



# CHAIN REACTION

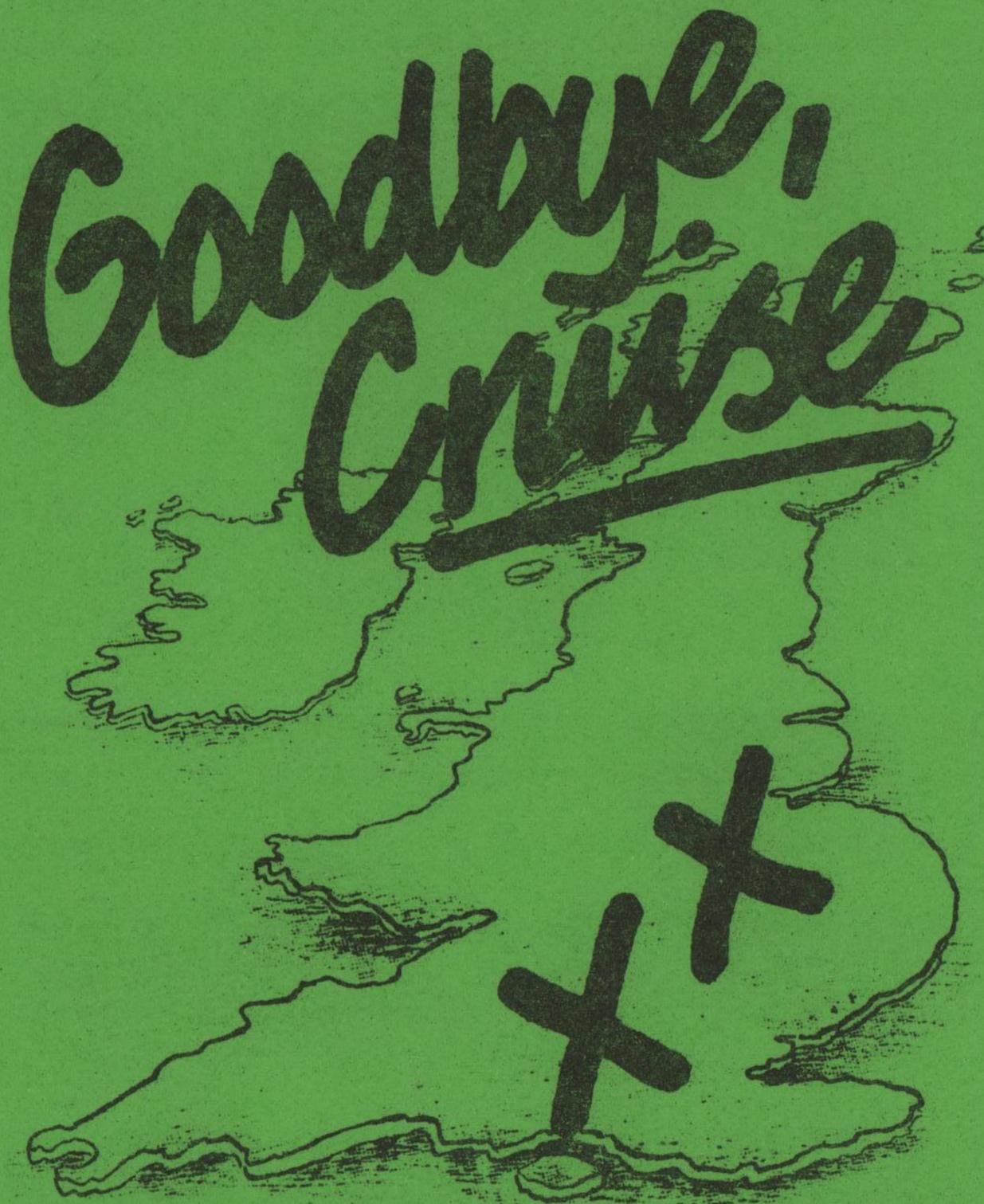
JANUARY 1988



Richard Willson

## ITALY FORSAKES THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Italy has just taken a decision which will have the effect of halting nuclear power. A referendum on 9 November now allows local authorities to veto nuclear plants; it halts financial incentives given to encourage communities to accept nuclear stations, and it withdraws Italy's 33% stake in the Fast Breeder programme. Joining Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Portugal and Luxembourg as 'non-nuclear' nations, there is now strong pressure for Switzerland to follow suit in a forthcoming referendum next year.



### **WORLD FIRST.**

Greenham and Molesworth can breathe again. CND congratulates Mr Gorbachev and President Reagan on the agreement to remove 2,000 American and Soviet missiles from Europe. This is the world's first ever negotiated reduction in nuclear weapons. Our 30 years of campaigning have not been in vain.

### **BUT.**

2,000 missiles scrapped leaves 48,000 to go. Already there are plans to replace the dismantled missiles and undermine the treaty. To keep disarmament going we must keep the pressure up.

