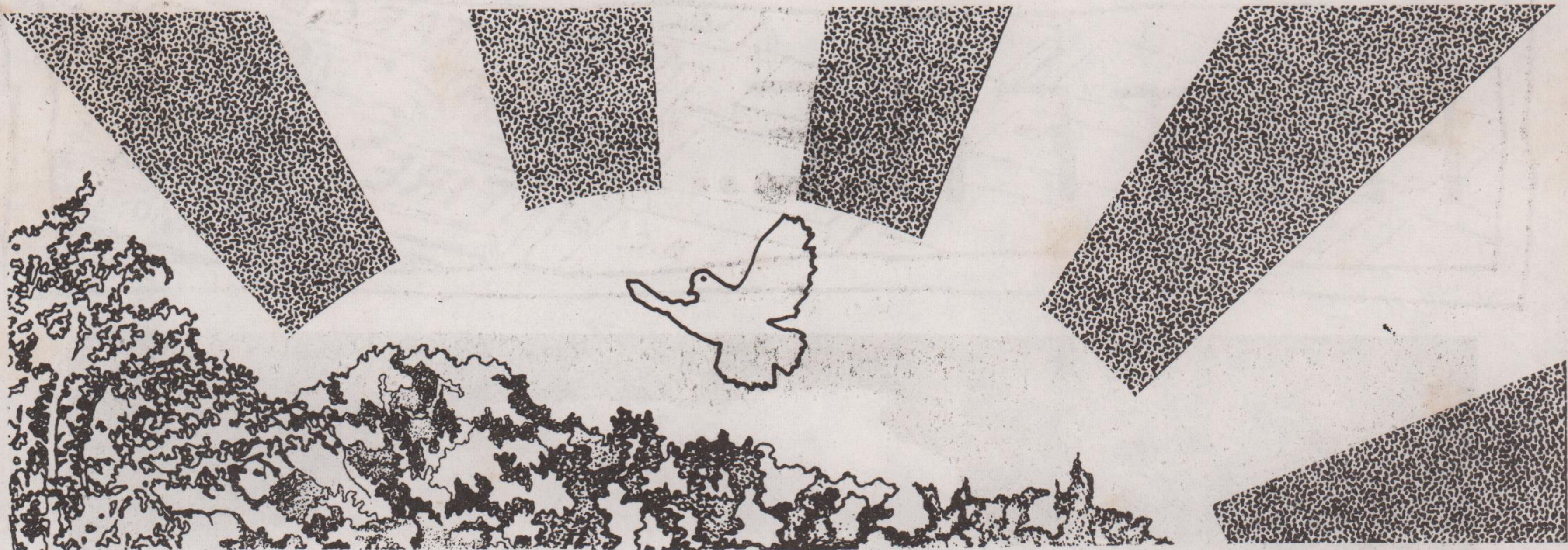


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FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP JULY '87 20P

