will remember that they also claimed that there was no asbestos or radioactive contamination in the rubble, so why should we believe that it is just watch parts?

Civil Defence Report

For the last few months, TANG has been researching and writing a report for Wrekin Council on Nuclear Weapons and Civil Defence with special application to the Wrekin area. This 25 page report is now done and will first be presented to the Council, who commissioned it. It is hoped that it can be published in a popularly available form in due course as well as being reviewed in local publications.

TANG itself has not the resources to publish it, but we think that others will.

The report covers the effects of a nuclear weapon on C.O.D. Donnington and reviews Shropshire's War plans which do not include anything about any bomb in Shropshire but at the same time acknowledging that there are so many factors that they cannot control. For example, the probability of no communications whatsoever is recognised (with all electrics being rendered useless by the EMP or Electro-magnetic pulse). But there is no mention of what would be done if this was the case.

Civil defence is also related to natural and man-made disasters, as well as to civil liberties. Most importantly, the part that civil defence plays in the international game of bluff (called 'deterrence') is reviewed.

One World Week

A meeting to discuss last years One World Week events in Telford took place on January 17. It was agreed that the week was very successful in its attempts to focus on the problems of today's world (and possible solution) through film, music drama and debate. But it was felt that responsibilities for co-ordinating the events fell heavily on small numbers of people. It is hoped that this years activities for the week will be taken on by different groups throughout Telford who will organise and plan their own events around this years theme "Women and Children first" There will be a meeting on Friday 9 March 8.00pm at Dawley Christian Centre to discuss the theme and possible events. All Welcome or contact;

Revd Sandra Howess
62, Dunsheath,
Hollinswood
Telford TF3 2BX
Tel 595881

Letter - War Drive

Last month's Chain Reaction included a letter arguing for a non-nuclear NATO.

The argument was based on the idea that through public opinion, "sane governments" can be persuaded to get rid of their nuclear weapons. However nuclear weapons are the logical result of competition between capitalist states. Capitalists, East and West, need nuclear weapons to back up their violent exploitation of people and resources throughout the world. Our government is as likely to be persuaded to disarm itself as it is to ban capitalism.

As German peace campaigner Rosa Luxemburg said in 1915, "World peace cannot be assured by projects Utopian, or at bottom, reactionary, such as tribunals of arbitration by capitalist diplomats, diplomatic 'disarmament' conventions...and other illusions."

We cannot afford to pretend that peace can be left up to our rulers. Peace can only be achieved through International action by the ordinary people. Arguments for a non-nuclear NATO and for a nuclear freeze, ignore this reality.

David Smith

Letter - Peace letters project

I am a member of the Philip Noel-Baker Letters for Peace Project. The late Philip Noel-Baker knew that letters to M.P.s and ministers and to newspapers have an enormous impact on government policy, and he hoped that peace campaigners would flood Downing Street with letters continuously.

Members of the project pledge themselves to write one letter a week/month and receive a monthly selection of draft letters and ideas, which are useful when inspiration fails.

If anyone would like me to pass on my draft letters regularly, I will be pleased to do so rather than throwing them away.

The project can be contacted direct through Eileen Bernal, 110 Carole House, Oldfield Estate, Fitzroy Road, London N.W.1.

Ann Nicol

Shopping Cruise in its tracks

Practice runs for the dispersal of cruise missile launchers could take place at any time now and it is important that we should be prepared to take action at short notice.

Shrewsbury Peace Group has called on all other Shropshire groups and activists to join in their action. This will take place at 8 a.m. on the morning following the news that a convoy has left Greenham.

As four of Shropshire's E.S.R.s merge at the Meole Brace roundabout on the Shrewsbury by-pass, this was considered the most suitable place for a demonstration. Action will include:

1. "Danger - Cruise Missiles" road signs in large numbers on approach roads.
2. People with giant banners informing people that "Cruise Missiles are out on the roads," on roundabouts and alongside approach roads.
3. Leafletting motorists at traffic lights.
4. 'Cruise - Convoy' of cars (with banners and missiles) continuously moving in a loop.
5. Mass phone - in to police AA/RAC/Press/MP/Council about the danger of Cruise being at large.

Wellington Women's Peace Group

The group has organised an event which is to take place in 'The Square' in Wellington or New St. Methodist Church on Saturday 28th Jan. at 10.30 a.m. There will be a Jazz band playing while members of the group display posters and distribute leaflets. Any help will be most welcome, - just turn up!
For more information phone Jan Vickers tel: 42236

Going to Greenham

Eileen Brain, will be visiting the Peace Camp at Greenham on Sunday 26th February.
She has room for a number of passengers and is particularly keen to take any woman who has not previously been to Greenham and who is perhaps not entirely convinced against Cruise or nuclear weapons in general. Anyone interested should contact:

Eileen on Telford 56578 (evenings)

COMMUNICATING PEACE

The Quaker Peace Caravan came to Telford once again. Twenty four people from as far apart as Church Stretton and Runcorn came to take part in 'communicating peace'. This was a teach-in led by the six members of the Peace Caravan.

Perhaps a quarter of those present were Quakers. The rest were from the Wellington Women's Peace Group, TANG and a range of interested individuals.

The Peace Caravan is a group of Quakers whose full time vocation is travelling up and down the country helping to organise these teach-ins.

Instead of the campaigning approach, a more personal method was encouraged. In small groups we came up with ideas that both helped and hindered 'communication'. These included listening, knowing your own limitations and getting other people to think for themselves rather than them putting you on the defensive all the time.

The Peace Caravan team demonstrated one example of a conversation between people of opposite views. This showed us all how easy it was to be pushed on the defensive instead of putting the question back to the other person.

