

**FOREST
FIELDS
PEACE
GROUP**

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1

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10p



NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
WORTH WORKING FOR ?

CENTRAL AMERICAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

- What we do

Increasing people's awareness of Central America, and turning this into solidarity - that is the aim of the Central American Solidarity Campaign. We believe that the region, in common with others, have the right to self-determination. That is they have the right to decide their future without US funded dictatorship, without CIA funded mercenaries, without military intervention and without economic blockade organised by the US and Britain.



"Off you go then - kill anyone you encounter and blow up and set fire to anything you see. One way or another we must save Nicaragua for democracy!"

We try to obtain both material aid for Nicaragua and the liberated-zones of El Salvador and political solidarity with the revolutionary people and their organisations. We organise the collection of material-aid that is of practical use in Nicaragua and El Salvador, which is anything from paper and pencils to pharmaceuticals. With a large proportion of Nicaragua's GNP, by necessity, being allocated to defence, this aid from solidarity movements and foreign governments is vital.

Our 1986 Container Appeal campaign includes targetting CND as a donor.

The other side of our activity is political solidarity. We in Britain can play our part by preparing the way for a mass anti-war movement like that which arose with US intervention in Vietnam.

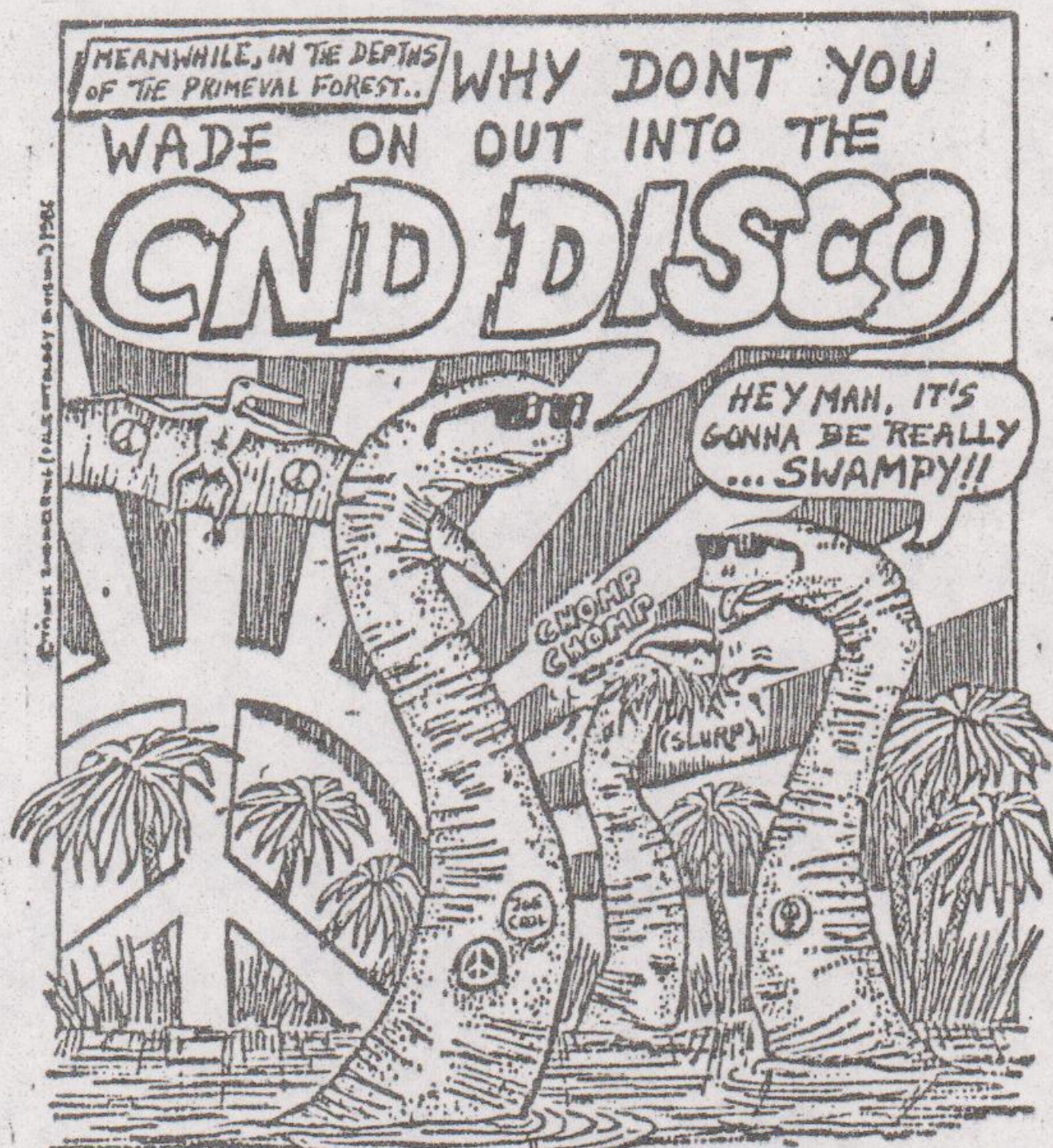
In Nottingham, CASC wants to help build a Direct Link Committee. The purpose of which is to promote the linking of groups and organisations in Notts with similar groups in Jugarpa, giving people

