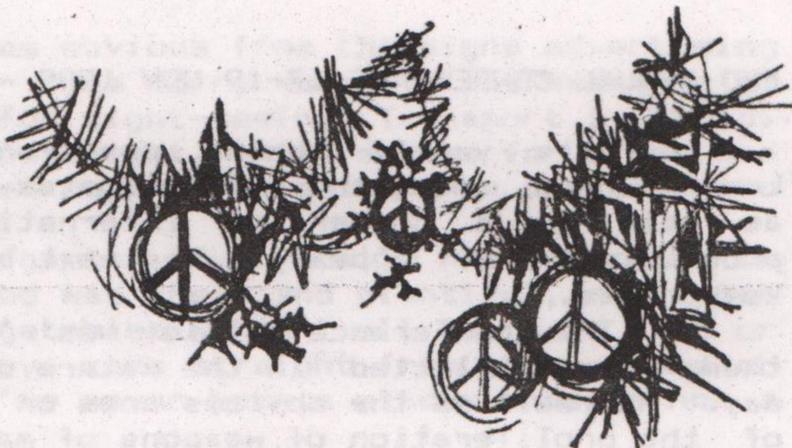


# NCND NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1989



Welcome to this topical newsletter which will appear every other month - alternating with the usual bulletin. In 1989 the NCND bulletin has continued to improve through the hard work of editor Cath Wakeman, despite her increasing workload. At the recent AGM Cath had to resign because of her other duties.

The officers want to maintain and build on Cath's high standard within available hours while still keeping members up to date each month. At the same time we need to devote adequate effort to public campaigning during this period of rapid international change.

Success does depend on you writing in with letters, dates, reports, articles, queries or any comments. Please remember that ALL members' views are equally valid and welcome.

You would also be very welcome as a volunteer - many members have learned new skills this way, such as research techniques, working a printing press or persuading V.I.P's to write things for no money.

## NOTTM C.N.D AT LISTERGATE by Jeremy Jago

The regular outings of the stall at Listergate on Saturday mornings are a vital link between CND and the public. On November 4th, customers were queuing before the stall was properly set up. In under 3 hours, stall sales raised £98 for NCND. A week later the stall raised £112 in a similarly short time. Who's responsible? The volunteers.

Doreen Gower negotiates permission to use the space and supervises the accounts, Wendy Wain is stock controller, Peggy Westaway and Barbara Coulson organise volunteers. Since August Peggy has found 40 willing helpers, each of whom will staff the stall for an hour one Saturday morning every 3 or 4 months. Peggy has tried to involve people from outer parts of Nottingham, who often miss regular city events. Each person has at least one fellow volunteer on the stall, and newcomers receive guidance.

Being a stall volunteer is a useful tonic for the dejected CND member - public support grows as world events move our way. Doreen has obtained permission for a stall pitch EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY FOR THE FORTNIGHT UP TO CHRISTMAS, beginning 11 December. To fill this every day will be a tall order but a worthwhile one. If you can spare an hour or two, phone Peggy on 333046.

REPORTS - AUTUMN CAMPAIGN DAY 21st October, Listergate - This was the final day of public petitioning on the theme of No New Nukes - highlighting present modernisation plans involving F-111 bombers and Trident submarines. Petitioners waved large inflated pencils, and rain didn't stop many hundreds of passers-by signing. There were many enquiries for follow-up info and 2000 leaflets were taken. Hard-working David Lane had also collected many names during previous months. The petition will be presented to local M.P's.

WHITE POPPY DAYS - November 4th & 11th. Seven volunteers distributed poppies to passers-by around the Listergate stall. On the second session 3 large boxfuls were given out. Doreen Gower wrote this letter to the Post: 'May the Nottm CND ... thank the citizens of Nottm who donated the sum of £105.83 for white poppies. The whole of this money is being paid into the War on Want organisation. May we also reiterate that our wearing of white poppies is NOT in competition with the sale of Red poppies but is the symbol of our efforts to ensure that future generations will not be asked to make the supreme sacrifices of those for whom we wear red poppies.'

