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UPPER HEYFORD
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STOP THE BASE

A group of 41 Anti-Nuclear protesters, including several FFPG members, entered USAF Upper Heyford on Monday, 17th September, and by their action prevented the base's F1-11 nuclear bombers from taking off for one and a half hours during preparations for Operation Lionheart -- the multi-million pound NATO exercise.

The protesters travelled to the base by road and rail, and entered at the end of the main runway at 7.10 am. Those travelling by train disembarked in a cutting below the airfield, after a communication cord had been pulled and the train consequently stopped.

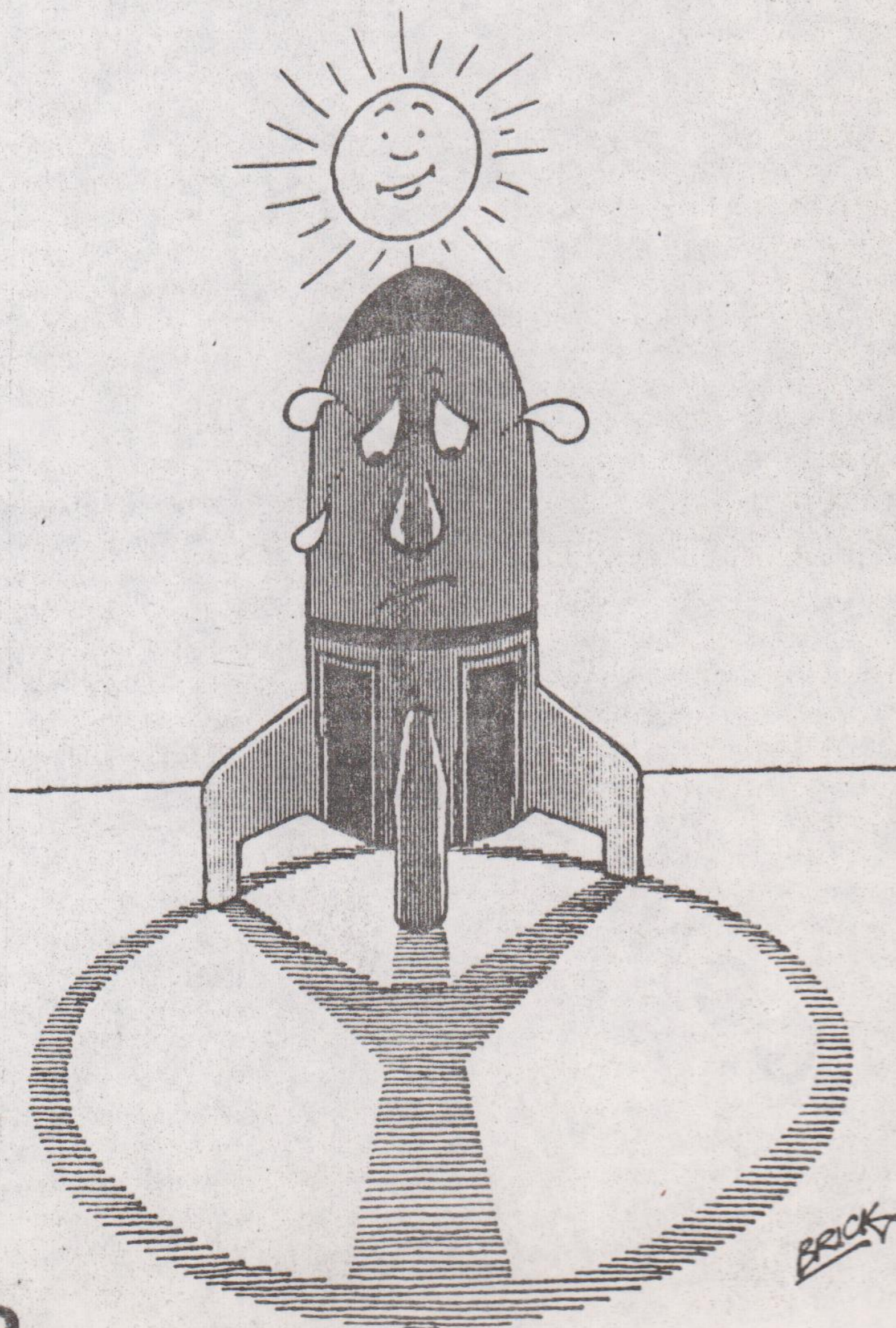
They then scrambled up an embankment, crossed a ploughed field and climbed into the base over carpets which had been thrown across the low barbed-wire perimeter fences. By this time the train was on its way again with no inconvenience to other passengers except for a three minute delay to their journey.

