



FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP JUNE 1988 20P



LORD BYRON'S DREAM

" I HAD A DREAM, WHICH WAS NOT ALL DREAM
THE BRIGHT SUN WAS EXTINGUISHED, AND THE STARS
DID WANDER DARKLING IN THE ETERNAL SPACE
RAYLESS AND PATHLESS, AND THE ICY EARTH
SWUNG BLACKENING IN THE MOONLESS AIR:
MORN CAME AND WENT — AND CAME, AND BROUGHT NO DAY
AND MEN FORGOT THEIR PASSIONS IN THE DREAD
OF THEIR DESOLATION.....

.....THE WORLD WAS VOID
THE POPULOUS AND THE POWERFUL WAS A LUMP
SEASONLESS, HERBLESS, TREELESS, MANLESS, LIFLESS
A LUMP OF DEATH — A CHAOS OF HARD CLAY
THE RIVERS, LAKES AND OCEANS ALL STOOD STILL,
AND NOTHING STIRRED WITHIN THEIR SILENT DEPTHS"

STOP THE NUCLEAR MADNESS



FACT FILE..



ISRAEL AND THE BOMB

There are several countries in the world that are suspected of having nuclear weapons, and for many years one of those countries was Israel. Now, however, that suspicion has been replaced by certainty, since the revelations in the Sunday Times in October 1986 by MORDECHAI VANUNU.

Vanunu worked as a technician at the DIMONA plant in the Negev desert, and was able to produce proof (including photographs) that has convinced experts that Israel possesses between 200 and 300 nuclear weapons. Israel is officially the world's sixth nuclear power.

HISTORY

In the late 1940's Israel discovered vast deposits of low-grade uranium in the Negev, and developed extraction and refinement methods. In 1955 many Israeli scientists received training under the "Atoms For Peace" programme, and the first reactor was built. However, it was the French who provided the vital assistance. From 1953 to 1967 Israel and France worked together on developing nuclear technology and during this period built the DIMONA plant.

Some of the uranium fuel for the Dimona plant was obtained by commando raids in Europe, including the theft of 200 tons of uranium oxide from a freighter en route between Antwerp and Genoa.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION

Israel collaborated closely with South Africa in military matters. In 1979, South Africa accounted for 35% of Israeli military sales. In 1977 a Soviet satellite spotted a nuclear test being prepared in the Kalahari desert, and the test was cancelled after diplomatic pressure was turned on. In 1979 a US satellite registered a test in the South Atlantic. Both these incidents are widely believed to be joint Israeli/South African ventures.

THE ARSENAL

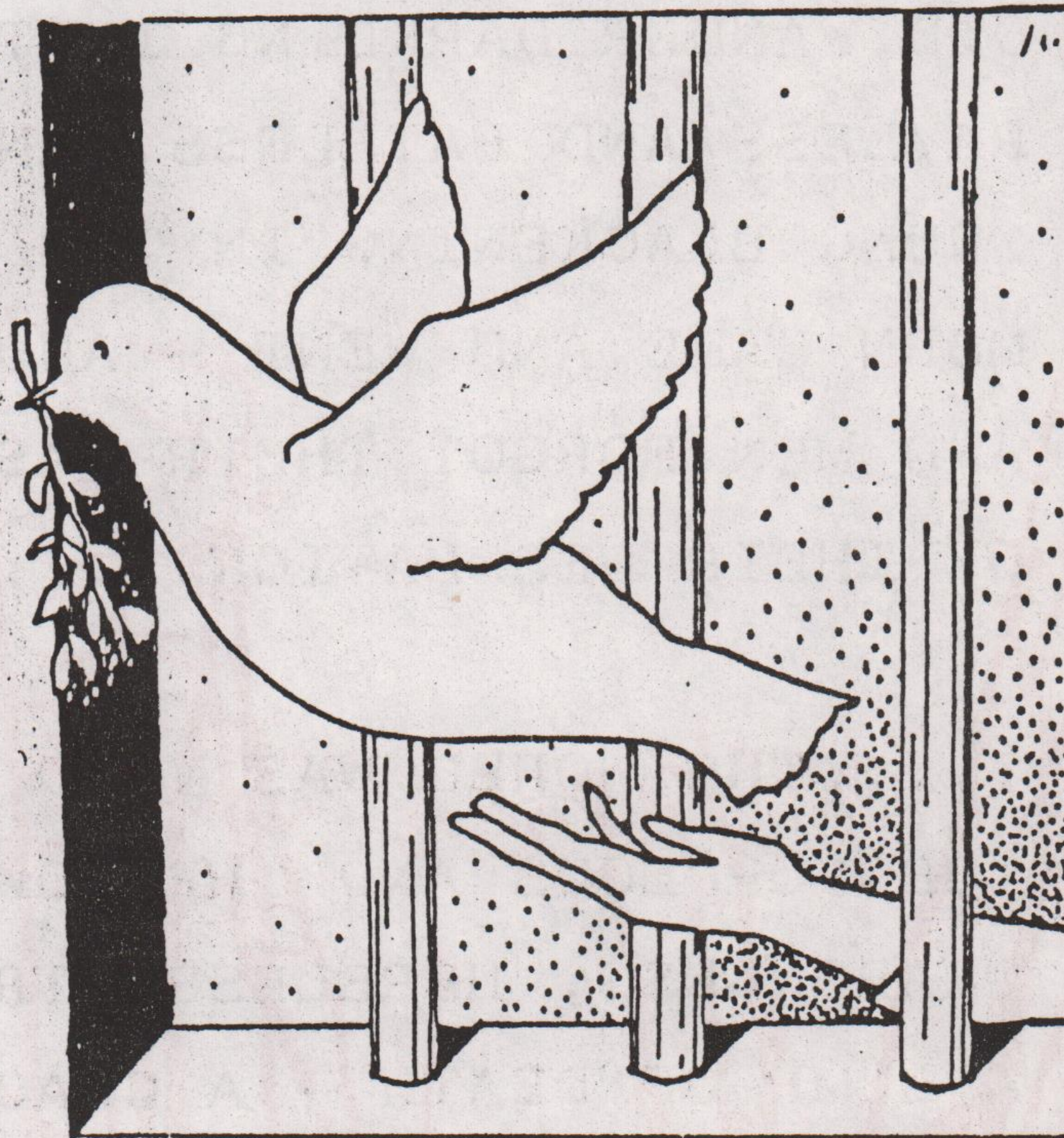
Israel has a wide variety of potential "delivery systems". These include F4 Phantoms and Mirage III strike aircraft, and the American Lance surface-to-surface missile, which could be fitted with a nuclear warhead. Their home-grown missiles are Gabriel ship-to-ship weapons (which they have sold to Argentina, Taiwan and South Africa) and the Jericho, which is a surface-to-surface missile with a range of approximately 300 miles. Both of these could be fitted with conventional or nuclear warheads.

