

NEWSLETTER
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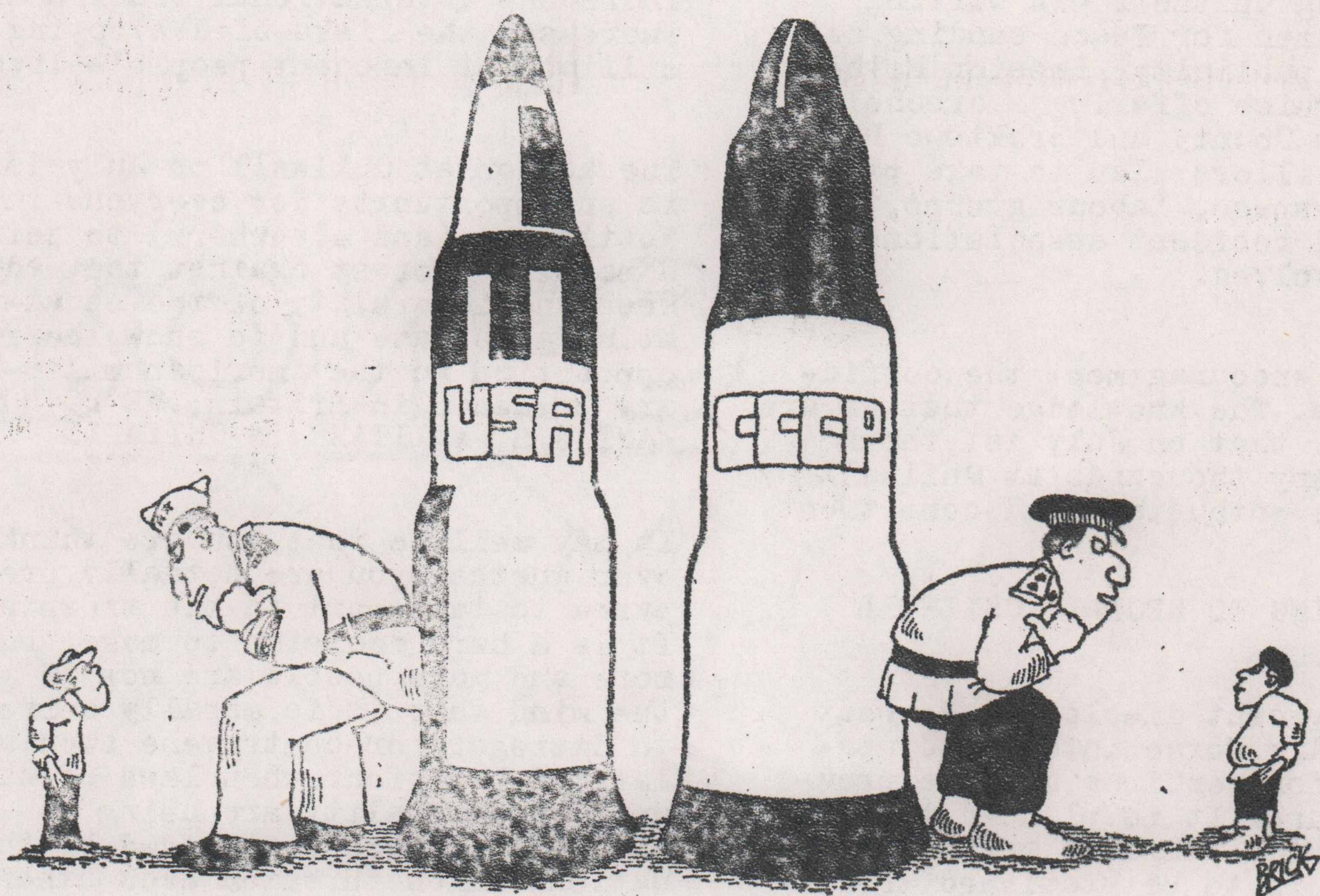
FOR THE
PEACE
GROUP

JUNE '84

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'YOU MUST APPRECIATE, THEY SPEND TWICE
AS MUCH AS WE DO...'