Once inside the base the protesters separated into groups and made their way down the main runway. American service vehicles were spotted after about fifteen minutes but were unable to prevent the protesters' progress until they had been joined by trucks full of servicemen. The various groups were eventually rounded-up, loaded into empty trucks and taken to a gymnasium on the base.

The 41 protesters were detained against their wishes for several hours. About 14 people were arrested but not charged and one woman was charged with an alleged assault on an American serviceman.

Despite the short time which they spent on the runway and the hours in detention, those who took part in the action were all agreed that it had been a success. They had demonstrated their opposition to the presence of the F1-11's, shown how ineffective security was at the base, and achieved the grounding of all aircraft for one and a half hours during a period in which Britain was involved in a major NATO exercise.

Helen Cooper



ALCONBURY - THE CONSPIRACY

USAF Alconbury is a reconnaissance base near Huntingdon (Cambs). It has a number of fighters disguised as Soviet MIGs as well as Phantoms, advanced TR-Is whose role is to direct missiles to East European targets and the famous spy plane "Blackbird" or SR-71. It also has both chemical and nuclear weapons. It will also be the command base for USAF Molesworth when the first of 64 cruise missiles arrive there in 1986, as it is only a few miles away. The Pentagon has allotted one of its highest US defence estimates in Europe to USAF Alconbury.

In addition, there is reason to believe there is a nuclear dump there. Reports have been coming in of a regular nuclear convoy travelling to the base.

During June and July 1984, nine peace campers were arrested from the Alconbury Peace Camp and charged with "conspiracy to commit criminal damage". This charge hasn't been used since 1961 at the Weathersfield action and it imposes serious implications on the whole peace movement. Anyone even discussing the possibility of an action involving a criminal offence could be charged.

Those arrested had appalling bail conditions imposed on them: daily signing in, £1000 surety, banned within one mile of the camp etc.

A group has been set up called the "Alconbury Peace Camp Defence Committee" to help the nine with their charges and also to look into the issue of what Alconbury is about. What's in there? Why is security higher than at Greenham? This committee can be reached c/o WMCMD, 54, Allison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5TH. Tel.:- 021.632.6909

On the 31st August, the then newly formed Nottingham Direct Action Committee, organised a coach and legal support for the Alconbury blockade which was called to support the 'nine' and to charge the British and US governments with "conspiracy to commit genocide."

50 peace protestors from groups all over Nottingham went to Alconbury.

(Forest Fields Direct Action Affinity Group included) A training workshop had been held a few days beforehand.

Once registered the FFDAG decided to start the blockade which was due to begin at noon. We sat down on the MOD road and other groups joined us and soon we had an effective blockade of 60-70 people and our gate was blocked. Soon an old friend of Forest Fields from RAF Cottesmore, Inspector Hammersley was on the scene asking us to move but to no avail. We were subsequently moved to the public highway and arrested for obstruction. We were taken to Peterborough police station and some people were forced to have their photos taken and others handcuffed with plastic strips which cut their wrists. Once at the police station we were searched and asked various details which many refused to answer. We were put in eight to a cell. After 4-5 hours we were given a wonderful(!) meal then questioned individually again with not much response from most people. The first arrestees were released at 8.40pm with charge sheet in hand. Protestors were released very slowly after this and the last one came out at 2.30am the next day. 33 people from Nottingham had been arrested and the coach had had to return at 8.00pm so transport was sent from Nottingham and people were travelling back late into the night and some stayed at Molesworth Peace Camp and were picked up the following day.

At the evaluation meeting the night after people felt that the blockade was successful, tours into the base had been cancelled, people at the base were given the day off and the press coverage was quite good. But as a result 27 people from Nottingham were charged with "obstructing the highway" and are to appear at court in Huntingdon on various days in September.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, 170 people were arrested that day. 170 who say no to the horrors within USAF Alconbury.

