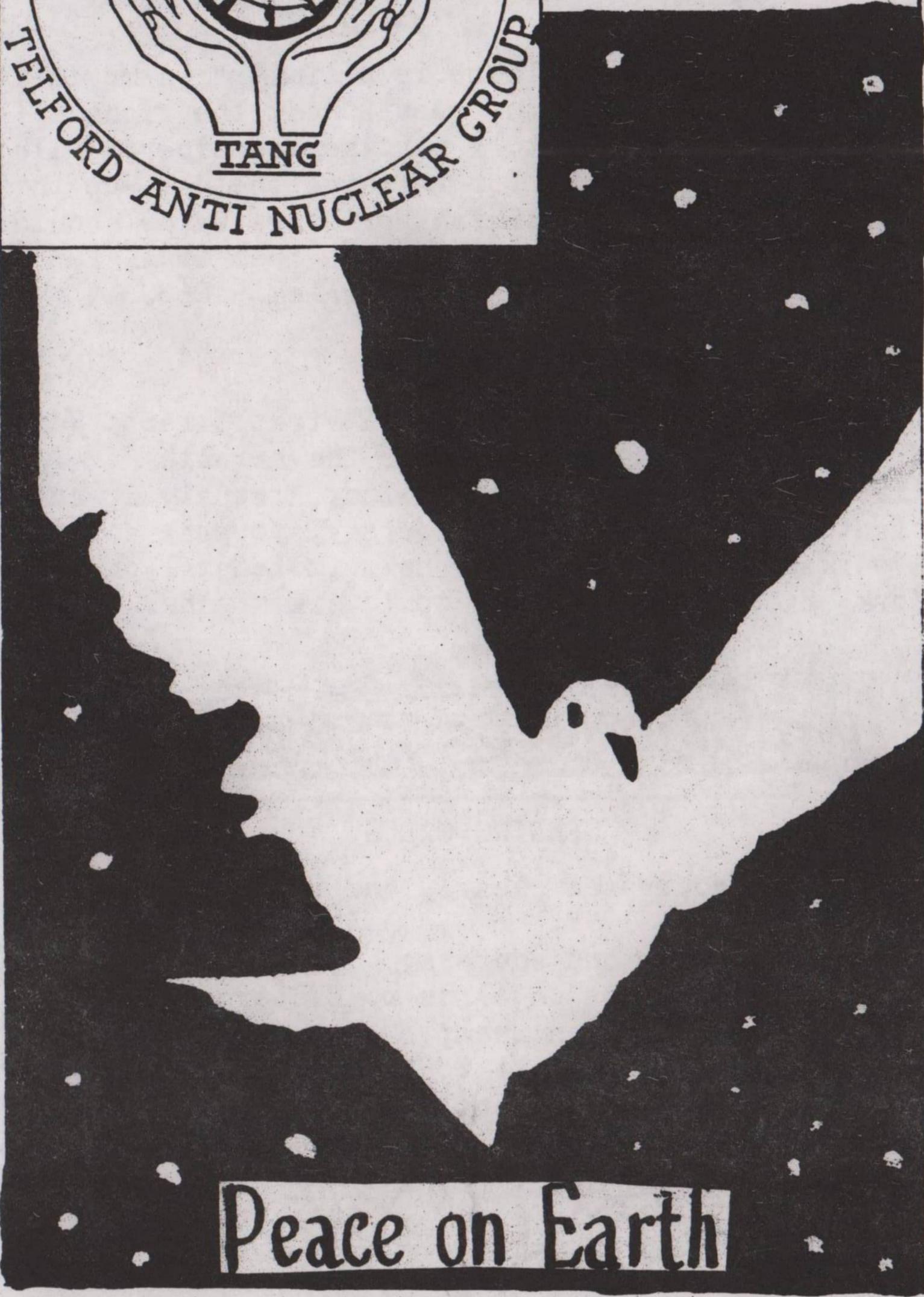




DEC/JAN

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Peace on Earth

We publish each month names of people who have been imprisoned for their actions in the cause of peace. We are sure that your letters and cards would be very much appreciated should you feel able to write.

