

A collage of various elements including a dove, a forest, and abstract shapes.

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

OCT - NOV

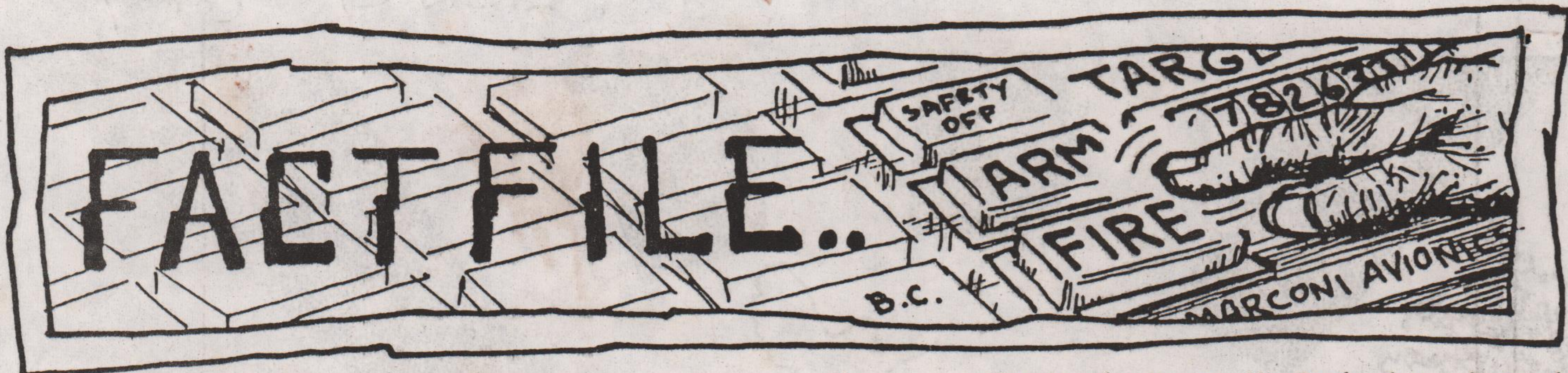
20p

**WE  
PRINT  
BANNED  
BOOK!**

**"SPYCATCHER"**

**SEE INSIDE !!**





# THE GENEVA ARMS TALKS

The arms talks that we hear so much about these days, are about one type of nuclear bomb..... they call them "INF", which stands for INTERMEDIATE NUCLEAR FORCES. These are the weapons that have a range of 1000 to 3000 kilometres, so they have a longer range than "battlefield" weapons and a shorter range than "strategic" ones.

\* In the late '70s, the NATO Alliance agreed to send American Cruise and Pershing missiles to Europe. It was claimed that this was to "counterbalance" the threat from SS-20s, but the real reasons were to re-assure West European governments that the U.S. of A. was still committed to defending them, and to re-assert U.S. dominance of NATO.

\* In 1979 they announced the "Dual Track" decision - deploy and negotiate, but within a year (as we all know) a huge protest movement erupted all over Europe. Up went the cry NO CRUISE NO PERSHING NO SS-20!

\* The Americans were worried, and one way they decided to deal with the protest was to offer a treaty that they knew the Soviets would never accept. In late '81 they offered the "ZERO OPTION". This was a deal based on the Soviets destroying all their INF missiles, and in return the Americans wouldn't build theirs.

\* The Russians said "NIET" (Sur- prise surprise!). They said it wan't fair because the Americans refused to count British and French bombs into the "balance". So there was no deal, and in 1983 Cruise and Pershing IIs began to arrive.

\* Things were changing in the USSR though. Mr Gorbachev came to power, and by late '85, started making a string of arms proposals, that really began to shake them up at the White House.

\* At Reykhavik last year, he and Reagan nearly came to an agreement on a limited "Zero Option" (getting rid of all but 100 INF missiles on each side). But the talks failed because the Russians insisted on linking INF talks with "Star Wars". "NO", said the Yanks. "WELL NIET", said the Russkies.