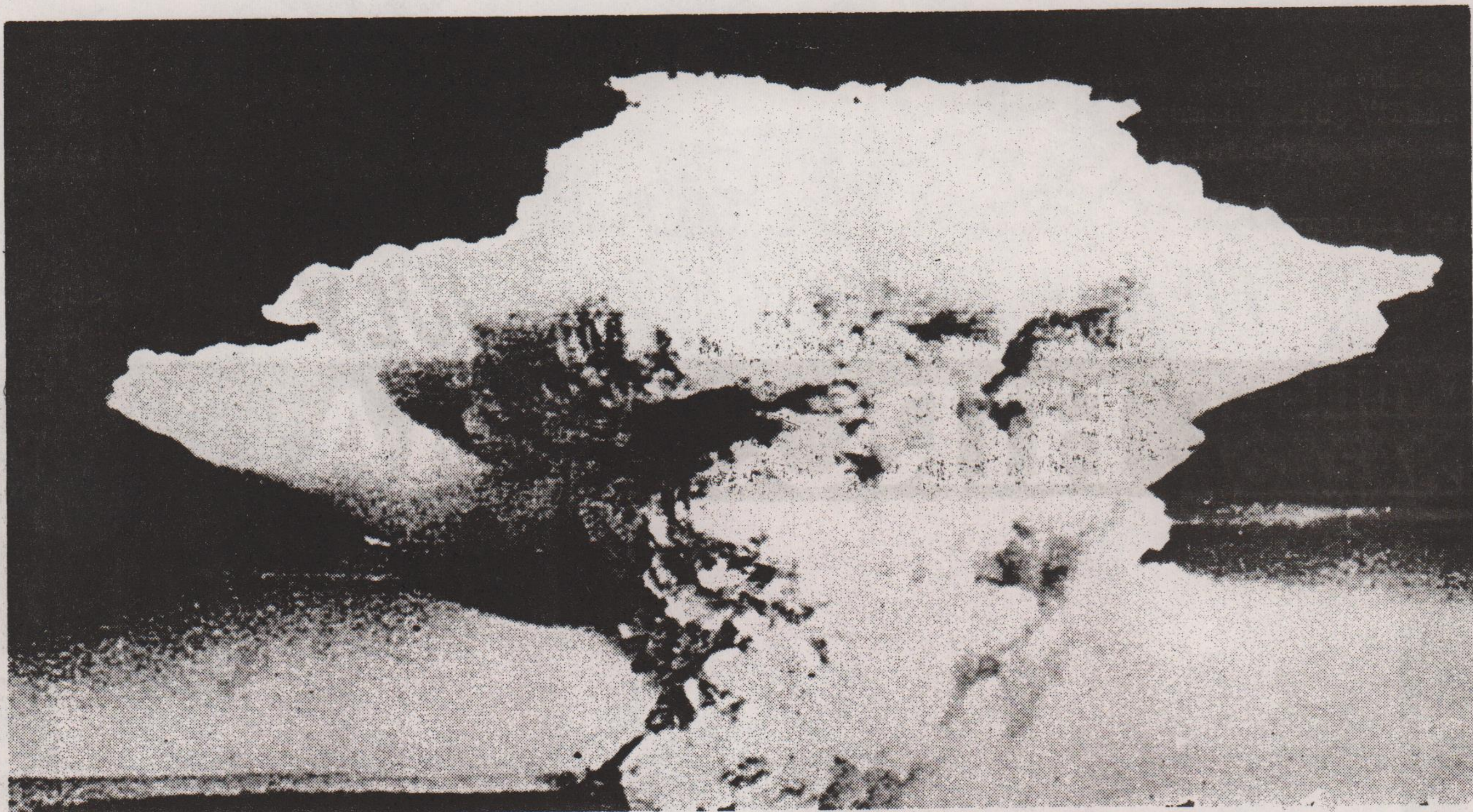
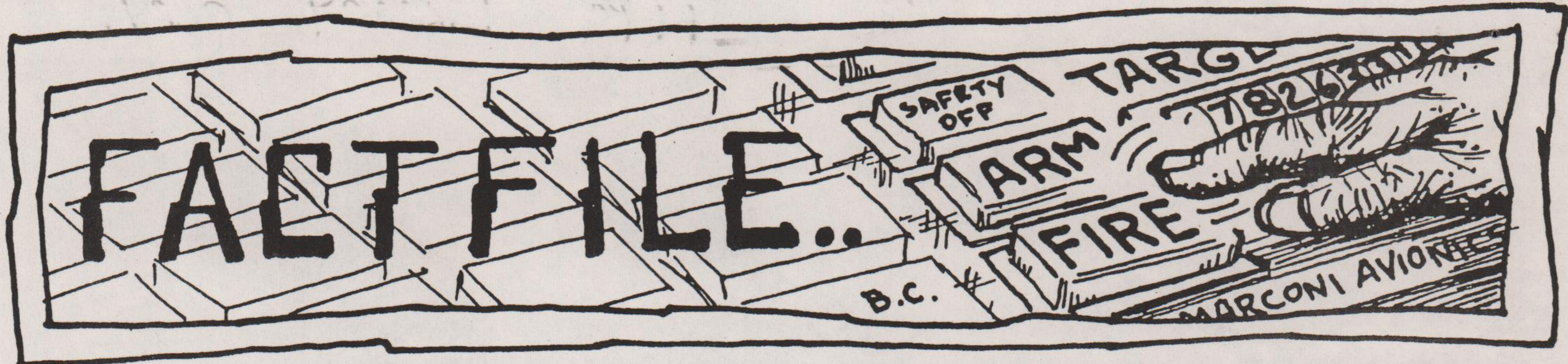
HIROSHIMA

NAGASAKI

HIROSHIMA

NAGASAKI

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



Hiroshima And Nagasaki

At 8.15am, 6th August 1945, the Japanese city of Hiroshima was the victim of the first ever war-time atomic bomb. It was very small by modern "standards" - 12.5 kilotons - but in the first few months 140,000 people had died.

The dying carries on however, and now that total is 200,000. Even people who were yet unborn in 1945, but whose mothers were exposed to radiation, now suffer terrible diseases and malformations.

On August 9th, Nagasaki received the second nuclear bomb used in war. This was bigger than the Hiroshima bomb and 70,000 people died instantly. It had a destructive yield of 22 kilotons..... (a Cruise missile has 200 kilotons) !

It is now generally agreed that the bombs were exploded over Japan to end the war quickly before the Russians became too deeply involved in the Eastern Front. The Japanese were on the verge of surrender and had sent out peace feelers in mid-July.