## ISRAEL

42 members of Yesh Gvul - "There is a limit" (a movement of Israeli reserve soldiers who questioned the right of the government to call them to a war they considered illegal) have already been imprisoned for refusing the call-up this year in response to the Palestinian uprising. Cards should be sent to "imprisoned refuseniks", c/o Yesh Gvul, POB 4172, Tel Aviv, or Yesh Gvul, POB 6953, Jerusalem 91068.

## USA

Felton Davis c/o Catholic Worker, 36 E First Street, New York, NY 10003. In early October, for the seventh consecutive year, entered the picatinny Arsenal, a war lab and manufacturing facility in New Jersey, to pray and talk with the workers. Currently being held in federal prison in New York, faces a sentence of up to six months.

# PRISONERS FOR PEACE

## SENDING CARDS

- \* Write names and addresses clearly and in capital letters on envelopes;
- \* Include your own name and address;
- \* Don't add extra messages on cards to Eastern Europe or South Africa but just sign them;
- \* If a card is returned send it to the relevant Ambassador with a request that he/she forward it.



## DIARY

### **EVERY THURSDAY**

7.30 pm

**Greenpeace meeting**  
Aqueduct Community Centre

Weds. 7th Dec.

7.30 pm.

**TANG business meeting .**  
16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.  
**All very welcome.**

During December

Send Christmas cards to 'Prisoners for Peace', see elsewhere.

Weds. 28th Dec.

### **HOLY INNOCENTS DAY**

Christian CND are holding a commemoration in London. Assemble 12.00 Somerset House, The Strand. OR , locally, put a lighted candle in your window to commemorate the children who have died from the effects of radiation and to serve as a symbol of light and hope for the future.

### **EVERY THURSDAY**

### **Greenpeace meeting**

Weds. 4th Jan.

7.30 pm.

Chain Reaction meeting.  
6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.

Fri. 6th Jan.

7.30 pm.

**BRUCE KENT / George Richey**  
Debate on "Britain's Nuclear Defence Policies". Shirehall , Shrewsbury  
Free admission by ticket only,  
from Crabapple shop or from Dave Green,  
Tel: Crosshouses 418.

Sat. 7th Jan.

8.00 pm.

**TANG NEW YEAR SOCIAL**  
**See newsletter for details.**

Weds. 25th Jan.

7.30 pm.

**TANG business meeting .**  
16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.  
**All very welcome.**

Weds. 1st Feb.

7.30 pm.

Chain Reaction meeting.  
6 Myford Cottages, Horsehay.

## Telford Greenpeace formed.

Chain Reaction welcomes the formation of a Greenpeace group, launched on November 10th.

The new group has been invited to use the Chain Reaction diary for advertising its meetings, and (until and unless they have a newsletter of their own) our columns for arguing their case, if it so desires.

We are sure that there will be many ways in which the groups may co-operate, and TANG may well affiliate.

Greenpeace meetings are held every Thursday at 7.30 pm at Aqueduct Community Centre, and are open to all interested. Further details are available from Jacquie Darbyshire, 30 Majestic Way, Aqueduct.



## **CHAIN REACTION CONTRIBUTIONS**

Regular readers may have noticed that the pattern of meetings has been changed. This is an attempt to bring forward the publication date of *Chain Reaction* to the start of the month stated on the cover. This particular issue is a double one to cover December and January; the new pattern of meetings starts in January for the February issue.

Please send us **your** contributions to make these pages more varied. Don't worry if you can't type it, we will do that. (An Amstrad disc containing a locoscript file (any version) would be ideal, discs would, of course, be returned).