PROLIFERATION

Israel has always refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Nevertheless, their government spokespeople have always said that Israel would never be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. The Vanunu revelations have exposed this as nothing but hypocrisy. The danger, of course, is that tension and conflict in the region is now more likely to escalate to the horror of a nuclear attack, and that Arab states will feel pressured to develop their own nuclear arsenals as well.

VANUNU

As for the man who had the courage to expose what was going on at Dimona, he is currently in jail and has been sentenced to 18 years imprisonment, after being kidnapped by Israeli secret servicemen, and forcibly taken back to Israel. To the Israeli state he is seen as a traitor, but the Nottingham-based Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation has nominated him for a Nobel Peace Prize.



SORRY !!!

We apologise to Bronwen, whose name should have appeared at the foot of her Page 3 comment "Welfare Not Warfare" in last month's newsletter.

ISRAEL AND THE BOMB....

IN A DARK TIME..

B.C.



LORD BYRON: born 200 years ago in 1788; spent his adolescence at Newstead Abbey near Nottingham. His life and works are celebrated in this year's Nottingham Festival.

DARKNESS

I had a dream, which was not all a dream,
The bright sun was extinguished, and the stars
Did wander darkling in the eternal space,
Rayless, and pathless, and the icy earth
Swung blind and blackening in the moonless air;
Morn came and went - and came, and brought no day,
And men forgot their passions in the dread
Of this their desolation; and all hearts
Were chilled into a selfish prayer for light;
And they did live by watchfires - and the thrones,
The palaces of crowned kings - the huts,
The habitations of all things which dwell,
Were burnt for beacons; cities were consumed,
And men were gathered round their blazing homes
To look once more into each other's face;
Happy were those who dwelt within the eye
Of the volcanoes, and their mountain-torch;
A fearful hope was all the world contained;
Forests were set on fire - but hour by hour
They fell and faded - and the crackling trunks
Extinguished with a crash - and all was black.

The brows of men by the despairing light
Wore an unearthly aspect, as by fits
The flashes fell upon them; some lay down
And hid their eyes and wept; and some did rest
Their chins upon their clenched hands, and smiled;
And others hurried to and fro, and fed
Their funeral piles with fuel, and looked up
With mad disquietude on the dull sky,
The pall of a past world; and then again
With curses cast them down upon the dust,
And gnashed their teeth and howled; the wild
birds shrieked
And, terrified, did flutter on the ground
And flap their useless wings; the wildest brutes
Came tame and tremulous; and vipers crawled
And twined themselves among the multitude,
Hissing but stingless - they were slain for food!

And War, which for a moment was no more,
Did glut himself again; - a meal was bought
With blood, and each sate sullenly apart
Gorging himself in gloom; no love was left;
All earth was but one thought - and that was death
Immediate and inglorious; and the pang
Of famine fed upon all entrails - men
Died, and their bones were tombless as their
flesh;
The meagre by the meagre were devoured,
Even dogs assailed their masters,....

