



ΕΚΔΟΣΗ
 ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ

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.

THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

- 1) Wear a white poppy, on its own or with a red one.
- 2) Come to the A.G.M. and make your voice heard,
(Weds Nov 8th, see inset) .
- 3) Order a peace diary from Barbara (Tel: 598452, or see her at the A.G.M.)
- 4) Return the slip to re-subscribe to **CHAIN REACTION**.

ENGINEER FOR HAZARDOUS ITEMS SAFETY

Telford, Shropshire

You will be responsible for the safe receipt, storage, disposal, issue and information on all Radiac and hazardous items in a Central Ordnance Depot. You will ensure that staff dealing with hazardous items are correctly trained and that details of all relevant regulations are kept up-to-date.

You must have a degree, or equivalent, in an appropriate engineering or scientific discipline and have at least 2 years' relevant experience. Alternatively you must have an HNC/HND/FTC, or equivalent, in an appropriate subject and have substantial experience. You must be familiar with the practical application of health and safety legislation from the Health and Safety at Work act to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH).

Starting salary will be in the range £11,705 - £15,500 with further increments, depending on performance, up to £18,135.

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE UP TO £5000 MAY BE AVAILABLE.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 20 October 1989) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: T(BB)85.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

Job advert in Shropshire Star 5.10.89.

Your chance to be responsible for 'radioactive' training at C.O.D. Donnington ('Radiac', with a capital R, is presumably the buzz word for radioactivity). It may not just be old luminous dial watches either. You could even be training people to deal with the weapons grade stuff. Who knows? Apply for further details and find out.

A TIME FOR PEACE

White Poppies for Peace



FROM BARBARA LAMPLUGH TELFORD 598452
30p EACH MONEY GOES TO PEACE PLEDGE UNION

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY is NOVEMBER 12

PEACE WEEK NOVEMBER 4 - 12, 1989

The white poppy symbolises remembrance of all the victims of war, past and present, on all sides. It includes the forgotten victims of war, particularly civilians - and many of these are children. It reminds us of the suffering of the disabled, of the hardship faced by refugees fleeing from war, of the millions dying from starvation and disease because resources are squandered on military expenditure.

The white poppy was adopted in the 1930s, as a symbol not only of the horror and grief of war, but also as a positive symbol of determination to prevent future wars. It challenges us all to commit ourselves to work for peace throughout the year.

The white poppy raises fundamental questions about the validity of war as a means of solving conflict. We hope you will join us in a wider debate about war and peace. We must explore and understand the deeper causes of war in society and in attitudes around us. War is a human invention which can be made obsolete.

We can build a caring nonviolent society in which war will have no place.

Peace Pledge Union for nonviolence

Obituary

We have great regret in announcing the death (October the second) after a long illness, *indeed feebleness from birth*, of any hopes of the Labour Party promoting a peace policy. Though the death was not quiet - even at the end there was considerable resistance, however doomed to failure, & even a rally to the extent that the patient managed a bow in the direction of curtailing arms' expenditure - death will undoubtedly be followed by the deathly corruption of any other radical principles; even while the patient lived decay was manifest & able to spread, now it will be unrestricted. It would be a mistake for any to think that resurrection is in this case possible.

Unfortunately the mildew would appear to be catching; a motion will be moved at CND national conference, on much the same lines as Kinnock tried last year in the Labour Party, (i.e. saying we are interested in all ways to disarmament - *unilateral or not* - in a way that prepares the ground for a subsequent abandonment of unilateralism. Clausewitz so rightly said "politics is the continuation of war by other means", multilateralism is essentially the politicians' approach to international relations, it occasionally produces small measures of disarmament where propaganda advantage may be gained, but it never does this with any intention of abandoning militarism as a system.

ANTI - APARTHEID

The South African economy is on the rocks weakened by the combined efforts of popular resistance and sanctions. It has a national debt of twenty four billion dollars almost all of which is loaned by international banks. Due to SAS inability to repay the loans the banking institutions including NATWEST, BARCLAYS and STANDARD CHARTERED BANK PLC have agreed to reschedule payments thus enabling South Africa to repay small amounts over a longer time. The money loaned by these banks is being used by the regime to defend white domination through armaments, oil imports, nuclear and other energy plants and railways and transport infrastructure.

APARTHEID IS BANKRUPT NO DEBT RESCHEDULING

The Anti-Apartheid Movement has launched a new campaign aimed at persuading British banks not to ease South African debt repayments and to cease giving loans which allow the Apartheid system to continue. Leaflets, badges, posters, postcards and information packs are available from national office: Anti-Apartheid Movement, 13, Mandela Street, London NW1 ODW. Tel 01 387 7966.

