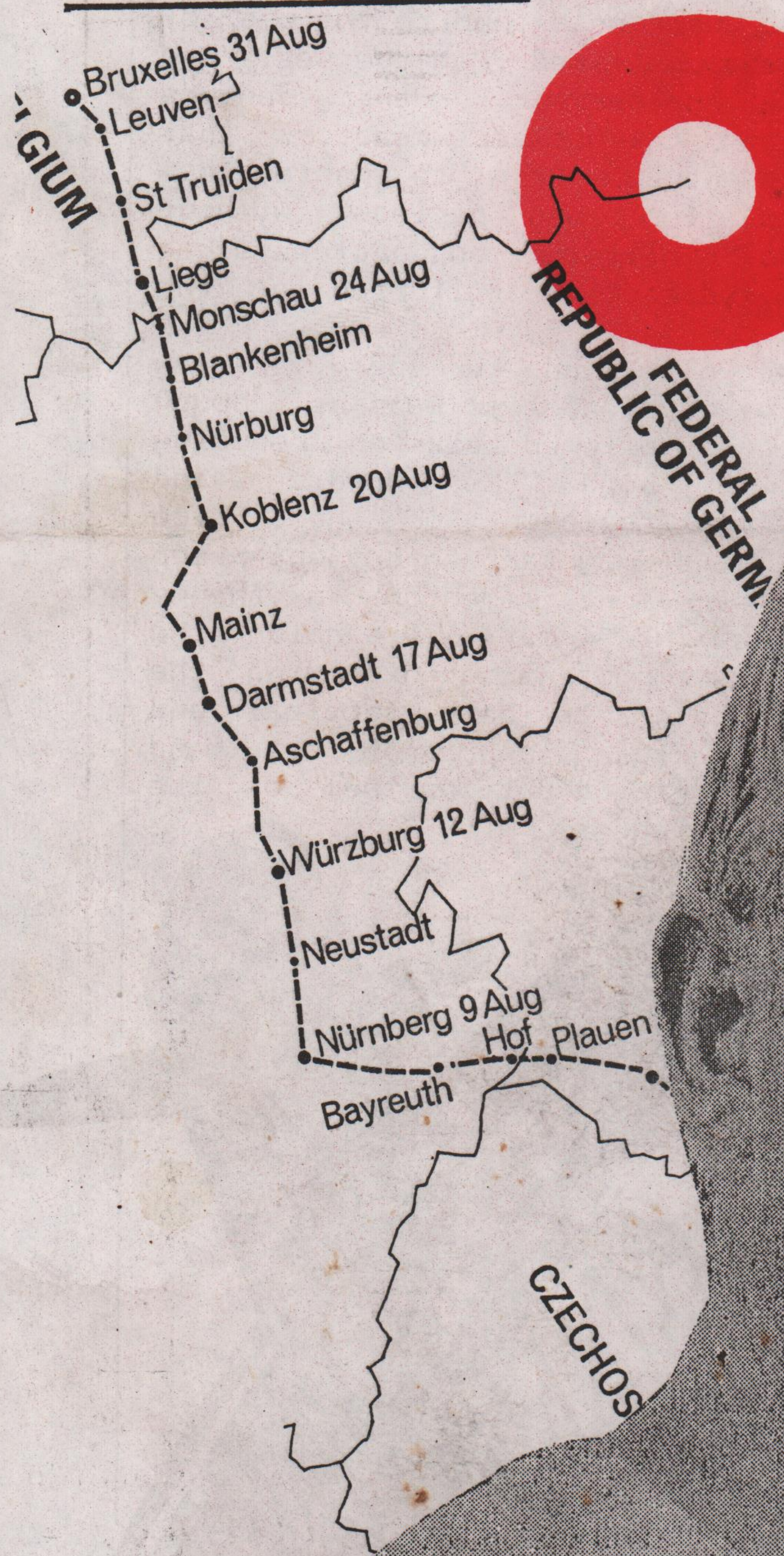