There was much pressure to use the bombs for 'scientific' reasons, to test out the work that had been done over previous months. The public reason for dropping the bomb was that it would bring a speedy end to the war and save American and Japanese lives. This argument is still heard today but it wears rather thin when Nagasaki is taken into account.

There seems to be no reason why "Fat Man" (named after Churchill because it was round and friendly looking) was dropped on Nagasaki, except as a cynical and unnecessary experiment.

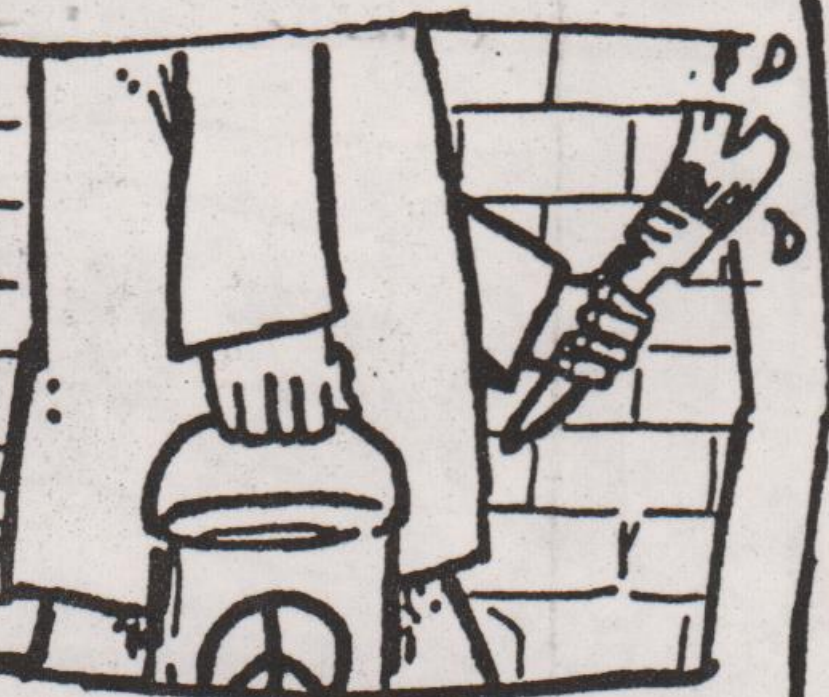
When he heard the news about the Hiroshima bombing. President Truman said, "This is the greatest thing in history".

The memorial statue at Hiroshima reads; "Rest In Peace. May we never repeat this mistake".

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS
NO MORE NAGASAKIS

PAGE 3 COMMENT

B.C.



FIVE MORE YEARS

I was hoping to write this Page Three Comment in the wake of a Labour Party victory. It was going to be called 'Rubbing Their Noses In It'. I wanted to outline how, with a Labour government starting to get rid of our nuclear weapons, we - the peace movement - would have to remind everyone that the British people had been told time and time again that without nuclear weapons we would be exposed to some kind of nuclear blackmail and the Russians would occupy the country. Everyday without nuclear weapons would be a victory for the peace movement. Everyday we would rub the faces of the nuclear lobby in the facts, asking where the invaders were. Destroying the myth of nuclear deterrence and the need to negotiate from strength. Well unfortunately with "101 Damnations" giving Thatcher another five years, all that is going to have to wait. And in the meantime we have to work out what we are going to do.

MORE

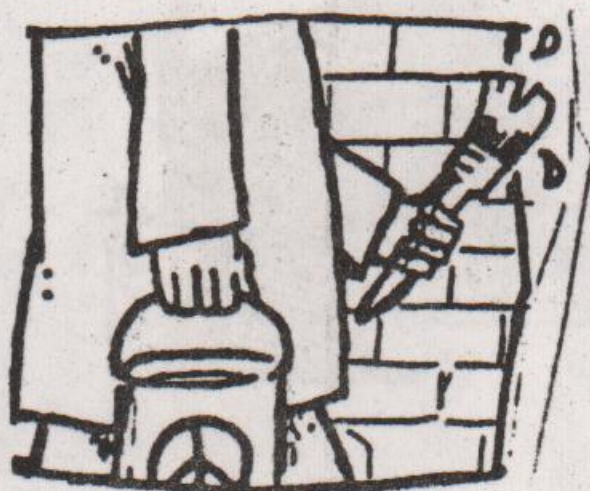
First of all there are two clear facts that we have to recognise.

That whatever hope we may have still have held after the '83 Conservative victory, we have to accept that there are now going to be no easy victories. We are a more mature movement now but a weaker one in terms of activists, energy and resources. This third Conservative victory will not help that.

And that the political world in which we are working in is now very different from that in which the peace movement was revived in the early 80's. We should not overlook that important achievements were made - not least the cracking of the consensus in British nuclear politics - but we also have to recognise that the results of two elections clearly show we have not won this stage of the struggle. With the situation now changing I think we have to acknowledge our defeats and move on.