Reclaim Chilwell

July 1st

1pm

Join the mass trespass at Chilwell Army Depot
and help stop it becoming the next U.S.
Air Force Base in Britain.

RECLAIM CHILWELL

The campaign against the U.S. takeover at Chilwell gains momentum. The Mass Trespass on July 1st is the next landmark. It's going to be the biggest peace demonstration ever seen in Nottingham.

There is still a long way to go but things are beginning to take shape. National CND backing is confirmed; Essex CND sending transport; Derby CND setting up their own working groups; Women for Peace sending out their own publicity; Beeston Mothers Against Cruise offering a creche; even Notts County and Brextowe District councillors plan to take part in the trespass. Labour groups, trade unions and resident associations will all be involved.

With each encouragement the confidence grows. The knowledge that we are not alone, that on July 1st there will be many thousands at Chilwell gives more enthusiasm and commitment.

WE ARE GOING TO RECLAIM CHILWELL

The most recent disclosure on what the U.S. Air Force intends to use Chilwell for confirms all the previous rumours. It is planned that 1,500 service vehicles and military equipment is to be stationed there. Strong denials have been made that this has anything to do with Cruise missiles at Greenham Common. Whether this is true or not is almost irrelevant. The truth is that it is a further example of the U.S. war machine entrenching itself on British soil: ready to fight war of which there will be no consultation with the British people. The only definite role that Britain will play will be as victim of the aggression of the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

It is now estimated that including military housing quarters there are over 160 U.S. bases in Britain. We are told that they help protect the freedom and democracy of the western world. Yet their very presence threatens our freedom and undermines the sovereignty of Britain. Rather than promote peace, the presence of Soviet and American troops, missiles and bases in other countries increases the threat of war, increases international tension and increases the risks of destroying millions of innocent people's lives.

The action at Chilwell on July 1st is an opportunity for everyone in Nottingham (and elsewhere) to join a massive protest against the madness and immorality of the escalating arms race and to show their opposition to the American military presence in Britain. WE DO NOT WANT U.S. MILITARY IN CHILWELL.

It may well be that you are thinking over whether you are actually prepared to take part in the trespass. It is a hard decision to make. But more and more people are now of the mind that it is morally correct to disregard or contravene secular laws of behaviour when laws of humanity and morality are being so blatantly abused or ignored by those nations which threaten each other with nuclear and other weapons.

Reclaim Chilwell may result in the arrest of a number of people. But there are many ways of helping the action which do not run the risk of arrest. Transport, manning a phone, legal witnesses are but a few functions which need to be fulfilled. If you can help in these or other areas please contact:

Reclaim Chilwell
c/o Nottingham CND
15 Goosegate
tel 581948

The Forest Fields Peace Group will be among all those groups taking part in the trespass and already training sessions have begun. Many more people are welcome to join us in an action which should yield much fun and spirited resistance. Please don't hesitate to get involved and find out what's going on. Ring Paddy and Cathy 788655.

MINERS AND PEACE

The situation with regard to the mining industry of this country and its workers should, I believe, be of interest to peace campaigners everywhere.

The miners fight is the most important in an ever lengthening list of attacks on the rights and dignities of the working class people of this country - most important because it involves the nation's most vital energy source, thereby making it everyone's fight.

It is clearly the policy of this government to decimate the industry to a position whereby only a few "super pits" exist, with all the latest technology and a minimum workforce. Such pits, with a drastically reduced workforce and no effective union, would then provide rich pickings for private enterprise.

This, however, is only a short term view with only the interests of an elitist minority being served and is against the interests of the nation as a whole.

History books show us that increasing oppression of the masses and a subsequent acceleration of fascism has regularly been a prelude to war. Thus, as we are now experiencing just such a trend, concurrent with an intensive escalation of the arms race, we are in a very precarious situation which we the people must do all we can to avert. That is why the miners fight is everyone's fight.

Even more importantly though, it must be realised that the media attention on miners fighting miners, miners fighting police, Scargill fighting MacGregor etc, is all a smokescreen clouding the most fundamentally important issue. That is that the government wishes to see a much greater dependance on nuclear power, the danger of which we are all aware.