DIARY DATES Dec 6th: Don't Miss NCND Alistair Mackie Lecture  
W.E.A. Shakespeare St 7.30

Dec 8: Sherwood/Dist. Anti Poll Tax Campaign, party/disco/big bop.  
Italian Community Centre, Sherwood Rise, 8.00

Jan 15: NCND Bulletin contributions deadline.

← Please display

CND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 17-19 NOV 1989 - Report by Chris Bagshaw

This year's annual conference was held at the City University in London, and among the 600 delegates from all over Britain were five from NCND as well as a number of international guests. The nitty gritty of the proceedings will appear in the next bulletin, but for now here are some of the key points.

The conference title was 'Nuclear Free - Air, Land & Sea' and this theme was reflected in the nature of the resolutions discussed on the second day. As well as the obvious ones on Trident and modernisation and the problem of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, there were resolutions on the previously less publicised issues such as Low Flying and Disarming the Seas. A resolution on the environment was carried, recognising CND's part in the wider ecological movement and committing us to making the 1990's a 'Green Decade', starting with a major Peace and Environmental Festival next summer. Events in Eastern Europe were reflected in an emergency resolution, as was concern over the Labour Party's rejection of unilateralism.

In general, the overall spirit was one of optimism as membership was shown to have stabilised and issues for which we have campaigned tirelessly have swung once more into the public arena, finding favour even with the odd superpower.

Thanks are due to all those who made NCND's presence at the conference possible, and particularly to Barbara Coulson for risking her car in my hands to get us home again.

## THE WALL

by MARGRET PECK

In July this year I went with my husband to East Germany. It was an experience going by bus from the airport in West Berlin to Checkpoint Charlie. On the way I saw street signs leading to famous places I had heard of as a young girl in my home town of Dortmund. All of a sudden even though we were in the same city we could go no further without showing passports and visas. We had arrived at Checkpoint Charlie.

On our way back home we spent half a day in East Berlin. We did not see much of the wall. It seemed hidden. But from the barrier on the eastern side of the Brandenburg Gate we looked across at the wall on the far side. We went in the Underground and saw the tunnel completely filled in where West Berlin began.

What we saw of East Berlin in one afternoon was very pleasant. Old buildings and old churches have been restored. Parts of the city had to be completely rebuilt. Whilst modern materials were used, the whole impression (in one part of the city) was of old Berlin. At the outdoor cafes we tasted marvellous cakes and drinks.

Most of our two weeks were spent in Leipzig with outings to various places including Dresden, Weimar and of course Buchenwald, where my first husband's father was an inmate. Dresden has been rebuilt. A lot of building is

still going on. The shortage of labour was obvious from the signs advertising jobs. Dresden is a beautiful city again - I am sorry we could not see more of it, but the heat that day was too much for sight-seeing. Transport is cheap. Trams and regional trains are very convenient, with spaces for prams and pushchairs, so that those with them had no problem getting on and off when shopping or visiting.

We visited a well-equipped Kindergarten. Every child has the right to a place in a nursery or Kindergarten. Food was cheap and plentiful, maybe not as glamorous as in the West. Fruit and vegetables weren't all the same size or shape, in fact they looked as if they came straight from the orchard or garden. Dry goods were dearer. But then I've never been a window shopper nor a collector of goods.

What was very noticeable was that women felt safe. In the Underground on a Sunday afternoon we saw a woman on her own. She showed no nervousness when we approached. One evening we went to visit a woman who lived by herself in a flat over council offices in a small village. They were at the end of the village - no houses nearby. Late at night she took us back to the station to catch the train back to Leipzig. I asked her if she was frightened going back on her own. She looked at me with surprise. I don't think she knew what I meant. Then she just said 'I don't believe in ghosts.'

In Leipzig we had a good chance to look at the houses. The old ones looked as if they had not been touched since before the war. There were a lot of new buildings. But to me it appeared as though once they were built no repairs were done, nor were they repainted. When we asked questions we were told that a full programme of modernisation and repair was about to be launched.