Please send or give your offerings in whatever form 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,<br>Wellington. | Tel: 641852 |

**Deadline for next issue: 4th JANUARY 1989**

## That word Unilateralism

At various times people prominent in CND have found the word an hindrance to campaigning. Undoubtedly it has been made a swear word by the media who have pretended that because unilateral means literally in one line, that this means that nuclear disarmers have a one-sided preference for the East over the West in the Cold War. Whereas in fact a watch-word for us has been "non-alignment"

A line, single or otherwise is not necessarily a side, so the alleged translation is demonstrably a falsification. Certainly an unilateralist wants to see action in his own country, whether or not that is reciprocated; and certainly wants to dispense with the multi-lateralist "peace treaty" formalities.

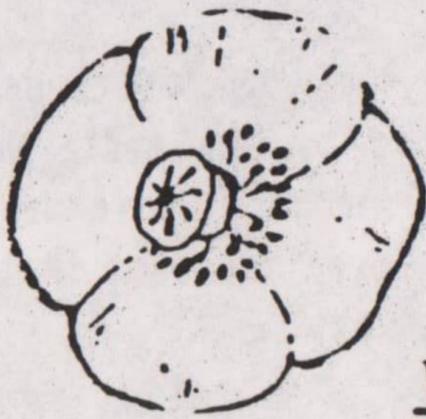
Whether because of moral imperative, - there are some things that are so evil that no one should contemplate doing them, regardless of the actions of others; - whether because there is good reason to distrust politicians, and particularly those that achieve so much through politics that they are described as statesmen, so that we do not wish to wait for governments to give us disarmament; or whether simply because we do not believe that the bomb is an effective defence let alone a deterrent, & we think that brandishing the bomb which effectively amounts to saying "we will commit collective suicide and wipe out the world's population if you don't do as we say", is the height of stupidity. Unilateralists see no sane or moral reason for retaining Britain's Bomb.

That does not in any way imply that we see a sane or moral reason for retaining anyone else's bomb. We are not necessarily all agreed that we think unilateralism a suitable policy for each and every country though this was for most of the "First Wave" written into the Campaign's basic policy statement. And most of those who would oppose reaffirming this clause ("The Crewe Amendment") would argue that because of the delicate balance of world power, Britain could unilaterally disarm and take some of the heat out of arms' race, with-out upsetting the balance, but that few other countries could.

There have been various attempts to accomodate to Media pressure and find some other word against which there is not the same prejudice. That under-rates the power of the Press to make a perfectly normal word appear a swear-word. In fact unilateralism was initially adopted by the standing joint committee of peace organizations, (about an year before the formation of CND,) in place of the word "unconditional" which it was thought was too closely connected with total pacifism, & had been too much misinterpreted by the Media.

TANG has traditionally felt that to abandon a term inextricably linked to the campaign's past would suggest we were ashamed of that past & really give a weapon to the right wing media; however much the content of the term was re-affirmed with the change. So we have con- tinued to use it where national office has played it down.

*Laurens Otter*



WHITE POPPIES



Dear TANG,

This is the second year I have worn a white poppy. Last year I wore it on my coat. Going along in the street it caused no particular comment.

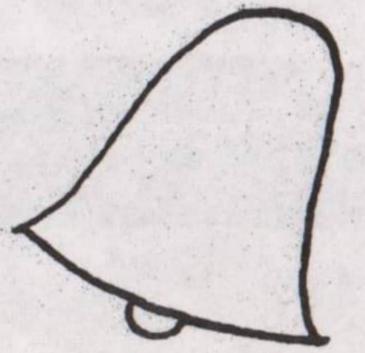
This year I wore the poppy on my indoor clothes and it has caused far more interest. I work in a large Junior school. Many children made comments such as "I like your poppy, Miss." This gave me a chance to give brief explanations. One child in particular was extremely interested in the idea of a white poppy.

In the staffroom several teachers indicated that they would have liked one but didn't know where to get them. Other adults too were very interested and curious to know more. I have had a number of 'peace-related' conversations which I am certain would not have arisen without the white poppy.