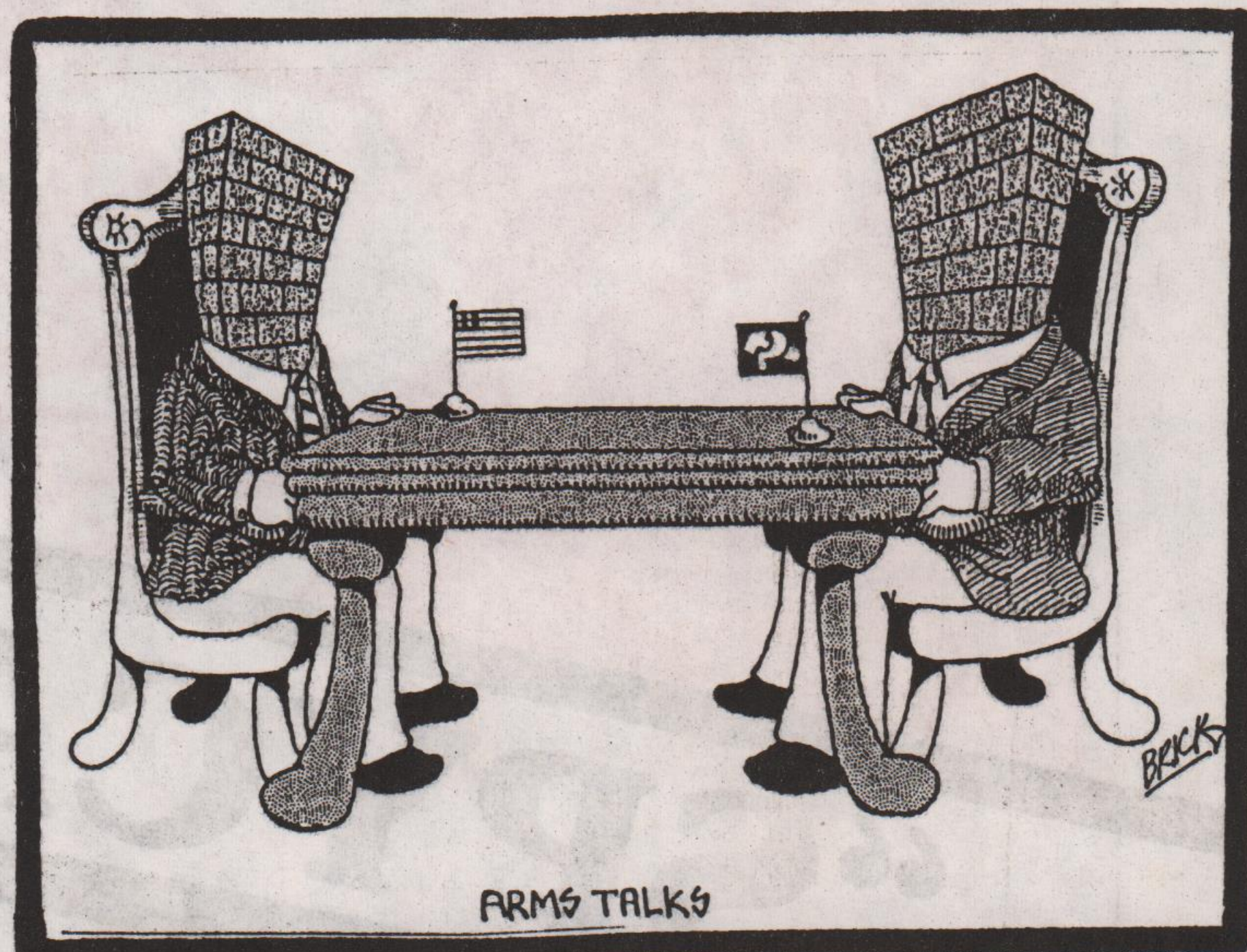
\* Later however, Mr Gorbachev changed his mind, and accepted Zero Option with no strings attached. By this time, things were changing in America too. The Iran-Contra scandal had blown, and the politicians in Washington were ready to sign in order to clean up their tarnished image. But the West Europeans were unhappy now. Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany didn't really want to see a successful deal. They said, "NO" and "NEIN"..... unless the Soviets agree to scrap their short-range missiles too. They were completely gobsmacked when Gorbachev agreed. They thought it was definately going to be a "NIET", because the only reason the Russians have got more short range bombs than us is that we don't think they're any use, and don't want them.

\* Mr Gorbachev just kept on agreeing to their demands. He wasn't playing the game.

\* Today, the talks are stuck on the issue of Pershing I's. These are old West German missiles with American nuclear warheads. The Americans won't scrap them because they say they're German (!!).

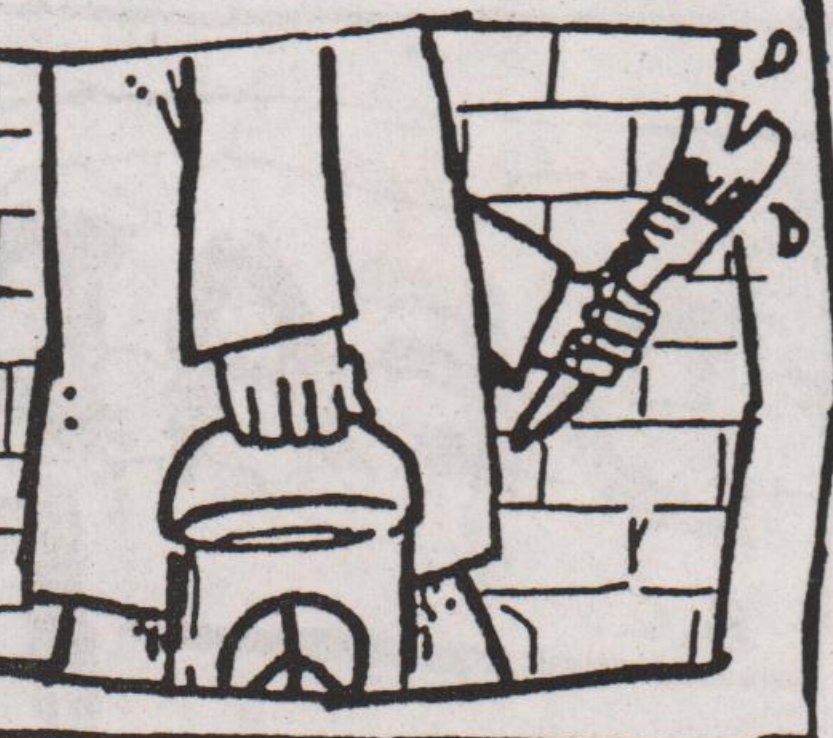
\* It's impossible to tell what will happen next, though it looks as if a deal is on the cards..... the Russians and the Americans really want a deal..... and the West Europeans can't do anything about it to stop them.