What made people come out on the streets and led to the Wall coming down was the lack of democracy, the poor housing conditions and restrictions on movement abroad. Young people I spoke to had an urge to travel to see for themselves what the world was like outside the G.D.R.

When I heard that the Wall had come down I was jubilant. I watched every possible programme on television.

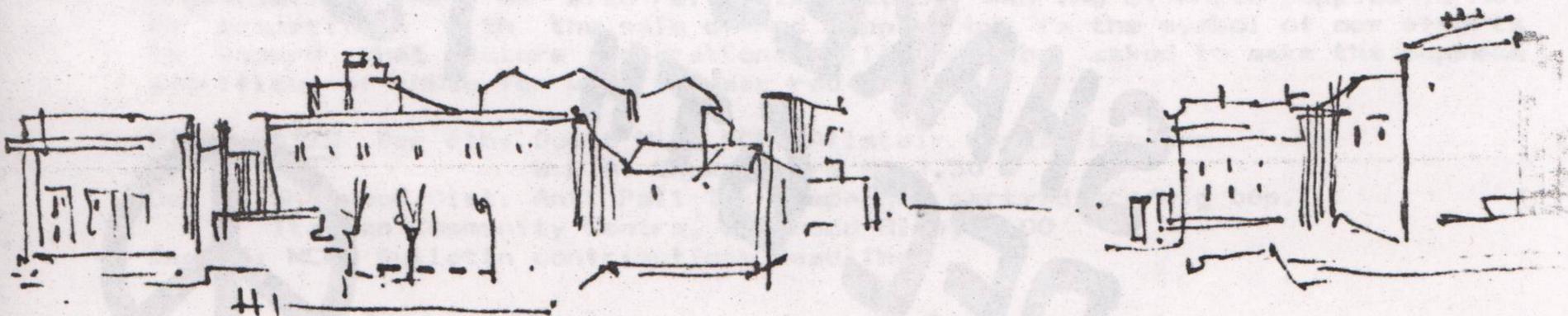
Then I shook myself, thinking is this really me, as long as I can remember I wondered why people upset themselves so much about borders, where one country ends and another begins, why frontiers mattered, as long as people are free and their needs are fulfilled. Was I now becoming a nationalist? But then analysing my emotions I realised that I still felt the same. My jubilation was for a people free at last.

Reunification will eventually take place. But for now freedom is enough. I see no danger to peace from a future united Germany. In fact I have not been so optimistic for a long time.

In West Germany there has been a recent revival of neo-Nazi elements, Berufsverbot still exists. There is discrimination against Turkish and other guest workers (as there is discrimination against black people here in Britain). But there has been a reestablishment of German democratic tradition, with a powerful Social Democratic party, a wide peace movement and strong local councils and trade unions. Even the two ruling parties are nowhere as reactionary as Thatcher. Not forgetting of course the influential Green party. Also the Bundestag is elected by proportional representation. Add to this the experience of Socialism in East Germany (not all by any means negative) and we could have a Germany playing a powerful progressive role in Europe and the world.

A united or federated Germany would mean the withdrawal of NATO and the Warsaw Pact from Central Europe. This would cut arms spending and bring greater security to Europe and to the Soviet Union.

It would also be of enormous economic advantage. A united Europe would be equipped to help under-developed countries and wipe famine off the face of the earth. The Soviet Union has led the way in disarmament but the West, especially Thatcher, has been slow to respond. If NATO and the Warsaw Pact withdrew from a united Germany then there will be a chance for a united peaceful Europe.



**NCND PUBLIC  
MEETING**

**A NUCLEAR - FREE  
EUROPE?**

**A TALK BY CND VICE CHAIRMAN  
AIR COMMODORE**

**ALISTAIR MACKIE**  
C.B.E. D.F.C. & BAR

**W.E.A. ST.  
SHAKESPEARE ST.  
DEC 6TH 7:30 PM**

