

FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

JUNE '87

20p



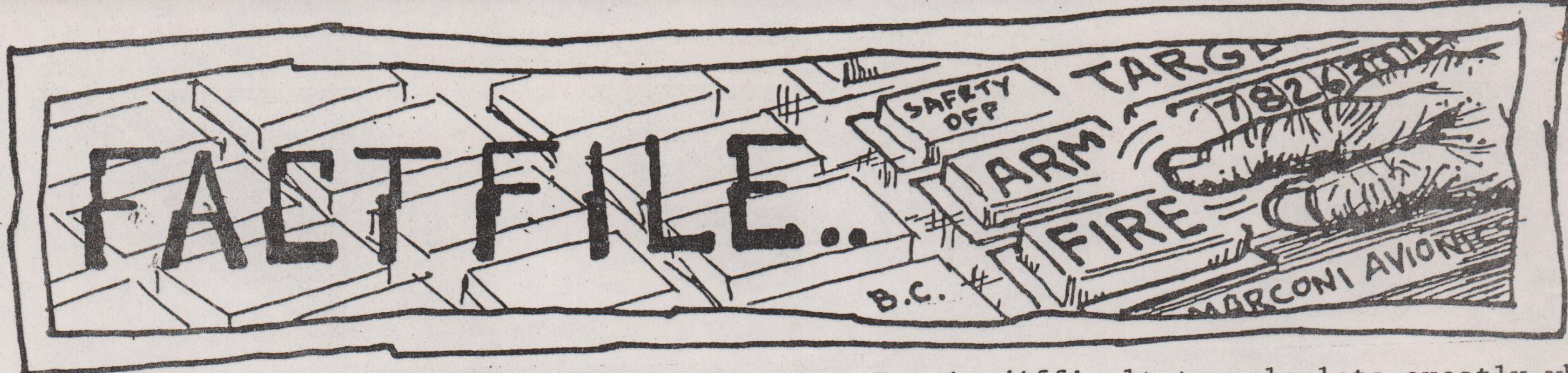
MARGARET THATCHER

**"WE ARE ABSOLUTELY ADAMANT THAT
THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION OF
THE DENUCLEARISATION OF EUROPE"**