### **JOIN THE VIGILS.**

During the summit we are holding vigils outside the Soviet and US embassies. Ring 01-251 0027 for details or write to CND at 22-24 Underwood St, London N1 7JG for a summit briefing pack. Now is the time to make our feelings felt.

**Nuclear weapons  
could cost us the Earth.**



## Those Talks.

What is estimated at around 45% of the world's nuclear weapons are to be abolished if the tentative agreement reached between Gorbachov & Reagan is finalised & then ratified.

- Already governments in the West - & probably in the East as well, but that we don't know, - are talking of compensation; (news programmes suggest that Britain is ordering new air launch missiles as part of this.)

Tory propagandists - Richey in the Salop. Star, Younger elsewhere - have claimed that this would have come earlier had it not been for the activities of the peace movement. Given that only a few months ago the Government was worried that the present proposals would leave Britain undefended, this is a palpable lie.

It could be a step forward, provided that it is the first of many; provided that is that the pressure on politicians is maintained. The danger is that if everyone thinks that the agreement means more than it does, that that pressure will not be.

The Greenham & Molesworth demos made this point, & are to be welcomed; more to the point join us on the coach next Easter to the Aldermaston March.

To reword Neil Armstrong - the first man on the moon:-

One giant step for man,  
One small step for mankind.

### "Nothing to celebrate in '88"

- January 26, 1988 marks the bicentennial of British colonisation of Australia and 1988 will be a year of celebration. The indigenous Aboriginal population feel they have "Nothing to Celebrate" and plan to use the white celebrations as a poignant counterpoint to their publicisation of the two hundred years of exploitation and brutality that Aboriginal people have suffered under white rule. 1988 will be a year of

mourning for the many thousands killed; even in present-day Australia a black person dies in police custody every eleven days on average.

However, Aboriginals are making demands. They say—"We want land for our tribe . . . We want our own way of life . . . We are willing to live side-by-side with others but we want to live our own culture and traditions."

Survival International and other groups are campaigning throughout 1988 and visits to Australia are planned. Aboriginal representatives will also visit this

country to protest at British involvement in the celebrations. Funds, ideas, offers of help and more funds for airfares will be gratefully received at: **Aboriginal Bicentennial Protest, 14B Chardmoor Road, London N16 6JD.** Those wanting to contact Survival International can do so at: **310 Edgware Road, London W2 1DY.**

Peace News 11/12/87

# DIARY.

Sat. Jan. 2nd. ... TANG Social, c/o Sue & Paul Wolfe,  
Ivy House, Chapel Street, Dawley,  
(tel.) 501218.  
£2-00 waged, £1-00 unwaged

Wed. Jan. 6th. ... TANG monthly meeting; 7.30  
17 Linley Drive, Stirchley;

protest meeting Baker Educational  
Bill, Madeley Court Centre, 7.30;

Wed. Jan. 20th. Chain Reaction Meeting, 7.30;  
6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay;

Tues. Jan. 26th. 200 years of the occupation of  
Australia. \* See p.3

Wed. Feb. 3rd. TANG monthly meeting, as for  
January.

Wed. Feb. 17th. Chain Reaction, as for January.

March 16-24th Central America Week; for details  
of events contact Chris Tyler  
(Telford Central America Group)  
(tel.) 617768

Don't forget

Easter, April 4th., Monday TANG will be taking a  
coach down for the last day of the  
Aldermaston March.



# STOP

## The Ultimate Blasphemy

Recently , I was fortunate in hearing Fr Alfred Willetts speak to the TANG public meeting . He is a long-time campaigner for peace and disarmament- his determination and beliefs being rooted in his Christian faith.

Rev. Rex Hallam, in his introduction, spoke of the statements made by the Methodist Church, and others, on war, both recently and earlier this century. Sadly, few ministers have taken up the challenge to repeat these.

Alfred told of several occasions when he had been verbally abused , specifically because of his clerical position. To complement that he has also been applauded for his stand by people who welcome a 'man of the cloth' standing up for his Christian beliefs. For many people , seeing a cleric outside a nuclear base is such a challenge that they dismiss him/her as a communist, or less critically as well-intentioned but misled. It is thought provoking to consider what Jesus would have done were he a young man today.

Alfred later spoke of meeting a woman from the Pacific Islands ( a description suggesting peacefulness , but now foully tainted by the nuclear powers) . She told him of the repeated still births of babies, the cure of cancer, and ill health due to diseased fish (a consequence of breaking coral in the atomic tests). This was deeply moving for me. It can be understood countries at war having civilian casualties (however distressing) but it is obscene that Pacific Islanders, at war with no-one , are suffering at the hands of the French military, who in turn are not fighting a war, only enhancing the evil power of their nuclear arsenal.

What horrors a nuclear war would release when this happens in a time of 'peace' (sic).

Alfred spoke on , but I have run out of space so I hope to continue in next month's issue.

ROBERT SAUNDERS

**IRIDENT** 

## Local Democracy

TANG hopes that the new parish councils will provide opportunities for grass roots democracy. In a town with a woefully inadequate public transport system, with a privately owned town centre, where town's folk have no statutory right to go whenever they wish; and consequently a lack of basic cohesion; the institution of the parishes should be a major factor in helping people to feel they belong.