A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE

In February I was charged and later ordered to pay £40 for climbing a tower at an RAF base at Cottesmore, which trains pilots to fly Tornado planes capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Five months later I was summoned to court for non-payment. I had already decided not to pay, because by paying I would be accepting their judgement, and they are the ones that support those who break the laws of peace.

Many people came to the court to support me. I was sentenced to 5 days imprisonment and taken to the cells under the court. Most of the police there were friendly, though some shouted comments like "Blow them all up". After 2-3 hours of singing I was taken to Risley, the prison. I was immediately made to strip and have a body search. I had taken clothes and books, which were allowed in prison and these were checked and listed about three times. Then I had my hair checked for lice and washed in some awful smelling liquid and made to take a bath. There was always a lot of waiting around. Later on my landing a prison officer(screw) shouted that someone had phoned and sent their love and thoughts to me. Their favourite way of communicating was with sarcasm. I was put in a dorm with 22 others.

Most of the prisoners that I was sharing with were helpful and friendly. It was because of this, a good book and lots of cards which made everything more bearable. The whole system was such a farce that I could laugh at it and I spent a lot of my time reading, talking and thinking about nice things.

On the day of my release I was woken at 6.00am and after breakfast went through the same routine as on entry. While I was waiting to be let out I was told "She'll be back with her attitude" and I was kept waiting longer because I refused to say "Yes, Miss" and would only say "Yes". Before I was let out I was told "If you're planning on coming back remember the prison service has a long memory." After being inside it felt great to be out. (Looking back, I do what I did again) My account of prison may sound horrific, but as long as you don't let their threats etc get to you and keep hold of your mind you needn't be affected by it all. Most important is to remember why you're there, that you're not alone and to think about beautiful things. You have plenty of time to think!

Kath O'Driscoll

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

***DISCO**DISCO**DISCO**DISCO**DISCO**DISCO**

"BOOGIE AGAINST THE BOMB"

ON

FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER

*****FROM 7.30pm*****

At The : ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
VIVIAN AVENUE
(OFF SHERWOOD RISE)

.....

Tickets : 75p - unwaged/£1.00 waged

TRIDENT - NOT WANTED

In March 1982, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wrote to President Reagan formally asking the U.S. government to agree to Britain's purchase of the American Trident II missile system, "in a manner generally similar to that in which Polaris was supplied." The letter opened another chapter in the contorted history of Britain's so-called "independent nuclear deterrent".

WHAT IS TRIDENT ?

Trident is a new missile designed to "replace" the "worn-out" Polaris submarines and their nuclear missiles. However, the purchase of Trident signifies not a replacement but a ten-fold escalation in the nuclear destructiveness Britain possesses.

HOW MUCH WILL TRIDENT COST ?

In 1980, when the decision to buy Trident was made, the estimated cost was 4-5 thousand million pounds. Now the House of Commons Defence Committee estimates the cost will be in the region of 9.4 thousand million and independent sources believe an accurate estimate is 11.5 thousand million pounds.

Comparisons bring these gigantic figures down to earth. In 1981-2 the whole primary school system in England and Wales was run on just over 2 thousand million. The 11.5 thousand million pound cost of Trident works out at £205 for every person in the U.K. - a crazy amount when primary schools do not have enough money to buy books and pencils.

BRITAIN'S INDEPENDENT DETERRENT

According to the government, Britain needs Trident to do the same job as Polaris which is only being replaced because it is obsolete, and to maintain Britain's independent nuclear deterrent. This notion is a fraud on several counts.

1 Trident is not independent - like Polaris, Trident will be assigned to NATO and therefore under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander (SACEUR) in Europe, whose head quarters are in Belgium.

The targetting of the Trident missiles will be decided by SACEUR and by the Joint Strategic Planning Staff,

Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A. NATO's defence plans are dominated if not controlled by the United States. Trident will be incorporated into these "common" defence plans.

Trident will be less independent than Polaris. Britain will rely on the U.S. for spares, routine servicing, information from the US intelligence satellites and signals from US navigational satellites. More than half the cost of Trident will go directly to the U.S.A.

