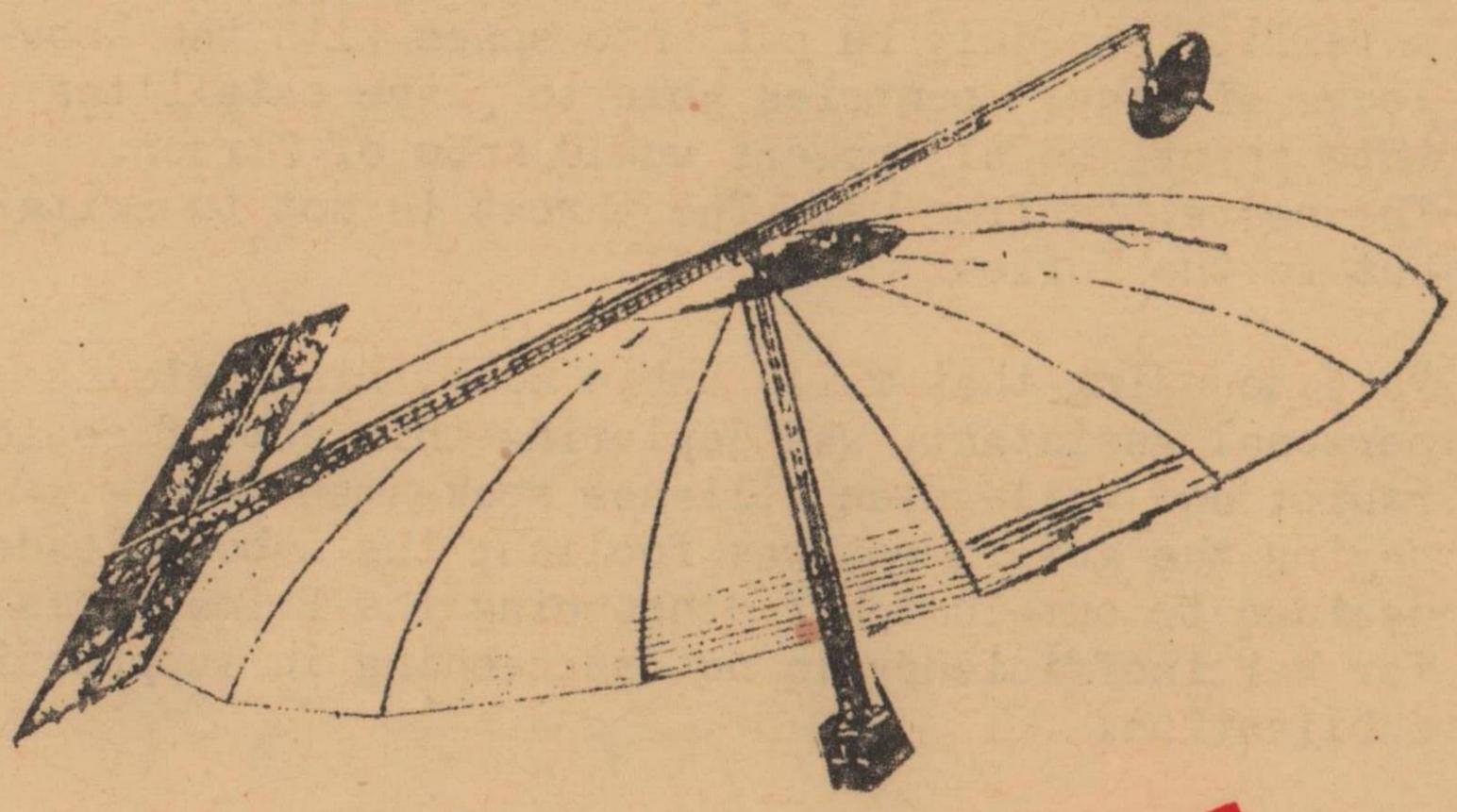


# Chain reaction

FEBRUARY 87

## PROJECT ZIRCON



**TOP SECRET**  
**( TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC )**

# THE SECRET IS FROM US.

As sales were unusually brisk of the NS for Jan. 23rd, TANG has saved a copy with the Duncan Campbell article on the Zircon Satellite, whose publication was injuncted after the TV programme "Secret Society". Any Chain Reaction reader needing to refer to it please write to TANG.

Once again a 'state secret' is not something believed to be useful to a potential enemy; but something that might be embarrassing to a government. The Observer (Jan.25) showed that the military knew of Campbell's researches for six months and did not think security endangered. Certainly any spy satellite can only be put into space with the knowledge of other countries able to place satellites into space, so all powers would know of Zircon. The secret is from us. The threat is not to Britain but to the Tories.

