

Points of Information

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ALCONBURY USAF BASE - July 2nd: demonstration at base not far from the A.1 road near Cambridge. Details from Committee of 100, 13 Goodwin Street, London, N. 4. ARC 1239

EDGWARE PROJECT - Detailed program available from Committee of 100 or the man on the spot: Melvyn Estrin, 84 Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware, Middx. STO 7278
The programme includes:
March 21st - Public meeting
March 23rd - Film show
March 25th - Folk Concert

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS - being collected for prisoners in Brixton Prison. The books will be donated to the Prison Library. Please phone or write to John Papworth, 22 Nevern Road, London, S. W. 5. FRE 4112

ABERDEEN YOUTH CND - meet every Sunday at the Trades Halls, Adelphi, Aberdeen. Over the last year the group has: organised four Anti-Vietnam War demos, one Anti-NATO picket, a Hiroshima Day vigil, a Hiroshima Day march, a folk concert and a really successful fast for "War on Want" receiving national publicity. For a while they almost ran the local press! Financial and other support needed now! CONTACT Ian Macdonald, 15 Cotton Street, Aberdeen.

BADGES - Unusual or old badges bought. Double price. Please send S.A.E. R. Johnstone, 3 Midlothian Drive, Glasgow S.1.

ANARCHIST BALL - April 1st 7.30 to midnight Fulham Town Hall. Tickets 7/6 from Tony Jackson, 17a Maxwell Road, S.W.6.

resistance



a committee of 100 magazine

6d.



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Front Cover: Riot scene from "The War Game".

Vol. 3 No. 11

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THE FORCES HOW TO KEEP OUT LEGALLY

The first of a series of articles about various aspects of the armed forces

There are two kinds of servicemen - regulars (who join up voluntarily), and conscripts (who are called up compulsorily). A regular can keep out of the forces by not joining up in the first place. A conscript obviously has more of a problem because of the very nature of conscription. But first let us be clear what we mean by conscription.

Conscription

There are two kinds of conscription. The first kind, which is as old as war itself, is for full-time military service in wartime. Its modern form is the universal conscription of all adult males (and sometimes females as well), which dates from 1793, when France was invaded by foreign armies and the revolutionary government began a levee en masse to raise a citizen army of 1,000,000 men which drove the invaders out and then made Napoleon's victories possible.

The second kind of conscription is for part-time or full-time military training in peacetime. In the old form of the militia system, involving short periods of training at regular intervals, this is nearly as old as the first kind of conscription. Its modern form is the universal or selective draft system, involving a long period of full-time military service in early manhood (usually followed by short periods of training at regular intervals), which dates from 1897, when the Treaty of Tilsit limited the Prussian army to 42,000 men, and the nationalist government first got round this by conscripting and discharging one age-group after another, and then maintained the system when peace came in 1814.

In this country, wartime conscription was normal during the Middle Ages, and peacetime conscription - in the form of the militia system - was normal until the middle of the last century. Universal wartime conscription was introduced during the First World War (in 1916) and again during the Second World War (in 1939), and universal peacetime conscription - in the form of the draft system - was introduced before the Second World War (in 1939) and again during the Cold War (in 1947).

Wartime conscription will obviously be reintroduced in any future war, if there is time. Peacetime conscription which came to an end when no more conscripts were called up after 1960, will presumably be reintroduced if war seems likely, or if the Government's military commitments become too great for the regular forces. It is therefore worth knowing how a conscript can keep out of the forces.

Conscription is regulated by the National Service Acts, which have been suspended but could be revived at any time. Under them, all men aged 18 were theoretically liable to full-time military service for a period of 18 months - 2 years, after 1950 - and then to part-time military training for annual periods of 15 days for a certain number of years. The procedure was for the men to be registered, then to be medically examined, and then to be called up. Until a conscript has had a medical examination he remains a civilian, but is subsequently subject to military law.

The easiest way for a conscript to keep out of the forces legally is to be not liable for military service in the first place. He can be "a man in holy orders or a regular minister of any religious denomination", or he can be in some essential occupation (being a merchant seaman, for example, or a coal miner).

Another way is to be medically unfit for military service. A conscript can be physically or mentally unfit in many ways. The trouble is that it is a tricky business, because the decision is in the hands of service doctors. If you want to keep out when they want to get you in, you will find it difficult to show you are unfit; though if they want to keep you out, they will not find it difficult to show you are unfit, whatever you want. The best thing is to have clear clinical symptoms, backed by a clear doctor's certificate. Reliable conditions are blindness, cancer, deafness, diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease, psychosis, and tuberculosis; less reliable conditions are hernia, homosexuality, neurosis, and ulcers; unreliable conditions are bed-wetting, colour-blindness, flat feet, piles and short sight.

A final way is to be personally unsuitable for military service. The trouble is that this is as tricky as being medically unfit, if not more so. Nevertheless, the use of long hair, bare feet, weird clothes, unshavenness, dirtiness, drunkenness, rudeness, stupidity, a criminal record, and membership of a pacifist, anarchist, syndicalist, trotskyst or communist organisation - in some suitable combination - may work.

Conscientious Objection

This is the recognised way of keeping out of the forces. A conscript who conscientiously objects to being registered for military service, to doing military service, or to doing combatant duties (i.e. fighting), should apply to be entered on the Register of Conscientious Objectors. He should do this at the time he has to register for military service, or at any time up to 2 days after his medical examination. He must give his name and address, date and place of birth, marital status, registration number, usual occupation, and most recent job; he will then be provisionally registered as a conscientious objector. He may also be provisionally registered without applying, if "there are reasonable grounds for thinking that he is a conscientious objector" - this is for people who conscientiously object to being registered at all; the maximum penalty for failure to register is £5.