In view of the interest in white poppies perhaps it would be an idea for TANG to do an informative item for the local press/radio to go out in early November next year.

I did use the White Poppies cover to the last Chain Reaction in school. Could that form the basis for a poster for interested parties? I understand that at least one church group locally would be interested in purchasing quite a lot of white poppies.

Yours Sincerely,  
(Name & address supplied)



Telford  
Anti-Nuclear  
Group

Invite You to



a

New Year  
Social



SATURDAY 7th JANUARY

AT 16, LINLEY DRIVE, STIRCHLEY, TELFORD.

8.00 p.m.

WAGED £2 UNWAGED £1.50.



## A WEEKEND IN MANCHESTER

Five Telford people went to Manchester for the national CND conference in mid-November and returned with quite a few ideas as well as realising that TANG wasn't as badly off as we thought. In fact, one of the many small group workshops at conference was led by one of the TANG delegation on the topic of groups changing their function and name- just what Chain Reaction & TANG has been discussing in the last six months. It appears that others are going through this same thought process.

There was one conference day given over to group workshops. You could choose three to attend out of the twenty on offer. Some were quite useful to TANG in a practical way (eg. how to activate 'sleeping' members, even those with minimal time to spare), whereas others were a bit of a dead loss. It was rumoured that one or two delegates sloped off into the city rather than risk being excited or bored by these.

The main conference sessions were early Saturday morning and all day Sunday. Bruce Kent was elected unopposed as Chairperson (for the second year running, although he said that would be the final year). He and four vice-chairs took turns at chairing the conference. Considerable care was taken in accepting speakers from the floor to ensure an approximate balance of males and females from the 700 or so present. One of the vice-chairs elected was a former bomber pilot, Alistair Mackie of ex-Services CND. Also elected was Mary Brennan from the West Midlands.

Voting on the motions was by holding up your red voting card. If it was a close result a card vote was taken, which meant putting in a 'for' or 'against' card into the voting boxes as they were brought round. Usually, however, the result was quite clear.

On the lively debate about NATO and the campaigning on the latter's 40th birthday next April, it was decided to reinforce CND's demand for the closure of all USA bases in Britain. However, any national demo in London next year would not concentrate just on withdrawal from NATO because it was felt that there was a need for more public awareness on the issue first.

Despite the disguised pleas of one or two MP's present, CND decided to stay well clear of involving itself in party political campaigning, either now or just before any future election.

The importance of chemical weapons was finally given specific backing with the formation of a chemical weapons campaigning group. Until now, CND has done little on this.

However, not all is rosy. National membership of CND (which is quite separate from membership of TANG) has slightly declined. On the other hand, more Youth CND groups are being formed. Indeed, Telford reflects this (see details elsewhere).

We came away from the weekend moderately encouraged. As Bruce Kent said, the movement is still going despite dire predictions to the contrary. No one ever thought (did they?) that nuclear weapons would disappear overnight: it will take many years of committed campaigning. But it is not an impossible dream.

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# What is Peace Care?

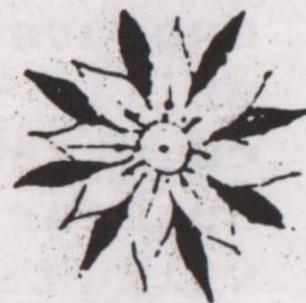
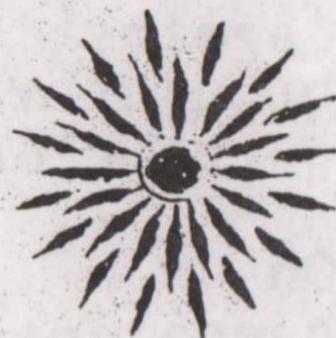
David Harding has been General Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a widely-known Methodist preacher. He and his wife Christine are now living in Exmouth, but that does not mean they have retired. Far from it! After a lifetime of radical work for peace through non-violent means, they recognise that there are many different ways of being involved with peace care.