- \* The job of the peace movement is+-
1. Make sure Thatcher backs the talks:
  2. Make sure there's no "nuclear substitution" of Cruise missiles onto submarines or planes:
  3. Make sure there is no sabotage of the talks by either side.





# PAGE 3 COMMENT



## WHY WE PRINT "SPYCATCHER"

You've almost certainly heard or read something about the book "Spycatcher", but unlike most books that you hear about you'll have to go to a great deal of trouble to get hold of a copy of this one. In fact the government has been going to considerable lengths to make sure you or anybody else doesn't see a copy. The book by Mr Peter Wright, a former Secret Service officer, outlines what MI5 got up to while he worked in the organisation.

In this issue of the Forest Fields Peace Group Newsletter we are printing summaries of the allegations made and sections of the text. It is possible (although given our small circulation, unlikely) that we could be prosecuted for publishing what is in effect a banned book. However, we feel it is important to make our contribution to the growing tide of opinion that thinks that the suppression of this book is both ridiculous and wrong.

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The right to say and publish what we think is fundamental in any democratic system. Censorship and the banning of books is a mark of totalitarianism. It is perfectly clear that the British Public want to know what Mr Wright is alleging went on in MI5. Does the British Government really think it knows what the public wants more than the public themselves?

### POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT

Looking at the allegations it is clear that a major reason for the government's attempts to ban this book is to prevent political embarrassment. It wants to avoid having to investigate the allegations which might lead to the prosecution of MI5 agents, civil servants and maybe ministers. It wants to avoid pressure to have what MI5 is doing at the moment investigated. After all if the Secret Service was happy to de-stabilise the Wilson Labour government in the 70's as is alleged maybe they've got plans to de-stabilise a Labour government (with an anti-nuclear policy) in the 1990's.

### NATIONAL SECURITY

The Government claims that it is suppressing this book on the grounds of National Security - that in making these allegations the state is threatened, and that not trying to stop the book might encourage other agents to also publish. Over the last few months this has been proved ridiculous. The book is freely available in the USA, the information is already out. As far as other agents are concerned, several have already published though not quite with the same amount of publicity as Spycatcher.

### WHO'S NATIONAL SECURITY?

When the government claims National Security, exactly who's security is it talking about? Who's security is protected by the widespread opening of mail and bugging of phones, the de-stabilisation of a democratically elected Labour Government, plotting to kill the leaders of other countries - all alleged in the Spycatcher book.

Now we've thought hard about this and we really can't see any good coming out of these activities for the British people. Yet the government claims it has to protect these activities in the interests of National Security.

We say, if the government was really interested in National Security they'd put their efforts into getting the INF Nuclear Treaty signed and ridding the world of nuclear weapons. They'd start thinking about how to meet the needs and aspirations of the British People instead of always thinking about how they can make more profits out of them.

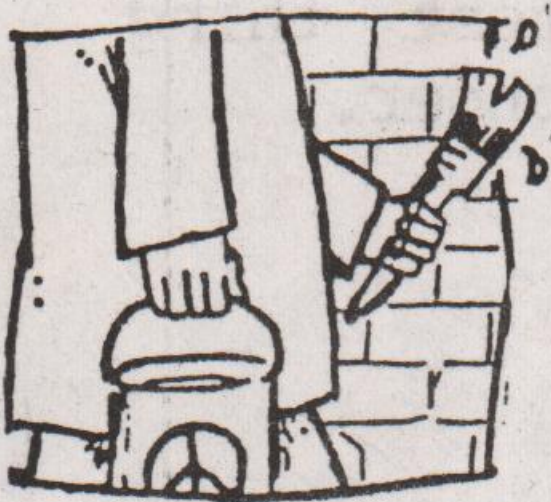
If they did that then we might have some peace, real peace, real National Security, a country which had something to be proud of, a country in which you could say and publish what you wanted without fear of prosecution.