HOUSE OF COMMONS APRIL 2ND 1987

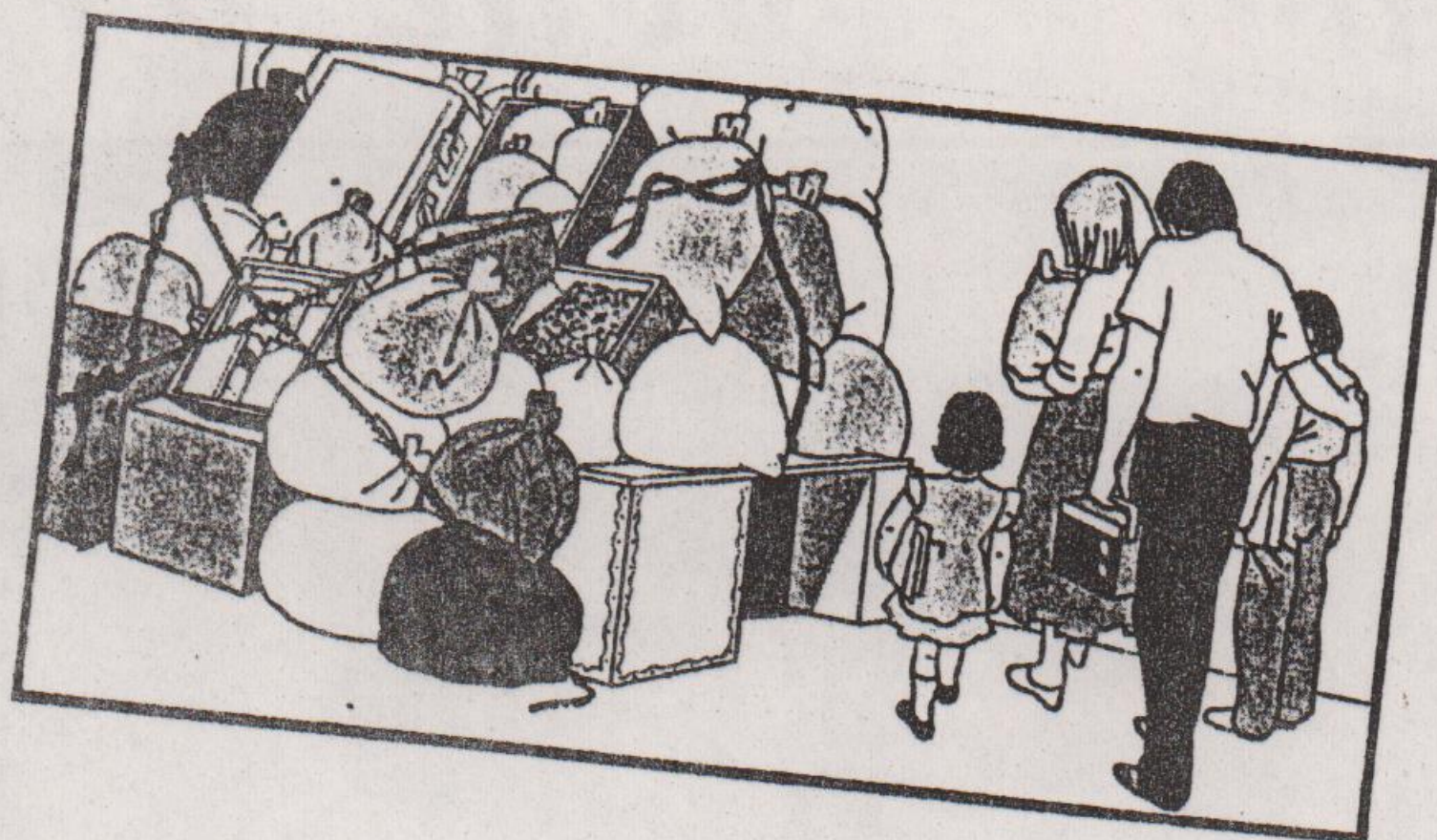
THEY GIVE YOU A FOUR MINUTE WARNING

- WE'RE TELLING YOU NOW -



THE EFFECTS.... NOTTINGHAM AFTER THE BOMB

All at home must go to the fall-out room and stay inside the inner refuge, keeping the radio tuned for Government advice and instructions.



In the open

If you are in the open and cannot get home within a couple of minutes, go immediately to the nearest building. If there is no building nearby and you cannot reach one within a couple of minutes, use any kind of cover, or lie flat (in a ditch) and cover the exposed skin of the head and hands.

What to do after the Attack:



If there is structural damage from the attack you may have some time before a fall-out warning to do minor jobs to keep out the weather - using curtains or sheets to cover broken windows or holes.

It is difficult to calculate exactly what the effects of a nuclear bomb on Nottingham would be, but detailed research has come up with the following probable results.

A single one megaton bomb exploded at 6,000 feet above Slab Square would kill in three ways.... fire; blast; radiation. (A "megaton" means that the bomb would have the equivalent explosive power of one million tons of TNT. A million tons of TNT would fill up a goods train 200 miles long, i.e. stretching from Nottingham to London and back. This is not a huge bomb by modern standards, some are 27 megatons!)

Fire

A fireball, about 1.5 miles across and at a temperature of 10,000,000 degrees centigrade would vapourise all life in that area. Up to 3.5 miles away, in say Clifton, and on the ringroad beyond the City Hospital, metals would melt. On a clear day, human skin would be charred, as far away as Bingham, 8 miles from the explosion.