in Notts direct access to people in Nicaragua. We hope that this will make many more people aware of what the 1979 Revolution means to Nicaraguans - all the better to defend it against Reagan and Thatcher attacks.

Central America Week

During "Central America Week", 17th to 23rd March, we will be discussing with people and promoting the idea of direct links. We will also be organising meetings and other events on the themes of - trade unions, education, children, development, women, peace, church, and health. On March 21st we have a priest visiting Nottingham, he has worked as a teacher in El Salvador for 40 years. Also there will be meetings for miners with Dave Boyle, a sacked miner who went to El Salvador as part of the recent trade union delegation. Any suggestions for other during "Central America Week" are welcome.

Contact: CASC, Box 2, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tel; 582369



AT THE "NARROWBOAT", SATURDAY, FEB. 22ND, 8 TILL LATE. TOP QUALITY RAFFLE PRIZES!! TICKETS £1-25P WAGED, -75P UNWAGED, FROM MUSHROOM, HIZIKI, OUKOBOKOS, RAINBOW CENTRE, CND OFFICE OR "FUNKY DINOSAURS AGAINST THE BOMB!"

This newsletter was compiled by.....

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CRUISE MISSILES - A Brief History

- On December 12th 1979 NATO announced plans to site Cruise missiles throughout Western Europe.
- NATO is controlled by the United States.
- Cruise & Pershing missiles are financed by the United States.
- The Cruise & Pershing missile bases in Europe will be controlled by armed forces of the United States.
- 96 Cruise missiles will be sited at Greenham Common in Berkshire & 64 at Molesworth in Cambridgeshire.
- Each Cruise missile has a destructive power 16 times greater than the bomb which killed 140,000 at Hiroshima in 1945.
- Cruise missiles can be fired from mobile launchers which will be dispersed into the English countryside.
- Cruise missiles have already arrived at Greenham Common, all 96 of them.

RESIST CRUISE

- The Women's Peace Camp at Greenham Common has successfully publicised and disrupted the training operation of the Cruise base for 4½ years.
- Cruise missiles are planned to be operational at Molesworth by 1988.
- On February 6th 1985, the Rainbow Village at Molesworth was forcibly evicted by ex-Minister of Defence Michael Heseltine and 1500 troops, & perimeter fences were erected at a cost of over £3 million.
- A campaign of non-violent direct action (NVDA) was launched by CND to publicise & disrupt the development of Molesworth as a Cruise base.
- On February 6th 1986 CND organised a mass blockade of all the gates at Molesworth to commemorate the eviction of the peace campers & the erection of the perimeter fences.



Cruise missiles are part of a United States plan to develop first-strike capability. This means that Cruise missiles are not to be used to retaliate against attack, but are to be used first before the enemy has attacked.

IT IS A WEAPON NOT OF DEFENCE, BUT OF ATTACK.

MOLESWORTH BLOCKADE

For many people who took part in the Molesworth Blockade on February 6th the strongest memory they may have of the day is being extremely cold & tired. I hope they also remember what a significant, important & successful day it was too.

The intention of the day was to stop all traffic entering or leaving the base, & thereby disrupting construction work for the day. We would block all four gates by simply sitting down in front of them. This we did & no traffic passed through.

Over 320 people from Nottingham took part in the blockade with dozens of others acting in organising capacities. An estimated 4,000 people took part in the blockade throughout the day & were joined by leading politicians & personalities.