Editorial Team  
FFPG Newsletter

\* ARTICLES, LETTERS, POEMS, CARTOONS ETC.. ALWAYS WELCOME. \*

PLEASE SEND TO: F.F.P.G. BOX 5, 69, WIVERTON RD.

FOREST FIELDS, NOTTM.







Here are 10 different arguments you can use the next time someone stops you and says, "Yeah but, nuclear weapons have kept the peace in Europe for 40 years".

1. We were at peace for 45 years before the 1st World War! Fat lot of good that did us.

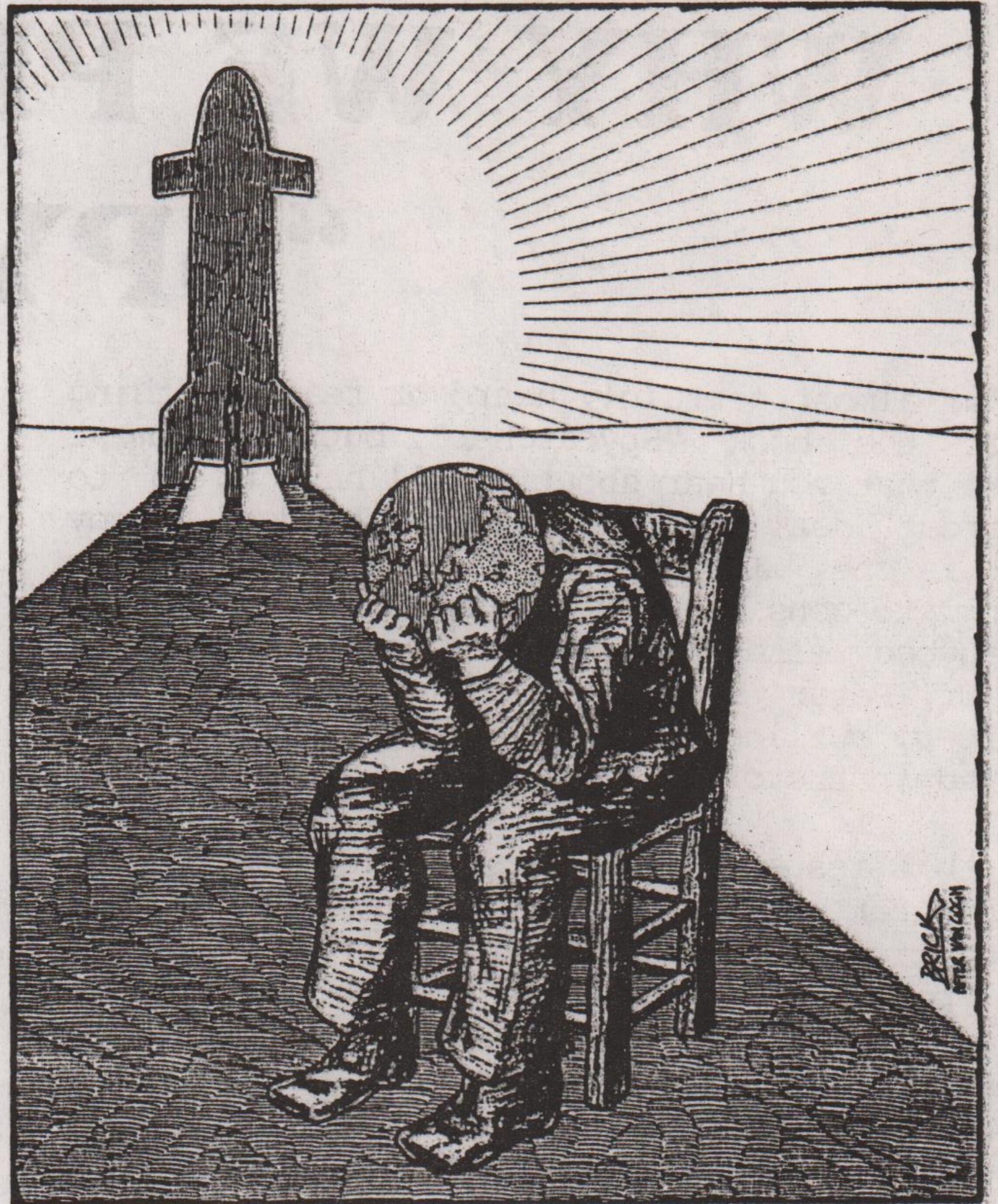
2. Taking the long view, there has been a general bend towards fewer conflicts in Europe over the last 400 years.

3. Only a fool would argue that there is one single reason why there hasn't been a war in Europe since 1945. Nothing in history is ever so simple. Many things (apart from nuclear weapons) could explain it. Economic co-operation between East and West; memories of the last war; etc, etc.

4. There may have been peace in Europe but there have been 130 wars since 1945 worldwide! The battleground has moved.... not disappeared.

5. It's like saying; "I've smoked cigarettes for 42 years and I've not had lung cancer so it's obvious: cigarettes prevent lung cancer".