Blast

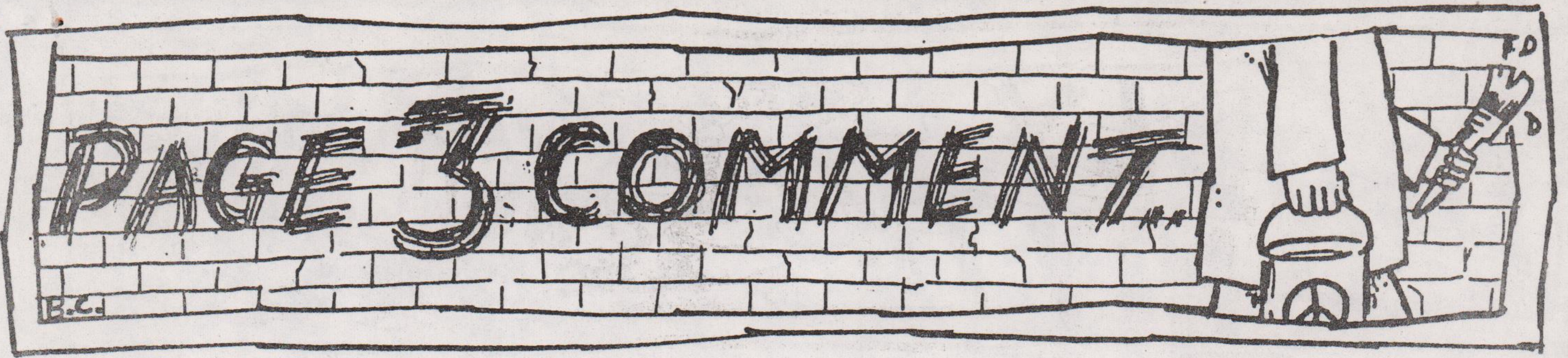
The shock waves would take 10 seconds to travel 3 miles. The blast would move at the speed of sound, and would knock down everything in its path. Buildings would be turned into flying pieces of glass and masonry.

Radiation

For the Nottingham area, the main danger from radiation would come from a bomb exploded over Leicester. (This is because the prevailing winds in this country would carry the fallout away from the point of the explosion.) This would lead to the accumulation of about 1000 rads over 2 weeks.... 900 rads is lethal for a healthy young adult.

Altogether, this one bomb would kill or seriously injure 792,000 people in Nottinghamshire. The whole of the City of Nottingham would be wiped out.

THEIR PICTURE ...AND OURS



'NUCLEAR WEAPONS - NO DEFENCE'

There have been many occasions when I've been discussing nuclear weapons that someone has said, "Yes, of course nuclear weapons are horrendous, but this is the real world we're living in, and if we didn't have them we'd be defenceless". Many people still firmly believe in the effectiveness of nuclear weapons for defence.

For a long time, the main arguments against nuclear weapons have been moral ones. We have argued that it would be immoral and illegal to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances, and it is therefore also wrong to possess nuclear weapons and threaten to use them.

Personally, I think this argument is correct and should be sufficient. I can think of no justification for the slaughter and torture of thousands and thousands of people.

However, it is clear that we must rely on more than just moral arguments, but also show that nuclear weapons are no defence.

There are two meanings to nuclear defence. In the first one, nuclear weapons are not meant to be used at all, we merely possess them and it is their deterrent effect that defends us. In the second one, nuclear weapons are meant to be used. These two meanings often get muddled and it is easy to see why.

The mere possession of nuclear weapons cannot mean much unless you are also prepared to use them and "the enemy" believes you are prepared to use them. Therefore, as well as having nuclear weapons, it is necessary to devise a nuclear war fighting strategy.

The argument of "nuclear deterrence" has become less and less convincing in recent years as new nuclear war fighting strategies, using missiles which are for first-strike, have been introduced. These missiles are not to deter a nuclear attack, but to start one.

Let's look at three ways in which nuclear weapons might be used for 'defence' -

1. against a "conventional" (i.e. non-nuclear) attack by a nuclear power (i.e. one that has nuclear weapons). The obvious example used by politicians is the invasion by Soviet troops. If we mount a nuclear strike against an invasion, the Soviets would automatically strike back with their nuclear weapons killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people. That is not defence;

2. against a conventional attack by a non-nuclear power. Examples in recent history, most notably Vietnam and the Falklands (or Malvinas) show that this does not work. The cost of any nuclear power using nuclear weapons in these examples would be politically disastrous, and explains why nuclear weapons were not used in Vietnam or the Falklands. Therefore, if nuclear weapons cannot be used against conventional attack, and clearly they can't, they are not defending us;

3. finally, nuclear weapons may be used against a nuclear attack by the enemy. Put simply, this would inevitably lead to a full-scale nuclear war and we would be "defending" ourselves by destroying ourselves. Defending our national interests in human ashes and slow death. That is not defence.

