

# CHAIN REACTION

Peter

DECEMBER 1984

NEWSLETTER OF TELFORD ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP.

## Brooklands Anti-Nuclear Group.

The new group BANG (Brooklands Anti Nuclear Group) was formed after the recent demo in Barrow. We meet once a fortnight on the Brooklands. If anyone is interested in coming to the meeting and lives on the Brooklands area contact MIKE EDWARDS. TELEPHONE 42988.

There have been three meetings so far. Many of the group are young and not aligned to any particular political party. The groups main objectives is to stop the NUCLEAR MADNESS. The aim of BANG is not to spend too much time talking but try to be active.

Plans for the future are a disco, a visit to Greenham and lots of letters. We are making this really beautiful banner... we plan to walk behind it when it is finished possibly the Easter demo.

Definite dates for the future include WINE AND CHEESE, 24, Jound Close, Brooklands, Wellington. Waged £1.50 Unwaged 75p

everybody welcome  
19th January 1985.  
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Next BANG meeting,  
12th December.  
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## S.A.N.A. Video.

The Wrekin District Council has a copy of the video 'A change in the weather' produced by S.A.N.A. It describes the atmospheric and biological consequences of a nuclear war. The video (V.H.S) is available for hire (price £1) to groups and individuals for a period of seven days. If you are interested contact P. Morton at Malinslee House telephone 505051.

## 1985 - Stop Trident.

1985 will be important in developing public awareness and opposition to the costly decision to develop the Trident nuclear submarine system. In Telford we must work towards building public pressure and create an atmosphere for change.

So far in the locality we have organised a coach to Barrow in October. We have produced a fact sheet (copy enclosed) and carried out a street referendum in Wellington (for results see article NO to Trident) We are producing a set of posters for the use of other groups and public display. In the future we must consider ways in which we can raise the issue with Trade Unionists, Church members and community groups.



TANG Membership

The TANG AGM decided that to be a paid up member of TANG would cost £3 waged and £1.50 unwaged for the next year. For this, members would receive the monthly newsletter Chain Reaction, and would be entitled to vote at the AGM.

TANG does not receive anything from national CND when local people are national CND members. We therefore need members from all who support nuclear disarmament in this area.



A merry Christmas and a peaceful new year to you all.

## Letter from Leningrad.

The fight for peace, for the removal once and for all, of the technology that destroys people, especially nuclear weapons, is an indisputed moral imperative of our time.

The contribution of the European peace movement in this struggle is enormous. It has a direct influence on the politics and the mood not only of our continent, but also the whole world. And we must remember that Europe extends to the Ural mountains and a considerable part is occupied by a state in which numerous statements made by its leaders on defending peace and on the need for disarmament are in sharp contrast to their deeds, which are aimed at speeding up the build up of military and nuclear power.

Even before you began your impressive peace marches in protest of the 'Pershing' and 'Cruise' missiles, SS20s missiles, which are capable of striking any point in Europe with a nuclear blow and which are aimed not only at your cities and factories but at your very opportunity to conduct these marches, to express your opinion freely and to take part in important decision making in the democratic way were already deployed in the USSR.

At that time when thousands of you were freely jumping over national boundaries with your peace marches, people in Moscow who simply spoke out in favour of establishing trust between nations as a pledge for peace (the group for trust), could not even leave their homes to join the peace march made by the Scandinavian peace advocates (summer 1982) through the territory of the USSR. They are being kept under illegal house arrest, their phones disconnected they are threatened with prosecution, in a word the suppressive machinery of a totalitarian state is directed against them. All this cannot be passed over in silence when peace in Europe is under discussion.

You have the opportunity and the right to request disarmament from your government. Here there is no such opportunity therefore include in your peace march programmes also requests directed to the Soviet government to dismantle all SS20s, to stop persecuting peace advocates in the USSR. After all it is only by clearing ALL nuclear weapons out of Europe that we can hope for peace and the preservation of your rights and freedom.