He must then apply within 14 days to be permanently registered as a conscientious objector, and his case will be heard by a Local Tribunal, from which he can appeal within 21 days to an Appellate Tribunal. Either Tribunal may do one of four things:

1. Unconditionally register him as a conscientious objector, which means that he has no further obligations, except to notify changes in his particulars; the maximum penalty for failure to do this is £5.

2. Conditionally register him as a conscientious objector, which means that he must do civilian work as directed by the Tribunal; a common thing is medical or agricultural work.
3. Register him as liable to non-combatant military service, which means that he must do military service which does not involve combatant duties; a common thing is constructional or maintenance work.
4. Refuse his application altogether, and register him for normal military service, which means that he will be called up in the usual way.

A person registered unconditionally or conditionally as a conscientious objector or for non-combatant military service may change his mind at any time and apply to be removed from the Register. If a person who is conditionally registered as a conscientious objector breaks his condition, his case will be referred to the Local Tribunal, from which he may again appeal to the Appellate Tribunal; the maximum penalty for breaking the condition is £100 or 2 years. If a person registered for military service refuses to be medically examined or called up, the maximum penalty is also £100 or 2 years.

If a person who is a conscientious objector but is not registered as one refuses to be medically examined or called up, and is imprisoned for at least three months, he can appeal to the Appellate Tribunal, which may register him as a conscientious objector and recommend his release. There is also an administrative concession - which does not have the force of the law - that a reservist who becomes a conscientious objector after completing his full-time service may apply straight to the Appellate Tribunal when he is called up for reserve service, without having to commit an offence and go to prison at all.

* * * * *

In general, try to keep out of the forces, but if you are already in, the next article in this series will deal with getting out.

The Local Tribunal consists of a Chairman and six other members, and the Appellate Tribunal consists of a Chairman and two other members. Both Tribunals include trade union representatives, which may or may not be a comfort. No member of either Tribunal may be personally concerned in any case he hears. Both Tribunals sit in public and make majority decisions. The applicant may appear in person, or be represented by a lawyer, a trade union official, a relative, or a personal friend, and he may call witnesses. It is a good idea for an applicant to express clear and consistent opinions, to explain why he holds them and how long he has held them, and to show what he has done as a result of holding them. Religious opinions are generally the most effective.

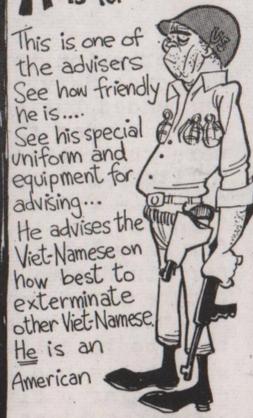
ELBIE JAY'S

ABC OF

VIET-NAM...

A is for Adviser

This is one of the advisers See how friendly he is... See his special uniform and equipment for advising... He advises the Viet-Namese on how best to exterminate other Viet-Namese. He is an American

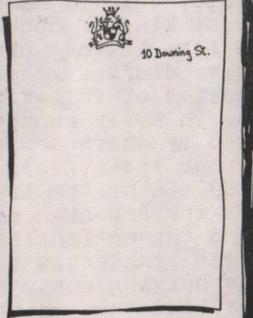


B is for Bomb

And this bomb is filled with napalm which burns up the nasty commie and his commie wife and commie baby and his commie chickens and it burns the commie leaves from the commie trees... After this, the commie quickly recognises the superior merits of Western democracy



C is for the Condemnation expressed by the British Government...



- 4 -

D is for DEMOCRACY

The South Viet-Namese are very lucky to have Democracy... and they have universal suffrage - this means that anyone over 21 can be dictator. ONE MAN - ONE COUP!



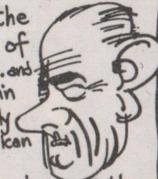
Hands up those who want to live under American democracy!

Grafite:

E is for ELBIE JAY

Elbie is the President of the U.S.A. and was voted in democratically by the American people.

He is also boss of the South Viet-Namese although they didn't get a chance to vote on it - which is just as well, because in their primitive ignorance, they might have actually preferred some yahoo of their own choice.



F is for the FIRM OPPOSITION shown by the British Government:



- 5 -

YESTERDAY in PARLIAMENT

16 held after shouts in the Commons

Now hear this! A police chief-superintendent speaks to Committee of 100 demonstrators outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday where they tried to enter the Commons and hold a debate on Vietnam. Three demonstrators got into the House but were soon expelled. Eleven men and three women were arrested and charged with obstruction. They will appear at Bow Street tomorrow.

A COMMONS debate was interrupted last night by protests shouted from the public gallery against the Vietnam war.

Sixteen people, six of them women, were escorted away struggling by the attendants.

At one stage, no sooner had one interrupter been removed than another, in another part of the gallery, stood up to shout anti-war slogans.

The interrupters were removed from the gallery and taken to the police room, where they were locked up until MPs went home for the night.

16 held in rumpus at the House

SIXTEEN people were detained by the House of Commons police last night after shouts had interrupted a debate.

And later the anti-nuclear Committee of 100 admitted they had organised the interruptions.

End war protest stops House

FIFTEEN people were ejected from the House of Commons last night after a series of shouted protests from the public gallery about the Vietnam war.

The demonstration, organised by the anti-war Committee of 100, interrupted a Commons debate three times in 25 minutes.