The crowd was famished by degrees; but two
Of an enormous city did survive,
And they were enemies; they met beside
The dying embers of an altar place
Where had been heaped a mass of holy things
For an unholy usage; they raked up,
And shivering scraped with their cold skeleton
hands
The feeble ashes, and their feeble breath
Blew for a little life, and made a flame
Which was a mockery; then they lifted up
Their eyes, as it grew lighter, and beheld
Each other's aspects - saw, and shrieked, and
died -
Even of their mutual hideousness they died,
Unknowing who he was upon whose brow
Famine had written Fiend. The world was void,
The populous and the powerful was a lump
Seasonless, herbless, treeless, manless, lifeless,
A lump of death - a chaos of hard clay.

The rivers, lakes and oceans all stood still,
And nothing stirred within their silent depths;
Ships, sailorless lay rotting on the sea,
And their masts fell down piecemeal; as they
dropped
They slept on the abyss without a surge -
The waves were dead; the tides were in their
grave,
The moon, their mistress, had expired before;
The winds were withered in the stagnant air,
And the clouds perished; Darkness had no need
Of aid from them - She was the Universe,



CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS

★ This month sees the start of a new series of articles, which will explore issues not usually seen as being within the strict definition of "peace". CONNECTIONS will hopefully do just that... make the connections and draw out the links between the campaign for peace and disarmament, and other campaigns for freedom, for justice and for human rights. We welcome reader's contributions to this series.

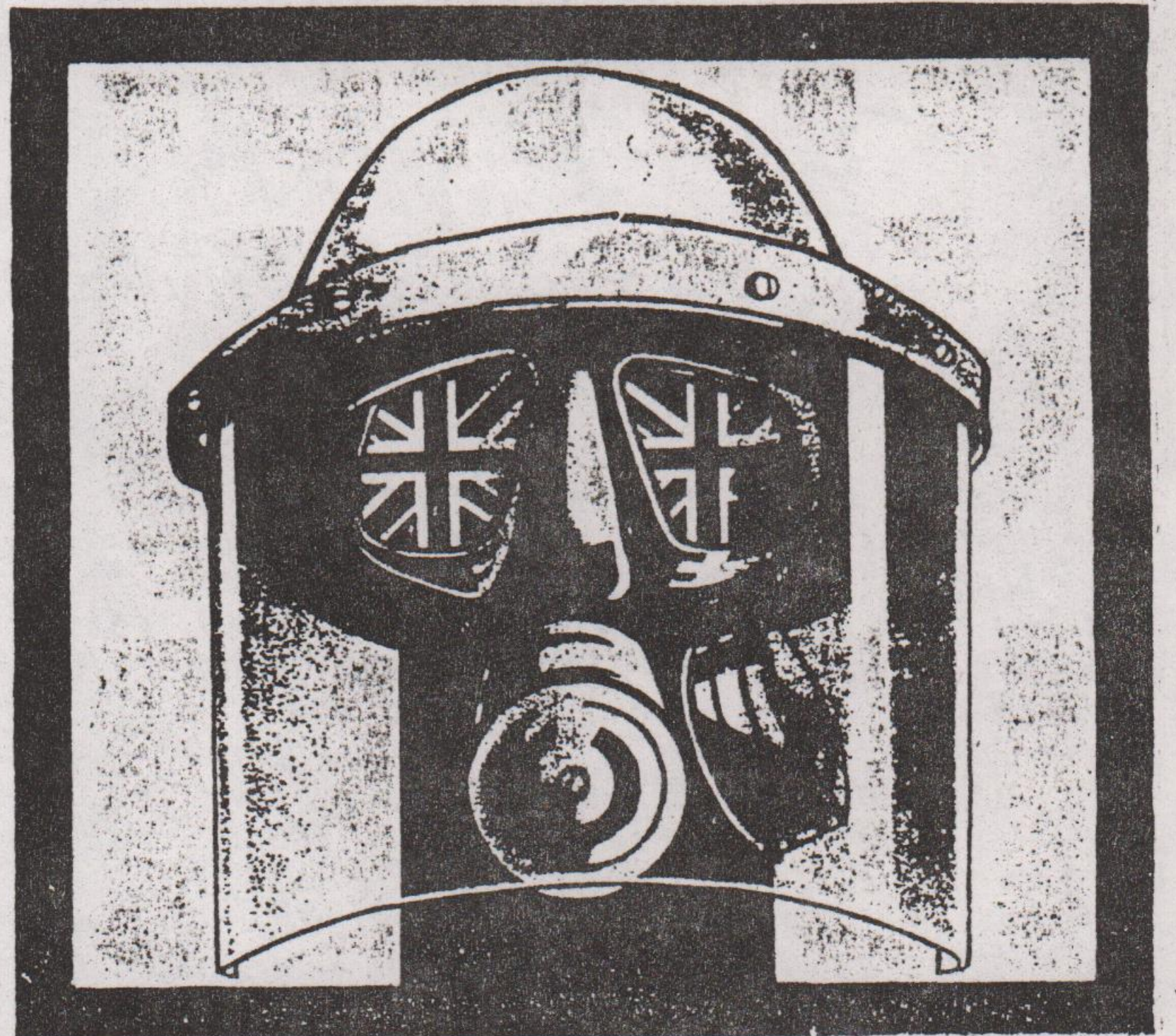
BRITISH WAR AGAINST IRELAND'S NEUTRALITY