In the South Devon port where they live, they can offer different types of short-term stay for individuals, families or groups who wish to share in their outlook on life. There it is possible for a person or small group to be anything from

virtually independent to well integrated into the family and its peace concerns. It is also possible to be engaged in the most strenuous education programme or to entertain oneself restfully. Accommodation is very limited so it is advisable to book a visit as far ahead as possible.

David and Christine Harding have a variety of resources to offer, including the giving of advice and information on many peace matters, either directly or by correspondence or telephone. They can occasionally travel to meet up with other groups wherever hospitality can be arranged.

Ask them for their first annual report, published in September: 39 Halsdon Road, Exmouth.



## TRANSFORMING T.A.N.G. An open letter.

Thank you Tot for performing the difficult task of chairing the recent A.G.M.

I am writing as a regular reader of Chain Reaction who came to that meeting to find out more about T.A.N.G. and get involved in the transfusion and transformation of T.A.N.G. which I gather from the correspondence in these columns was desired. Sadly what I experienced at the A.G.M. does not lead me to believe that the changes occurring are anything like radical enough.

For one thing I was most unhappy about the continual division assumed between them (the public) and us (good anti-nuclear types). If there is one political anachronism that social change movements can ill afford it is this divisive attitude which is itself at the heart of the nuclear mentality. Anti-nuclear activity cannot just be a question of political action 'out there' but must include an honest and open exploration of the process by which our organising and campaigning is carried out. Power relations within the group, hidden agendas and personal disagreements must all be identified and resolved in order to build a group which validates and supports the different skills and contributions of all its members. For this reason alone consensus decision making is not an extravagant luxury but is basic to encouraging mutual support, respect and empowerment. For the way we act towards one another is also the root of the very global threats we all face. Nuclear weapons have not appeared in a social, political or spiritual vacuum. They are the logical outcome of the fragmentations and divisions people have constructed - and which we have all internalised to some extent. A truly anti-nuclear politics must examine how we create enemies and distance ourselves from the support and caring of others, how we deny our vulnerability and maintain our own defensive and divisive attitudes. Consensus decision-making is a vital aspect of alternative, collective action against the fragmentation of our culture; by it the more obviously powerful and articulate members of the group learn to share their gifts with the less apparently confident and articulate (who are also usually the less educationally privileged) are encouraged to find their voice. I saw little evidence of this process at work in the A.G.M. Rather T.A.N.G. seems to be continuing as it has in the past to let a few voices speak for all. What is T.A.N.G. doing to increase the confidence of its members generally? It is not enough to ask new  
....continued

people to assume official functions, in the context of decision-making by votes, without recognising and working with people's reasons for not assuming greater responsibility: the devolution of power (for that is what this is) will never occur 'naturally' in any organisation. A truly effective and mutually supportive group would give this much greater priority.

Which relates to the question I asked that night - and I feel is still substantially unanswered. Has T.A.N.G. done any real listening to why people are so reluctant to support what we believe are rational and sane demands for disarmament? There seems even less support for T.A.N.G. outside its membership than I had hoped - which I believe must be related to the numbing effects of the threats we all live under. For it is an enormously difficult task to begin to come to terms with the scale of the threat- the disruption, the possible ending of life's long evolution on earth. People need a great deal of encouragement to even consider this possibility. But until they do, of course they will opt for ignoring the issue, going along with the government's preparations for Armageddon. And this work must begin (and then continue) within our own circles of opposition: I voiced at the meeting the need I perceived for T.A.N.G. members to share their feelings about these threats rather than keep proposing actions 'out there'. I believe this 'inner work' is political and is the next step we need to take collectively. I was suspicious that the 'fourth option' (changing names/ direction being the first 3) - of ceasing altogether was laughed out of consideration. For the need to be always doing things, to keep going at any cost, can be the means by which we ourselves avoid confronting our deep unease, the pain and desperation which the threats we face can induce. Only when these feelings are shared can we release our full creative response - of anger, sadness, imaginative political action, prayer etc. Then a group such as T.A.N.G. would become an exciting, supportive and empowering experience for all concerned - and the vital and joyful energy that it would generate would influence and affect other people far more than the hectoring and predictable commentaries that too often fill these pages. Then anti-nuclear activities would be experienced by 'the public' (i.e. everyone we meet everyday in all our walks of life) as something exciting, something to fight for, something that interests and concerns us all. Until T.A.N.G. puts its own house in order, how can it, rightly, expect to influence others and create a more peaceful world?