The 15 people ejected were taken to the police room at the House. They were detained there until the House rose.



A Violent Peace Movement ?

Liberals have had their chance to remake the postwar world, but their failure is painfully obvious.

The goals of the American liberals have been civil rights with civil responsibility governed by principles of justice and reason. To achieve these they have sought to use the peaceful, democratic process, that is, they have sold their followers on the necessity of remaining within the framework of the system.

The only exception has been their limited advocacy of the demonstration as a political tool, but it should be remembered that this is basically a continuation of suffrage.

Their operating assumption is that the power structure can be persuaded through moral arguments to bow to "the will of the people", "the rights of the citizens," or "the universal rights of mankind". But it is clear, as the Johnson administration continues to escalate the genocidal war in Vietnam, that these "nice" ways of calling our rulers to task are as ineffective as are the politically irrelevant liberals themselves.

Many of the peace oriented liberals continue their ineffective protests because they think in terms of having to make an existential choice.

To do nothing to impede the government in its aggressive war in Vietnam, they say, is the same as co-operating with the government - becoming its accomplice. Therefore, they demonstrate, support peace publications, and voice their objections to the Johnson Doctrine. But do they really have any illusions as to their effectiveness? Do they think they have any chance at all of stopping the war?

I submit they realize their political impotence but continue to sacrifice just enough of themselves to morally justify their individual existence as part of American society.

It is as if little nonviolent acts brought them a dispensation of their sin of staying in America and going along with the system. Perhaps they believe going to anti-war rallies and picketing military installations will "save" them.

The peace workers feel redeemed and they look back at the world they are convinced has gone mad, saying, "At least I haven't been caught up in the madness." But if they try to stop the war knowing that they are actually doing nothing materially to hinder the war effort, aren't they still sharing responsibility for the government's evil since they haven't engaged in stronger forms of protest that would materially diminish the war effort?

If the committed humanitarians now following the liberal pattern of protest were really serious about ending the senseless annihilation of thousands of Vietnamese peasants who happen to live within the zones that the military men have delimited, lettered, and placed on priority lists, then they should begin doing these things that would actually tend to bring about their objective.

As most of the participants realize, the demonstrations will not do this.

At a recent regional organizational meeting of the May 2nd Movement held in Berkeley, I asked the question: "Do any of you believe there is anything we can do to halt the war in Vietnam?"

"No," was the only answer I heard.

But some went on to argue that the war was an issue around which they could focus attention on U.S. imperialism. Through this process of education and organization a lasting leadership core would emerge to take direction of peace groups later.

But notice this: they claim to see the danger of the escalation of the war in Vietnam; they claim to be sincerely interested in averting the world-wide disaster, the top rung of the escalation ladder which Herman Kahn calls "spasm or insensate war, (when)...all the buttons are pressed."

But they plan to solve the problem after the crisis, when the world is already destroyed. One is almost tempted to look around for personal motives on the part of these Progressive Labour Party types vying for control of the peace movements.

Perhaps we can expect as much of the tru believers, the radicals, but what about the respectable left and the liberals ?

Professor Staughton Lynd received prolonged applause at the May 21st Berkeley Teach-In when he called for a non-violent revolution to retire the Johnson Administration. He called for "the creation of civil disobedience so persistent and so massive that the Tuesday lunch club which runs this country - Johnson, Rusk, McNamara, Bundy - will forthwith resign."

This was probably the most constructive remark made at that mighty gathering, and I am personally encouraged by the response to Lynd's speech. A movement has formed.

But after 500 of the Assembly of Unrepresented Peoples massed in front of the Capitol and 200 of their number were arrested for attempting to hold a Congress on the forbidden steps, the President told 40 Senators attending a White House Vietnam briefing that he saw "no substantial division" in the country or in Congress.

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In Berkeley the nonviolent demonstrators who unsuccessfully tried to halt several troop trains headed for the Oakland Army Terminal with reinforcements to be sent to Vietnam were hardly more effective.

All of these incidents have gained headlines, but none has produced tangible results. It is doubtful any will until the threat of violence is added to the movement.

The successes of the civil rights movement are often cited as evidence that a nonviolent campaign can alter the Administrations Foreign Policy. But the circumstances are hardly analogous. Behind the demonstrations for civil rights by means of civil disobedience were always threats of civil disorder. Moderates rushed to bring about reform before the lid blew off, before violence erupted.

There is no such sense of urgency behind the threatless peace movement.

The men sitting in Congress are not thinking about the possible long hot summer in store for their districts if peace demands are not met. There have been no Harlem, Chicago or Los Angeles riots focused on the issue of peace. And there is little likelihood that there will be.

A large segment of the population personally experienced the denial of their civil rights. They immediately could identify with the goals of the Freedom Movement, and they could be motivated to come into the streets to attain these goals. On an individual basis they were acting defensively. But does the same situation exist on the issue of Vietnam - is there a large segment of the population personally and directly suffering because of that war ?

A small percentage of the people have friends and relatives being drafted. An even smaller percentage are personally threatened with the possibility of being sent to Vietnam to be killed. But this hardly adds up to even a significant minority of the population. And can anyone realistically expect to see parents of the boys with their lives on the line in Vietnam demonstrating in large numbers to protest the cause for which their sons may die ?

The remainder of the general population has even less potential of becoming a peace-oriented mass. People are not, for the most part, prone to demanding a condition that would reduce their economic realization.

And there is little doubt that halting the war would drastically affect the domestic economy.