To pose an unacceptable risk to the enemy, as nuclear weapons do, poses exactly the same risk to ourselves. To call this "defence" or security makes a mockery of the term.

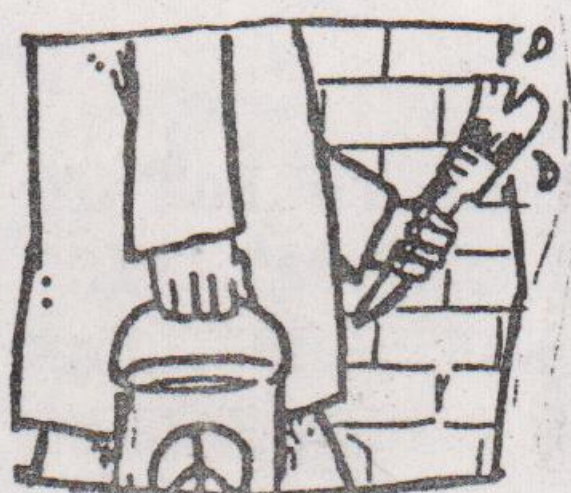
Quite clearly then, nuclear weapons do not defend us. So why do we have them? And why do we keep making more of them?

We have them because nuclear weapons are the most powerful instruments on earth, and having them achieves international status and recognition. They are also used as a means of pursuing political and economic interests abroad, a means of achieving political control and economic growth from other nations.

What we need to oppose is not just the nuclear weapons, but the politics which has created them and continues to build them. The politics of nuclear weapons is not about defending our lives, but destroying them in pursuit of national and international power, and economic domination. It is about gambling with the lives of you, me, our families, our friends and neighbours, our whole communities.

This is a gamble and a threat which I cannot ever accept. I cannot rely on politicians to "see the light" and dismantle nuclear weapons - it is not in their interests to do so. If we care about our lives, we must all make sure they are dismantled, and fight the politics which poses the threat of war.

Paddy Carstairs



THEY GIVE YOU A FOUR MINUTE WARNING
- WE'RE TELLING YOU NOW -





WHAT ABOUT THE RUSSIANS ?

"Russia has a massive army and would overrun us without the bomb"

Certainly Russia (like NATO) has massive forces, but many NATO leaders don't accept that Russia is ahead. Robert MacNamara who was the U.S. Defence Minister during the Vietnam war said:

"I believe the Soviets have gotten weaker.... we overstate the Soviet force and understate ours.... it has been going on for years".

"Russia has more tanks"

Nowadays Exocet style anti-tank rockets are making tanks obsolete in the same way that cavalry were put out of business by machine guns. NATO has over 250,000 such rockets.

"Russia has more troops"

Yes, but only if you count the Polish, Hungarian, and Czech armies ! If you think that the Russians would need to keep an army back, to keep Eastern Europe in line, the advantage disappears.

"But Afghanistan proves that the Soviets are out to conquer the world"

Parliament's All-Party Foreign Affairs Committee said the Russians went in to back up a communist government faced by the Ayatollah's Muslim fanatics. Even the ex-British ambassador to Moscow, Sir William Hayter said the invasion

"was not a step towards Iran and the Gulf".

WHAT ABOUT THE RUSSIANS??



"If we lower our guard, Russia will attack or blackmail us"

Why ? They can't win against the Afghan peasant, and they have trouble enough keeping control over Eastern Europe. How could they hope to control Western Europe too ?

If Russia was going to blackmail, why can't they blackmail the Afghans ? The answer is that world opinion does matter. Why don't they invade or threaten Sweden or Yugoslavia.... they rely on conventional defence. George Kennan was U.S. Ambassador to Moscow and he said,

"I never thought that were it not for our nuclear threat Russia would have attacked America's allies, and I do not believe that there was a time since World War II when the Soviets desired or planned an assault on Western Europe."

THE RUSSIANS DO NOT POSE A GREAT THREAT TO US..... BUT EVEN IF THEY DID, THREATENING TO BLOW UP THE WHOLE PLANET WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS NOT A SENSIBLE WAY OF DEALING WITH THAT THREAT.