## TANG's cruise missile dumped.

TANG took unilateral steps towards disarmament. Perhaps optimistically celebrating the Gorby-Ronnie show we requested Wrekin Council refuse department to collect our polystyrene cruise missile. Be warned we still have an equally lethal Trident.

Peace News 11/12/87



# TASK FORCE TELFORD — the saga continued

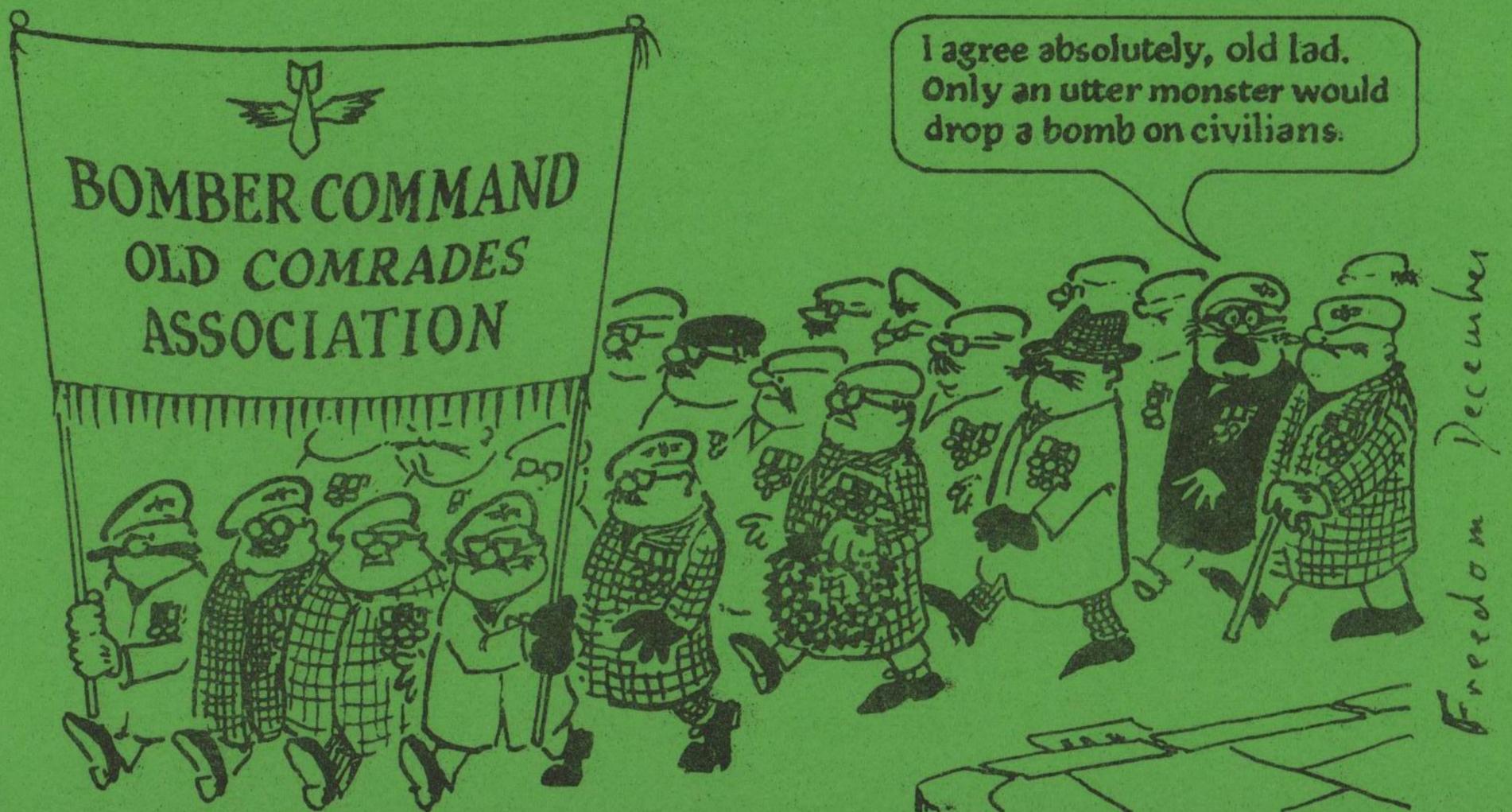
In last month's Chain Reaction, TANG said that the local outdoor 'combat games' such as Task Force should be banned as they encourage a killing mentality.

The Telford Journal gave the story front page headlines, with the Task Force director quoted as saying that it is not 'just' a shooting game but combines team work, logical thinking and humour. Also that it is a harmless outlet for pent-up frustration.

Doubtless some might agree with that, but the bottom line is still the pandering to the violent streak in people.

These tendencies seem to be encouraged in young people too, with the shops crowded with toy guns as though there was no Hungerford or Wolverhampton.

Doesn't it appear strange that when we celebrate the birth of someone who wanted people to love each other, we do so by buying guns for our children.



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