It is astounding that while Robin Cook, Kinnock's personal assistant, was deploring this act of censorship; and while even alliance spokesmen were saying the government was foolish; the Labour leader decided to out-Thatcher denouncing the Prime Minister for her inefficiency in not succeeding in suppressing publication.

" Britain is a 'secret society' not just because its ruling classes are or have been secretive, but because of centuries of deference, of the assumption that we had no right to know, of an incurious press and apparently unconcerned public. It is still seen as radical or even subversive to ask consistently hard questions whether as an M.P, a journalist or as a member of the public."

Duncan Campbell.

WHAT THE PRESS SAID ABOUT THE NUCLEAR CONVOY  
ACCIDENT:

from 'Today' January 19th 1987.

ANOTHER NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

' Britains 41 minutes on nuclear brink'.

" For 41 minutes last weekend it was thought that Britain was on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe.

The alert began when a military convoy carrying atomic weapons crashed in a narrow lane in Wiltshire.

Minutes after the accident a coded radio message was flashed to defence, security and environmental agencies: OLDHAM TWO.

It is a phrase used only in an emergency by the commanders of convoys carrying nuclear warheads around the United Kingdom.

And under their secret instructions, it must be sent only when there is a real danger of a major leak of radio-activity-from an explosion or fire.

OLDHAM TWO triggers preliminary arrangements for widespread evacuation of the area. The impact of the message was in sharp contrast to claims from Whitehall that there was no danger.

There is only one higher environmental alert: OLDHAM THREE. This would mean an escape of lethal radiation-perhaps from a spillage or fire. The scare is revealed in the preliminary findings of a top secret report being prepared for the government on the accident.

.....There was never a danger of a nuclear detonation. But if the overturned vehicle had begun to burn-perhaps from spilled fuel-lethal radioactive material might have escaped into the atmosphere along with heat and smoke".

(end of quotation)

The warhead in question is almost certainly a Royal Navy nuclear depth charge with a yield of up to 20 kilotons. Each Polaris warhead has a yield of 200 kilotons and therefore requires more plutonium. What if the vehicle containing one of these had crashed near Birmingham.

Last week's 'Eleventh Hour Programme' on the T.V. took a look at the Palomares disaster in Spain. On January 17th 1966 a B-52 collided with a KC 135 tanker during a mid-flight refueling operation. Burning wreckage was strewn over 100 square miles of land and sea. One bomb fell to earth relatively intact, another required a massive naval operation to fish it out of the sea. Two other bombs each with a 20-25 megaton yield scattered plutonium all over Palomares when their high explosive charges detonated.

It is thought that 1,750 tons of radioactive soil were removed by the U.S.

Very disturbing has been the way in which the Spanish government of Felipe Gonzalez, a close friend of Neil Kinnock's, has been eager to help the U.S. authorities cover up the true effects of the accident. Compensation has so far been minimal.

A.B

" The worst to be feared and the best to be expected can be simply stated. The worst is atomic war. The best would be this: a life of perpetual tension; a burden of arms draining the wealth and labour of all peoples; a wasting of strength that defies the American system or the Soviet system to achieve true abundance of happiness for the peoples of this earth."

Dwight Eisenhower.

# TELFORD'S GRAIN MOUNTAIN

On 'Midlands Today' one evening before Christmas, Telford appeared as one of a series of places in the West Midlands which had a Common Market 'Grain Mountain' store. However, no detailed mention of its location was made.

Not surprisingly, informal inquiries for information from various authorities have drawn a blank. These things usually are kept very quiet. However, there are plenty of empty factories in Telford to help contain the West's overproduction of food.

Is it a privately owned store (most likely), or does it belong to Wrekin Council or TDC? And where is it? Many people would be interested to know.



The  
hungry  
need  
bread  
not  
bombs

Stop the  
arms  
trade

# HO HUM . . . . .

1982 was a year designated by the United Nations for concentration on disarmament. But what happened? Bellicose speeches at the UN by President Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher. And the Falklands War.

1986 was a year designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Peace. But what happened? Spending on arms in the world increased to £1 million per minute. Star Wars became more likely.

So much for 'special years' supposedly devoted to peace and disarmament. What would be the effect of the United Nations accepting things as they are and designate a year as :  
' The International Year of War '

And why not? Invite world leaders to a special debate at the UN. (would they come?) Point out that the world has never been free of war since the War. Such a title for the year would almost certainly receive bigger headlines, even temporarily, than did the year of peace.



**PEACE DEBATE.**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER,**  
**SHIREHALL, SHREWSBURY.**

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**THUR. 19th FEB. 8.00pm.**

THE PEACE DEBATE WILL ALSO BE LIVE ON  
SHROPSHIRE RADIO.