IN A DARK TIME...

B.C.

remote house

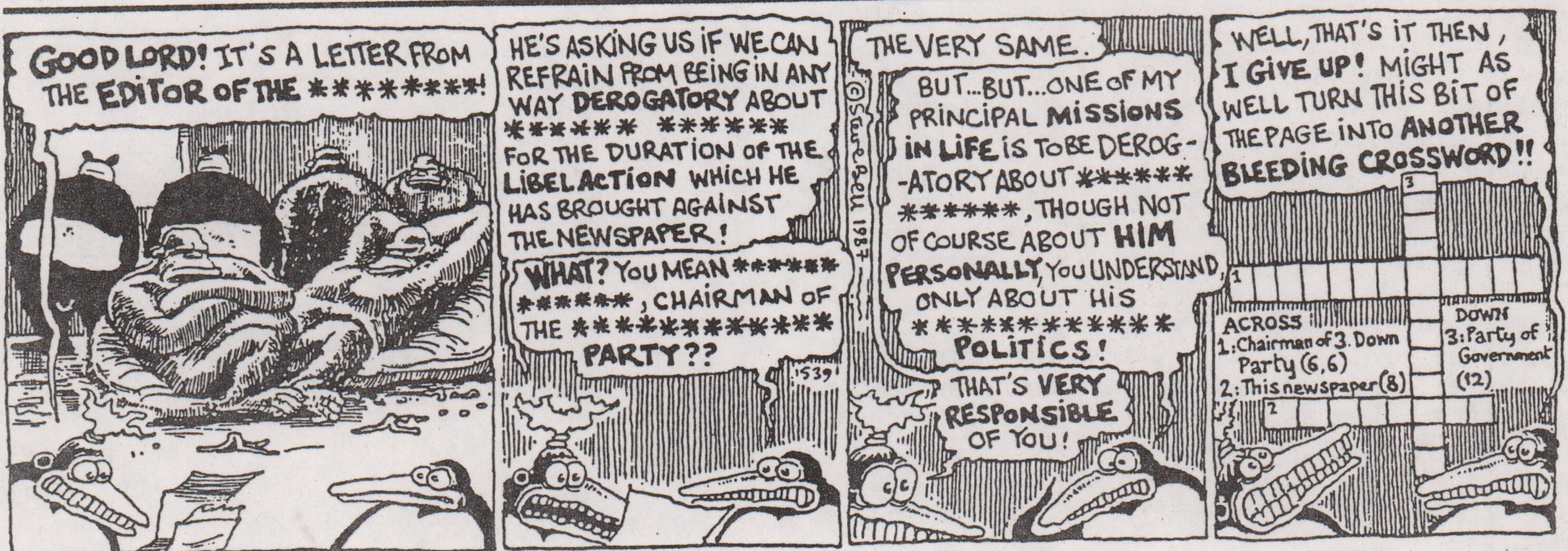
when i wake up
the house is silent.
only the birds make noise.
through the window i see
no-one. here
no road passes.
there is no wire in the sky
and no wire in the earth.
quiet the living things lie
under the axe.

i put water on to boil.
i cut my bread.
unquiet i press
the red push-button
of the small transistor.

"carribean crisis...washes whiter
and whiter and whiter...troops ready to
fly out...
phase three...that's the way i love you...
amalgamated steel stocks are back to
par..."