**"YEAH, BUT  
THEY'VE KEPT  
THE PEACE FOR  
40 YEARS"**



6. It's like the old proverb of the man who always scattered breadcrumbs on the floor of his house, and when asked why he did it replied - "It's to keep away the tigers", "But there are no tigers" say his visitors. "There you are see", replies the old man, "it works".

7. The number of nuclear weapons and the complexity of nuclear weapons has grown over the last 40 years. No-one can guarantee that some day, there won't be a war by accident or misunderstanding.

8. What is "peace" anyway? Surely it is more than just the absence of war. Living under the constant threat of nuclear devastation for 42 years isn't exactly "peaceful" is it?

9. It's like walking down the street and seeing a man standing high up on a ledge of a building and saying to him, "You've been balancing precariously on that ledge for a long time now, so the safest thing to do is stay there for much longer."

10. Let's get off the ledge!



by Peter Wright - Former Assistant Director of MI5

# "SPYCATCHER"

"Spycatcher" - The Candid Autobiography of a Senior Intelligence Officer

## OPENING LETTERS

Ever wondered whether your mail has been interfered with, or your phone calls intercepted? No - it's no just paranoia.

Page 45. "The most important outstation was the Headquarters of the Post Office Special Investigations Unit near St. Paul's. MI5 had a suite of rooms on the first floor run by Major Denman..... Each major sorting office and exchange in the country had a Special Investigations Unit Room, under the control of Denman to place taps and intercept mail.

Denman's main office was lined with trestle tables running the length of the room. Each table carried mail addressed to different destinations..... About twenty Post Office technicians worked at these tables, opening pieces of mail. They wore rubber gloves so as not to leave finger prints, and each man had a strong lamp and a steaming kettle beside him. The traditional split-bamboo technique was sometimes used. It was ancient, but still one of the most effective. The split bamboo is inserted into the corner of the envelope, which is held up against a strong light. By turning the bamboo inside the envelope, the letter can be rolled up around the slit and gently pulled out.

Where a letter had an ordinary typed address it was sometimes torn open and a new envelope typed in its place. But to the end of my career we were never able to covertly open a letter which had been seal at each edge with sellotape."

## ASSASSINATION

And what does our security service do if someone who they don't like comes to power in another country? Why, kill them of course!

Page 160. "At the beginning of the Suez crisis MI6 developed a plan, through the London station to assassinate Nasser, using nerve gas. Eden initially gave approval to this operation."

## POISONING

At Porton Down, Peter Wright saw MI5 experimenting on sheep with poison darts.

Page 162. "The sheep started, and was restrained by the lead, and I thought perhaps the device had misfired. But then the sheep's knees began to buckle, and it started rolling its eyes and frothing at the mouth. Slowly the animal sank to the ground, life draining away, as the white-coated professionals discussed the advantages of the modern new toxin around the corpse..... They seemed so determined, so convinced that this was the only way to handle Castro....."

## "WE DID HAVE FUN!"

The reason our government keeps trying to repress this book, is (it claims) to maintain respect for the rule of law. It appears that the security services aren't too bothered about keeping within the law.

Page 31. "The Security Service cannot have the normal status of Whitehall department, because its work very often involves transgressing propriety or the law. (The Trainer) described various situations, such as entering premises without a warrant, or invading an individual's privacy, where the dilemma might arise. He made it clear that MI5 operated on the basis of the 11th Commandment - "Thou shalt not get caught."

Page 31. "We did have fun. For five years we bugged and burgled our way across London at the state's behest, while pompous bowler-hatted civil servants in Whitehall pretended to look the other way."

Page 360. "Wh had always been able to get material from the National Insurance records if we really wanted it. We had a couple of undercover officers posted up there who could be contacted for our files."



by Peter Wright - Former Assistant Director of MI5

# "SPYCATCHER"

"Spycatcher" - The Candid Autobiography of a Senior Intelligence Officer

## "WE'LL HAVE HIM OUT"

MI5 officers plotted against Harold Wilson during his 1974-76 government.

Page 369. "The plan was simple. In the run up to the election which, given the level of instability in Parliament, must be due within a matter of months, MI5 would arrange for selective details of the intelligence about leading Labour Party figures, but especially Wilson, to be leaked to sympathetic pressmen. Using our contacts in the press, and among union officials, word of the material contained in MI5 files, and the fact that Wilson was considered a security risk would be passed around. Soundings had already been taken, and up to 30 officers had given their approval to the scheme. Facsimile copies of some files were to be made and distributed to overseas newspapers and the matter was to be raised in Parliament for maximum effect. It was a carbon copy of the 'Zinoviev Letter', which had done so much to destroy the first Ramsay MacDonald Government in 1928. 'We'll have him out', said one of them, 'this time we'll have him out.'"

## "LOOKING GLASS WORLD"

Even if only some of these allegations are true, then senior MI5 officers have conspired together to break the law, and destroy a democratically elected government. Instead of suppressing this book, and prosecuting the press which is trying to report it, our government should be prosecuting those people, named in Wright's book, for their crimes. But as he says himself.....