In the spring economists were predicting a slow-down in the economy. During the summer all indications were that they were right, but by late summer, after a drop in the market, escalation of the war restored confidence among the business community. Defense issues are now going strong; plenty of jobs are being generated since fighting a limited war means making great quantities of new supplies. Production of strategic armaments had about run its course as far as creating jobs was concerned, but this new kind of war means different types of weapons.

I'm not trying to suggest that people would go into the streets to demand the continuation of the war just to hold onto their jobs. What I am suggesting is that as long as they personally are not being hurt by the war they will go along with it, being thankful for their period of prosperity. If they can be convinced that U.S. policy is evil they will rationalize it as being a necessary evil.

With the workers holding onto their jobs, the parents believing in their sons, and the stockholders getting a continued rising market, only the intellectuals remain. They will continue to protest and organize, but their power will be limited by the

size of that part of the academic community which acts on the basis of morality. Those who suggest building a third party, a peace party, to be based on the existing movements that have achieved results in the field of civil rights and nuclear testing will find that people who supported them on other issues will not on this one. Negroes elected to the school board will not feel that ending of the war is nearly as relevant to their own existence.

That leaves the housewives who believe they pressured the government into signing the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. But one should remember that the halting of nuclear testing took jobs from no large portion of

the work force, nuclear fallout was a clear and present health hazard and, most important, the elites running the U.S. and the USSR had a mutual interest in limiting the nuclear club to those already dividing world power.

The issue of Vietnam is entirely different.

Vietnamese civilians are being threatened by American bombs - not Americans by fallout or Southern Sheriffs. Americans would lose jobs if peace were declared. And the danger - the top rung of the escalation ladder is too much of an abstraction for most people to comprehend.

Sincere there is no potential for a truly massive human force to halt the war, the liberal is reduced to impotence, frustration and alienation from society. It won't take long for a part of the committed peace workers to realize that until they take stronger, more direct action to actually hinder the war, they will be guilty of cooperating with the war effort. That's why a Violent Peace Movement will be the one to ultimately produce measurable results.

Leaders of the nonviolent groups will, of course, denounce terror. They want nothing to do with demonstrations of which they could not openly boast.

While the mass meetings are being held, while the intellectuals are debating the issues and waiting in vain for the State Department to answer their charges, the handful of honest people who are really committed will be consulting the Encyclopedia Britannica to learn about the process of making simple, easy-to-manufacture explosives like dynamite, black powder, and fulminic of mercury.



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Liberals will be picketing troop trains that will not stop; but others on their own, will be mining the tracks further ahead stopping not only that one train but the ones that would use the same track days later. Rather than attempting to crystallize public opinion against the war, they will be actually extending the lives of the participants in the Vietnam war by as many days as are necessary to repair the damage.

Marchers will be following the rules launching their satyagrahas against the Establishment that is burning south Vietnamese villagers with napalm; but some individuals will be grating bars of Ivory soap and mixing the chips with gasoline; they will be making contact fuses of kitchen matches; and they will be throwing these home-made napalm bombs into the trucks loaded with troops and supplies for Vietnam.

At the same time as the political types are building mass organizations the people resisting war will be breaking through their alienation by actually confronting the war machine. Rather than weekly letters to Congressmen, they will be weekly assassinating Generals. Rather than picketing the loading of supplies aboard Vietnam-bound ships, some will be putting to use their knowledge of skin diving - by attaching stolen TNT, below the water line, to the hulls of waiting ships.

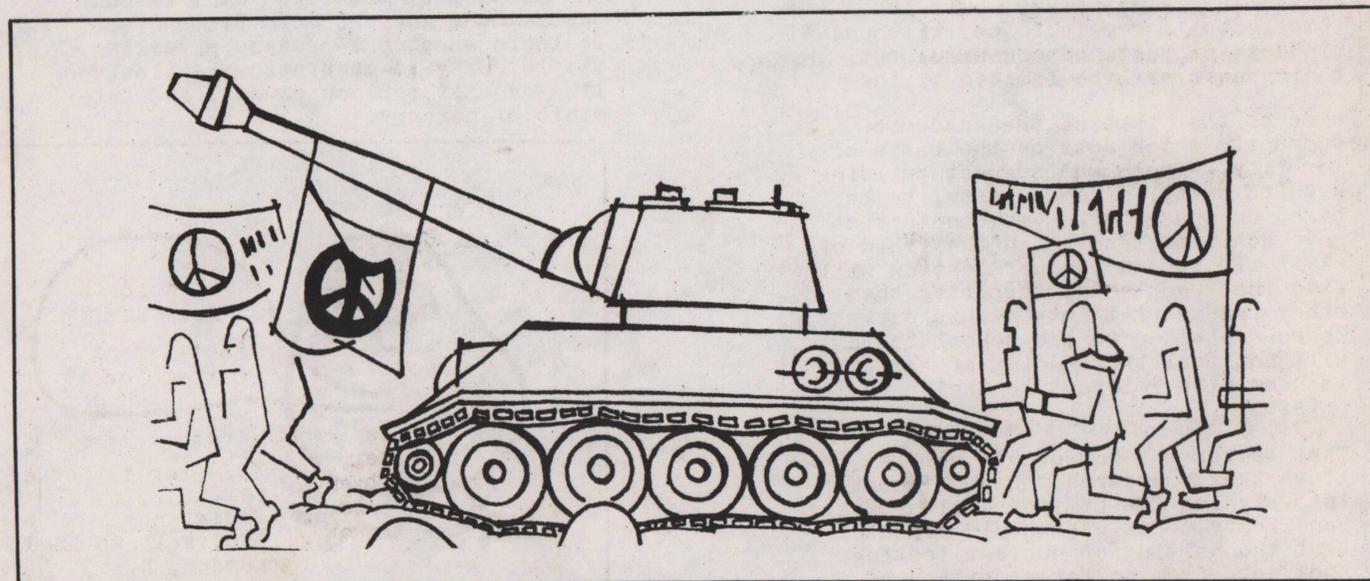
As the terror and sabotage increases as more draft-age young men place black powder bombs in front of their draft boards, the military will tighten its security. Thousands of men will not go to Vietnam to kill but will remain here to guard installations. Troops will have to guard factories. Then the Minutemen will be seeing Communists everywhere plunging society into chaos. And then the average citizen will begin to become personally affected by the war and will begin listening to the moderates, the liberals who preach justice under law.