There are three areas I would like to look at.

Firstly, ignoring the superpower arms talks what is the British political system going to be like? Fairly obviously Trident will be almost fully deployed by the next election, the money will be spent and much of the anti-Trident majority gone. Bad news. I guess the Labour Party with a stronger left-wing and with Neil Kinnock remaining as leader will retain its basic unilateralist position. Good news. I also imagine that the percentage of people disagreeing with a nuclear defence policy will, as it has been doing over the last five years, slowly increase. More good news.



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



FIVE

The Tory Party will retain an aggressive nuclear defence policy, and will maintain strong military links with the USA. No news there.

Secondly in reality we cannot ignore the superpower arms negotiations, we have to look at what effect they will have. Cynically any agreement may mean very little in real terms. The removal of a few thousand of the 50,000 warheads - and their probable replacement in some different form. However I think it would be very unwise to ignore them as a "sham". I think the peace movement has to follow the talks closely, and use them, not as the superpowers (and probably our own government) will to make people feel safer, but to expose Thatcher as a world leader who isn't in fact interested in disarmament. Also we should try to build pressure for continued arms agreements beyond what is on the current agendas. With the first arms agreement signed it will be hard for them to argue that further agreements aren't possible.

Thirdly I think there will almost certainly be renewed attempts to create a new "enemy". Much of government policy both on defence and domestic control depends on the perception of an "enemy", a threat, "them". With the Soviet Union increasingly difficult to portray as a threat to Western civilisation, experiments have already got underway to find a substitute, most likely it will emerge somewhere from the Arab world. If we are ever going to achieve peace we must smash the concept of the "enemy". We have to show that as human beings we share only common interests with the peoples of other countries. We must not allow them to substitute a new enemy for the old.

YEARS...

And so with another five years of struggle to go I propose three aims to our peace campaigning.

The continuation of our successful work to convince the British people that nuclear weapons are not part of a sensible defence policy.

To follow and exploit the arms talks to build a pressure for an escalation in disarmament.

To work against the concept that we are faced with an aggressive enemy and to work against the creation of new enemies.

To argue for a need not only for a non-nuclear but also a non-aggressive defence policy.

Dave Dickinson



NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

dete'rrence (abs). n. Discourage or hinder (from) by fear, dislike of trouble, etc.; esp. nuclear weapons of a State or alliance; as deterring attack by another (ARCH)= retaliation, "last ditch deterrent" - M.Heseltine 1983 (L. terrere frighten)

deter'gent a. ' n. Cleansing (agent), esp. substance used with clothes.....

For deterrence to work, the devastation caused to both sides must be so great that no-one would dare use the bomb - a situation of mutual assured destruction (MAD). But if no-one would dare use it, the deterrent threat is not believable. Both sides have now tried to threaten limited use of nuclear weapons. The problem is that to make the threat believable you have to say the results WON'T be catastrophic; but it's the threat of catastrophe that is supposed to make the threat work. **HAVE YOU GOT THAT ?**

The only way we can unravel this nonsense is by exposing the myth of deterrence.

If it's only a deterrent - why do we need bombs that can hit an office block from thousands of miles, if all we want is to retaliate ?

If it's only a deterrent - why do we need these super-accurate weapons that get there in less than ten minutes, unless they are for getting in a first-strike ?

If it's only a deterrent - why does either side need tens of thousands of nuclear weapons when only a handful would devastate the other side ?

OR DETERGENT ??

If it's only a deterrent - why does the U.S. Army have nuclear bombs so small, they are carried around in soldiers' rucksacks ? Why have nuclear weapons spread through all parts of the military structures ?

If it's only a deterrent - why did Reagan say, "I could see where we could have the exchange of tactical nuclear weapons against troops in the field without bringing either one of the major powers to pushing the button." (Times 21.10.81)

The days of pure deterrence (MAD) are long gone. Modern weapons and modern strategies are based on the idea of **FIGHTING** and **"WINNING"** a nuclear war. On Panorama they asked Admiral Lord Lewis (British Chief Of Staff), "Can you imagine circumstances in which you as Chief of Staff would advise the Prime Minister to be the first to use nuclear weapons ?" He replied, "Certainly, no problem at all."





"Since yesterday, we have been learning from a mob of enthusiastic commentators that now any middle-sized city can be totally obliterated by a bomb the size of a football. The American, English and French newspapers are spewing out elegant dissertations on the atomic bomb. We can sum it up in a single phrase - mechanised civilisation has just achieved the last degree of savagery.... Already it is hard enough to breathe in this tortured world. But now we are being offered a new form of anguish, which may well be final.... Perhaps, after all, it does provide the pretext for a special edition of the newspapers. But that edition should be full of silence."