Page 45. "I realise for the first time that I had joined the looking glass world, where simple but unpalatable truths were wished away."

## "DOMESTIC SUBVERSION"

Recently, it has been surveillance of the Left which has become a major task.

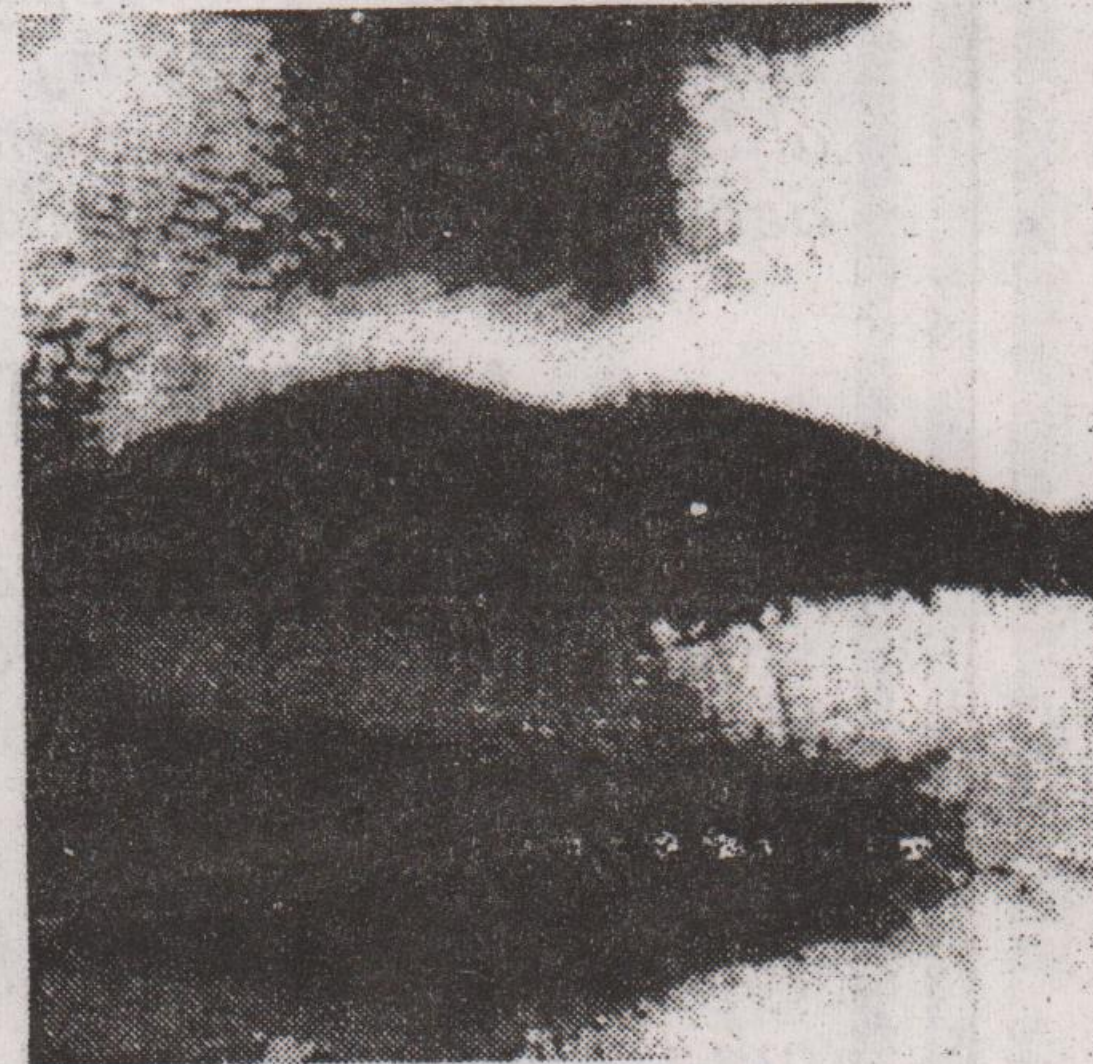
Page 362. "The growth of student militancy in the 1960s gave way to industrial militancy in the early '70s. The miners' strike of 1972, and a succession of stoppages in the motor car industry, had a profound effect on the thinking of the Heath Government. Intelligence on domestic subversion became the overriding priority."



**See nothing**



**Hear nothing**



**Speak nothing**



B.C.

Susannah York  
Speech in Trafalgar Square  
October 1981

**DYLAN THOMAS 1952**

B.C.



# FROM THE BUNKER...

BY LES.



I was in a blue tent with a friend, camped in a rainsoftened field cluttered with buttercups, by the River Dove. A music tape was playing and I noticed an odd, haunting song, sung by a soft, pure, fragile voice.

In the field by the river I listened to it several more times. I could not make out the words, yet I found the song very moving. I noticed that it was called 'Futility', a strange word to describe this delicate, haunting song.