2 Trident is not a deterrent - it is unequivocally a first strike weapon designed to eliminate Soviet missile silos and command centres before their missiles can be fired. Trident has been shaped as a first strike weapon not as a retaliatory "weapon of last resort" or deterrent.

It has been designed and ordered in a crazy belief that victory in nuclear war may be possible if Britain, the US or NATO strikes first. The purchase of Trident will signify the serious preparation for nuclear war.

Recent opinion polls have shown that as many as 72% of British people do not want the government to purchase Trident. They are only too well aware that it is pushing Britain nearer and nearer to nuclear war: aware that the purchase of Trident will herald the Soviet Union taking similar measures to increase its nuclear weapons to "compensate" and "restore the balance" once Trident is deployed: aware that it is immoral to spend such a huge amount of money on an aggressive, first-strike weapon when schools, hospitals, social services and public housing are experiencing severe cut-backs.

Trident will make escalate the arms race, increase international tension and make nuclear war more likely. Trident shows how Britain, the US and NATO are making preparations to have the capacity to "fight and win" a nuclear war.

But in a nuclear war there are no survivors. There is no freedom to protect, no liberty to sustain when everyone is dead. That is why Trident must be stopped. For the sake of humanity, it must be stopped.

PEACE ACTION NETWORK

After the success of Reclaim Chilwell in July, a series of meetings have been held to discuss "Where to next?" for those groups and individuals who wish to be active in non-violent direct action (NVDA)

As a result of these meetings, Peace Action Network (PAN) has been set up. PAN is a composite body of affinity groups and individuals who intend to devise and promote a broad-based strategy for NVDA in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands as well as facilitating organised support for NVDA events elsewhere in the country.

DIGGING DEEP

So far the FFPG's collection has raised almost £50 for striking miners' families. Compared with the £700,000 sequestered from the South Wales NUM it doesn't seem a lot, but there are many other groups supporting the miners, together we are helping the miners to continue their 6 month strike. The days are getting shorter, time is on their side. The next few months will prove crucial. If you would like to contribute to FFPG's collection which is given to the Notts Women's Support Group on a regular basis, please contact Dave c/o Paddy & Cathy on 788655. Every small contribution helps.

DAY OF ACTION

Wednesday 24th October is a Trade Union CND day of Action CND Day of Action.

Please contact your local Trade Union Office to ask what events are being planned. The Notts. branch of NALGO will be celebrating the day with a social evening and disco. This will be held at Queens Walk Community Centre, starting at 8.00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are available at 50p each from the Branch Office, 41, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford. Tel. 810405.

Already individuals have volunteered to take responsibility for the many aspects that PAN will have to cover; fundraising, mailing, NVDA training, planning and support organisations to name but a few, but many more volunteers are needed. PAN does not intend to try to substitute the initiatives of affinity groups in pursuing their own action. Rather, PAN hopes to supplement those actions with training, organisational experience and support.

If you want to active in NVDA, then come along to PAN meetings. They are on the first Monday of each month at the NCND office. Please come.

PAN is organising a showing of the "Reclaim Chilwell" video. It will be held on October 18th at the Italian Community Centre, Sherwood Rise. All are welcome.

WHAT'S ON?

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| <u>Monday 1st</u> | Peace Action Network meeting, 7.30pm, NCND, |
| <u>Monday 1st</u> | Court appearance at Huntingdon for John & Carmel who pleaded not guilty of obstructing the highway during the Alconbury blockade on 31st August. |
| <u>Wednesday 10th</u> | FFPG bi-monthly meeting at FFNC, 69, Wiverton Rd 8.00pm |
| <u>Wednesday 24th</u> | T.U. CND Day of Action Disco & Social at Queen's Walk Community Centre at 8.00pm (see page 2) |
| <u>Thursday 25th</u> | FFPG bi-monthly meeting at FFNC, 8.00pm. Speaker from Anti-Apartheid Group to talk on the Africa-Uranium connection. |
| <u>Saturday 27th</u> | Barrow-in-Furness Demo against Trident - contact NCND for tickets (coach £8.00 waged £4.00 unwaged) |

During October several members of FFPG will be appearing in court in Huntingdon charged with obstruction of the highway arising from the blockade of USAF Alconbury on August 31st. If you can offer support or transport please ring