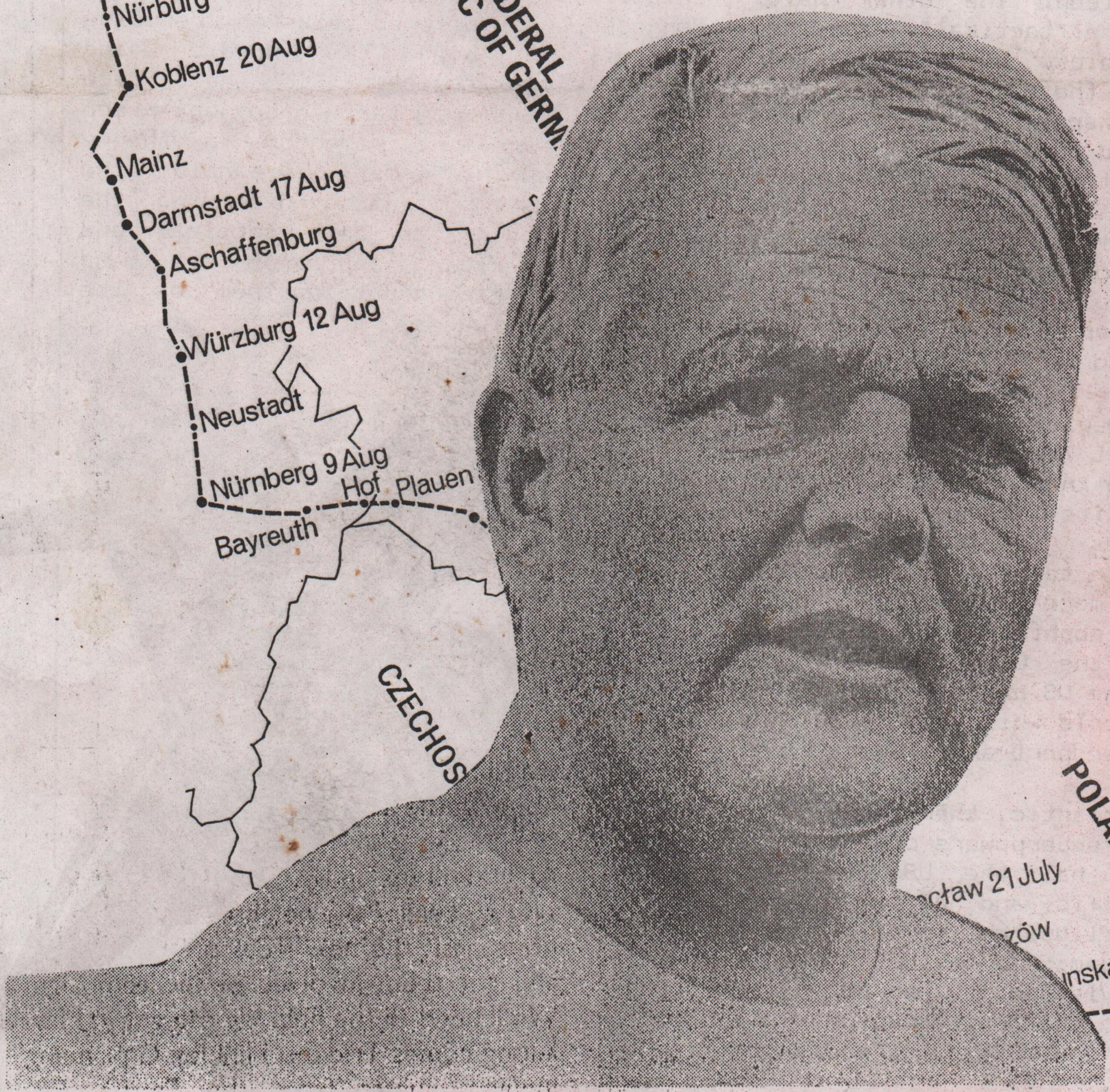


FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP JULY 1988



ONE



RED



POLAND

FACT FILE..



THE ARMS RACE AT SEA - A GLOBAL ARMS RACE

Recently, much peace movement campaigning has been concentrated on land-based weapons like Cruise, Pershing and SS-20. Out of sight, but just as deadly are the bombs and missiles based on ships and submarines. There are over 15,000

nuclear warheads in naval arsenal, nearly one third of the world total. 95% of them belong to the US and the USSR.

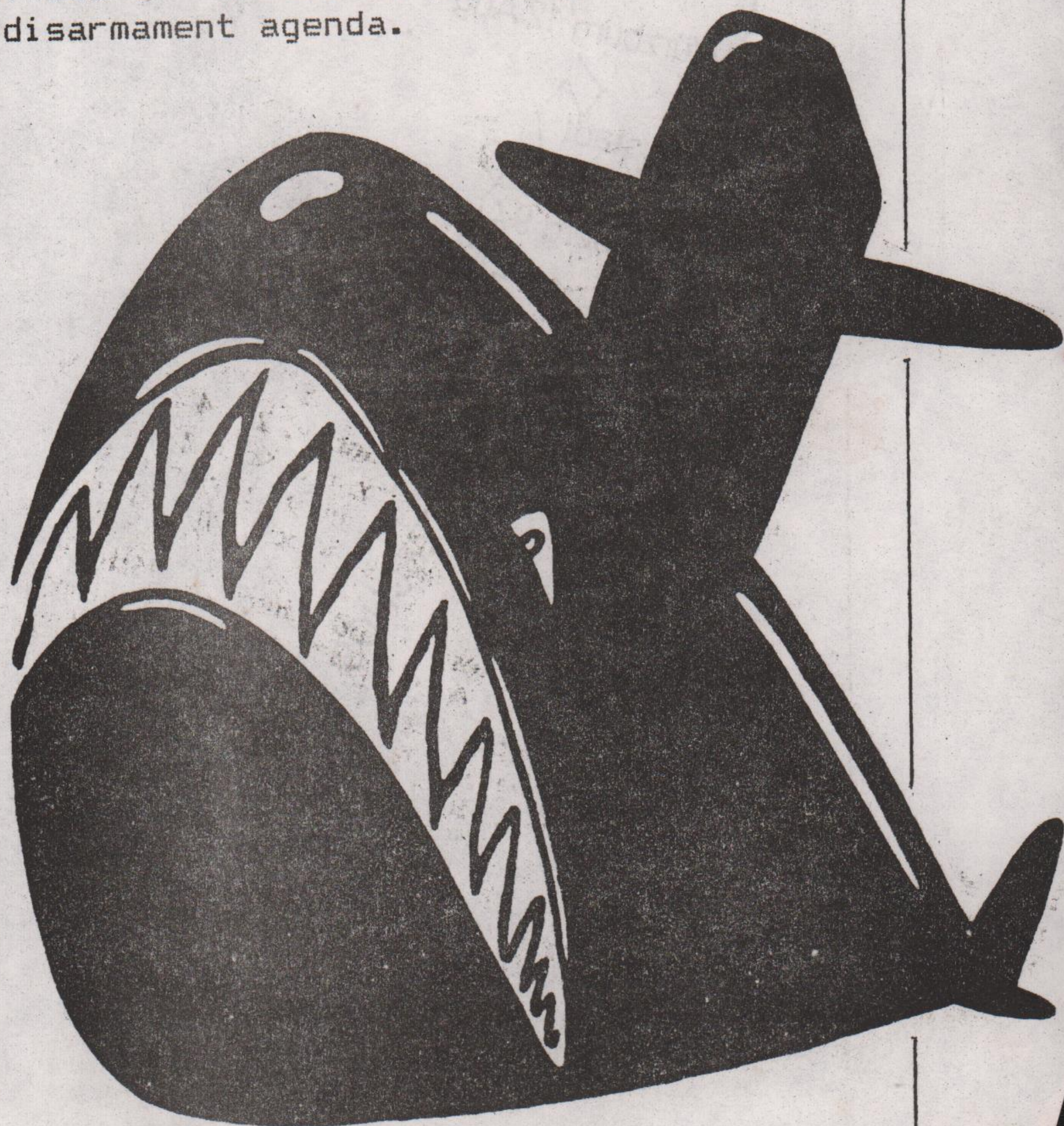
The Weapons Over half the nuclear weapons at sea are long-range strategic missiles aimed mostly at cities and other major targets. These include Trident, Polaris and Poseidon. The other naval nuclear weapons are "tactical", designed for attacking ships, subs and land-targets within their reach. These include depth-charges dropped from helicopters, and Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles. For Nato, deploying SLCM's off European coasts is one way of getting round the INF treaty! These SLCM's create special problems for disarmament, because it is so hard to distinguish between the nuclear and the conventional versions, and so verification is very complicated. The US has just started a programme to deploy 4000 long-range SLCM's (with about 750 being nuclear) and the USSR is also known to be developing similar types of its own.