Later, travelling back home on a train, I looked idly again at the cassette tape, borrowed from my friend, and noticed that the words were by Wilfred Owen. I was surprised, and yet somehow clearer as to why words I could not decipher made sounds that moved me so much.

A few days later I had reason to visit a small town in Devon, and spent the day there. It was a beautiful day, with soft packs of swift-moving white clouds mixed with the blue summer sky and hot sun. In a quiet street I found a bookshop that had a book containing all of Wilfred Owen's poems. It included a short poem called, "Futility".

Move him into the sun -  
Gently it's touch awoke him once,  
At home, whispering of fields half-sown.  
Always it woke him, even in France,  
Until this morning, and this snow.  
If anything might rouse him now  
The kind old sun will know.

Think how it wakes the seed -  
Woke once the clays of a cold star.  
Are limbs, so dear-achieved, are sides,  
Full-nerved, still warm, too hard to stir?  
Was it for this day the clay grew tall?  
- O what made fatuous sunbeams toil  
To break earth's sleep at all?

I copied out the poem. I found the broad river that ran through the town, and sat close by it, watching sharp-eyed jackdaws on bright green grass, and the river water twisting past glistening stones and the curved edges of larger rocks. A few plump white ducks, unalarmed by people passing, nestled in the grass in the shade of a large, thick leafed, horse-chestnut tree. The sun made the page with the poem on gleam dazzlingly. I remembered that I had first heard the song by a river, gazing at buttercups and idly grazing cows in a field across the river. I read the poem many times, seeing tiny fish simmering through clear water, and small, yellow-breasted birds flickering across the river and up into the opposite bank, steep and clotted with leaves.

Wilfred Owen had written the poem "Futility" in Ripon, Yorkshire in May 1918. I knew that he was killed later that year, shortly before the war ended. So this was the poem of a young person close to death. Futility. The poem ended with three questions. I read them softly to myself, again and again. Streaks of sunlight glittered on the surface of the running water. "- O what made fatuous sunbeams toil / To break earth's sleep at all?". Did he have any sense of the imminence of his own death? I did not know. I felt certain, though, that there had been at least one bright, sunny day in Ripon in May 1918.

Unknown to Wilfred Owen, so much has happened since 1918, but would he need to be told about such things? Would he need to be given photographs of Auschwitz, or hear children's crying memories of Hiroshima?

I am writing this on a Sunday morning, alone in a large flat. Through a window I can see big white flocks of clouds, vying with deep blue sky and rich July sun. Earlier, in a Sunday magazine, mixed in with advertisements for cognac oak kitchens and casual classic summer jackets, I read about the most modern and destructive American intercontinental ballistic missiles, the MX, installed in underground silos in Wyoming. It said that each missile carried up to 10 warheads, each packed with 300 kilotons of TNT, or 25 times the explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb. The men responsible for these weapons call themselves 'missileers'. They would also be responsible for launching them in the event of a war. I looked at a photograph of one of them. He is called Lieutenant Piazza, aged 24, from Sacramento, California.

Lieutenant Piazza says:-

"I know in my heart that I would do what I have to without hesitation. I rethought it all when our first child was born. At that moment I decided more than ever that what I was doing was right."

I imagine Lieutenant Piazza speaking these words to Wilfred Owen. I try to imagine Wilfred Owen's face as he listens, but I cannot. They call the MX missiles 'Peacekeepers'. Futility. Sun, silos, buttercups, carnage, fields half-sown, limbs still warm, too hard to stir, running water - move Wilfred Owen into the sun, move Lieutenant Piazza - high clouds, ducks nestled in shaded grass beneath a horse-chestnut tree.

"- O what made fatuous sunbeams toil  
To break earth's sleep at all?"