ALBERT CAMUS
8th August 1945

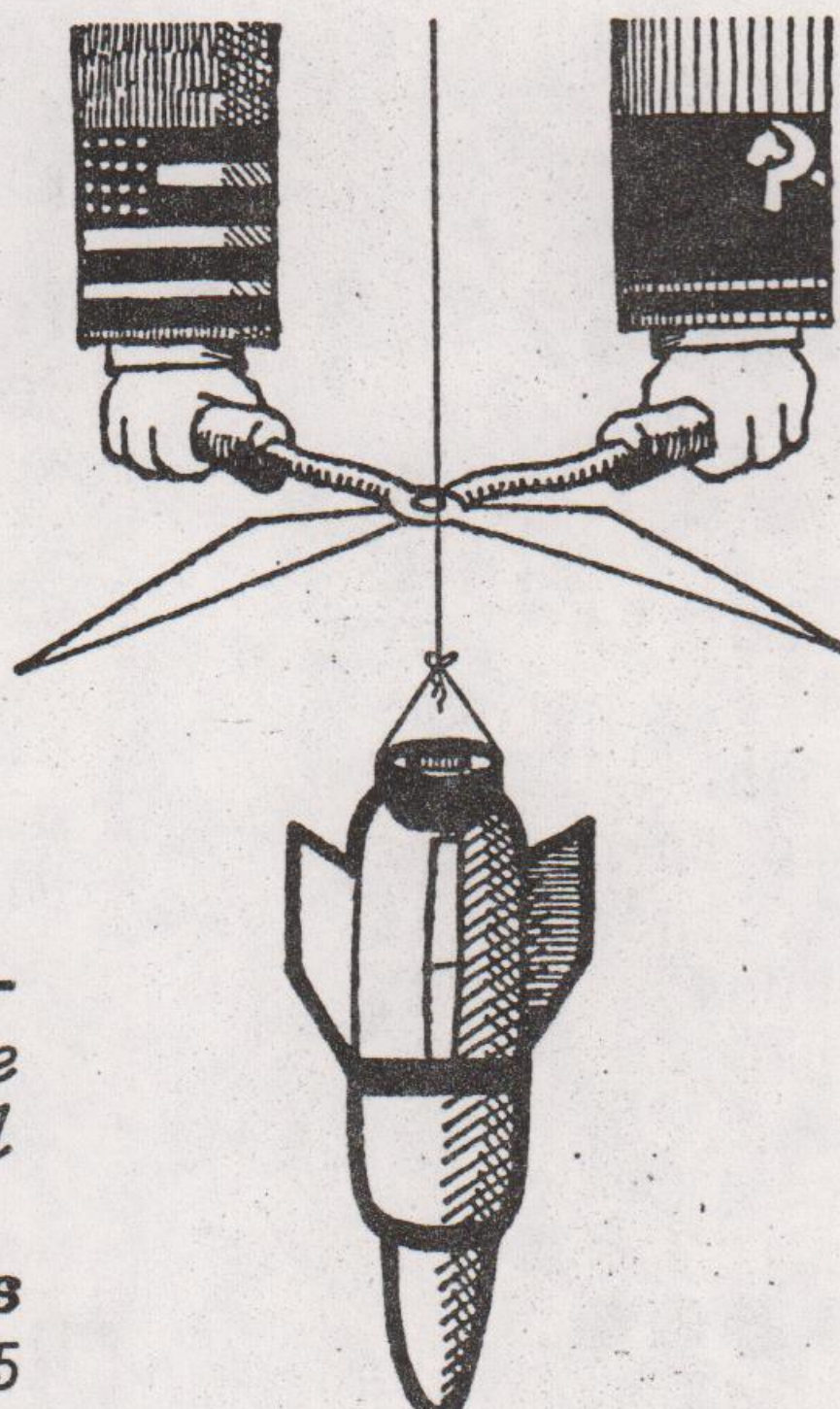
"One consequence stands clear; civilisation and humanity can survive only if there is a revolution in mankind's political thinking."