For the government this policy has the double advantage of:

- a. greater control over the workers;
- b. with the U.S. facing ever-growing opposition to nuclear power stations there is an obvious market for uranium which the U.S. can put into Cruise missiles and send back to us.

We must, as campaigners for peace, not allow this to happen. Unity with the miners is essential in their fight against nuclear power and for the protection of the coal industry and the thousands of workers livelihoods which are dependant on it.

As a Cotgrave miner on strike and also as a member of F.F.P.G. I urge you to give all possible support to the striking miners. Everyone can give a little something - money or food, clothing etc.

A strike centre has been set up at the A.U.E.W. offices at 218, Mansfield Road, where donations will be received. Alternatively, look out for the leaflets and notices which give information on our local collection service.

Bryan Shipley

N.B. For further information on how to help the striking miners ring: Dick and Jean
Bob
Leo and Carol

contributions

Letters and articles for the Newsletter about the arms race or the peace movement are most welcome.

If you would like to contribute something or would like to make a financial contribution to the Peace Group, please contact us at the Neighbourhood Centre.

REAGAN IN LONDON

MASS DEMONSTRATION JUNE 9th

On June 9th, President Reagan and several other world leaders will be in London for an economic summit at Lancaster House.

National CND is organising a mass demonstration and supporting two separate direct actions: a blockade at Lancaster House itself and a blockade at the U.S. Embassy at Grosvenor Square. CND wants every person who is able to take part in these actions.

The purpose of these actions is to demonstrate the total rejection by the majority of British people of Reagan's horrific preparations for world war. In the last few months we have seen clear examples of his intention of "protecting American national interests" by military domination and exploitation:

1. his commitment to flooding Europe with Cruise and Pershing missiles. The deployment of Cruise was argued to be in response to the Soviet SS-20 missiles. But recent evidence proves that this was never the intention. Rather, Cruise was planned as a new development in the arms race, a new era in the arms race. It will be the people of Europe who suffer the catastrophic consequences of Cruise and Pershing;

2. it has been revealed that Reagan intends to deploy thousands of sea launched Cruise missiles this summer. These weapons can be disguised on virtually any vessel and means that any port world-wide is a potential Cruise base every time it hosts a U.S. ship. It makes arms reduction talks an absolute impossibility.

3. from Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador and the Lebanon (to name only a few) it can be seen that if Reagan does or does not approve of the internal politics of any state, or deems them contrary to U.S. national interests, then he is quite prepared to intervene militarily, regardless of the wishes of the people of those states. How soon before this escalates to World war?

4. documents released recently and published in Sanity (April 1984), reveal not only is Reagan preparing for World War III, but is ready for World Wars IV, V and VI too. The U.S. has a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons ready for use after a nuclear war.

These are but a few examples of the aggressive nature of Reagan's plans - all of which push us nearer and nearer the brink of war.

Join with us on June 9th and show him that the people of Britain do not want his troops, missiles and bases in this country and that we reject his policies of war.

TRANSPORT - 7.30am Salutation Inn
Maid Marian Way

Return to Nottingham by approx 5pm

COST - waged £5.00
unwaged £2.50

Tickets available from:
Nottingham CND
15, Goosegate
Nottingham tel 581948



CND — the early years

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament evolved in 1958 as a result of an extraordinary public meeting held on 17th Feb at Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers involved included Priestley, Bertrand Russell, Canon John Collins and A.J.P. Taylor who were well in demand due to a turnout of 5,000 who had to be accommodated in four overflow halls (the speakers had to be ferried alternatively between each).

From the start the movement had roughly the same aims as now:

"The purpose of the Campaign is to press for a British initiative to reduce the nuclear peril and to stop the armaments race. We shall seek to persuade the British people that Britain must:-

a. renounce unconditionally the use or production of nuclear weapons, and refuse to allow their use by others in her defence;

b. use her utmost endeavour to bring about negotiations at all levels for agreement to end the arms race and to lead to a general disarmament convention;

c. invite the co-operation of other nations, particularly non-nuclear powers, in the renunciation of all nuclear weapons."