Wrekin Anti-Apartheid Movement is also joining the No Debt Rescheduling Campaign and has materials for individual use. If you wish to help please contact

Mark Stokes
7, Burton Close,
Dawley, Telford,
Shropshire.

**APARTHEID
IS BANKRUPT.
NO DEBT
RESCHEDULING!**

AAM 01 387 7966 ELTSA 01 708 4702

TANG'S 1989 A.G.M.
Agenda
and Secretary's Report.

The 1989 A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 8th November in Meeting Point House in Telford Town Centre.

All subscribers to CHAIN REACTION are welcome. Please come and air your views, the relevant report section can be used for comments on TANG, you can offer to help with large or small tasks (under 'elections'), you can talk on the political prospects for unilateralism, or you can raise any other relevant subject under A.O.B. .

The literature stall will be open for books, leaflets, badges, Christmas cards etc. at 7.45 p.m. The business meeting will start at about 8.15 p.m. .

A G E N D A

1. Chair's opening remarks.
2. Reports:
 - Secretary's
 - Treasurer's
 - Publicity Secretary's
 - Literature Secretary's
3. Elections
4. A discussion will be introduced on **The Political Prospects for Unilateralism**. Among those participating will be : Paul Wolfe (Labour unilateralist), Robert Saunders (Green Party), Laurens Otter ('Anti Party' unilateralist), (you ??). John Harrison (Chair) will attempt to keep them in order.
5. A.O.B. and adjournment.

1988/1989 Secretary's Report

Processed uranium, (& or plutonium) produced in nuclear power stations is necessary for making nuclear weaponry. Consequently those who protest about nuclear power, sooner or later are faced with the governmental question: "are you one of those unilateralists, who want to leave this country defenceless in the face of its enemies?" Unless they are prepared to say "we don't consider the bomb a defence, we are certainly unilateralist," the ground is cut from under their feet. So the fact that at the moment far more people are actively opposing nuclear power, than nuclear weaponry, is only an interim stage. Sooner or later the issues are publicly linked.

In a world divided into two heavily armed camps, where the superpowers intervene to support puppet governments favourable to them; those who want democracy and self-determination in small countries may find at times that reliance on financial & other aid from the other superpower is a short cut to independence, - more promising than non-alignment. But that means they subject themselves to the interests of the superpower ally. In Latin America, in southern Africa & in the Middle East, (& even more in the solidarity movements for these in the West,) there has been such a reliance for the last decade; but Russia, for economic reasons, has been for the last year pulling out of any such involvement. The freedom movements in the Third World are already faced with the need to adopt a non-aligned position. Their sympathisers here in the West will be soon faced with the same decision.

Labour having abandoned unilateralism will not be as tolerant of dissenters from the party line who insist on arguing an unilateralist case as it has been in the past of such dissenters who continued to argue a multilateralist one. If those many people in the last years gave up active work in CND to concentrate on working in the Labour Party, & who told us then that it was the only body capable of attaining our ends, still want those ends, they will find they need a new pressure group campaign, - & not only on nuclear weaponry. Since 1950 it has been clear that no Labour Government can afford to advance even moderately reformist policies or maintain those of 45-48, at the same time as it carries the burden of military expenditure that NATO-membership entails.

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There is at the moment a very rapid flowering of the green movement, local environmental groups are much reinforced, as people see the destruction of their home areas by Thatcherite policies, the Green Party is attracting large numbers of people who previously voted Conservative; though that party is now the only moderately large party to advocate unilateralism, & though it advocates some fairly radical measures to curb destructive development, it is generally seen by those new converts as a party of the Centre, advocating non-Thatcherite but essentially conservative policies, with no danger of a Bennite Left forcing through "dogmatic leftist" policies. Sooner or later those Green Party members - certainly by now a minority - who actually believe in the radical policies on which they fought the last election will need to make a fight to retain these or see someone do a Kinnock.

So while it is true that CND is not participating in the current rebirth of radicalism; (& it might even be that organizationally we never will;) we advocate those policies which are essential to any continuation of that rebirth. (Not merely in the fields listed.) Sooner or later there has to be a realignment, whether this is a new revival of CND or the launch of a new movement it will have to be on the basis that no humane advance can be made without non-alignment & unilateralism.

In these circumstances how have we - here in the Wrekin - fared? For four years, up until last, we kept going at a time when most of the other single issue pressure groups collapsed. By & large we were forced to operate on a very wide front as substitutes for other campaigns, on issues we felt important, but incomplete when not linked to our central demand. We saw, at about the time of our last A.G.M., the re-emergence of a local Greenpeace group, the Latin American Solidarity group started a little earlier; though anti-apartheid - like ourselves - only just survived, it is still there; ditto the One World campaigns; there is a definite hope especially with the new launch of a War on Want group. So whereas before we needed to operate instead of other groups, we are now trying to forge links with new arrivals who campaign on their issues, but do not share our unilateralism (or do not consider it an attainable aim) & cannot see that the issues are related.