New York Times
Aug 8th 1945



BIG NAVY BASE GETS NO.2
Daily Worker
10th Aug '45

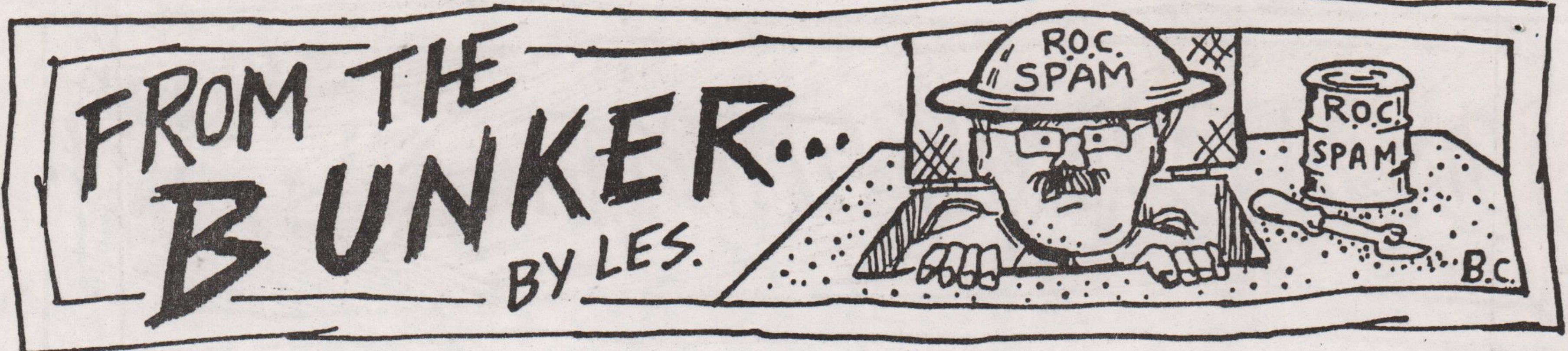
How can I forget the stillness
Prevailing over the city of three
hundred thousand
Amidst that calm
How can I forget the entreaties
Of departed wife and child
Through their orbs of eyes
Cutting through our minds and souls ?
Toge Mitsuyoshi



They held up a stone.
I said, "Stone".
Smiling they said, "Stone".
They showed me a tree.
I said, "Tree".
Smiling they said, "Tree".
They shed a man's blood.
I said, "Blood".
Smiling they said, "Paint".
They shed a man's blood.
I said, "Blood".
Smiling they said, "Paint".

Dannie Abse
(Adapted from the Hebrew
of Amir Gilboa)





Watching And Waiting

When he was a young doctor the famous psychiatrist, R. D. Laing, had to treat a 10 year old boy who was dying from Hydrocephalus - fluid was building up in his brain and could not escape, causing his head to get larger and larger. Twice a day Laing had to insert a needle to draw out fluid, so much of it that it would spurt out in a column. Laing said that, "this little boy unmistakably endured agony. He would quietly cry in pain, and he knew he was going to die. He had started to read the novel, "The Pickwick Papers". The one thing he asked God for, he told me, was that he be allowed to finish this book before he died... he died before it was half-finished.

Most of us feel very hurt and sad to hear things like that, perhaps choked, perhaps angry that such things can happen. If we could, most of us would have tried to prevent that boy suffering so much. But there was nothing they could do. It was nobody's fault. They had helped as much as possible.

Yet only a few years before this, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in 1945, instead of helping to try and stop children suffering and dying in agony, people had caused such suffering and death for many children. In Nagasaki, children in rags of hanging skin wandered about among the dead bodies of a burning hell.

This was caused by an Atomic bomb. Like the ten year old boy, thousands of children died in agony in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But unlike with the boy, people deliberately caused the suffering, the agony and the deaths.

When people say they support nuclear weapons, that is what they are supporting. They mean they are prepared to torture and murder millions of children.

Of course we also know that there are many people who strive for peace, who say that is it wrong to have nuclear weapons. At heart they are sickened by what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as they would be sickened to watch a ten year old boy die in agony.

But most people do not belong to one of these two groups. They are not striving to keep nuclear weapons or to get rid of them. I suppose that really they are watching these two groups, and waiting for them to sort it out, one way or the other. And while they watch and wait, they just carry on with their lives - bringing up kids, working, cooking, a thousand things. Like the ten year old boy with his book, they want to finish these things before they die.

If the group who want to get rid of nuclear weapons succeeds, then at least they know they won't be blown, and their children will not die in agony and terror. Of course on the other hand, if the people who want the nuclear weapons keep winning, they'll probably get blown up in the end, and their children will die in agony in terror, like the children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in 1945.

The ten year old boy wanted to finish what he was doing, but he could not. Laing and the others could do nothing to help him finish. They were helpless.

Of course people could do something about the nuclear threat. If they helped to get rid of them, they would protect millions of children from wandering around in rags of hanging skin in a burning hell.