In peace and hope for the future- of T.A.N.G. and the world,

Alex Wildwood, 130 Watling St., Wellington.

## Editors' Response to the 'open letter'

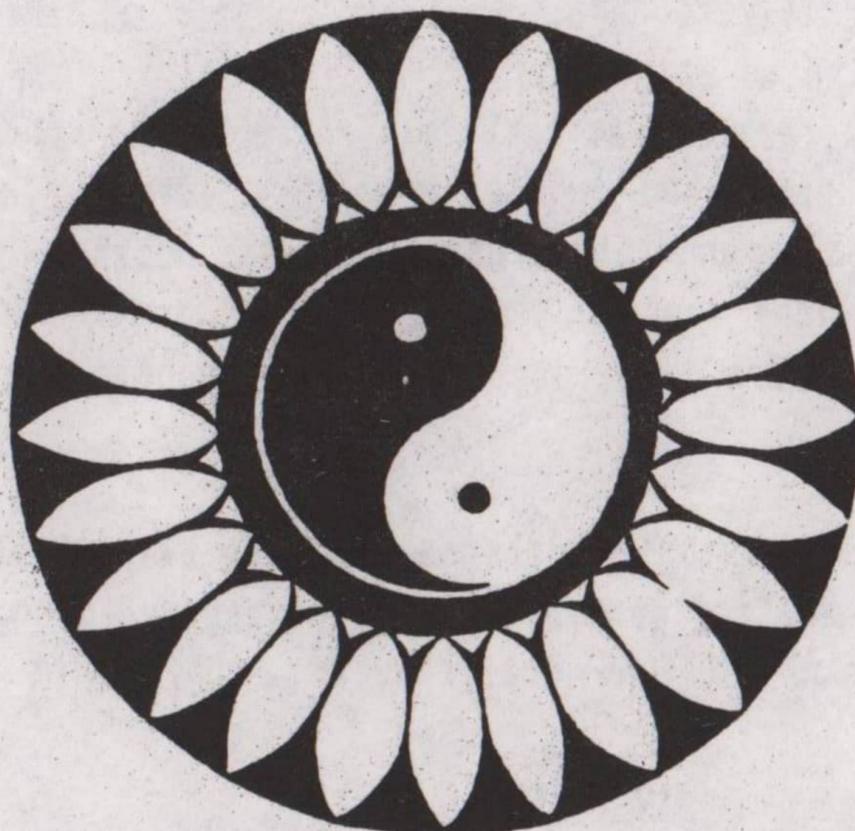
Thankyou for your interesting and thought provoking letter.

We are not aware , nor as far as we know does it appear to others, that we continually make a distinction between "them (the public) and us (good anti-nuclear types)" . We are however aware that we make different assumptions when writing in *Chain Reaction* than in press releases to the media.

Regarding "power relations within the group, hidden agendas....", for the last four years those attending TANGs business meetings have largely been the same people - this group stability would not have continued for such a time span if we were fundamentally flawed in this respect. This doesn't mean that we couldn't improve, but we don't feel that the situation is as bad as the reader might infer from this letter.