In 1950 over a million signatures were added to the Stockholm Peace Appeal and in 1954 a similar petition was obtained by the Hydrogen Bomb National Campaign. Various powerful sub-groups were formed with literally thousands of active participants. Meanwhile in Europe the Campaign was gaining massive support so paving the way for the European Nuclear Disarmament Movement, formed in Jan 1959.

The forming of the Direct Action Committee (D.A.C.) led to a similar situation as exists today. The group was formed on the arrival of Thor tactical nuclear missiles dispersed in four bases in East Anglia. Events planned allowed the CND groups to protest by marching and the D.A.C. to take more active unconstitutional

approaches, hence forming the co-existence of groups found today. It must be said that in the early 60's there was not the evidence of police making indiscriminate arrests as happens today.

A later development of direct action was the Committee of 100 which had ideas of mass civil disobedience. This group's activities in the 60's showed the format of today's direct action protests.

The middle and late sixties saw the campaign grow to potentially huge levels with the hundreds of thousands involved in the flower-power era but sadly this disintegrated into a cult or fashion without ever becoming seriously politically directed. Hypothetically if this movement had been totally committed to CND we might have no threat today.

Throughout the existence of CND we have seen a massive build up of nuclear weapons totally against the wishes of the public. In fact as more horrific weapons have been introduced public support for CND has grown in the same proportions and has been conspicuous by its more committed, effective and positive campaign.

Over the last few years we have seen an even stronger campaign being met by a more extreme police reaction. The significance of this is clearly that the Government is running scared of the growing support for the peace movement and using the might of the police force to try to suppress it.

Many major events have increased public awareness of the dangers of nuclear war strategy: the 1982 London demonstration in which over a quarter of a million people took part and 500,000 who took part the following year. Many non-violent direct actions have also raised public consciousness of several vital issues related to the arms race.

It is in this way that the increasing number of people can stop the nuclear madness.

JAILED

Pete Strauss, a member of the F.F. P.G., appeared in Nottingham Magistrates Court on May 10th for non-payment of a fine. The fine was imposed when Pete was found guilty of obstructing the highway at a demonstration against U.S. military presence at Upper Heyford.

Pete was repeatedly refused permission to speak in his own defence and he was told by the magistrates that matters of his conscience were not relevant to the court. Pete tried to make his point that rather than being guilty of breaking the law, he was upholding both international law and laws of humanity by protesting against the illegal and immoral escalation of the arms race.

Pete was sentenced to seven days imprisonment. Supporters cheered Pete and slow-handclapped the two magistrates. Other supporters who were refused entry to the public gallery by court officials, continued a presence outside the court.

Yet another example of an innocent person being imprisoned for raising his voice and fighting for peace.

meetings

The Forest Fields Peace Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each month. The next meetings are:

Wednesday 13th June at 8pm
Thursday 28th June at 8pm.

Meetings are held at the Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Wiverton Road, off Sherwood Rise.

New members always welcome.

civil disobedience

At the April meeting of the Peace Discussion Group the topic under consideration was "Can Civil Disobedience Stop World War?"

A lively discussion ensued and one of the strongest points raised was that the peace movement will have to abandon its philosophy of only appealing to the humanity and compassion of government, if it wants to be successful. It was argued that we cannot rely on the government becoming understanding or appreciative of the (majority) views of the peace movement, demonstrated by civil disobedience or constitutional means.

In the final analysis it was agreed that the anti-war movement cannot rely on civil disobedience but on mass uncivil actions too.

discussion group

DATE - Wednesday 27th June at 8pm

VENUE - Neighbourhood Centre

TOPICS - "Where does the danger of war come from?"

"Britain's Nuclear and Conventional War Preparations."

EVERYONE WELCOME

CRUISE DEMO

In the event of a Cruise launcher and convoy leaving Greenham Common, there will be an instant demonstration in Nottingham.

Protestors are asked to assemble in Old Market Square at 5pm following the news of the Cruise launcher leaving the base. A mass die-in will commence at 5.30pm. Everyone is asked to take part to demonstrate local opposition to the siting of U.S. Cruise missiles in Britain.