I personally am not that committed to America to save it by my engaging in terror. Certainly I would not advocate that others should do something I will not. But terror will come. It will come as a result of deep personal feeling on the part of individuals about the total immorality of the war, the shortness of time to halt the President and the ineffectiveness of rational argument.

It will become the obvious thing to do once people realise that hanging LBJ's picture upside-down does nothing and there is nobody who can turn this spontaneous reaction of violence on or off at will.

Don Waskey.

The Realist



EASTER 1966

London

The CND is organising the march this year along the same route as last from High Wycombe to Trafalgar Square, London. Pre - march activities will include leafleting, folk song concerts, regional and local demonstrations. Information from CND, 14 Grays Inn Road, London, W. C. 1. (CHA 3872).

Scotland

A March has been arranged for April 9th, assembly point Pitreavie crossroads, near Rosyth. A five day fast will be carried out prior to the march at the gates of the Rosyth Naval Dockyard, interested masochists, please contact Neil Roy, 23 Deemount Gardens, Aberdeen. The march will go via the Forth Road Bridge to Edinburgh. There will be a stop made at Corstorphine Hill, the site of RSG Scotland. Persons requiring accommodation in Edinburgh please contact Ian Healey, Chairman Edinburgh YCND, 40 York Place, Edinburgh. Our London contact is Dave Mclellan, 54 Litchfield Way, N.W.11. If you would like more information or some march leaflets for your group to study please contact the March Organiser..... Forbes Browne, c/o 34 Kintore Place, Aberdeen,

Netherlands

Several Youth Peace organisations will be marching together from de Helder to Amsterdam from April 8 - 11 this year.

There will be folk song concerts and other events during the march. Individuals and contingents from other countries intending to support this march should write to Robert Mudler, De Eikenhorst, Diever (Dr), Netherlands.

British contingent contact Jean McLean, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Greenford, Middlesex.

Germany

Local Groups of the Kampagne fur Abrustung, the German CND, are already engaged in preparatory work for the seventeen marches which will converge on different cities for final rallies.

France

The Mouvement Contre L'Armement Atomique (MCAA) encouraged by its support last year is to organise regional marches a week later after the Easter week-end, when there will be build-up demonstrations. Much public feeling has been generated over the installation in Autumn next of thirty missiles at the base in Haute Provence. In other parts of France meetings have already drawn crowds of 500 and 700.

JERICHO

by Pat Arrowsmith

(Cresset Press 21s)

Pat Arrowsmith has probably been continuously active in the unilateralist movement longer than anyone else. She has taken an important part in nearly every unilateralist organisation that has existed during the last nine years, and she has been to prison six times. During her last stay in Holloway, in 1964, she wrote this novel. It is not the first book she has written, but it is the first that has been published. By a nice coincidence, its publication last autumn took place at the same time as the first exhibition of her paintings (at the Unity Theatre in London). It is the first novel about the movement by someone in the movement.

The Jericho of the title is the "Nuclear Weapons Establishment" - Aldermaston, more or less - and the people who try to make its walls come tumbling down are the "Pickets Action Against Nuclear War Group", who spend a summer holiday picketing its gates and subverting its workers. This episode is based on the DAC picket of Aldermaston in summer 1958, together with some things that happened at other demonstrations - Trawsfynydd in 1951, North Pickenham in 1958, and the Holy Loch in 1961. Even the most apparently melodramatic parts of the plot - fighting, arson, rape, and violent death - are loosely based on real events. The characters, on the other hand, are deliberately not based on real people - with two exceptions, one conscious (the American expert in non-violence) and one unconscious (the social worker).

JERICHO certainly has considerable documentary value as a serious and sincere account of the sort of problems that face this sort of group, and if you are interested in the unilateralist movement you should certainly read it. But you shouldn't expect it to be a good book, for although Pat Arrowsmith is a good journalist she isn't a good novelist yet, and the novel has several defects.

One trouble is that the picket has no convincing background. The only real political organisations mentioned are the Labour and Communist Parties and a few unions. The only unilateralist organisation in the book is a vague "Committee" which is meant to be running the picket; it is an undefined mixture of DAC and CND, run by shadowy people from an office in Soho, and it would really have been better to leave it out or else make it much more substantial. There are also some odd political misunderstandings - thus, while anarchists are often as objectionable as the ones here, the conflict between "individual conscientious action" and "collective industrial action" has nothing to do with "the Anarchism versus Socialism debate".