Ruling the Waves The Soviet Union's fleet is larger in terms of numbers, but the US fleet is more powerful. The US has 14 huge and sophisticated air-craft carriers while the USSR has 4 much smaller ones. The US has access to ports all over the world while the USSR has only one ice-free port and fewer bases round the world.

Apart from the Atlantic, there are other oceans where the superpowers confront one another. About half the US fleet is based in the Pacific, and has major bases in Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Hawaii, Australia and Guam; and the USSR has a major base in Vietnam. The US Sixth Fleet is based in the Mediterranean, and both the US and the USSR have bases in the Indian Ocean.

The Dangers As we know the US is prepared to use nuclear weapons first if "necessary" (see Feb/March Newsletter). Both sides are unable to maintain full communication with submarines at all times. In this context, it is not hard to imagine how a single burst of accidental fire from one side (even an accidental one) could lead to the use of nuclear weapons fired from the sea, and then full nuclear war. Other dangers arise from the nuclear reactors that many ships and subs have, to enable them to patrol for long periods without refuelling. Collisions and accidents can lead to radioactive pollution of the seas.

Disarmament There are currently very few treaties of naval nuclear weapons, though Gorbachev has offered talks on reducing weapons in both the Nordic and Mediterranean region. For the Peace Movement, it's important to try and keep up the disarmament momentum in theory begun by the INF Treaty. Disarming the Seas is as important as disarming the land. Britain has both tactical and strategic nuclear weapons at sea, and Thatcher should be putting them on the disarmament agenda.



PAGE 3 COMMENT



Nowadays even the superpowers express their "concern" at the danger of nuclear war. Gorbachev has made one proposal after another and Reagan has spoken of his desire for a world without nuclear weapons. This alleged desire has led them to sign, with a great deal of bluster and ballyhoo, the INF treaty. But despite this "honeymoon" between the big powers is the world, or even Europe, a safer place?