Ireland's struggle for national independence and neutrality are inseparably linked; this is the key to the continuing British occupation of Ireland's six north-eastern counties. The Republic of Ireland is the only member of the European Community (sic) which is not in NATO; its neutrality - which is historically rooted in the anti-conscription campaigns in Ireland during the world wars - is now under pressure as the EEC moves towards stronger "political unity" and a common defence policy.

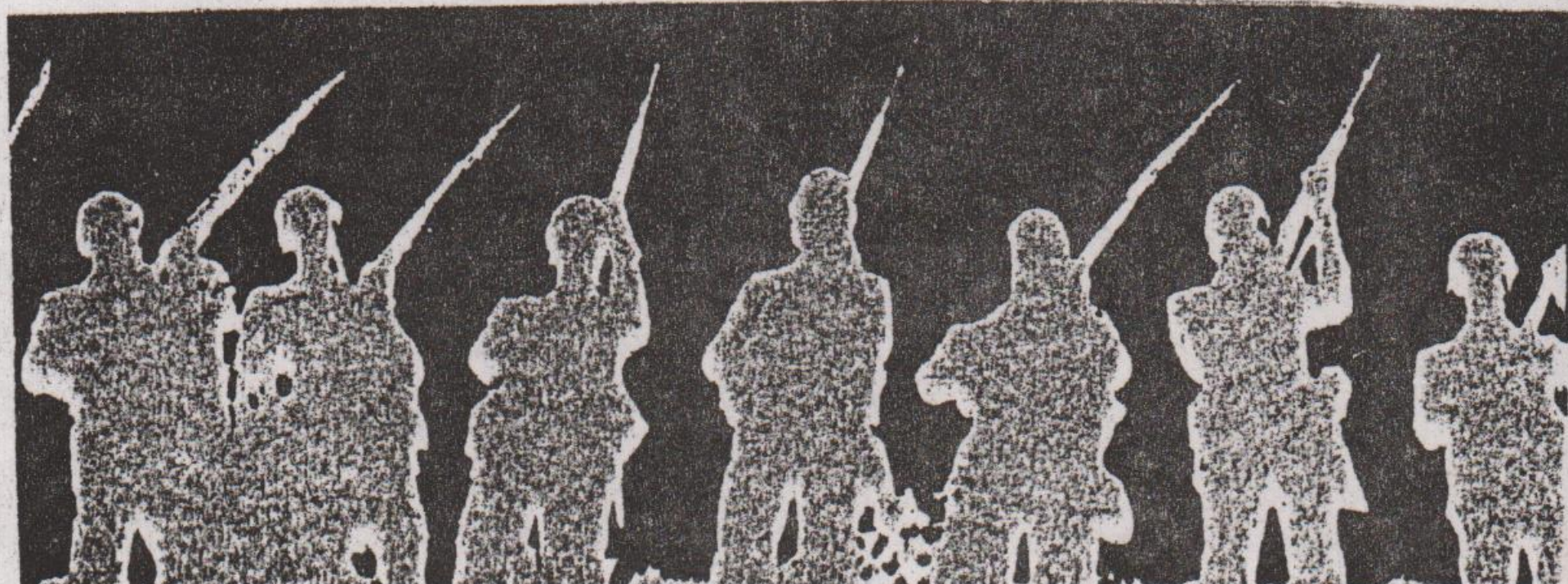
Indeed, the Anglo-Irish agreement is the culmination of a drift in Irish government policy towards clear political and security co-operation with Britain, the EEC and NATO. Offers of money from President Reagan and orchestrated support from American politicians, the EEC commission and the likes of Chancellor Kohl, indicate that the strategic and military interest of the US and NATO lies in closer Anglo-Irish co-operation.

