

TOGETHER WE CAN
STOP THE
BOMB

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

10 pence

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Don't let nuclear war happen
Ban nuclear weapons

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS
NO MORE NAGASAKIS



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NO MORE NAGASAKIS**

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LISTEN TO THE
HIBAKUSHA

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PERSHING MISSILES RULED ILLEGAL

A Frankfurt court has ruled that American Pershing 11 nuclear missiles are illegally deployed in West Germany. The court, in acquitting 6 people who staged a blockade outside a U.S. base in 1983, ruled that the Pershing missiles violated the German Constitution because they posed a direct threat to East Germany and so endangered the goal of German reunification.

The Court also ruled that the Pershings were first strike weapons and thus illegal under a constitution which banned aggressive weapons from German soil.

Of course the West German government, the NATO alliance, and America knew all this from the beginning. Yet they went ahead and deployed the missiles - there are now 54 in West Germany. The Frankfurt court has given legal confirmation of what the peace movement, and German

Green Party has been saying for years - that Pershing 11 missiles are not 'deterrent' weapons but deadly, aggressive first strike nuclear missiles, deployed not to deter a nuclear war but to fight one.

The judge in the Frankfurt case stressed that the missiles' deployment on German soil had occurred without there being any 'legal basis' at all.

Once again, we learn that, despite their fine words on the subjects, the NATO alliance and America in particular, have no respect for either law or democracy, and are prepared to ignore both in their insane pursuit of a nuclear arms race, and their preparations for fighting a nuclear war, confirmed by the deployment of the Pershing missiles.

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National CND Demonstration - London

On Saturday 26th. October, the opening week of the United Nations peace Year, CND will hold its National Demonstration in the centre of London.

Coming at a time when the superpowers are again negotiating on arms, CND will focus on the failure of arms talks to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Nottingham CND has booked two trains to go to London on that day. Hopefully they'll need more transport, but they won't know that until we buy our tickets. A deposit has been paid on the trains and the balance will need to be paid at least two weeks in advance so the ticket money is needed now.

If you would like some more information or would like to buy a ticket, contact Nottingham CND, Unit B, 14-18 St Mary's Gate, Nottingham (581948).

Tickets can also be bought from Mushroom Bookshop, Oureboro's and Hiziki costing 10 (waged) or 6 (unwaged).

We'll have our own catering facilities on the train so don't worry about the British Rail cheese sarnies!

PLEASE BUY YOUR TICKETS WELL IN ADVANCE



HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI

8.15am, August 6th 1945

Enola Gay, a B29 U.S. Bomber, dropped an atomic bomb nicknamed "Little Boy" on the people of the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

No warning was given.

11.02am, August 9th 1945

A second bomb was dropped, this time on the civilian population of Nagasaki. This bomb was nicknamed "Fat Man".

"The bomb exploded within one hundred feet of the aiming point. The fireball was 18,000 feet across. The temperature at the centre of the fireball was 100,000,000 degrees. The people who were near the centre became nothing."

Cut off from the outside world, the sick and injured were left to fend for themselves without water, food, medical care or shelter. Disease was rampant. The immediate death toll was difficult to calculate, but it is estimated that 130,000-140,000 died in the first four months in Hiroshima and 60,000-70,000 in Nagasaki.

Every year since 1945, more than 2,000 people have died from the effects of these two bombs - from cancer, from radiation induced damage to the brain, to the heart, to the blood circulation.... Small doses of radiation are also known to cause genetic damage to an extent which we might be only just beginning to discover.

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the bomb fell on Hiroshima, a mile from her home. At first she appeared to be unharmed, and lived a normal healthy life. Then at the age of 12, she suddenly developed the signs of leukemia so well known among Hiroshima survivors. There is an old belief in Japan that a crane can live a thousand years. If you make a thousand papers cranes, they will protect you from illness. But Sadako did not have the strength or time to reach a thousand. In October 1955, when she had made only 964, she died. The atomic bomb took 10 years to kill her. There are thousands of similar tragic stories. The Japanese term for nuclear victims is the "Hibakusha". They know the devastation of the nuclear bomb. Many are still suffering and dying from the effects of the bombs.