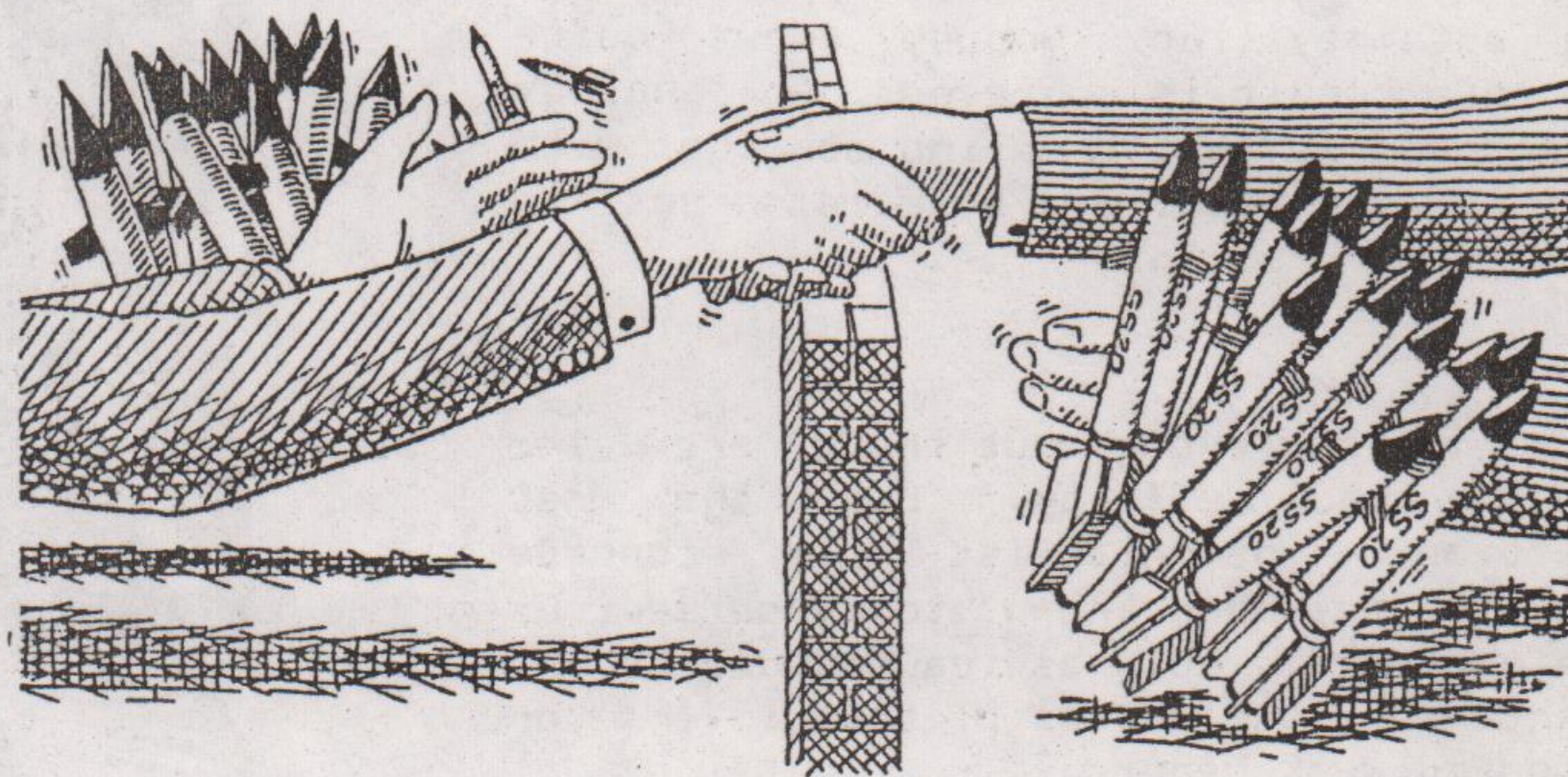
Experience of previous superpower agreements - the ABM treaty, SALT I and SALT II, for example - suggests that agreements between the superpowers are reached when it is mutually convenient for them (America and Russia) to develop the arms race in other directions. These treaties are then later mutually disregarded and torn up, also when it is mutually convenient. All the signs are that the same thing will happen to the INF treaty.

The INF treaty removes any medium-range nuclear missiles, a mere 4% of the superpowers' arsenal, leaving their enormous stockpiles of other weapons: nuclear, chemical and conventional in Europe together with their hundreds of bases and hundreds of thousands of troops. Obviously it is these "extras", not covered by the INF treaty, which really threaten the peace and security of Europe. But there is evidence that even the little taken away by the treaty is too much for the superpowers to stomach. The treaty was signed, but even before the ink was dry both Nato and the Warsaw Pact held urgent meetings to plan, not further reductions, but the increase, redeployment and modernisation of their nuclear arsenals. For example, the Soviet Union is redeploying its Yankee class of submarines to the waters around Europe. Each of these submarines carries sixteen nuclear warheads with a range of up to 1,800 miles. It is also redirecting some SS-24 missiles onto European targets. These moves are being mirrored by the US which is planning a new class of submarine, Sea Wolf hunter submarines, for the already overcrowded and dangerous water around Europe. The Americans also plan to