TANG's emphasis has been more directed to public campaigning than the perspective taken in Alex's letter which is more concerned with "inner work".

We have always invited contributions to *Chain Reaction*, perhaps we need to find a more effective way of eliciting views and articles from the membership.



## "Will you chair the A.G.M.?"

"Alright" , I said dubiously. Two or three weeks later I got there early , feeling very nervous. Perhaps no-one else was coming!

But you did come, quite a few of you. ( From memory there were 20 of us plus some apologies) .It was good to see you and to know that people do actually read "Chain Reaction" .

It was particularly heartening to see the young well represented and to hear that they are about to start a YCND group locally. ( William is the contact for this embryonic group, Tel: Telford 596386)

We started by going around the circle introducing ourselves. After this the meeting proceeded predictably and smoothly until we reached item 3, the group's name and future role. This was opened by a summary from Peter of the debate so far and then thrown open to the floor. Many interesting and valid points were raised. I found myself torn between the desire to let the debate reach a natural agreed conclusion and the need to finish the meeting by 10.00 p.m. with a structure to carry us through the next year.

I think we agreed the following:

- 1) A broad agreement that the article "TANG and other groups" from last month's "Chain reaction" summarises the current and immediate future position of the group, i.e. that nuclear disarmament remain the primary object of the group but that this has legitimate connections with the other issues mentioned.
- 2) That this document would be considered and refined further at the next(?) business meeting of the group.
- 3) That the name remain as TANG. (We considered Telford Peace Group and Telford Peace Action Group).
- 4) That suggestions made at the A.G.M. be considered and adopted where possible. These were principally: hold business meetings in a public place ; print a brief statement of the group's tenets in each "Chain Reaction" ; specifically invite people to contribute articles to "Chain Reaction" ; be more aware of each other's needs and more supportive to each other.
- 5) The responsibilities remained as last year, except that Robert volunteered to assist Peter with the press and publicity work. (Laurens - secretary; John - treasurer ; Barbara - sales and literature; Peter and Robert - press ).
- 6) A realisation that more contributions , of time and of articles, from the wider base of supporters are required. A core of 7 people cannot, nor want to, do this alone.

I think and hope that something has changed. I came away feeling exhausted but reasonably happy . The meeting generated a lot of energy. I hope we can harness some of it for the good of TANG collectively and for the individuals that comprise it.

*Tot Daves*

## What does TANG stand for?

TANG stands for opposing militarism, specifically but not exclusively by demanding unilateral nuclear disarmament, and by opposing all military alliances based on weapons of mass destruction.

TANG is opposed to the destruction of the environment, seeing the threat from nuclear waste, nuclear power and nuclear weaponry as the greatest single element in that destruction.

TANG opposes imperialism, racialism, and believes that the metropolitan countries which have grown rich at the expense of the underdeveloped world have a moral duty to do more to feed the hungry ; we oppose the exploitation of such countries by companies mining for uranium, and see this as the latest example of imperialist attitudes.

TANG does not believe the Bomb to be an evil in isolation from others ; if there were not great social evils the Bomb could not have been made, as in most countries where it has been made this has been done without the knowledge or consent of the people. It has led to a growth of state power and a loss of liberty.



## A YCND GROUP FOR TELFORD?

Various young people in the area have independently asked us if a YCND ( Youth CND) exists in the area. Up to now the response has had to be "No, why don't you form one".

Now William Williams is hoping to do just that, he already has a list of 20 potential members and is about to organise a meeting.

If you are interested contact him on Telford 596386, or write to him at 10 Bonningdale Crescent , Brookside.

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I would like to be put on the mailing list for CHAIN REACTION. Please find enclosed my subscription for the next year's issues:

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Unwaged £1.50

I have no objection to my name and address being stored on a computer purely for the purposes of addressing chain reaction to me.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Name .....

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Please send subscription **NOW DUE** payable to **Telford Anti Nuclear Group** to:

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

**ONE WORLD**