**SPEAKERS**

**PAUL JOHNS & JANET BLOOMFIELD**  
**(CND)**

**KEN ALDRED & Cllr GEORGE RITCHIE**  
**(Peace through NATO)**

**COPYDATE**

The deadline for the next copy of Chain Reaction  
is February 19th. All contributions are welcome  
and should be sent to Mark Stokes, 7, Burton  
Close, Dawley, Telford. TF4 2BX. Tel 501263.

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# BRUCE KENT

SPEAKING IN TELFORD

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3rd.

## TANG MEETING.

TANGs next business meeting will be on Wednesday  
February 4th at 16, Linley Drive, Stirchley, 7.30pm.  
We will be discussing our leafletting campaign,  
CND national demonstration and other local and  
national events. ALL VERY WELCOME.

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# THE ARTS OF WARFARE.

The practice of big business sponsorship of the arts is now widely accepted, one only has to visit art exhibitions at the larger galleries to see on the promotional material in not-so-small print 'sponsored by' such and such a company. Sponsoring the arts is now seen as more than a charitable act, as former Director of the British Association of the Business Sponsorship of the Arts, Luke Rittner has said :

" A few years ago companies thought sponsoring the arts was charitable, now they realize there is another aspect; it is a tool they can use for corporate promotion in one form or another".

Telford is about to play host to A National Gallery Touring Exhibition at the Elton Gallery in Coalbrookdale (3rd February - 26th April) called APPLES to ATOMS, Portraits of Scientists from Newton to Rutherford. The exhibition which consists of 45 portraits of distinguished British scientists from the early seventeenth century to the present day is sponsored by United Technologies Corporation (UTC).

UTC is an American multinational, one of the fifty largest companies in the world. In 1984, they spent globally 3 million (tax-deductible) dollars on art sponsorship, this included several major exhibitions in Britain. Behind this facade of respectability lies a much darker side to the United Technologies Corporation. In 1984 UTC was the third highest defence contractors in the United States and today it remains one of the worlds top arms manufacturers. They are able to sponsor these shows because of their multi million dollar profits made from:-

## 1. Military Aircraft

U.T.C through a subsidiary make Pratt and Whiney engines for jet fighters and bombers. Through Sikorsky they make military helicopters. U.T.C. is the leading supplier of these two products to over

fifty Third World armies.

## 2. Cruise Missiles

U.T.C. through a subsidiary is producing the mid body section for cruise missiles. They also have contracts on I.C.B.M. and M.X. missiles

## 3. Weapons in Space?

Using some of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  billion dollars given to them by the U.S. government for research and development of new weapons U.T.C. is experimenting on the military applications of applied optics, mirror technologies and laser controls.

United Technologies Corporation also has subsidiaries in South Africa and Namibia.

In 1979, Artist Support Peace (ASP) was formed by a group of artists who wished to raise the issue of peace and politics in art and campaign against unethical business sponsorship in the arts. Since their formation they have organised petitions, leafletting and pickets outside exhibitions sponsored by firms involved in arms research, development and sales.

Telford Anti-Nuclear Group will be discussing ways in which we can draw attention to the United Technologies Corporation involvement in the Coalbrookdale exhibition at its next business meeting (see diary). But we call upon people to boycott this exhibition and write to the gallery protesting about U.T.C.s involvement.

LETTERS OF PROTEST TO

Elton Gallery,  
The Long Warehouse,  
Coalbrookdale,  
Telford Shropshire.

## ELECTION PROSPECTS

The chairman of the party in Government has just admitted, - if indeed it was not boasting - that no one with a moral conscience votes for his party. Consequently there is no need for his party to spend money boosting "caring" facilities.

Obviously a government with such an attitude is unlikely to have much sympathy with the basic CND premise that nothing can morally excuse the use or possession of weapons of mass destruction.

But that said one cannot automatically rejoice in the fact that as far as the British nuclear weapons are concerned and as far as American nuclear bases on British soil are involved; the major opposition party is pledged to policies that are in line with parts of CND policy.

It is not just that in declaring for disarmament the leaders of the Labour Party have said that they are basing their alternative policies on NATO; not just that that may give NATO a veto on disarmament, nor that since NATO is a military alliance based on the nuclear armoury of America, we would still be giving moral sanction to such weapons.

The real reason for cynicism about Labour's sincerity is that in 1964 Labour was similarly pledged to get rid of Britain's independent deterrent, to get rid of land-based American missiles from British soil & to phase out Polaris; (as well as being pledged to stop supporting the American war in Vietnam.)

Since those pledges were not kept, the Labour Left campaigned for the same demands in the early 70s, so once again, in 1974, Labour went to the country with policies which canvassers assured us were the most radical in its history, & which went most of the way towards unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The fact that, for a third time, the Labour Party is offering us the pledge that it has reformed, that a future Labour government will not continue the militarism of its predecessors, testifies only to the past broken promises.