The island of Ireland - partitioned by a British-imposed border in 1920 to ensure the continuing British domination over all of Ireland through the creation of a loyalist majority in an artificial state - has always been strategically important to Britain;

"So far as it can be foreseen it will never be to Great Britain's advantage that Northern Ireland should become part of a territory outside His Majesty's jurisdiction. Indeed, it seems unlikely that Great Britain would ever be able to agree to it, even if the people of Northern Ireland desired it." BRITISH CABINET SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER ATTLEE, 1949

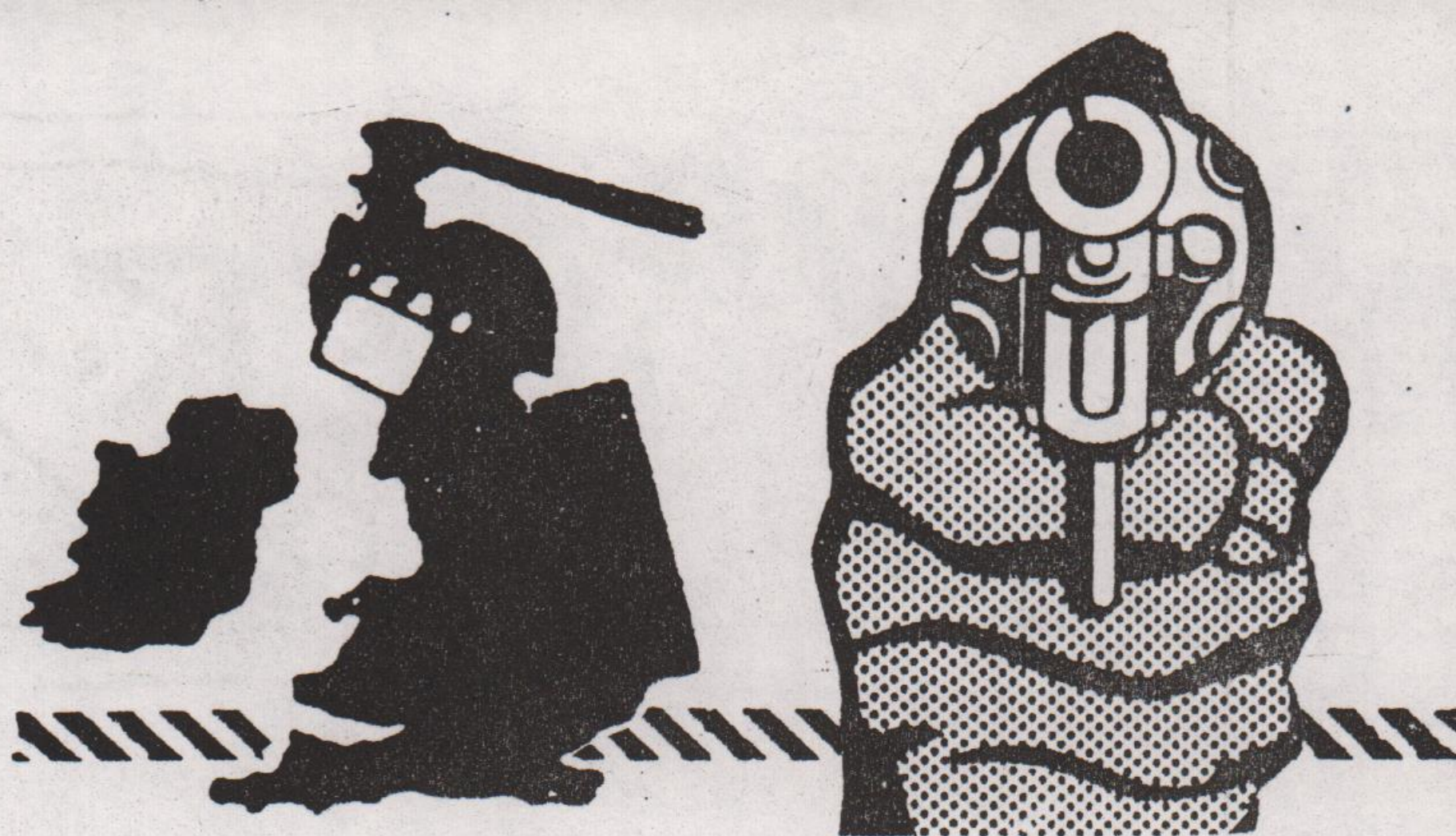


"Historically, Ireland, which has never been able to protect herself from invasion, has been, and she is today, a potential base for an attack on the United Kingdom (sic). It is more important that a part of the island, and one that is strategically well-placed, should remain part of the United Kingdom and the UK defence scheme... A united Ireland whose willingness and unqualified co-operation could not with certainty be relied upon, which was neutral, would be a major problem in the defence of the United Kingdom and in the defence and support of Western Europe." BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE DOCUMENT, 1951



British cabinet papers recently released under the 30 year rule illustrate the precise relations between the strategic and the democratic;

The stated policy of the British government is that the constitutional position of Northern Ireland cannot be changed without the consent of the majority of its people. But the 1920 partition was a political division which carved out an area sufficient to contain a Unionist majority and then regarded that majority as sacrosanct. Britain conferred on a minority the right to frustrate the aspirations of the majority of Irish people, and then gave that minority a veto on any change in the constitutional arrangement. Yet there can be no doubt that British interests will be foremost in her attitude to "majorities", however constituted. Current conjecture as to whether Great Britain would go along with a United Ireland presumes a bourgeois United Ireland, well attached to NATO.