Trust Group.

## Call for Support.

In April of last year independent peace activist Alexander Shatravka was sentenced to three years hard labour for distributing information about the peace proposals of the trust group in Siberia.

Since that time he has been kept under appalling conditions working 16 hours a day weaving wire fencing by hand. He has suffered beatings and torture. As a result he has recently tried to commit suicide that attempt cost him an extra five years hard labour.

The UK trust builders are seeking support for Alexander and are asking people to write to him at the camp. Although letters and cards will not get to him they will reach the Soviet authorities who are particularly vulnerable to international embarrassment on human rights.

Write to

Alexander Shatravka  
USSR, DZHAMBULSKA

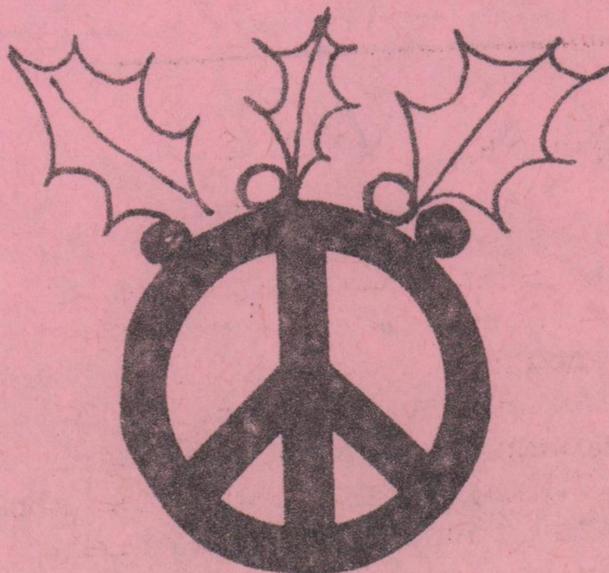
Alexander Shatravka  
USSR, Dzhambulskaya obl,  
9, Zhanatas, uchr 158/3

## Resistance at Molesworth.

CND is calling for non-violent resistance to the construction work at Molesworth. A national rota is being set up to ensure that the peace movement has a significant and continuing presence at the site. To join the rota you do not have to commit yourself to civil disobedience - other supporting roles are vital to successful action.

The west Midlands region is organising support for action on Thursdays. Transport is being arranged from this area anyone interested please contact Una Chester.

TEL - 590307



Dear T.A.N.G.,

One year after the government succeeded in bringing American Cruise Missiles to Greenham Common, they are visibly worried. The nine-month old miners' strike is the biggest threat yet to the Tory government.

Despite the single-issue nature of C.N.D. many activists have recognised the importance of the strike in the struggle for peace and against nuclear weapons. If the government succeeds in beating the miners, they will close coal mines and proceed with their plans to build expensive, inefficient, dangerous nuclear power stations.

Billions of pounds have been poured into nuclear power, yet it still only provides us with 1.5% of the energy we use. The new nuclear power stations planned by the Tories will produce electricity at three times the cost of electricity from coal burning power stations. Yet the Tories insist that pits are to be closed because they are "uneconomic". The real reason that they favour nuclear power is that it provides a steady supply of weapon-grade plutonium for N.A.T.O.'s nuclear arsenal and at the same time reduces the power of workers to defend their rights.

The government know that if they can beat a group as powerful as the miners, all future opposition to their policies will be weakened. They clearly see the strike as a political struggle. Despite the fact that the strike has cost the government much more than it would have cost to end it, they openly admit that they see it as a worthwhile investment. They used the Falklands war in a similar way, sacrificing working class people's lives and money to boost their own power. As with the Falklands, the media has dodged the real issues to whip up anger against what Thatcher has described as "the enemy within".