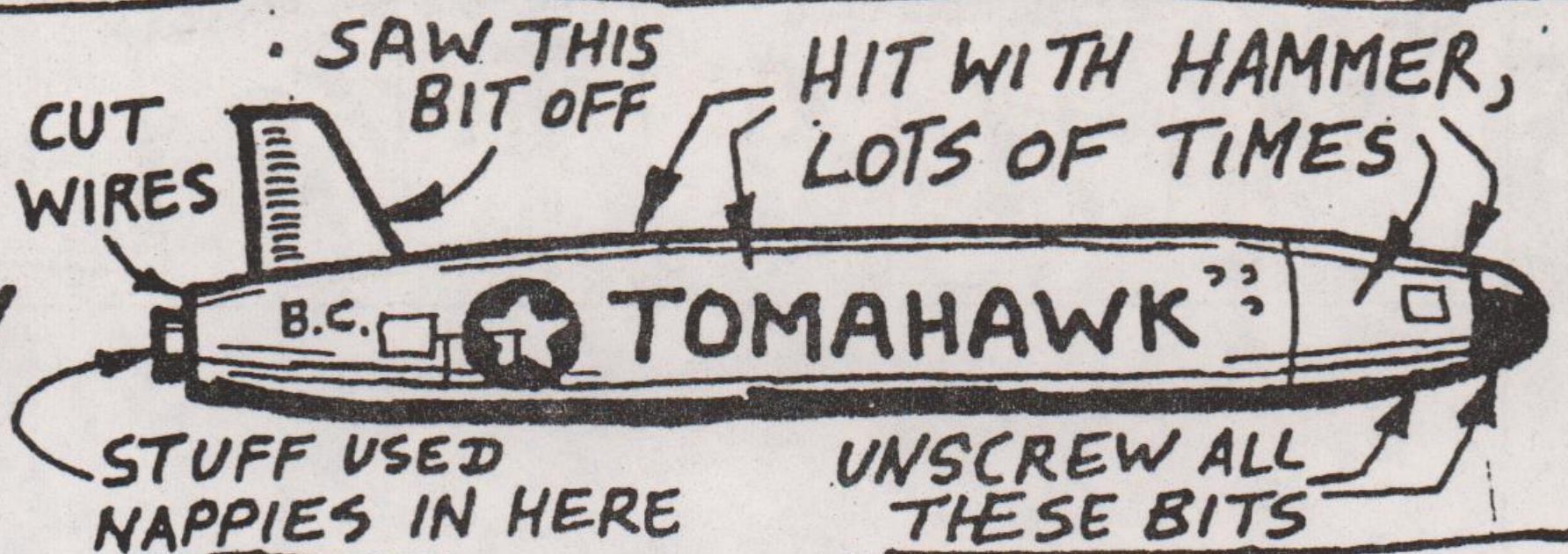
Most people don't though. It's as if they were told there was a way to stop the suffering of that ten year old boy but they just shrugged their shoulders and turned away, while he continued to quietly cry in pain. Watching and waiting, to see what happens next.



Les Parsons
March 1987

WATCHING AND WAITING

GET UP- STAND UP!



INTERNATIONAL SHADOW PROJECT
SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH, 11AM
HYSON GREEN

A great part of this issue of the FFPG newsletter is devoted to the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And as always, this page - GET UP, STAND UP! - is given over to coming events that peace group supporters are invited to take part in. Forest Fields Peace Group's next major event will aim to mark the anniversary of that bombing, and draw its lessons to the attention of our local community. This will be THE INTERNATIONAL SHADOW PROJECT. If you support the peace group, please support this event.