The Dublin establishment has always been ambivalent about neutrality. Its very ample investments are lodged almost entirely in London; its foreign policy is mostly aligned with the NATO powers; and Dublin's politicians have admitted that they accept NATO's nuclear umbrella and consider Ireland "neither ideologically nor politically neutral".



North of the "border", Britain's work has been done by sectarianism, with discrimination in housing, provision of amenities, and above all employment. Unemployment today is 24 times as high among Catholics as Protestants, and the Protestant-dominated police force, permanently armed, have operated under emergency powers without a break since 1922.

In 1969 the nationalist population rebelled against the sectarian system which had imprisoned them for decades, and British troops began one of the longest wars of the century. This war, fought in our name, has resulted in 2 500 deaths and 25 000 injuries since 1969. During it, the British state has perfected a huge machinery of repression which it has now started using to silence public disorder and mass protest in this country.

Officially, the Southern state has been neutral since its foundation. Popular feeling in favour of neutrality has always been strong, linked with the wish for independence from Britain. But the formation of NATO, and the EEC, which Ireland joined in 1973 (essentially because of the economic dependence of a partitioned country on the country which partitioned it), has increased the pressure on Ireland's neutrality.

The partition of Ireland, Irish neutrality, and the question of EEC pressures (notably the single European Act) on Ireland's independent foreign policy, are issues for everyone concerned with nuclear disarmament in this country, that also have implications for their continued ability to campaign for it. The struggle for Irish unity and independence, and of those engaged in it, demands our support.

Ian Juniper





Another Spring. All winter the media have told us to praise the the INF agreement between the USA and USSR, and drummed it into us that we are now in a new era of peace and hope. NATO wants peace; America wants peace; Britain wants peace.

But if we open our eyes this Spring we will see that the peace mask has slipped and the murderous reality of NATO, the USA and Thatcher's Britain is still there for all to see.

We will see our fated "ally", America, the supposed backbone of democracy, continuing to uphold Botha's murderous racist dictatorship in South Africa, and sending troops to Honduras in a fresh bid to crush freedom and democracy in Nicaragua. Yet it is this criminal country that we are told has changed heart and is seeking nuclear peace.

We will see how our "peace-loving" government greets spring. Not a word of condemnation of America's latest attack on democracy in Nicaragua, of course. Instead, at the latest NATO meeting, Thatcher re-nailed her colours to the nuclear mast. "Modernisation" was the latest word she used as code for more and bigger weapons of mass destruction. Other countries quibbled about the exact words, but Thatcher's message was NATO's message too - nuclear weapons for the foreseeable future. This is what NATO means by "peace-seeking" in Spring 1988. For Thatcher, "peace" means holding the world to nuclear ransom, until...

Back home, frothing with her nuclear venom, she accused all of those pursuing nuclear disarmament of having "no memory, no stomach, no spine, no guts". That was the moment when the mask really slipped. This is the Britain Thatcher offers us in Spring 1988. Being tough is what counts, and being prepared to slaughter children in their millions is what being tough is all about. Let the wimps weep over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the Britain of Spring 1988.

This is the new era of hope, in the wake of the INF agreement! Perhaps Thatcher will let the SAS handle our nuclear weapons - they'd soon sort out the Russians. For, in Gibraltar this March, the SAS reminded us that gun law, killing in cold blood, has got the official seal of approval in Britain. Thatcher gave the nod, they did the rest, and the papers and the "opposition" went along for the ride.

That's Britain in Spring, 1988. And at home, in the new era of peace, we have a fresh batch of policies guaranteed to cause suffering, conflict and violence. In response to mass poverty, mass unemployment and chronic homelessness, Thatcher & co. give fat tax cuts to the rich, and let the NHS bleed to death. The simple, terrible truth is that the government claiming to be interested in peace pursues policies that kill people.

And yet, in the wake of the INF agreement, we are being asked to trust this government and place our faith in the US and our NATO allies to lead us to a peaceful world. In reality they're leading us into the nuclear asylum, where truth and peace are drugged and strait-jacketed in the corner, where we are told that everybody wants peace but we will have to have nuclear weapons forever. Instead of trust, we must refuse to be in this asylum.