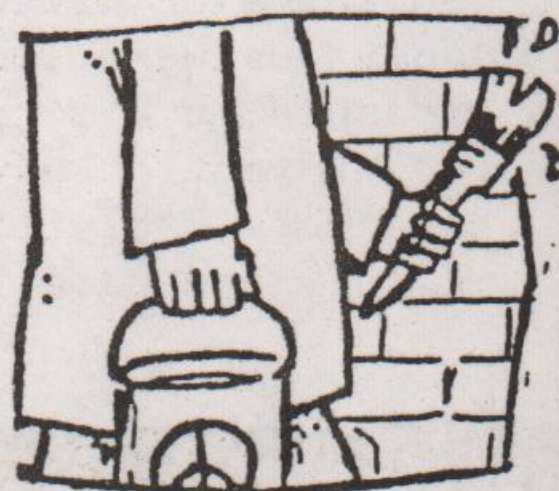
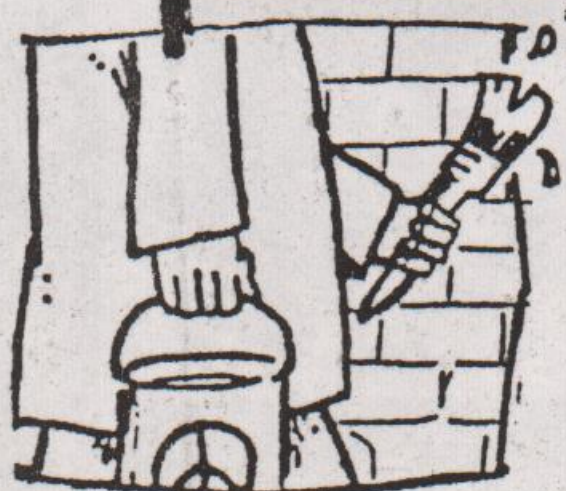
proceed with a long-range, mobile, strategic, MX missile to rival the strategic Soviet SS-24s. The ink is not yet dry, but Gorbachev, no doubt in the interest of peace (!!!), has offered to co-operate with the Americans on developing the Star Wars programme, while in Britain further deployment of cruise-carrying F-11 planes and cruise-carrying submarines - not covered by the treaty - have already been agreed to.

There are other factors which suggest that the treaty has not brought peace nearer. In the first place neither side has changed their behaviour. The Americans still act with their usual swagger in Central America (Nicaragua) and Europe (NATO interference in Denmark's affairs); the Soviets still trample on the Afghan people, etc. While the strident, pro-NATO, "peace through strength" voice of Thatcher is still as loud as ever. And it has to be said that Britain through its replacement of Polaris with Trident and its demands for American troops and missiles to remain in Europe is helping to raise the nuclear temperature.

After their third summit in Washington Reagan and Gorbachev described the INF treaty as the first step on the long road to peace and disarmament. But after their latest one in Moscow they were unable to create even the illusion that they had moved any further along this road. It would be a mistake to believe that the peoples' struggle for peace can be replaced by various scraps of paper signed by Reagan and Gorbachev however "sincere" either of them claim to be.



IS EUROPE A SAFER PLACE?



CCONNECTIONSNS

CONNECTIONS

Last weeks summit and the spectacle of world leaders plucking motives out of each other's eyes all over the place, reminded me how, sometimes, it's so much easier to see things clearly from a distance. It seems our perceptions are clarified by being removed from the situation--particularly in regard to human rights. Just one area that illustrates this really well is psychiatry. As far as most people in the West are concerned, in the Soviet Union psychiatry and social control are synonymous. We are all familiar with horror stories of people being incarcerated and tortured in mental asylums for their political beliefs or unacceptable social behaviour. Our own crumbling crisis-ridden NHS just doesn't have the same sinister connotations. Perhaps it should. At this moment we are still paralysing and controlling people with chemical strait-jackets; we are still using electrical currents to zap out part of their brains. If this sounds like polarised rhetoric, consider two popular tools of modern day psychiatry -- electro-convulsive therapy and major tranquillisers.

Electro-convulsive therapy--or ECT--is commonly used up and down the country to "treat" a variety of "Mental Illnesses", particularly depression. It's enlightening to know how ECT originated. Some time before 1937 two Italian psychiatrists happened to be watching pigs being slaughtered by electrocution in a Roman abattoir. They noticed that those pigs who had not been killed by the shock subsequently behaved more calmly than they had before. So they had the idea that human behaviour could be altered in the same way by the administration of sub-lethal electric shocks to the brain. One of the pioneers of ECT, Cerletti, like Oppenheimer, came to regret his invention and thought that it should be abolished. About the best thing that can be said for ECT is that it sometimes cheers people up for long enough to enable them to be returned to their household chores or shipped back to the assembly line. Nobody knows quite how this result is achieved. An analogy often used is that treating someone with ECT is like kicking a television set to make it work again.