Everyone who took part knew they faced the possibility of arrest. As it turned out the weather dictated the day's events. The sub-zero temperature meant that no construction work was possible. The police did not try to remove the blockaders.

DETERMINATION

It was the first time in over 20 years that National CND had organised a mass non-violent direct action (NVDA) exercise. The size & strength of the action shows the resolve, commitment & determination of the peace movement to stop American Cruise missiles being sited in this country.

Above all else it shows the enormous power that we as individuals can have together.

Next time we must try to close the base for days not hours. It may again be cold & tiring. We may be arrested & detained. We may be physically or verbally abused. We may be intimidated & frightened. But together we will be strong.

And since the issue at stake is the survival of our country & our planet, these discomforts & unpleasant experiences are small sacrifices.

Will you be there next time?

Paddy Carstairs.

FEB 6

SILENCE IS CONSENT

The success of any public campaign depends on getting as many members of the public involved in the campaign as possible. This is perhaps stating the obvious but something many of us in the Peace Movement prefer to ignore. We remember the 'peace' part of our consciousness but not the 'movement' part of our campaign.

We know the damage that nuclear weapons can inflict. We know that politicians, East and West, are prepared to use nuclear weapons, and indeed, have threatened to use them. We know of the horrendous effects of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

What we also know is that this nuclear threat can only be removed if people demand it strongly enough. We also know that we cannot rely on the government or the media to be fair in their treatment of our views and our opposition to the nuclear threat. We must rely on our own energies and our own resources.

FOREST FIELDS

To be effective this means not leaving the bulk of our campaigning to the hard core of activists within the Peace Movement, but each of us doing as much as we can whenever we can. As far as the F.F.P.G. is concerned we must concentrate our energy and resources on the area we know best - our own neighbourhood in Forest Fields and Hyson Green.

At a personal level this means talking to our families, friends and neighbours about the nuclear threat facing Britain and the world and encouraging their membership and involvement in the Peace Movement. This is often hard to do and may consist of challenging people's beliefs, prejudices and political awareness. However, failing to discuss the issue of the threat of war is an opportunity missed to add more weight to the peace movement, an opportunity missed to help achieve our goals.

In the same way we must make and take opportunities to campaign in an organised way with the Peace Movement. This means supporting demonstrations, meetings and rallies organised by the Peace Movement at national and local level. Just as importantly, it means being involved at a local level in the many areas of campaign work that have to be carried out.

The greater the visibility and profile of the local peace group, the greater likelihood of people stopping to take note of what we have to say. The more opportunities we create to effectively express our arguments and objectives, the more impact we shall achieve; the more people we will be able to mobilise to support the Peace Movement and work towards eliminating the threat of war.

GETTING INVOLVED

This means being involved at all kinds of levels:

- participating in discussion groups so that we increase our confidence in putting our arguments across.
- raising funds so that the peace group can maximise its campaigning work.
- helping to write, print and distribute information and arguments.
- running the Saturday stall in Hyson Green.
- organising meetings.
- sharing skills and experience.
- joining the NVDA Affinity Group.
- this list could and should go on and on.

All this work cannot be conducted by the known activists alone. If we prefer to leave all the spade work to others we are in effect abandoning the campaign. Believing in the Peace Movement means little if we do not complement our beliefs with positive efforts to convince more and more people that the only way to protect our lives, our children's lives and future generations is to fight the threat of world destruction.

We are all involved in the issue of war. We can be involved as innocent victims of war or as active opponents of war. That is our simple choice. Our silence or inactivity will always be seen as accepting the status quo. The status quo is that Britain has and is prepared to use nuclear weapons. Other nuclear weapons are targeted on Britain. In other words the status quo is unacceptable, dangerous and clearly suicidal.

EFFECTIVENESS

In the Forest Fields Peace Group we have approximately 130 members. About 25 of these are active members. If each of us pledged to get two more members to join the FFPG in the coming year the membership would treble. But more importantly, if we each pledge to give positive and consistent effort to any area of our campaigning then the impact and effectiveness of our campaigning will increase hugely.

Activity and involvement means time, energy and sacrifices. But this is a cause which desperately needs the personal sacrifices of its supporters. The Peace Movement offers the chance of a lifetime. Our inactivity guarantees a lifetime of chance.

Your choice.

Paddy Carstairs.