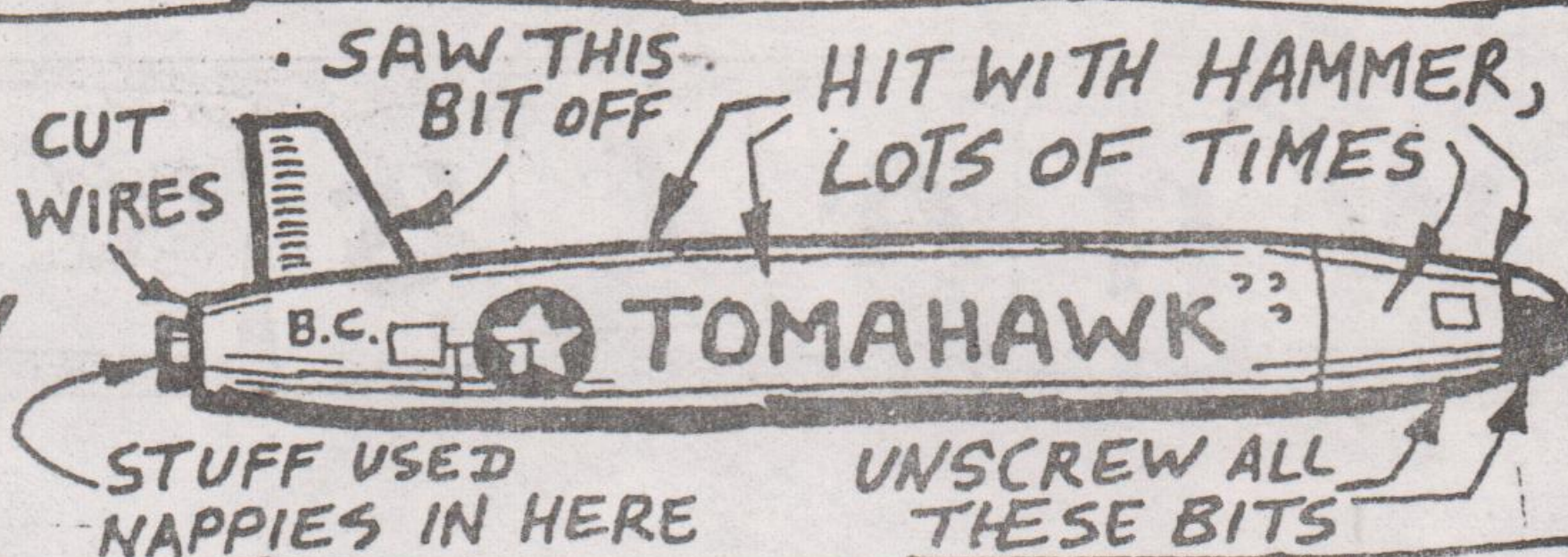
The American empire has long used ideological rubbish about freedom and democracy as a smokescreen to hide its attacks on real freedom and democracy, in pursuit of naked power and global control. In Spring 1988, Britain does the same. Television and papers kid us that we're on the edge of peace. But if you want truth this Spring, look at what's happening in Nicaragua or South Africa. If you're tempted to believe that the nuclear threat is going away, look at what they're making at Aldermaston, see what they're spending on Star Wars research in America. If you think Thatcher is interested in peaceful development, see who is getting rich as hospital wards close and people die on hospital waiting lists.

Perhaps it is true that in a dark time the eye begins to see. Spring 1988 is a dark time. We need to see that those who control this country, the US, and NATO, cannot lead us to peace. When we see through their lies, the road to peace will begin to form.

Les Parsons, March 1988

SPRING 1988.....

GET UP- STAND UP!



JOIN THE TEAM!!

We urgently need some extra help with the production of the F F P G newsletter. There are four 'roles' that need to be filled:

TYPIST:

You'll need to be able to type, and preferably know how to use a word processor, though training can very easily be provided for that. You'll have a week to type the "copy" and pass it on for lay-out.



PRINTER:

We'll arrange to teach you how to use the "offset-litho" machine at 118 Workshop on Mansfield Road. You'll work with a partner, and printing and collation takes about half a day.



LAY - OUT:

Your job, initially working with someone else, will be to "lay-out" all the copy, produce suitable headings with the equipment at 118 Workshop, and find appropriate pieces of art-work and illustrations. Two weeks is usually set aside for this job.



COMMISSIONING EDITOR:

Working with a partner you will be responsible for commissioning, editing and occasionally perhaps writing articles and short notices.

SO WHY NOT JOIN THE NEWSLETTER TEAM ?? It will only involve a few hours of work, every two months. Be part of possibly the most exciting, radical and fast-growing paper in Forest Fields and Hyson Green, and develop new or existing skills while you're at it.

PHONE 625198 and ask for PETE, or write to Box 5, 69 Wiverton Road, Forest Fields, TODAY !!!