This is bad enough but there are also very harmful effects. Even the most reactionary psychiatrist will concede that it "has been known" to cause serious brain damage. ECT has caused deaths by fracturing the spines of the infirm or stopping weak hearts.

In the bad old days people displaying dangerous or disturbed (read disturbing) behaviour were locked in a padded cell or strapped in a strait-jacket. Now, with the invention of major tranquillisers a far more "civilised" method of doing exactly the same thing has been hit upon.

It is important to remember that the debate about the use of major tranquillisers (chlorpromazine, trifluoperazine, etc.) is not a debate about treatment, i.e. whether this or that treatment is to be preferred--it is a moral debate about whether psychotic behaviour should be forcibly abolished by any means at any cost. And again the cost is very high.... to list some of the known effects of major tranquillisers--lethargy, dependence, jaundice, kidney damage, impotence, and Parkinsonian symptoms--and possibly psychosis!

Behind the legitimization of the use of physical treatments as a response to individuals' emotional and social problems is the myth of "Mental Illness". That is the unproved and unscientifically vague assumption that people experiencing mental distress are "ill" and can be treated as if they had some disease or hereditary genetic disorder. My experience is that few doctors really believe this. It becomes hard to ignore, for example, statistics that show there is a disproportionately high incidence of "mental illness" occurs among three particular groups--they are of course the working classes, black people and women. Well, well, well.

Admittedly it can be hard to get your head around the notion that your friendly GP or caring shrink is an agent of social control. But imagine how you would interpret the use of the sort of treatment I've been describing if it was reported to you as happening in Russia, or South America--or Nazi Germany.....

Just as a by the by post script--it's interesting to not that ECT was banned in the Soviet Union years ago.

---Melissa Ronaldsen



PSYCHIATRY

IN A DARK TIME...

B.C.

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor or thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee."

JOHN DONNE 1644

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

HENRY THOREAU 1854

"It's not all that complicated. We've been leading the arms race by three to five years since we developed the atomic bomb. If people are serious about reducing the threat of nuclear war and slowing, reversing and stopping the arms race, they simply have to take caution here, with our own elected officials throughout our government. We don't have to think that someone else is going to solve this problem. I think it's a kind of cop out to suggest that the solution lies in some big world organisation. The solution lies here, in the hearts and minds of the public. We can slow, stop and reverse that arms race when we make up our minds to".

REAR ADMIRAL GENE LARDQUE 1982

"At this stage we have the choice of two risks: the one lies in continuing the mad atomic arms race:...the other in the renunciation of nuclear weapons, and in the hope that people will manage to live in peace. The first holds no hope of a prosperous future; the second does. We must risk the second".

ALBERT SCHWEITZER 1958

"Humankind must at last grow up. We must recognise that the Other is ourselves".

EDWARD THOMPSON 1982

THE EYE BEGINS TO SEE...

B.C.



FROM THE BUNKER...

BY LES.



I felt in a state of turmoil trying to understand why people disagree about the recent "INF" treaty, and other possible nuclear agreement before the superpowers, USA & USSR. Why have some people hailed it as an important breakthrough on the road to nuclear disarmament while others, (including me) have dismissed it as a propaganda trick, that will bring our violent world no nearer to peace at all? How could I know if I was "right" to feel like that? Wouldn't it be more practical and sensible to see the INF treaty as a step in the right direction at least? I didn't know, hence the inner turmoil. And the more I thought about it, the more I sensed that nobody really knew for certain what was the best way out of the nuclear threat to a peaceful world. Perhaps, though, that was right, at least--who can foretell the future? And how can it be possible to be rational and cool about the nuclear threat, that could lead at any moment to mass destruction on a scale impossible to comprehend? Perhaps, indeed, the very effort was absurd, like as a child trying to picture what was before anything was.