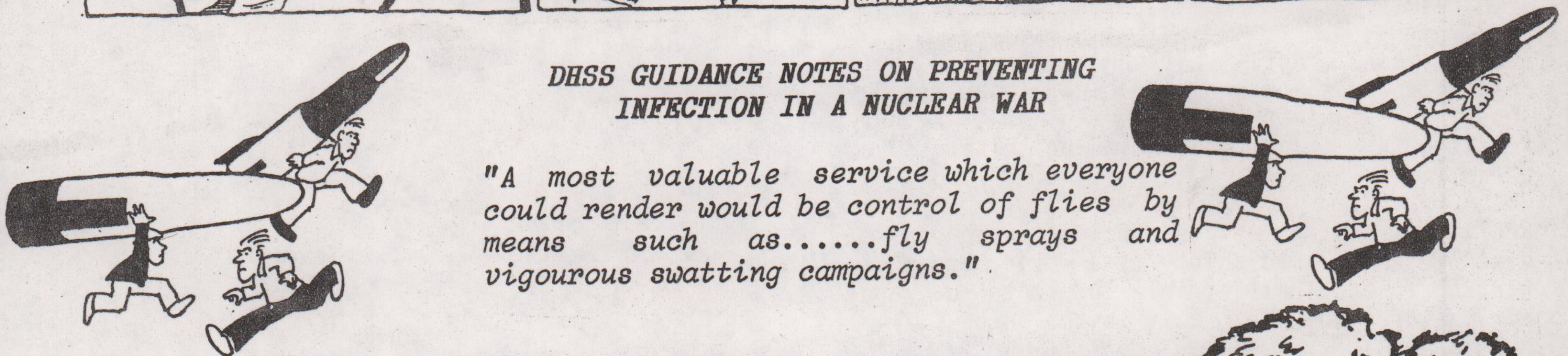
i do not take the axe.
i do not smash the gadget to pieces.
the voice of terror
calms me; it says+
we are still alive.
the house is silent.
i do not know how to set traps or make an
axe out of flints,
when the last blade has rusted.

HANZ ENZENBERGER



DHSS GUIDANCE NOTES ON PREVENTING INFECTION IN A NUCLEAR WAR

"A most valuable service which everyone could render would be control of flies by means such as.....fly sprays and vigourous swatting campaigns."



THE EYE BEGINS TO SEE...

B.C.



DREAM AND NIGHTMARE

When Margaret Thatcher returned from her visit to Russia, she was asked to comment on Mikhail Gorbachev's stated desire to see a world without nuclear weapons. She said she believed that Britain and other NATO countries would continue to have nuclear weapons for the 'foreseeable future'. Britain, she said, needed a 'nuclear shield'. It was fine, she said, to 'dream' of a nuclear-free world, but that was the trouble - it was just a dream, and she was concerned not with 'dreams' but with 'reality'.

In saying these things, Margaret Thatcher made herself clear. Of course she has been saying for years that she wanted disarmament but it had to be multilateral disarmament. Yet now, when there is just a possibility of some multilateral disarmament in the air, her concern is to stress that a nuclear weapon-free world is just a 'distant dream', and that nuclear weapons are here for the foreseeable future. This latest Thatcher pronouncement only makes clear what the peace movement in this country has been saying for years - that her government has no interest whatsoever in nuclear disarmament. It's policy remains as it has been since 1979 - to increase Britain's own nuclear capability and to give a free hand to the U.S.A. to place as many nuclear weapons, bombers and bases in Britain as it wants to.

But of course there are many people who still want to believe that our Government is sincere+ that it is doing its best to 'defend' Britain and to try to secure nuclear disarmament. There are millions of people in that situation, and it is they who should heed the meaning of Thatcher's latest statements on the nuclear arms race.

For she means exactly what she says. We are not heading towards the end of nuclear insanity. Oh no - the situation we live in now is our reality, she tells us. Anything else is a dream.

Reality is having enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world thirty times over. Dream is wanting to end that terrible threat to us and our children now, before it is too late.

Reality is saying that Britain will remain prepared for the 'foreseeable future' to use nuclear weapons of mass destruction, to murder and maim millions of innocent civilians. Dream is insisting that no civilised society can even contemplate this kind of genocide-evil act.

Reality is saying we will continue to invest our resources in weapons of mass destruction while children starve throughout the world. Dream is saying we should begin now to feed the starving of the world instead of squandering further resources on weapons systems and war planning for nuclear genocide.

When Margaret Thatcher separates 'dream' from 'reality' that is what she means. That is her 'reality'. But if people actually think about her 'reality', and to understand what it actually means, they will realise that it is not dreaming to want a different reality, to want another kind of world. For the truth is that Thatcher's sick vision is not reality at all but a terrible nightmare, a nightmare that could explode at any time into the nuclear conflict we all dread and fear. And Mrs. Thatcher wants all of us to live in her nightmare world.