J U N E

6th, Monday: Women's Festival Open Evening, for anyone interested in the next festival, 7.00 pm, ICC, Mansfield Road, CONTACT: Val on 413279/472802

9th, Thursday: Nottingham Women's History Group starts, 10 - 1 pm, County Library, Angel Row

Nottingham CND policy-making meeting, 7.30 pm, WEA, Shakespeare Street

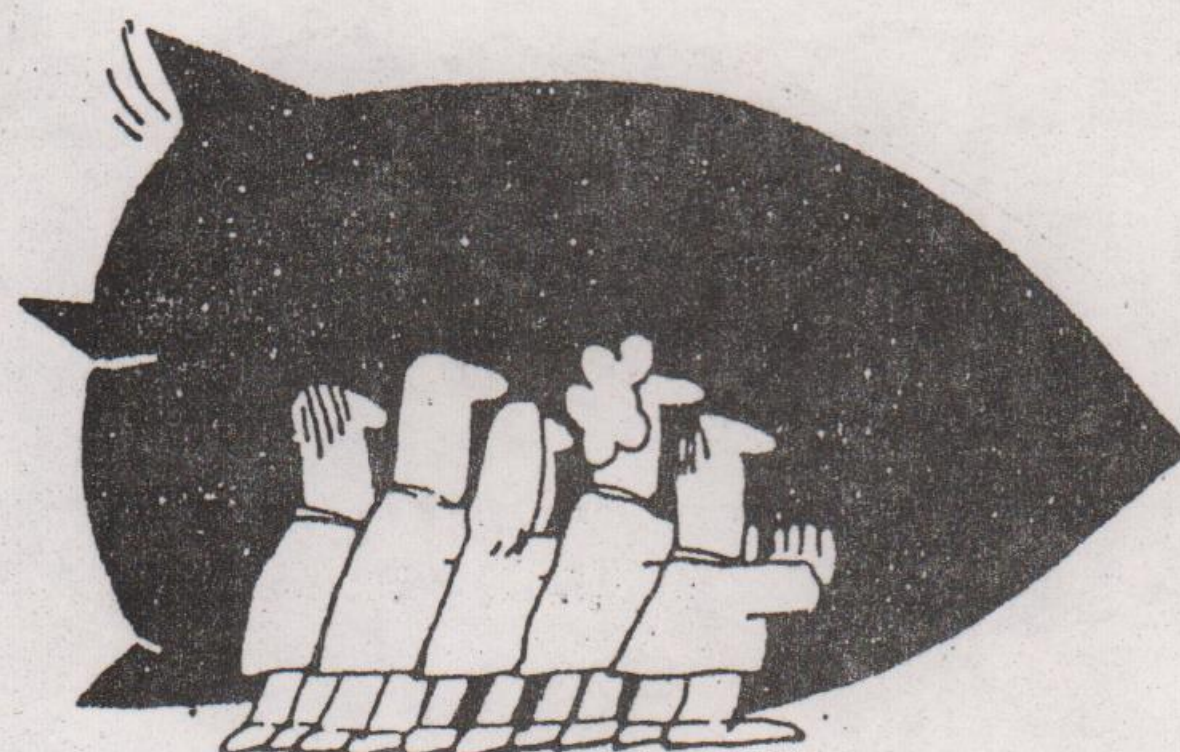
14th, Tuesday: Open meeting on Floridation, 7.30 pm, Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street

16th, Thursday: Forest Fields Peace Group meeting, 7.30 pm, the Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road

Friends Of The Earth meeting, 7.30 pm, Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street, CONTACT: Nick on 280134

27th, Monday: Rainbow Centre Meeting, 7.30 pm, Rainbow Centre, Mansfield Road

30th, Thursday: Friends Of The Earth meeting, 7.30 pm, Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street



ADVANCE NOTICE

Nottingham Peace Festival: 10th July, Victoria Embankment, Helpers still urgently needed, CONTACT: 970 822987

M'AIDEZ 88!: Friday 22nd July, 7.00 till late, ICC Mansfield Road, A multi-media extravaganza benefit to help the MAYDAY '88 group re-pay the sizable deficit they incurred staging the recent four-day festival, CONTACT: John on 706088

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

JOIN US

I would like to join the Forest Fields Peace Group.

I enclose my membership fee of
£1.00 unwaged
£2.00 waged NCND member
£3.00 waged non-NCND member

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....TEL.....

Please make all cheques/postal orders payable to Forest Fields Peace Group. Return this form to the address below.

BOX 5

69, WIVERTON ROAD

FOREST FIELDS



708459

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

FOREST FIELD PEACE GROUP IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP OPEN TO EVERYBODY IN THE FOREST FIELDS AND HYSON GREEN AREAS OF NOTTINGHAM, AND TO ALL OTHERS WHO SHARE THE GROUPS' AIMS. THEY ARE-

1. TO OPPOSE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND ALL OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
2. TO WORK FOR UNILATERAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN BRITAIN.
3. TO SUPPORT CND AND ALL OTHER GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE A NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE AND PEACEFUL WORLD.
4. TO REJECT THE DANGEROUS MILITARIST POLICIES OF BOTH AMERICA AND RUSSIA, AND WORK FOR A NON-NUCLEAR BRITISH DEFENCE POLICY, OUTSIDE NATO.
5. TO SUPPORT ALL NON-VIOLENT PROTEST, INCLUDING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, IN THE BELIEF THAT THE THREAT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS BOTH IMMORAL AND ILLEGAL.