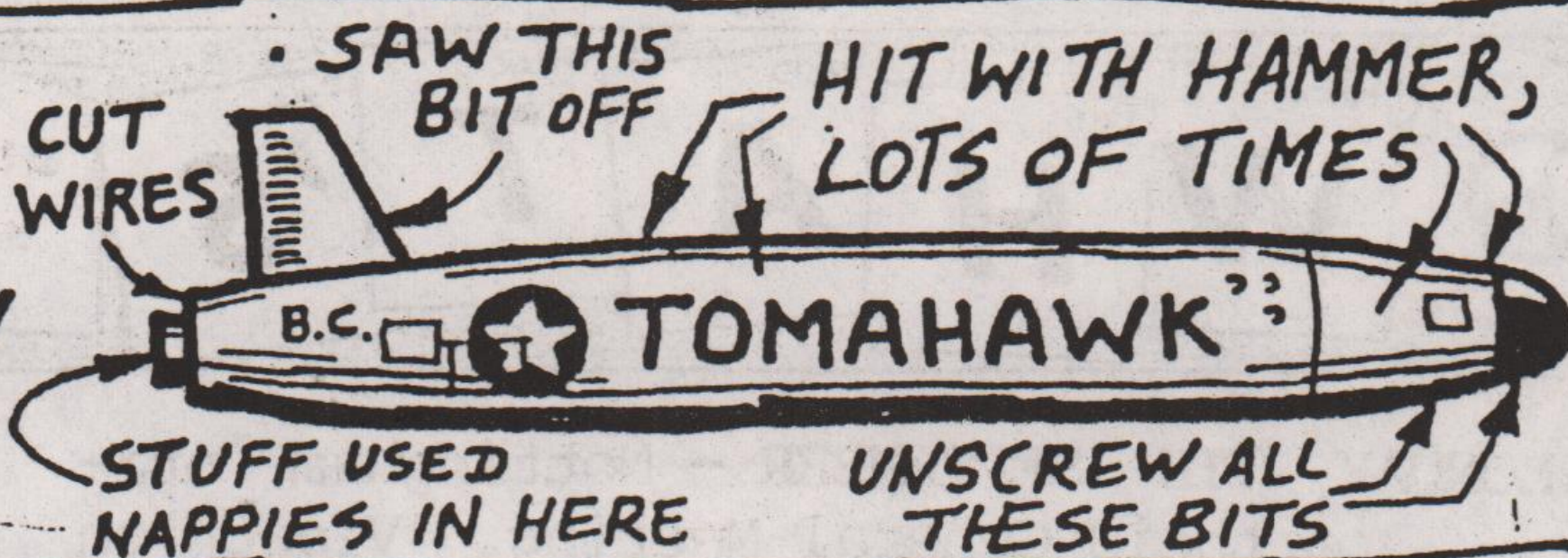


Les Parson July 1987

# FUTILITY AND MISSILEERS



# GET UP STAND UP!



## "DEAR MICHAEL..."

After the success of the Shadow Project in Hyson Green last month, our next activity will be something that even more Forest Fields Peace Group members and supporters will be able to join in with.

Through the months of September and October we are launching a major letter-writing campaign to our MP - Mr Michael Knowles. Absolutely everyone can help with this. All you need is a stamp, an envelope, a pen, some paper and 15 minutes of your time.

The purpose of the "letter-write" is two-fold; (a) to remind Mr Knowles that his constituents are concerned about defence and disarmament and (b) to find out exactly what his views are. The second aim is particularly important. We know that Knowles is well to the right of the Tory Party, but do not have much detailed knowledge of his opinions on defence (although he went on record at our public debate in 1985 as saying he was prepared to "press the button first"). Once we know what he thinks, we can quote him, challenge him, open up a dialogue with him, etc, etc.

Please support this FFPG campaign. Write to;

Michael Knowles MP,  
House of Commons,  
Palace of Westminster,  
London WC1

Obviously you can choose whatever questions you choose, but in case you want some ideas, here are a selection of possible points below.

- 1) What does he think of the INF talks? Does he support them? Is he willing to see the abolition of all American and Soviet INF weapons in Europe?
- 2) What about British and French medium and short range nuclear weapons. Would he want them scrapped too?

- 3) Does he think Britain should go ahead and buy the Trident nuclear submarine system, at a time when the superpowers are talking about arms cuts? If so, why?
- 4) Does he support the American Star Wars programme?
- 5) Does he think a nuclear war could start by accident?



"NOW AS  
I WAS  
SAYING.."

- 6) Does he think NATO should adopt a policy of No First Use?
- 7) Does he think we'll always have to regard the Soviet Union as an enemy?
- 8) Does he think Britain should become involved in 'policing' the Gulf War?

IT IS BETTER TO WRITE THE LETTER IN THE FORM OF QUESTIONS RATHER THAN POINTS, BECAUSE HE IS MORE LIKELY TO REPLY!

DON'T MENTION YOU ARE TAKING PART IN AN ORGANISED LETTER-WRITE BECAUSE, AGAIN, HE IS LESS LIKELY TO REPLY.

PLEASE SEND ANY ANSWERS TO;  
FFPG,  
Box 5,  
69 Wiverton Road,  
Forest Fields,  
Nottingham

This bit is very important !



**MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER** - Nottingham nti-Apartheid General Meeting. Video on Namibia, discussion on S.A. NUM and the current strike. CRC, 67 Lower Parliament St, 7.30pm.

**THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER** - Nottingham CND AGM at WEA, 7.30pm. Elections, resolutions. All NCND members are urged to be there.

**MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER** - FFPG Discussion meeting on the INF Talks. 69 Wiverton Road, 7.30pm. All welcome.

**THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER** - FFPG Discussion meeting on Iran/Iraq Conflict. Details as above.

**THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER** - FFPG meeting, 7.30pm, 69 Wiverton Road.

**SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER** - Anti-Apartheid National Demo in London. Leave Salutation Inn 8.30am, leave London 5pm. £4/£2. Tickets from Mushroom, Hiziki, Ouroboros.



# 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.