As they grow old and tired, the "Hibakusha" tell their stories passionately to remind a forgetful world. They make the urgent appeal to all of us:

"Make no more Hibakusha. Don't take your eyes off Hiroshima & Nagasaki, let people everywhere know the damage caused by nuclear weapons."

The atomic bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki signalled the beginning of the nuclear age. With it came the capacity to destroy the whole of human civilisation.

Now nuclear war could result in the extinction of whole species of life and the possibility of human extinction cannot be ruled out.

That is why we must listen to the stories and the pleas of the Hibakusha.

"His head & his face were whitish: his hair was singed. It was because his eyelashes had been scorched away that he seemed so bleary eyed. He was half naked because his shirt had been burned from his back in a single flash. He was still alive. The lucky ones were dead."

This year is the 40th anniversary of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki. In this year, Britain, the Soviet Union, United States & France are going ahead with their plans to build and deploy more nuclear weapons. Despite the fact that there are already enough bombs to destroy the whole planet more than seven times over.

This is why we must listen to the Hibakusha.

"Never let there be a nuclear war.

Ban nuclear weapons."

"This is our cry, this is our prayer: peace in the world."

We must all remember and learn from the events of August 6th and 9th 1945. It is our duty to every child to speak out about the long term mental & physical sufferings of the survivors, and to know and understand what happened. It is our duty to oppose the immoral and illegal possession of nuclear weapons. It is our duty to fight against those nuclear weapons states which have openly declared that they would use nuclear weapons if they thought it necessary to do so.

It is never necessary to use nuclear weapons. It can never be necessary. It cannot be allowed.

We must not take our eyes off Hiroshima & Nagasaki

Using our collective voice we can demand an end to the testing, research, development and deployment of nuclear weapons on Earth and in outer space, so that it can never happen again.

Listen to the Hibakusha.

BETTER ACTIVE THAN RADIO - ACTIVE

Few people disagree that the greatest danger facing the whole world today is the possibility of nuclear war. Few people believe they could ever justify the use of nuclear weapons to kill millions of innocent women, men and children.

Politicians and military experts try to convince us that nuclear weapons prevent nuclear war, but at the same time admit that they would use nuclear weapons "as a last resort"

In other words they believe there could develop a situation in which they would feel justified in using nuclear weapons. They would feel justified in killing millions of people. They would also feel justified in destroying the lives of millions of their own people.

How can anyone ever justify killing millions of people, even as a last resort. It would not just be a last resort. It would be the last of everything.

No one can ever justify the use of nuclear weapons.

There can be no justification for assuring the right to destroy life itself.

So what do we do about it.

Some people prefer not to think about it... it's too frightening a thing to begin to consider. Others merely shrug their shoulders and say "there's nothing we can do about it". More and more people are realising that it is wrong and suicidal to possess nuclear weapons and are joining the peace movement and becoming members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

But is it enough to merely subscribe to CND or a peace group? Can we really believe that paying our annual membership fee is an adequate contribution to the opposition to nuclear weapons? Can we go about our social, political or occupational lives and leave the fight to get rid of nuclear weapons to those "same old faces" who attend meetings, distribute leaflets, sell peace newsletters, attend demonstrations or protest at military bases? Knowing as we do, that unless the peace movement is successful, our social, political and occupational lives will cease to exist.

The peace movement will only be successful when more and more people actively support the campaign for world peace and nuclear disarmament. When the vast majority of people raise their voices in anger and opposition to the immorality of nuclear weapons, then the scent of peace will be in our lungs.

This cannot happen by ignoring the issue and it certainly won't happen by shrugging our shoulders.

Nor will it happen if we hope that just paying our membership fee to the peace group is a sufficient contribution. Only by active involvement in the campaign against war can we expect to avoid nuclear war and total destruction. Only by persuading and attracting more people to join the opposition to nuclear weapons can the peace movement grow to the point where it succeeds.

Only when you and I do what we can to get rid of all weapons of mass destruction can we expect to avoid the end of civilisation.

E.F. Schumacher once wrote;

"we must always do what we perceive to be the right thing and not burden our souls or bother our consciences as to whether we are going to be successful or not. For if we do, we shall not be doing the right thing but the wrong thing and then we shall be part of the disease and not part of the cure."

There is no more important issue today facing humanity than opposing war. Are you really doing what you can to stop it? Are you part of the disease or the cure?