A more serious trouble is that the characters have no convincing life. The picket leader, "an obsessional would-be saint" who is against meat, drink, sex, and tobacco; the "more or less maladjusted paranoiac"; the "prematurely avuncular" social worker; the suspected police spy; the "ex-itable French housewife"; the "prim, elderly Quaker"; the "schoolboy"; the "student" who "really rather enjoyed being raped"; the "working-class couple"; the "intense, intellectual American" - these are the types, not people, a social worker's case-histories or a novelist's sketches, not flesh and blood. The question one asks about them is not that of the most realistic of them - "How could such a group ever affect a single Nuclear Weapons Establishment worker, let alone contribute an iota towards so remote, imponderable a goal as world disarmament?" - but, how could someone who has had so much to do with the movement invent such an improbable and incompatible group at all? The strange thing is that the characters outside the group are better than those inside it.

There are some good things in the book; perhaps the best are the attack on the picket in a pub, and the big sit-down at the Establishment, which suggests that Pat Arrowsmith describes action better than people or ideas. She should probably have used the present version of JERICHO as a draft for a shorter and more carefully written novel. But despite its defects it was interesting to read, and it will be interesting to see what her next book is like.

NICOLAS OPPENHEIM.

THE KINGHILL STORY

the homeless in revolt



The rebellion of the Kent homeless has won the admiration of people throughout the country. A small group of working class families, in desperate circumstances, have pitted themselves against a powerful and reactionary local authority that treats them as second class citizens. They have refused to remain passive while their families are systematically destroyed for the sake of administrative convenience. Their tenacious struggle has focused public attention on the incredible workhouse mentality that still persists, not only in the Kent County Council, but in County Halls throughout Britain.

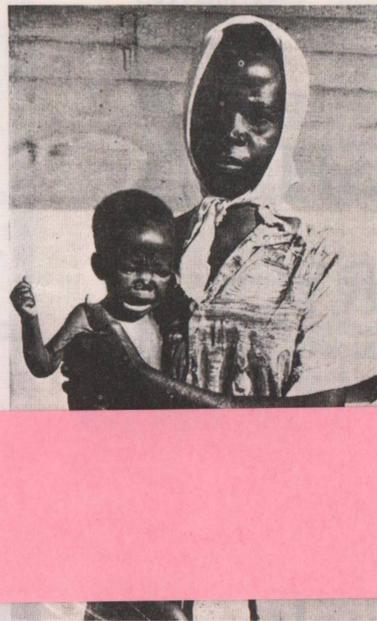
The squalid huts of King Hill Hostel have become a symbol of resistance to heartless bureaucracy. The example of this revolt provides encouragement for all opponents of official hypocrisy and double talk in the 'Welfare State'.

The struggle continues. It may flare up again shortly, when further evictions are attempted. Some of those actively involved have now produced a 44 page booklet which documents in detail the story so far: The Background - The Successfully Resisted Evictions - The Invasion of Husbands - Challenging the Rules - The Court Cases - The King Hill Charter - Demonstrations in London and Maidstone - The Erith Punch-Ups - Two Husbands Jailed for Contempt of Court - The Sleep-In - The Behaviour of Police, Judges and Magistrates - The Intimidation Tactics of the Kent County Council.

plus 6d. pp

obtainable from: HEATHER RUSSELL, 53A Westmoreland Rd., Bromley, Kent.

The desperate race to feed the world



An inch of top-soil may take a thousand years to build; erosion can remove it in a single day. Fossil fuels formed over a million years are now used up in a single year. Societies evolved in millenia disappear in a decade when the rifle reaches their haunts. With reckless prodigality man's sole estate is being impoverished and plundered.

Only three-tenths of the world's surface is land. Of this, less than a third is cultivatable, though some of the remainder can be used productively for pasture and forestry. Roughly speaking, there is an acre per head of the world population for growing food crops on, and a further two acres for rearing stock. This inheritance is finite. It cannot be stretched.

Yet world population is increasing by 45 million a year. To give this number one loaf of bread a day each for a year would need over 30,000 square miles - the area of Austria. But every year land once fruitful is permanently ruined by soil erosion. Something like a third of America's top-soil is already irretrievably lost. Large parts of Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico, formerly fertile, have been translated into desolate dust bowls by ruthless commercial agriculture.

Population pressure on Java, continuously fertile for thousands of years, has led to the removal of so much forest cover that soil impoverishment threatens. In Asia and Africa shifting cultivators return to worked sites at shorter and shorter intervals, allowing insufficient time for natural regeneration, and the earth sickens and dies. Irrational use of land and forest has caused soil erosion on half of all the cultivated land in the world. In the past man could migrate to new pastures when faulty cultivation practices exhausted the old. But there are virtually no more frontiers. Disaster is inevitable on our present course: the world is all we have and we are despoiling it at a frightening rate.

Water is also being carelessly abused. In the most affluent part of the world - the south-west of the USA - a thousand times as much water is used as the climate provides. Industrial demands are fantastic: 250 tons of water must go to make a ton of steel, in several parts of the world vast underground reservoirs have been sucked dry without heed to replenishment. Most city dwellers already drink treated sewage. Sooner or later as world-wide water demand approaches American levels, economical means of de-salinating sea water will be imperative.

Urgent thought and action is also needed to study and control exploitation of minerals and energy sources. Total production of inanimate commercial energy, 1,100 million megawatt hours in 1860, had risen to over 21,000 million by 1950. This vast increase was concentrated in the industrialised corner of the world; in Asia over 70 per cent of all energy used is still muscle-power compared with 4 per cent in America. The American energy supply converted into man-power would provide the average family with the services of a dozen able-bodied men, working a seven-day week at negligible cost.