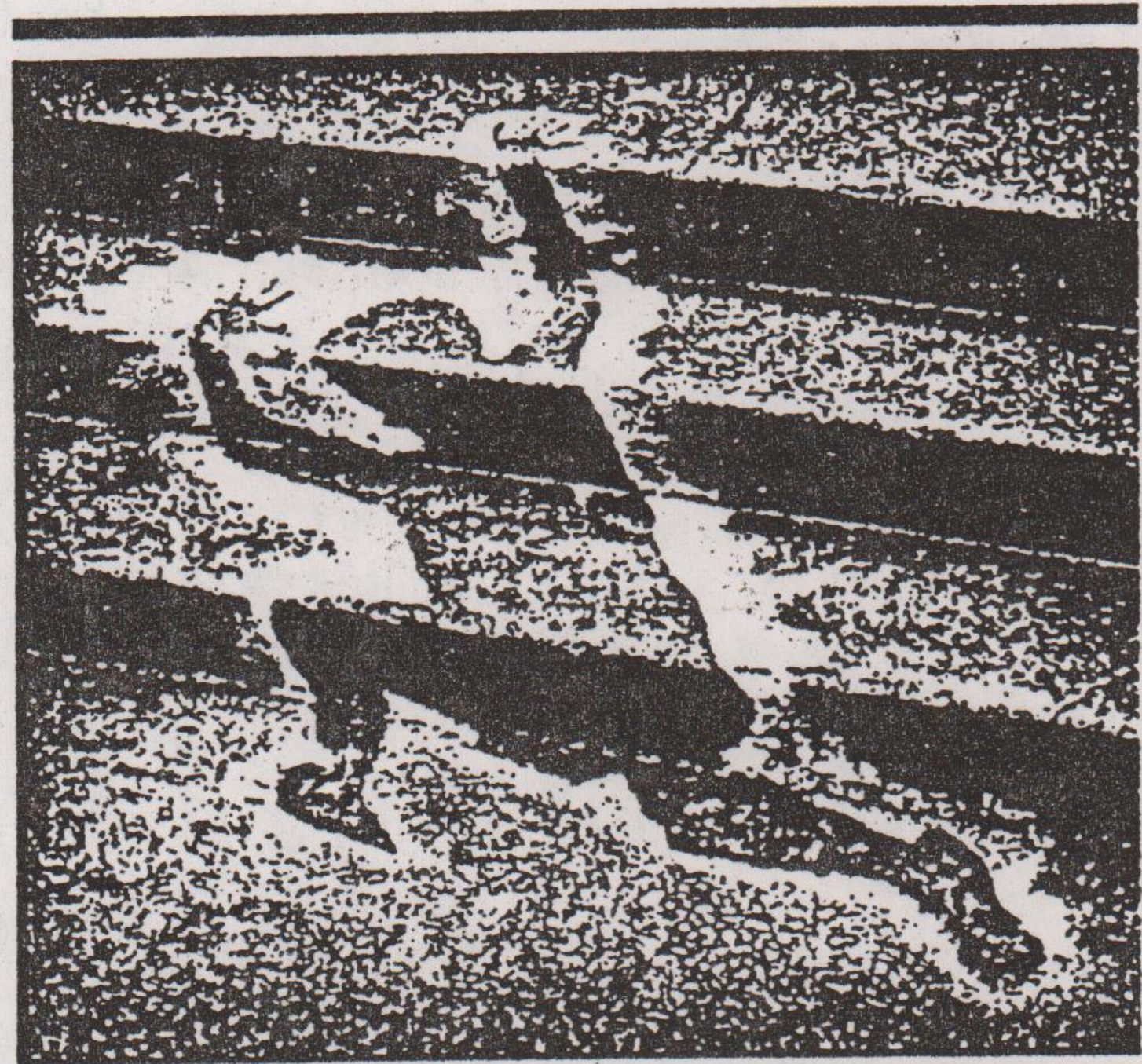
WHEN THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB EXPLODED OVER HIROSHIMA, HUMAN BEINGS WHO WERE WITHIN THREE HUNDRED METRES OF GROUND ZERO, WERE INSTANTLY VAPOURISED BY THE SEARING HEAT, ONLY THEIR SHADOWS BEING LEFT BEHIND.

We will be joining with peace groups all around the world by painting human shadows on the pavements of our town, in remembrance of the victims of that horror.

These shadows will be a silent, but we hope powerful testimony of our desperate hope that nothing like Hiroshima is ever allowed to happen again.



The Shadow Project is **NOT** vandalism! We will use non-permanent paint that will wash off with the next rain. We will paint the shadows in broad daylight, and we will hand leaflets out to passers-by explaining what we are doing. We will meet at 11am by the old Scoop Shop on Radford Road, on Saturday 8th August.



THE INTERNATIONAL SHADOW PROJECT

AUGUST 8TH

This will be the third year running that Nottingham will have taken part in the International Shadow Project. Please help make this event a success by coming to join us on Saturday 8th August in Hyson Green. If you don't want to actually paint, then please come and hand out leaflets, or sell newsletters, or just **BE THERE** to provide moral support, with banners or placards. The main thing is that we have a substantial group of us, so that we can make a real impact. **FULL DETAILS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND FINALISED AT THE FFPG MEETING ON THURSDAY 16TH JULY, 7.30PM AT 69 WIVERTON ROAD.** If you can't come to the meeting, but would like to be involved anyway, phone Pete (704621) to find out details.

This is the first event we have organised for some time, let's all make sure it's a success!



THURSDAY 2ND JULY - 7.30pm, WEA, Shakespeare St. "The Way Forward", Nottm CND Post-Election Structure and Strategy Workshop.

SATURDAY 4TH JULY - Blockade at RAF Fylingdales from 12 noon to 4pm. Coach transport available. Contact Glyn Carter on 706088.

FRIDAY 10TH JULY - Peace Festival Benefit. Roy Bailey and Leon Rosselson at the Boulevard Hotel, Radford Boulevard from 8pm. £3/£1.50.

SATURDAY 11TH JULY - SPOTZ Alternative Cabaret in aid of the Peace Festival. On the Festival site from 8pm.

SUNDAY 12TH JULY - Nottingham's Seventh Annual Peace Festival on Victoria Embankment from 12 noon to 6pm. Stalls, bands, kiddies festival, food, exhibitions, friends, lovely weather!

THURSDAY 16TH JULY - Forest Fields Peace Group meeting at 69 Wiverton Road, 7.30pm. All welcome.

SATURDAY 18TH JULY - Celebration of Nelson Mandela's birthday and anniversary of Nicaraguan Revolution. Joint social by Central America Solidarity Campaign and Nottingham Anti-Apartheid. Contact Mark (626298) or Sarah (706345)

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 HYSOON 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.