LETTERS

Starting with the next newsletter we will be devoting a page of this newsletter to letters from you.

If you would like to express your views and opinions about the peace movement or the arms race, if you have anything you'd like to say about Reagan's "Star Wars" Defence Initiative or Heseltine's flak-jacket, if you have any suggestions to make to Forest Fields Peace Group, if you just like to write letters, we'd like to hear from you.

Send all your letters to the address on the back page of this newsletter

THE MYTH OF DETERRENT

Many people still believe that we need nuclear weapons because they act as a deterrent, preventing war. It's what our political leaders have conditioned us to believe for years, arguing that deterrence must work because we have not had a nuclear war. They say that each side's fear of the other's nuclear weapons - the so-called balance of terror - stops war while they all work towards multilateral disarmament.

It's hard for people to change: but the simple truth is that deterrence theory is not credible now - if it ever was - A look at the facts reveals that it is just a way of stopping ordinary people seeing and realising the threat they live with :-

1. Nuclear weapons are not deterrents - they are weapons of mass destruction, as they were when they destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki 40 years ago. They are called 'deterrents' to disguise that horrific reality.

2. Nuclear weapons have not deterred war. There have been over 300 wars since 1945. There has been no war in Europe, for many reasons, perhaps including the extent of loss in the 2nd World War. Any fool can claim nuclear deterrence 'works' until a nuclear war occurs - but what of the day after that war?

3. Both NATO and the Warsaw Pact had enough nuclear weapons to deter attack by the late 1950's. Yet both sides have continued to make more and bigger weapons. Why would they do this if their aim was simply to deter?

4. Having nuclear weapons as 'deterrents' implies defence. Yet NATO countries (including Britain) have publicly stated that they are prepared to attack with them first, and so start a nuclear holocaust.

5. Deterrence theory assumes that nuclear weapons prevent war because all sides see the cost as being too great. Yet NATO military planning has considered the possibility of fighting a limited nuclear war, and American political and military leaders have suggested that a nuclear war could be won. And now, deadly accurate weapons systems, such as Cruise and Trident are designed for precisely such purposes, making a mockery of the idea that nuclear weapons are there purely as a 'deterrent'.

6. We are always told that nuclear weapons deter war, and so buy time to ensure multilateral disarmament. Yet in all the years no side has got rid of any nuclear weapons.

Instead they build more and more, leaving us all nearer the edge of a nuclear holocaust.

7. As deterrence theory continues to justify the deployment of more and ever deadlier weapons, we all live with the possibility of a nuclear war starting by accident, by human error or computer failure. Accurate, hard to detect missile systems are being countered by launch on warning policies - we could all be blown up at any time - by mistake!
8. No disarmament and increasing numbers of nuclear weapons has led to other countries seeking to have nuclear weapons. India, Israel and South Africa have them now, and so all the time the danger of a nuclear conflict escalates.
9. In addition to containing the perpetual threat of nuclear holocaust, the present balance of terror has bought no peace - over 21 million people have died through armed conflict since World War Two, and most of that mass slaughter has been achieved through arms sold by the two superpowers, Russia and America, and their allies, including Britain. That is the cost of our so-called 'peace through deterrence'. And we all know now that the other cost of massive expenditure on arms, and particularly nuclear weapons, is mass starvation and suffering in many parts of the world. Instead of feeding the world we go on preparing for a war that will destroy it.
10. For Britain, having nuclear weapons (and 103 American bases), far from making us safer, makes us a prime target in the event of any conflict between the Superpowers.

These are the truths those who say that nuclear weapons are needed as a 'deterrent' deny and disguise from us. They expose 'deterrence theory' as a crude trick, there to con ordinary people into living with the perpetual threat of a war that would destroy not just themselves but everything they love and cherish, of accepting a state that leaves not a single child safe and secure. Deterrence is a lie designed to make us accept our energy and resources being used to make weapons of mass destruction, while at home we witness mass unemployment, and the breaking down of our health service, and on our TV's we see children starve in millions.