But the energy revolution has had to be paid for. More than half the world's supply of energy at present is drawn from irreplaceable "capital" reserves - coal, petroleum, natural gas, and lignite. Estimates of reserves vary, but they are certainly finite. Sooner or later, if man is to sustain industrialised high-density civilisation, new and limitless sources of energy must be tapped to drive the economy, or the world will retreat to agriculture, with a drastic decline in population.

Other possibilities present themselves - solar, tidal, nuclear. But these "income" sources are vastly more difficult to harness effectively and economically than the "capital" resources, and scientists in advanced countries have not the immediate incentive of scarcity.

Present energy reserves must be carefully nursed and thriftily used while research for alternatives takes place.

Metals, like coal, will not last forever. They are being used up at a headlong pace. Between 1900 and 1950 the population of America doubled. But its consumption of copper tripled and of Zinc quadrupled. By mid-century America was using about one-half of the entire world supply of non-food raw materials. By 1980 her share will be even greater. Yet she has only 6 per cent of the world's population. Per capita consumption of iron in the USA in 1950 was 175 times as high as in the underdeveloped countries, of zinc 120 times, of lead 76 times. At 1950 rates of use, proven reserves of copper should last to about 2030, of tin till about 1995, of zinc to about 1980, of lead to about 1975. Iron ore, at 1950 rates of use, should last at least 200 years, and if technological developments enable marginal sources, like the widespread lateritic iron pans in many tropical countries, to be utilised economically, much longer. But the rate of consumption is rising all the time, and shortages of essential metals are certain to be felt before 2000 AD.



All over the underdeveloped world a surge of industrialisation is under way. For these countries the process will be more difficult than it was for Europe and North America. The most easily worked sources have been used up. Real costs of extraction are therefore rising. The industrialised countries must go all out to unearth and develop substitutes and improved processes, not just from motives of self-interest, but also to repay a debt to the underdeveloped countries incurred in the past when they were plundered for the raw materials needed to keep industry elsewhere churning out the trappings of affluence.

Thoughtlessness is apparent, too, in the treatment of our biological heritage. The indiscriminate use of pesticides, the liquidation of whole species, the substitution of artificial for natural fertilisers, the net loss year after year through sewerage to the seas of products which the land could use, the pollution of the atmosphere from millions of human sources, radio-active fall-out; the cumulative effect of these on the environment of life is incalculable.

The balance of nature can easily be disturbed. Leopards have been virtually wiped out in parts of Africa and the result is plagues of destructive baboons. Birds of prey are shot to protect pheasants, and crop-eating birds and small vermin multiply. Once the balance has been upset it is almost impossible to restore; as a result man could find himself with only his parasites for company, and waging a relentless war, without animal allies, to contain them. It is not merely a matter of sentiment. There is no certainty that man will prevail.

against conscription

In the article 'Troop Movements' in our last issue we made one or two rather disparaging references to the London Anti-Conscription Committee. The Committee have since been in touch with us. They ask us to make it clear that they are still very much in existence. They don't claim to be a massive organization, but they are a few bods doing a useful job by supplying speakers in the London area and producing leaflets for all the major peace meetings and events. They are shortly producing a pamphlet on the Conscription struggle and the methods of struggle adopted in Australia, U.S.A. and Britain. They are also producing a badge 'Call-Up Count Me Out' which will be on sale at Easter.

The problems of conservation, like those of hunger and poverty with which they are so closely interlinked, need attention on a world scale now. Very day that passes makes the task more difficult, the chances of success more remote. Industrial production rose seventeen-fold between 1870 and 1950, bringing unprecedented prosperity to a part of the human race, but the number of poor, starving, sick and illiterate people in the world at the end of this 80 years of progress exceeded the population of the entire world at the beginning. To seat the world's newly arrived population on two sides of a table, with two feet for each person, we would have to construct 43 miles of table each day. To imagine providing food and drink for all these people helps to give some idea of our problem. Only a concerted international crash programme can match up to the challenge.

The UN specialised agencies, operating on shoe-string budgets, point up the shocking and ostentatious waste of the arms race. Aggregate world military needs account for 16 per cent of copper output, 12 per cent of nickel, 9 per cent of oil. The lavish squandering of scarce resources is nowhere more strikingly illustrated than in the countless acres of tanks, guns, planes and warships moth-balled as obsolete in dumps all over the world. The total number of soldiers and persons supplying their needs in the world is over 50 million - equal to the entire labour force of Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg combined. Switched to productive employment they could raise the living standards of perhaps 150 million people of the underdeveloped countries to European levels. Shortly after the confirmation of the hitherto suspected existence of a huge underground

reserve of water under the Sahara - a discovery full of exciting possibilities of making an Israel-type regeneration of the region - the French polluted it with fall-out from their atom bomb tests.

Continuation of our present wanton improvidence must inevitably reduce the world and its peoples to famine and disaster, whether H-bombs are used or not. Yet there is no doubt that the ingenuity and skill of man could enable the world to support comfortably a population greatly in excess of the present one. If all the resources, all the intellectual effort, all the drive behind prosecution of the cold war were switched to an international assault on what it could be done.

But developments need not and cannot wait on disarment, and already responsible scientists are attacking these problems, as in the International Biological Programme. However, present efforts are puny measured against the appalling magnitude of the task. The doctrinal disputes of East and West shrink to insignificance beside it. They are petty, irrelevant, inexcusable. The race against starvation is the most important fact in the world today.

MALCOLM CALDWELL.
Reproduction courtesy of
'Inheritance' - organ of
the OXFAM Youth Federation,
33 Elmfield Road, Bromley,
Kent - RAVensbourne 1991.