The whole session helped you to think and talk about things we normally take for granted. It could well be worth local people organising a follow-up event to practise what we learnt.

SHROPSHIRE FALLOUT SHELTER

If anyone has £10,000 to spare then a nuclear fallout shelter could be yours. Set in the beautiful Shropshire countryside around Baschurch north-west of Shrewsbury. No joke. The advert appeared in the property section of the Guardian 14.1.84. and read as follows :

" INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY of a lifetime. For sale, freehold in rural Shropshire, ex ROC (Royal Ordnance Corps) nuclear fallout proof shelter on $\frac{1}{8}$ acre plot. £10,000 ono. Tel. 0939 290088.

When 'Chain Reaction' phoned up to inquire about this private sale the actual location was given as Cockshutt a few miles north of Baschurch. There was an observer post above the site during the war and a bunker was built below ground since then.

It is 20' down and measures 18' by 8' which is about the size of an average living room. It contains some bunk beds.

There has been 'quite a lot of interest' but no offers as yet.

Problems? How do you get to it in an emergency when the Army will have closed all the roads? Or if there is no real warning then there isn't much of Shropshire within four minutes' drive of Cockshutt! Your problems will only just start when and if you emerge after the obligatory 14 days allowance for radiation to decrease, as 'The Day After' film showed.

Obtain your peace of mind by working for peace instead.

AMERICA'S BACKYARD?

Do events in Latin America matter to us? That is the question that a WEA/TUC course will be examining over the next weeks. The course is being run on Tuesday evenings from 24th January at the Peoples Centre, Madeley for six weeks at 7.30pm.

The sessions will take the form of group work with the structure and content of the course determined by the students.

The course is free & friendly and all are welcome. If you can't make all the sessions, come when you can.

If you are interested in International issues, U.S. 'sphere of influence' or nuclear proliferation, you will, no doubt, be there.

SAID TO BRITISH NUCLEAR SUICIDE - COME TO THE
ANTI-TRIDENT
CONVENTION.

* SPEAKERS *
* WORKSHOPS *
* DISPLAYS *
* VIDEOS ETC. *



**SATURDAY 25th FEB; FREE TRADE HALL
MANCHESTER • 11am - 5pm** [REGISTRATION FROM 9am]

INFORMATION FROM: ANTI-TRIDENT CAMPAIGN,
420 SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW, G2. TEL: 041-332 3141.

Greenpeace fined £35,000

Greenpeace has been fined £35,000 for contempt of court. Last month the group defied a court order against trying to block the radioactive waste outlet at Windscale. A public appeal is being launched to help pay the fine and the £10,000 costs.

T.A.N.G. is holding a jumble sale to contribute a small amount but many supporters will certainly wish to help. Please send your donations directly to:

Greenpeace Ltd.,
36 Graham St.,
London N.I.

or

Maria Wakely,
15 Fellows Close,
Little Dawley,
Telford.

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to organise a fund raising event for the appeal T.A.N.G. will try and help.

Shropshire Peace Alliance

The next meeting of the alliance has been arranged for Tuesday 31st January, 8.00p.m. at College Hill House. It is an important meeting at which we need to discuss our County wide response to the possible dispersal of Cruise Missiles. We also need to elect three officers, a co-ordinator, West Midland C.N.D. rep. and a National Council member. Anyone is welcome to attend and help plan action together.

Information contact:

Paul Telford 501218

Visit to Russia

Jim Garrison is organising a trip to Russia between 28th April and 11th May. The cost will be £329 and includes travel, hotels and food. It is planned to include visits to Kiev and Moscow and experience the May Day celebrations. Anyone interested contact:-

Jim Garrison,
East West Reach,
9 Marion Close,
Cambridge CB3 0HN

Tel: 0223 - 350917

Diary of events

- 24th Jan. Tues. (six consec. weeks)
WEA course,
America's Backyard
Madeley People's Centre
7.30p.m.
- 28 Jan. "Reds Under the bed" pantomime.
Woodside Community Centre 7.30pm £1.50 waged
50p unwaged
- 28th Jan. Jazz Band in the Square
or New St., Church,
Wellington. 10.30a.m.
- 31st Jan. Tuesday, Shropshire Allia.
College Hill House Shrews.
- 3rd Feb. Greenpeace jumble sale
Fletcher Memorial Hall,
Madeley. 6.30p.m.
- 5th Feb. Sunday, CND Know How
Training Day. 10 a.m.
People's Centre Madeley
High Street.
- 5th Feb Demonstrate in solidarity
with Soviet peace campaigners
Soviet Embassy, N. Kensington
2p.m. onwards with overnight
vigil, handing in petition on
Monday morning.
- 14 Feb TANG meeting Dawley Information Centre
7.30
- 23rd Feb. Duke of York 8.00p.m.
Broseley C.N.D. meeting.
- 25th Feb Youth CND conference - all
CND members under 21 welcome.
Contact, Teresa - 507197.
- 25th Feb Anti Trident Convention,
Manchester Free Trade Hall
- 28 Feb Chain Reaction meeting Dawley Informat-
ation Centre 7.30
- 10th March 'Protect and Survive'
type shelter in High St.,
Broseley.
- 13th Mar TANG meeting Dawley Information Centre
7.30pm
- 24th March (time and venue to be
arranged) Dr. James
Thompson, Clinical
Psychologist. (The
Psychological Effects of
Nuclear War.)
- 27th March Stop the City!
Demonstration against the
financing of war.

T.A.N.G. local contacts

For further details about Telford
Anti Nuclear Group, write to 23
Telford Road, Dawley, or phone
Paul 501218, Maria 594842, Laurens
54728, Barbara 88 2225 or peter 587532