We need to wake up from that nightmare. We can and we must, because it does not belong to us. To want a world where our children are free from the threat of nuclear holocaust, and where all children are fed and clothed and housed does not show that we are dreamers. It shows that we are human beings, expressing human needs and desires.

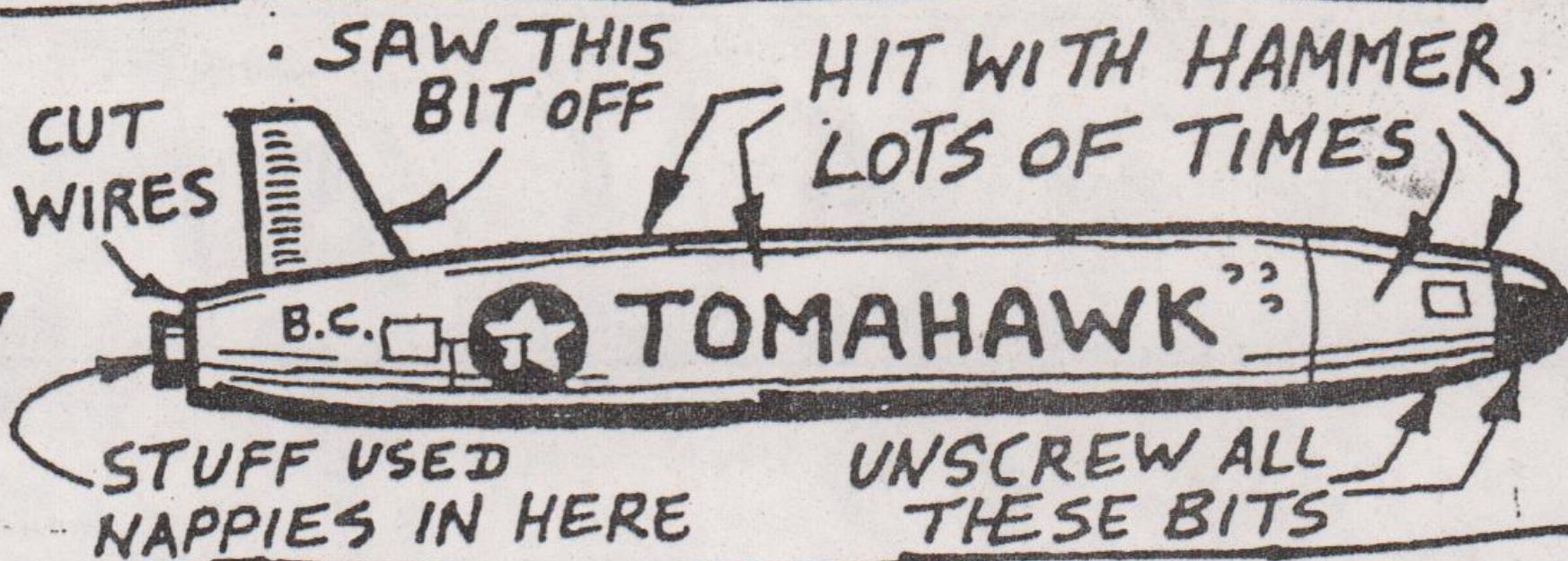
We are living in Thatcher's nightmare. We may die in it too one day. But we do not have to. We can throw it out, and for our children's sake, we need to.

Les Parsons
April 1987



DREAM AND NIGHTMARE

GET UP STAND UP!



Glastonbury
CND FESTIVAL 19-20-21 June 1987
Worthy Farm, Pilton, Somerset

**MUSIC
THEATRE
GREENFIELD
CHILDREN'S WORLD
LASERS FILMS
STALLS CAMPING FOOD**
ALL THIS... IN THE VALE OF AVATON

Advance Tickets: £20 from CND Festival
Whole Weekend including parking & Canine

**Glastonbury - rush
while stocks last**

Tickets for the Glastonbury CND Festival are going twice as fast as last year. Book now - ring 01-251 0027 to make a credit card booking (tickets £20 each), or write to CND Festival, 22-24 Underwood Street, London N1 7JG, making your cheque payable to Glastonbury Festivals Ltd.