Seeing that eased the turmoil--we are living through the nightmare of a nuclear state, and we must surely act out of what we feel inside, as human beings. As the writer John Fowles recognised, One nuclear issue is a matter for "an instinctive moral choice" not for looking at "practical" arguments for and against. It was such instinctive moral choice that lay behind my opposition to nuclear weapons from the beginning, and the INF treaty did nothing to change that, and it was useless to pretend other wise.

Politicians, "defence experts", "nuclear planners", liberal journalists were asking us to be rational and sensible, and to get involved with the nuclear game they've played for so long--if more is bad then surely less is good, a step in the right direction? If we want to survive, we must refuse to play that sick game--either the nuclear threat is a criminal perversion or our rights and responsibilities as a human community or it is not. Nothing, surely, can be more frighteningly and starkly clear than that. There is no middle way here, not in our century, where advanced technology has combined with the terrible human capacity for seeing others as less than human--as "blacks" or "Jews" or

"Russians" or whatever--to cause more death, extermination, and societies that remain passive as that happens, and afterwards bury it all away, closing their eyes and ears in order to have a good time until it all happens again. That is what living in a nuclear state is all about--NATO versus the Warsaw Pact, capitalism versus communism, us versus them. All meaning that we're prepared to accept living in a nuclear threatened world. Until now, when the mass-murderers in waiting who control the nuclear nightmare give people treaty crumbs and ask them to applaud it as a step in the right direction! More than ever we must go by how we feel inside, and break the chain of destruction. How do we feel living in a world on the edge of destruction? Do we accept that? Are we really people haters and planet haters?

Only by allowing our feeling to rise will we be able to see through the poison of nuclear fog, and through the nuclear planners and experts who want us to be sensible and pragmatic in the face of nuclear apocalypse, and applaud a treaty coming out of this horrific nightmare. Would we applaud if ten concentration camps were reduced to five and we were asked to welcome it as a step in the right direction? The analogy is not outrageous--if we cannot learn from what has happened, we are doomed. If we cannot see that the people who toy with treaties are the very ones prepared to make an Auschwitz or a Belson of the whole world, then we are surely lost. The turmoil always dissolves when I allow myself to see that clearly and to feel it's reality, and I recognise why I cannot preach the INF treaty as good news of any kind, to any degree at all. It's an unending agony to live in a society where so many people accept nuclear weapons or numb themselves to what is happening. But there is no short cut to change--that will only come when people act on their real feelings as human beings. Unless that happens reasons for escalating the nuclear threat will be swallowed and accepted as easily as reasons for cutting back on the nuclear stockpile.

Les Parsons

March 1988

THE TURMOIL..

A hand-drawn diagram of a Tomahawk rocket motor. The motor is cylindrical with a star logo and the word "TOMAHAWK" in the center. Various parts are labeled with handwritten text and arrows:

- CUT WIRES**: Points to the left side of the motor.
- SAW THIS BIT OFF**: Points to a small rectangular component on the left side.
- HIT WITH HAMMER, LOTS OF TIMES**: Points to the top of the motor.
- STUFF USED NAPPIES IN HERE**: Points to the bottom of the motor.
- UNSCREW ALL THESE BITS**: Points to the right side of the motor.

The motor has a star logo and the word "TOMAHAWK" written on it. There are also some small rectangular components and wires attached to the left side.

ONE WORLD

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament





PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE TO BE NO MORE DISCUSSION MEETINGS ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY OTHER MONTH, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Saturday July 9th

Prevent Unwanted Pets Flag Day
Nottm, City Centre

Sunday July 10th

8th NOTTINGHAM PEACE FESTIVAL
12 noon Victoria Embankment.
Stalls, Exhibitions, Music, Food, Children's Events,
Speakers

Thursday July 21st

Forest Fields Peace Group Members' Meeting.
7:30 p.m. at The Neighbourhood Centre
69, Wiverton Road, Forest Fiel

Saturday 30th
and Sunday 31st

Rock and Reggae Festival
on the Forest Recreation Ground.
For Details phone 782463

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

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.