CONT. →

Our own work is still largely done by the same group who have done it since 1983. Recruitment over the years until very recently failed to balance out the natural wastage, as people's private circumstances forced them to give us less time. But last year's AGM, - despite a lot of criticism from non-activists, - did attract greater numbers, and though the demands for additional work were not by & large accompanied by offers to do it, there was a feeling that there might be more response.

Consequently we attempted to meet this by a new sort of meeting, neither in the mould of the public meetings that we've found unrewarding over the last few years, nor our regular business meetings. We can't say they have been a fantastic success. The first - like the older public meetings - attracted fewer people than come to business meetings; the second never materialised; & this goes to print before the third and so I cannot comment on it. We did have our planned barn dance, & though this was not a great financial success, a lot of people enjoyed it and some of these have since launched their own protest on Hiroshima Day & come to meetings. Our coach to the London demo had to be combined with other groups, but we were still the largest Shropshire contingent. So while we haven't done that much more than carry on as we did for the previous four years with monthly meetings and money-raising socials about every three months; we do seem to have halted the decline & begun to reverse it.

Add this to the general rebirth of radicalism beyond our limits and to the fact that the new radicals will soon be confronted with arguments that must make them turn towards us & the future is distinctly promising.

Laurens Otter - October 1989



BOOK
REVIEW

THE BLAKE ESCAPE

BY: Michael Randle & Pat Pottle £12.95
Harrap 1989 298 pages

This book is the story of why and how the authors, both active peace campaigners especially in the early 1960's, helped the double agent George Blake to escape from prison in Britain and reach the Soviet Union. Currently the Director of Public Prosecutions is considering whether to take proceedings against the authors for their original act (not for writing the book).

It was in 1961 that George Blake was sentenced to 42 years following his conviction for spying for the Soviets. It was while in Wormwood Scrubs that he and the two authors met. Randle and Pottle were amongst several other peace campaigners who had been imprisoned for 1½ years for conspiring to enter and sit down in a USA Air Force base.

The authors were struck by the enormity of Blake's sentence (which was due to the maximum sentence for spying, 14 years, being applied for three charges and to run consecutively instead of concurrently). Michael Randle 'never had any time for spies, but Blake's 42 year sentence struck me as iniquitous.' Pat Pottle wrote 'My motive was purely humanitarian.' It was more a gut reaction than a weighing of all the pros and cons.

When Michael Randle and Pat Pottle left prison they, with others, planned Blake's escape. The book chronicles every aspect in detail. Although written as a straightforward narrative, once picked up it is very difficult to put down.

The authors have written the book now because they realised that journalists were getting close to identifying them as those who helped Blake escape. So they have put their side of the story before they were stopped from doing so.

CONT. →

Scattered throughout the book are snippets of why they decided to free Blake, including the fact that they would openly admit to everything if caught. They stated their rather fanciful wish to spring, at the same time, someone whom the Soviets had jailed for spying. Later they also helped Americans avoid military service during the Vietnam war. Essentially they considered that the spying game was an iniquitous use of people by any state, whether East or West. They did not condone Blake's role, but considered that both Soviet and Western intelligence agencies (and others) had blood on their hands.

The potential impact on the peace movement if they were caught was also of prime consideration to the authors. At the time the movement was in its quiet period following the heyday of the early 60's, so they thought any consequences would not be excessive. Of course, they could not have dreamt that it would come to light in 1989, in the year that Blake might have been considered for release with maximum remission.

Overall, the book in itself is a good read. Furthermore, the story and the reasons the authors put forward justifying their action strike one as the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. However, whether the authors were correct, if rather naive, in placing their undoubted humanity above the demands of the state, only the reader can judge.

PETER NIAS

FRENCH APPEAL

As part of a Europe-wide appeal, TANG has received a letter from a French anti-nuclear group asking us to help obtain petition signatures against the further expansion of the already large French nuclear power programme. A rally has already taken place (7-8th October).

Any anti-nuclear protests in France have always been more difficult than in the UK, but as the letter says, 'Radiation knows no frontiers.'

Letter to the Editors

Last month we printed a letter from Phil Davis, this month Roert Saunders wished to reply. We do not feel we can refuse this although we do not wish to encourage the use of our pages for party political debate when it is not directly related to nuclear disarmament.