"STAR WARS" LASERS ARE OFFENSIVE

The so-called defensive "Star Wars" weapons can be just as readily used for offensive purposes. This has been disclosed in an article by Dr. Caroline Herzenberg, a U. S. government physicist writing in a recent issue of "Physics and Society", a publication of the American Physical Society. The S. D. I. (Strategic Defence Initiative) lasers could start massive fires which would incinerate Soviet and other cities within a matter of hours. This would cause so much smoke that the sun would be blotted out causing an environmental disaster similar to a "nuclear winter". This view was backed up by similar findings from other sources.

This shows that the "Star Wars" project is part and parcel of the drive towards war by the U. S. - a drive matched equally by the Soviet Union.

Forest Fields Peace Group presents...

STRATEGIC ARMS & LEGS TREATY

at the Forest Fields Community Centre
Sturton St/Gladstone St.

on Saturday March 1st. 8 'til late
£1.50 waged/75p unwaged

Disco equipment provided by
SECOND SATURDAY SOUNDS

ANGLO-U.S. AGREEMENT ON STAR WARS

FURTHER PREPARATION FOR WAR

In December Britain became the first of the "allies" of the U.S. to agree to take part in the U. S. governments "Star Wars" S. D. I. programme.

The signing of the Anglo - U. S. agreement for participation in "Star Wars" is an aggressive alliance.

The danger of war can never be combatted by relying on the negotiations, "peace" talks and summits of the superpowers.

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

AIMS and OBJECTIVES

Forest Fields Peace Group is a neighbour-hood group open to everybody in the Forest Fields and Hyson Green areas of Nottingham, and to all others who share the group's 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.

I would like to join the Forest Fields Peace Group.

I enclose my membership fee of £1.00

I enclose a donation of _____ *

NAME.....

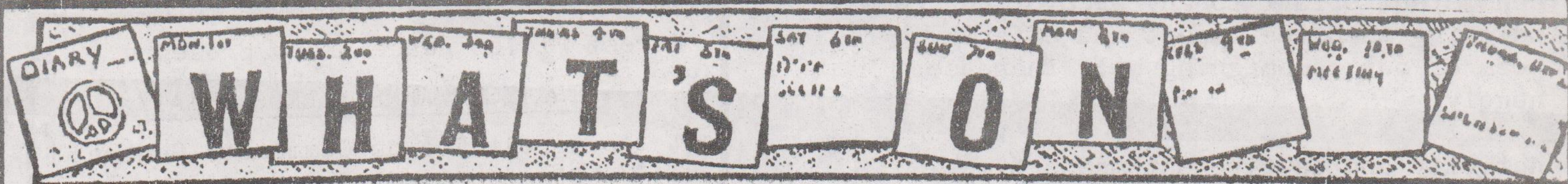
ADDRESS.....

.....

TELEPHONE.....

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

*delete if not applicable



SAT FEB 8TH - BLOCKADER'S BOP

Come and celebrate the Molesworth Blockade with friends and fellow blockaders at the Queen's Walk Community Centre from 8 'til late

MON FEB 10TH - FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP MEETING at 7.30 pm at the Forest Fields Neighbourhood Centre 69 Wiverton Road

THURS FEB 13TH - COLIN SUTTON UP AT Shirehall Magistrates court for the non-payment of a £50 fine imposed after he was found guilty of 'obstructing a police officer' at RAF Newton last June. Colin intends to go to prison so he needs your support. Case begins at 2.30pm

THURS FEB 13TH - NCND monthly meeting with evaluation of the Molesworth blockade and CND's other national demonstrations. From 7.30pm at the WEA on Shakespeare Street

SAT FEB 22 - CND Disco at the Narrowboat on Canal Street from 8 'til late. Disco by Jazzy Sounds

THURS FEB 27TH - NICK! at Guildhall Magistrate's court for the non-payment of £55 fines incurred from the Bye Bye Byelaws action at Molesworth last July. Court case from 9.45am

THURS FEB 27TH - FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP meeting at 7.30pm at 69 Wiverton Road

SAT MARCH 1ST - FFPG presents STRATEGIC ARMS AND LEGS TREATY Disco at the Forest Fields Community Centre, Gladstone Street. From 8 'til late. Disco equipment provided by Second Saturday Sounds

LATE ENTRY

Thurs Feb 13th - Jasper Singh will be going to prison with Colin Sutton at the Shirehall Magistrates Court.