Our annual crime

"Of the 55 million or so people who are going to die in the world this year, around two-thirds will die before their biblical span of three score and ten years simply because their countries are still so poor. It is now a matter for sober mathematical calculation that sensible world economic policies could spare many of these lives within a few years' time; that is strongly suggested by the remarkably swift increase in life expectancy in Japan during the 1950s and in such countries as Mexico during recent years. On a conservative estimate, a reasonably sensible reform in the world's monetary and trading system, in favour of the developing countries, could probably save at least two or three million lives a year in Latin America and other development-ripe countries by the early 1970s. But we are still making no real such move, and each year we delay we are therefore guilty of two Battles of the Somme or of several tens of Belsens. To know this, and to travel round an area like Latin America knowing it, is perhaps the worst feeling in the world."—Norman Macrae, deputy editor of the *Economist*, in "No Christ on the Andes," an economic survey of Latin America published in the *Economist* on September 25th.

Aberdeen Fines Appeal

On Friday 7th January, Ian Mitchell, Elisabeth Smith and two youths broke into the Aberdeenshire/Kincardineshire Civil Defence Control Centre at Portlethen near Aberdeen, and did £750 worth of damage to the place. They also stole provisions and equipment valued at £50. Unfortunately they were caught and at Stonehaven Court on January 19th they were fined a total of £300; Ian £120, Liz £120, and one youngster £60. The other boy got 2 years probation. Ian and Liz are Aberdeen University Students and the boys are at school. They are in desperate need of money to pay the fines. We ask everyone who is at war with the ruling class, their state, their bomb, their Civil Defence and their police; and everyone who considers themselves a revolutionary, a subversive, a disrupter, an agitator and a saboteur to show a massive gesture of solidarity with these Aberdonians and send them all the cash you can! (Send to Forbes Browne, c/o Watson, 20 Mount Street, Aberdeen.) A good response will pay the fines easily. Show the people who dish out these vicious fines that we won't leave our friends in the shit.

CIVIL DEFENCE BREAK-IN.

The last break-in at the Civil Defence communications centre at Schoolhill, Portlethen, has raised considerable discussion in Aberdeen on the merits of sabotage.

A year has elapsed since the first break in at this centre by the Scots Against War, for which no-one was arrested. Numerous raids, varying in militancy from painting slogans to carrying away as much stuff as could be carried (in one case the radio ariel from the mast!) have been undertaken in that year.

The Civil Defence authorities deny that it is a fall-out shelter but it will be a hell of a lot safer down there than it would be on surface if Russia took a pot-shot at Edzell Base with a view to demolishing it. One of the most interesting documents I have seen was an architect's drawing of the centre. I also saw a Civil Defence Handbook which said that the radiation protective clothing only prevented radioactive particles from landing on the skin. It offers no protection from radiation. Even eight feet of concrete will only reduce the dose received. It will still kill you - eventually.

The question most often asked was "Was it worth it?". This is debatable. It seems that someone had to get caught sometime and if the telephones had been left alone it seems most likely that they would not have been caught this time. I sometimes think it is like the State handing a bill to the Aberdeen Y.C.N.D. For the past year the Portlethen base has been a handout.

Some people in the Y.C.N.D. here are certain we have a Special Branch Agent in our midst. If we have, he must have been rattled at the recent 40-strong general meeting where the subject of sabotage arose accidentally and only one person spoke out against it. The general feeling is that marching never even came anywhere near banning the bomb except at Holy Loch and on the Spies for Peace Aldermaston march.

There are civil defence centres, by the way, at Portlethen, Tertowie House (under the new school extensions), Powis House (basement), Queens Road (I think), Cults (we can't locate this one exactly) and one or two other places around here.

A Scots Correspondent.

DRAFT DODGERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

"In Saigon and other major towns draft dodging is near endemic. Identification cards are falsified. Bribes are offered to officials for deferments (the going rate : 275 dollars)

Trucks carrying inductees from Saigon to Quang Trung Training Centre 17 miles west of the capitol are laced with barbed wire to keep the future ARVINS (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) from jumping out. And if getting men is a problem, keeping them (at a salary of 12 dollars a month) is an even pricklier one. The desertion rate ... runs to an appalling 9,000 men a month."

"Currently .. some 1,000 South Vietnamese troops are being killed each month and South Vietnamese casualties this year have already reached the formidable total of 35,500 men.

Peace News Crisis

On January 21st PEACE NEWS published a front-page appeal signed by its directors and staff explaining that "PEACE NEWS now faces its most serious crisis." Briefly, "the continued existence of PEACE NEWS is in question" because of increasing financial problems. The paper, which was founded in 1936 and is the only weekly paper of the British peace movement, needs a lot of money in a little time - £6000 by February 7th, and another £4000 by March 31st - partly to pay its debts and partly to plan future developments. The appeal has been circulated widely in the peace movement. Contributions to PEACE NEWS may be sent to Merfyn Turner (Hon. Treasurer), 5 Caledonian Road, London, N. 1.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Last June we produced a questionnaire for people who are or have been active in the Committee of 100. This was printed in Resistance, and at the same time we began sending out separate copies to all the past and present Committee people we could trace.

A steady stream of completed questionnaires has been coming in since then, but there must still be hundreds of people who either have not received a copy, or else have received a copy but have not yet returned it. We should be grateful if everyone who would like to complete the questionnaire but has not received a copy would ask us for one, and if everyone who has received a copy but has not returned it would send it to us - in both cases as soon as possible.

Nicolas & Ruth Walter

32a Fellows Road,
London N.W.3.

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