Dear Chain Reaction,

'Vote Green Party - Help Thatcher' wrote Phil Davis in our 100th edition of Chain Reaction. It was a really direct, uncompromising letter which I eagerly reply to as the Green Party candidate in the recent European election in this constituency.

Phil made several points such that I hope there will be further debate in future issues. (We don't - Eds!!!!)

Quite rightly he is angry at 10 years of right-wing Tory government and probably looks forward to 10 years of right-wing Labour government - a possibility under the minority-elected dictatorship we have the privilege of being governed by in Britain. In principle both situations are unjust and undemocratic, in the real sense of democracy.

To achieve Labour government the Party is becoming more a likeness of the Tories in important policy areas. So much for the clear-cut choice Roy Hattersley wants the electorate to have - Labour or Tory. He dismisses the political support for all other parties, amounting to at least 20% of the electorate voting in the European election. It is not much of a choice at the end of the day as the differences lessen between them.

Phil wants a straight general election between the Tories and Labour, but ignores the political reality that Labour is most unlikely, for various reasons, to win the necessary seats to achieve a majority in Parliament, however big the average swing in votes. For all that the Tories have done they still retain sizeable support in sufficient seats to foil Labour. The best Labour could hope for would be another Lib-Lab style pact with other opposition parties in Parliament. But, of course, Neil Kinnock would never contemplate such an agreement! He'd let Mrs Thatcher rule again!

The only answer to the problem is an electoral agreement BEFORE the election takes place. I am sure as we approach that day the crying need will become ever more obvious, even to the Labour Party.

.....continued

"Only Labour will bring water and other basic resources back under community control" wrote Phil. I cannot remember, and I'm sure readers will agree, that water and other basic resources have NOT ever been under community control, unless one is very loose in one's English. It is therefore highly misleading to make such a commitment unless you mean state capitalism by way of nationalisation, which Labour are not committed to anyway.

I am glad that Labour "will cooperate with European and other governments to combat acid rain, CFC production and other threats to the planet." There is no outright opposition here to ignore non-Labour governments, yet at home the Labour Party has no respect for non-Labour parties.

To answer one final point, for the moment, Phil states that "the effect of voting Green in Shropshire and Staffordshire in June was to re-elect a Tory MEP". The implication here is that voters, otherwise Labour supporters, voted Green in far greater numbers than Tory supporters who voted Green. This is a sad reflection on the Labour Party's policies and approach to the European election and shows the real concern in the county for the environment and Green politics. It is the fault of the Labour Party that it neglected the changing mood of the people.

As for the Labour leaflet and general campaign I was appalled. It showed no appreciation of the real threats facing Britain, Europe and the world; it avoided any kind of strategy for Europe; was crudely geared to being anti-Tory and basically insulted the electorate who were voting for representatives in the European Parliament, NOT an anti-Thatcher poll.

ROBERT SAUNDERS

TANG

BONFIRE

SAT

NOV

4TH

48 VICTORIA ROAD

MADELEY

FROM 6.30 pm.

FOOD PROVIDED

BRING FIREWORKS
AND/OR A DONATION
TO TANG.

WHEN ARE REFUGEES ACCEPTABLE ?

The rapturous welcome in West Germany for the East German refugees has been receiving sympathetic reporting in the British media. After all, it's one up for capitalism when people leave a communist country in large numbers for both political and economic reasons. With W. Germany needing more workers and wanting German re-unification, then accepting refugees is quite OK. The East German government are the bad guys.

Contrast this with the reaction of another country which also increasingly needs more workers. The situation is partly similar in that if potential immigrants were allowed in this would be a further blow to communism. These immigrants too would be both political and economic refugees.

But there is a problem. The immigrants in question are a different race and are across the other side of the world. The Hong Kong Chinese face a reluctant Britain if they want to escape from absorption into China in 1997.

So is this British policy racist? No doubt (albeit the excuse is fear of numbers). Is it political opportunism? Certainly. Is it logical? - well, who's heard of logic in politics (just refer to the Falklands-Hong Kong article in Aug-Sept Chain Reaction for confirmation).

Take another example. Contrast these situations with the Vietnamese Boat people in Hong Kong, who are being interviewed to establish if they are genuine political refugees or 'merely' seeking to better themselves economically. If any wish for a richer life in the capitalist west, they will be dealt with by repatriation to Vietnam.

There was no such imprisonment and cross examination for East German refugees.

If the West, and especially Britain, is serious about defeating communism then it first needs to abandon its racist refugee policies.

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We are revising our circulation list, please return the slip if you want to continue to receive CHAIN REACTION. Unless you have paid in the last few months please enclose payment (payable to TANG) of £3.00 (Unwaged £1 50),

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