Nor does the third "viable" alternative offer us more reassurance. The major party of the Alliance (in the sense that it numbers amongst its leaders more ex-Cabinet ministers) is recruited from those who were the most dedicated pro-nuclear militarists within the Wilson & Callaghan Governments.

While the moral consistency of the Liberal Party is demonstrated by the fact that whereas, in the time of the 1960s Wilson Governments, it campaigned against Labour's nuclear policies, against Labour's support for America's adventures in Vietnam, - rightly saying "which twin is the Tory?" - it is now content to operate as the junior partner to a party made up of the chief militarists of that time.

True it did for a time continue to retain lip-service to unilateralism, though progressively watering down its policies, so that it too has long based itself on NATO; true, even this year, the Liberal Assembly voted decisively against fudging their residual unilateralism yet further; but the party leadership has always been able to ignore the wishes of the Liberal Assembly, & this year the leaders of the resistance have already agreed to a shameful surrender of the remaining elements of unilateralism in their party's policy.

Perhaps I hear you cry that I haven't mentioned the Greens, here surely there is a morally untainted party. Not so I fear. The Ecology Party - as it then was - was launched with a basic platform, which - in part - described immigration as a form of pollution, advocating a campaign to end such immigration. The founder of the party openly stated that his aim in founding it was to win ecology-minded people away from CND & other radical organizations.

No doubt the Green Party is very different now, from the party Edward Goldsmith founded; but how can we know it will never change back?

L.O.



# DIARY

Wed. Feb. 4th..... TANG meeting, 16, Linley Drive, Stirchley. 7.30 pm. ALL VERY WELCOME.

Wed. Feb. 18th..... CHAIN REACTION meeting. 7, Burton Close, Dawley. 7.30p.m. ALL WELCOME

Thursday. Feb. 19th..... DEBATE. Speakers Paul Johns, Janet

Thur. Feb. 19th..... Debate. Speakers, Paul Johns, Janet Bloomfield (CND). Ken Aldred and Cllr. George Richie (Peace Through NATO) Council Chamber, Shire-Hall, Abbey Foregate. see newsletter.

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WEDNESDAY FEB. 25th..... TANG WILL BE SHOWING A VIDEO ABOUT THE HILDA MURRELL CASE. AT THE BUNGALOW, HILL TOP GARAGE, DAWLEY ROAD. ALL VERY WELCOME. 7.30p.m.

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Wed. March 4th..... TANG meeting. 16, Linley Drive, Stirchley. 7.30pm. ALL VERY WELCOME.

# ABUSE OF TRUST

**FEB 28**

SATURDAY 1-4pm

*A call for all women  
to Demonstrate*

**AMERICAN EMBASSY**

Grosvenor Square  
**LONDON**

*Gather at 1pm. For a vigil at 2pm.  
Come wearing Blue  
bring a banner.....*

## THE U.S. IN THE PACIFIC MICRONESIA



The presence of the United States Government in Micronesia continues to be the cause of many injustices, adding to the legacy of pain and suffering, neglect and political denial which the people have lived ever since they were first asked to leave their islands to make way for the atomic and hydrogen bomb tests in 1945.

Exile, radiation contamination, malnutrition, disease, poverty are the result for the Marshallese. Political pressure of a country committed to a nuclear free policy such as Balau is, prevents self determination and political independence. The building of military systems and military establishments, including the Kwajalein Missile Range where it is proposed that 'Star Wars' will be developed, takes away landowners rights and uses scarce land resources. All these commit the peoples of these countries to a life of military occupation.

To remove the burden of a trust which has never been implemented the Compact of Free Association has been drawn up by the United States to allow them to retain their military interests and remove the domestic responsibilities which were entrusted to them when the Micronesia was given to them as a trust Territory by the United Nations.

For too long the United States has continued to keep their activities and the consequences for the Micronesians in the dark. FEBRUARY 28th will be an opportunity to act on our knowledge and oppose what is happening.

for more information contact  
Lynda or Eve 08864203

# JOIN TELFORD ANTI NUCLEAR GROUP

I would like to join TANG. Please find enclosed  
my subscription; £3.00 waged \*  
£1.50 unwaged

I understand I will now be put on the mailing  
list for 'Chain Reaction', the newsletter of  
TANG.

.....  
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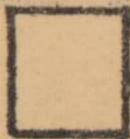
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TEL. ....

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Date .....



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Nuclear Group to

MARIA WAKELY, 15, FELLOWS CLOSE, LITTLE DAWLEY,  
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WHAT WE CANT  
DO ALONE  
WE CAN DO  
TOGETHER