Glastonbury
19-20-21 June 1987

Glastonbury
CND FESTIVAL 19-20-21 June 1987
Worthy Farm, Pilton, Somerset



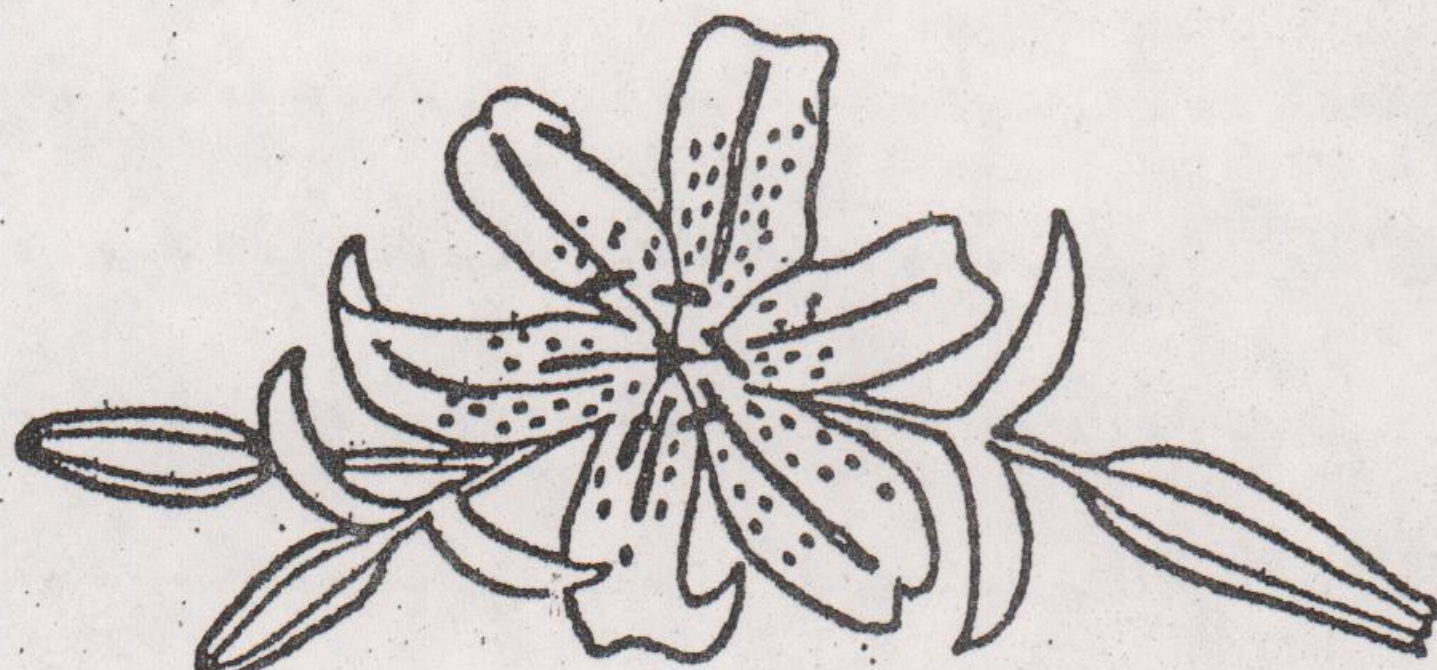
PEACE FESTIVAL



**MUSIC FOOD
CHILDREN'S AREA
FUN STALLS**



JULY 12th
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT NOTTM



GET UP STAND UP!

JUNE '87

THURSDAY 11TH JUNE - General Election, in case you haven't noticed ! You have a vote. Use it or lose it.

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE - Forest Fields Peace Group meeting, 7.30pm at 69 Wiverton Road, Forest Fields. All welcome.

FRIDAY 19TH TO SUNDAY 21ST JUNE - Glastonbury Festival. See inside for details.

SUNDAY 12TH JULY - Nottingham Peace Festival. Fun and frolic on the Victoria Embankment. See inside for details.



FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP

JOIN US

I would like to join the Forest Fields Peace Group.

I enclose my membership fee of £1.00.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

TELEPHONE.....

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 FIELDS 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 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.