DEFENCE CHARTER

Some people within the peace movement have begun to argue that, although the campaign of protest has been very effective in informing and changing public opinion over the past five years - confirmed, for example, in recent opinion polls revealing increased majorities of people opposed both to US Cruise missiles in this country, and to the Trident missile system - the peace movement has still not succeeded in finding a way of winning majority support for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

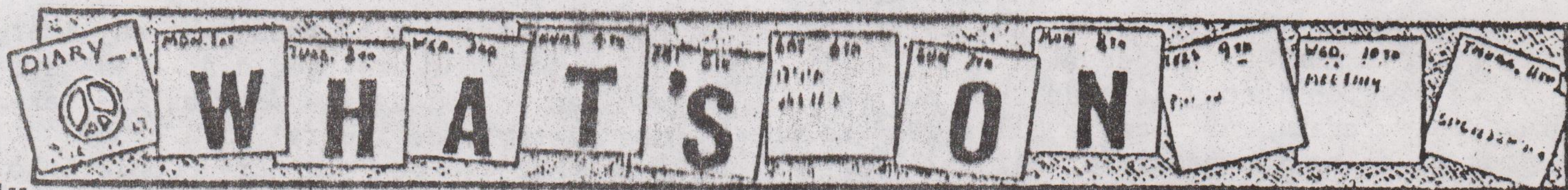
They argue that, despite the level of public opposition to Cruise and Trident, the 1983 General Election represented a defeat for the peace movement - the Tories succeeded in convincing voters that Britain needed nuclear weapons, and that without them we would be left essentially defenceless. Although recent polls show a shift in opinion towards unilateral disarmament, still only 23% are unilateralists, according to those polls. The conclusion drawn is that until the peace movement and its allies can win the larger arguments achieving popular majorities against specific new deployments will remain of marginal significance in electoral politics, and therefore the peace movement aim must be to win majority support for non-nuclear defence before the next general election.

Out of this view has emerged a suggestion that a new national initiative is needed, undertaken by a new national organisation - an ad hoc committee that might include leading members of peace movement organisations, churches, trade unions etc. The committee would draw up a 'Defence Charter' designed to set the agenda for the defence debate in the next general election.

They suggest such a 'Charter' might include a general statement dealing with the urgency of the nuclear threat, the importance of democratic control over defence policy, and the fact that we hold our security in common with all other human beings. It could also make specific demands on the next Government. Eg:-

1. Halt Britain's contribution to the nuclear arms race by sending back Cruise missiles and cancelling Trident.
2. Move Britain towards a non-provocative defence policy that does not rely on the threat to use nuclear weapons.
3. Promote disarmament through the UN, while co-operating with other governments to press the superpowers to reduce their nuclear arsenals.
4. Conduct an active foreign policy aimed at reducing tension between East and West, and sharing the resources of the Earth more fairly between North & South.

Those suggesting such a 'Charter' recognise that such a platform would leave many questions unanswered eg. should Polaris be scrapped immediately? How should a non-nuclear Britain relate to NATO while it continues to exist? However, they argue that such omissions are deliberate, the aim being not to find agreement on every issue, but to consolidate public opinion and understanding of one central issue: "Britain can be defended without nuclear weapons". If this were achieved, the debate at the next election would not be 'nuclear deterrence versus defenceless' but 'nuclear escalation versus non-nuclear defence', and so the 1983 situation could be reversed. At the moment, it's just an idea. What do you think?



July

- 29th - Shadow Project meeting - 7.30pm. NCND office.
- TV Programme - "After the Bomb: Nagasaki-Return Journey", BBC1 9.25pm to 10.25pm
- 30th - TV Programme - "After the Bomb: The First Forty Years", BBC2 10.15pm to 10.55pm
- 31st - TV Programme - "After the Bomb: The War Game", BBC2 9.30pm to 10.20pm

August

- 1st - TV Programme - "After the Bomb: Threads", BBC1 9.25pm to 11.20pm
- 2nd - TV Programme - "After the Bomb: Facing the Future", BBC2 10.00pm to 10.40pm
- 6th - Hiroshima Day
- 7th - FFPG Newsletter Editorial meeting, 6pm at 96 Burford Road.
- 9th - Nagasaki Day
- 12th - FFPG meeting.. 7.30pm FFNC, 69 Wiverton Road, Forest Fields, Nottm.
- 22nd - FFPG meeting " " " " " " " " " "
- 23rd - Defend Molesworth Benefit at the International Community Centre. Contact NCND (581948)