The vicious brutality of the Police in the strike, backed up by the court has given us a taste of what to expect in response to any future act of mass civil disobedience. It is the Police who have gone to picket lines with batons, helmets and shields. It is the Police who have been responsible for the horrific scenes on the picket lines and in the mining communities.

As well as police violence, strikers have had to suffer severe hardship. For nine months they have had to manage on donations from other workers. Their families have suffered because the D.H.S.S. have deducted £15 (recently increased to £16) a week from all benefits that they would normally be entitled to. This hardship has been responsible for many miners returning to work. Miners' families will need even more help now to help them through the winter.

The miners must win, not only to defend the tens of thousands of jobs that are threatened, but because a miners' victory will shake the Tories' confidence and threaten their authority to make the poorest sections of society pay for their preparations for war. It will challenge the logic that says that coal should remain unmined while pensioners die of cold. It is the same logic that keeps mountains of food while millions of people starve. The strike started over the single issue of job losses, but clearly has many other implications.

The miners' strike is enormously relevant to the peace movement, not least because of the government's plans to replace coal with nuclear power. C.N.D. activists should act now to support the miners by organising collections of money, food and toys. In doing so, make sure that others see the importance of the strike in the fight against nuclear power.

Don't let the miners lose. If the Tories beat the miners they can beat us all.

Dave Smith.

## NO to Trident

A street petition in Wellington by TANG showed that 86% of people contacted were against the Trident nuclear submarines.

When asked whether they agreed that the government should buy Trident for £10B. almost everyone said no. Only 12% said yes and 2% said don't know.

TANG is hoping to repeat the question to people in Madeley, Dawley and Oakengates. Are there any volunteers willing to help on a Saturday morning? To find out more, ring Paul on Telford 501218.

We cannot ask people in Telford Town Centre because it is private property and it is unlikely that permission would be allowed.

## Conqueror's Lost Log.

When Michael Heseltine became Secretary of State he ordered a full inquiry into the sinking of the Belgrano. There was not, at that time a sudden revelation of a major security leak, the loss of the Conquerors "ships log".

We have had since inquiries & much fuss because civil servants have let the press have documents that had been withheld from Parliament, or had advised the withholding of other documents; but we have not had an inquiry into a missing log, - which if the Government were to be believed, must have constituted a more important secret.

It is therefore likely that the log has been lost since that internal inquiry. I wonder why? A recent newspaper cartoon showed Nixon saying to Heseltine "be sure & burn the tapes" did the equivalent happen?

It has been said that the only time a Tory M.P. has ever told the truth in the House of Commons was when Profumo admitted being a liar & an adulterer. While we would not wish to endorse this truth does not appear readily.

## Christmas appeal.

If any one would like to give a gift to the miners' children this Christmas ring Maria 594842.

## Children of Hope.

This topic was raised by the American psychiatrist Dr Eric Chivian of M.I.T at an international congress in Helsinki of Physicians of the prevention of nuclear war. His findings based on comparative studies of Soviet and American children, include the following.

Disturbed or very disturbed about the threat of nuclear war

U.S sample 72%  
(2nd on anxiety list after parental death)  
Soviet sample 98%  
(top of anxiety list)

particular concerns : Soviet sample-being personally liked, the population explosion, starvation, falling ill, and dying.

U.S sample: looking ugly, poverty, falling ill and dying.

93% of the Soviet sample believe they can help prevent nuclear war. The mutual empathy of American and Soviet children forms a marked contrast to the obvious paranoia of adults. (reported in the Guardian newspaper on June 7th 1984.)



peace

### DATES

Tuesday 11th December - T.A.N.G meeting. 7.30pm. Dawley information centre.

Wednesday 12th December - Brooklands Anti-Nuclear Group meeting. See newsletter for details.

Tuesday 8th January 1985 - T.A.N.G meeting, plans for the year.

Saturday 19th January - wine and cheese evening, 24 Cound Close Wellington.

February (date to be fixed) 50th edition of Chain Reaction party. Venue to be arranged.