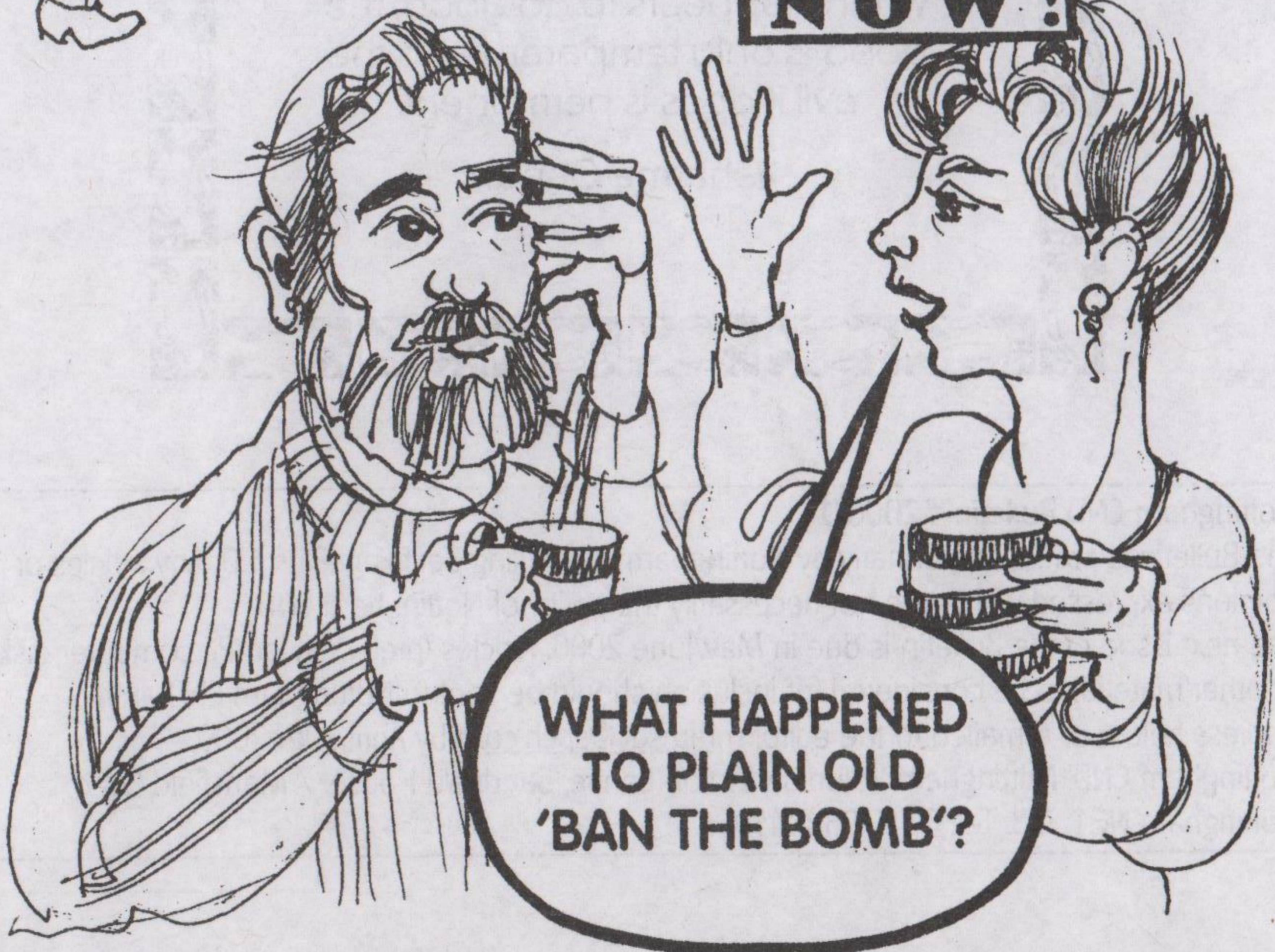
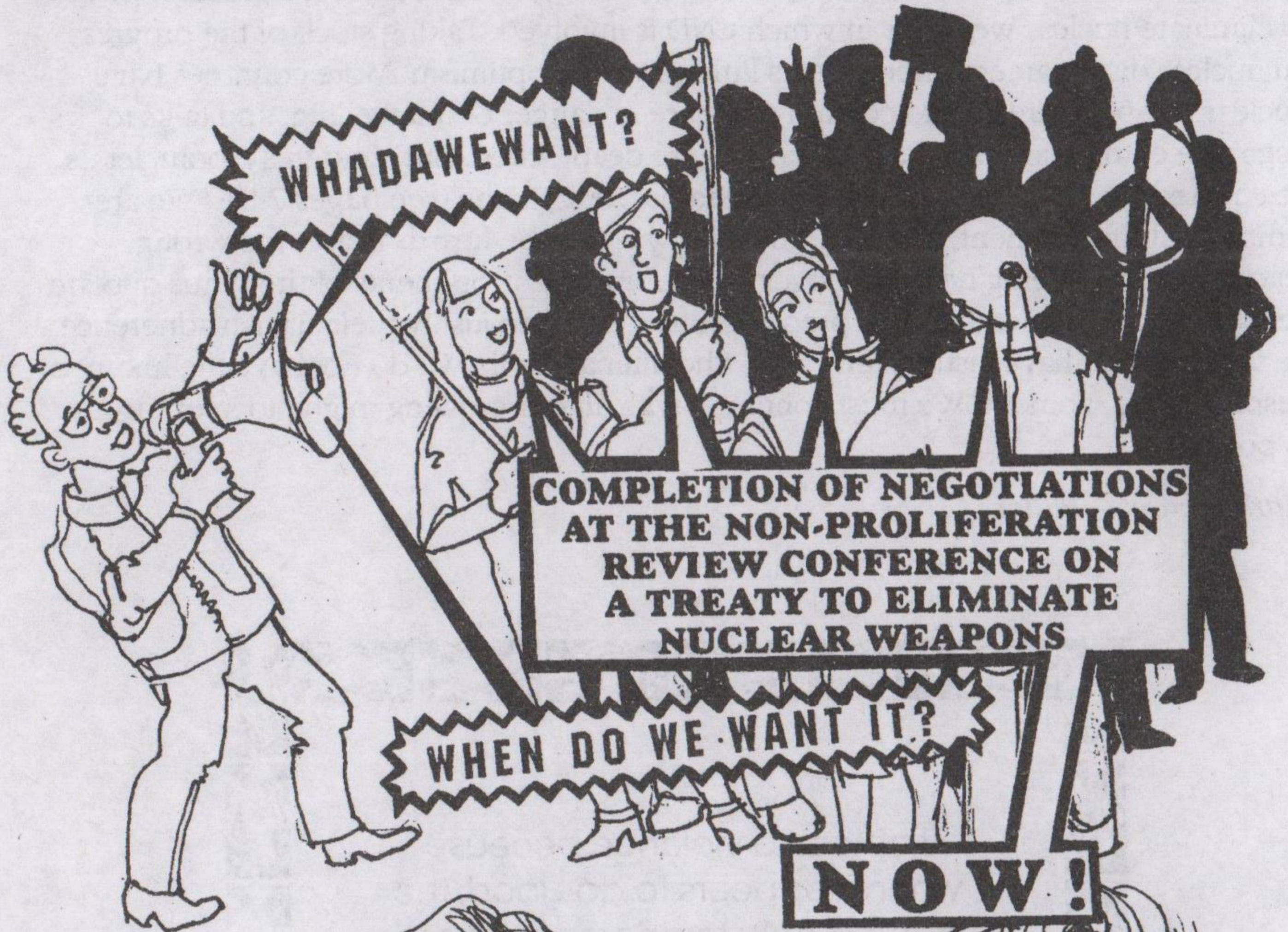




Nottingham CND Bulletin

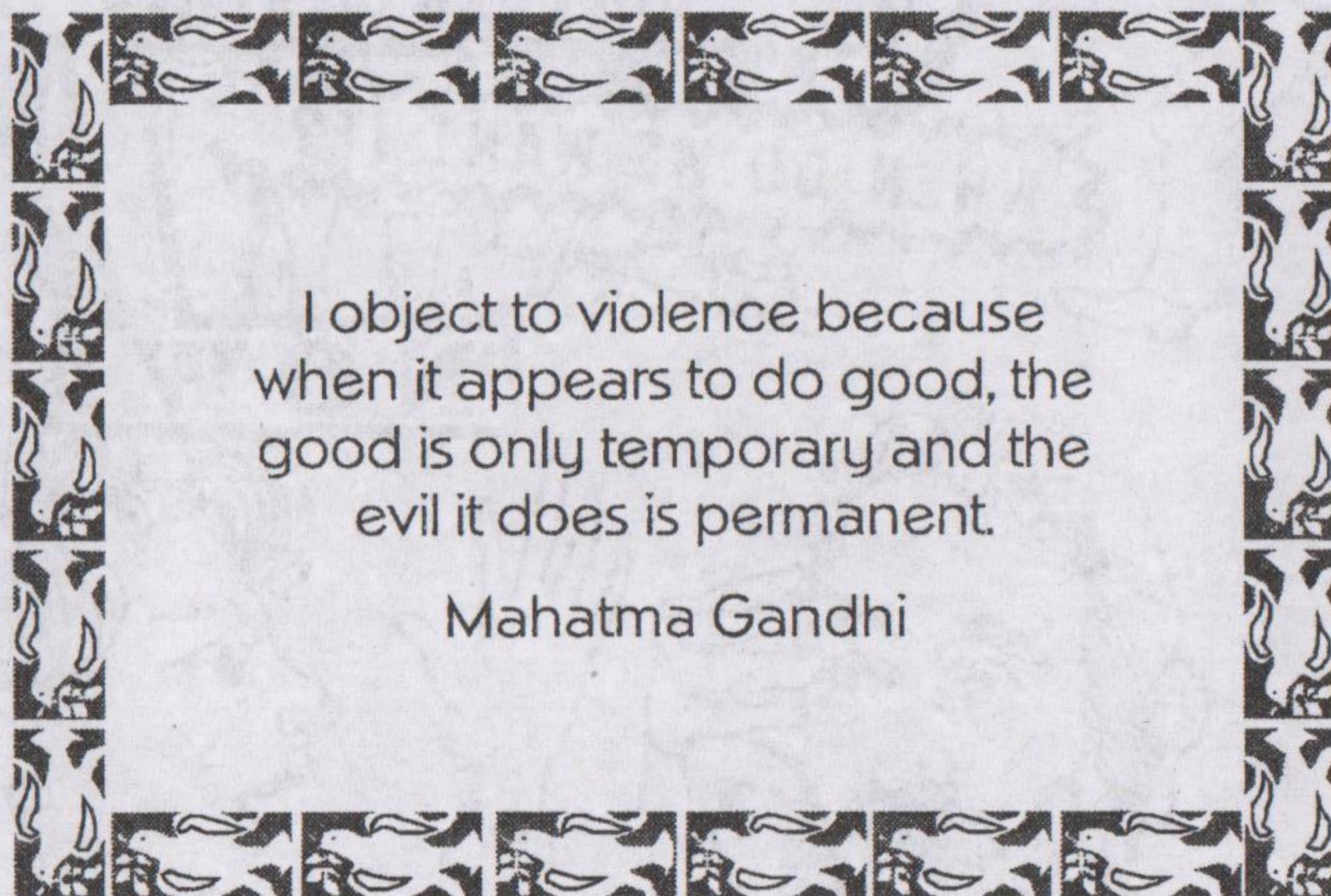
February 2000



Welcome to the first Bulletin of the year 2000. I apologise that there was no Bulletin in December last year. Time and personnel constraints made it impractical to produce an edition in the early December and we decided to aim for a late winter edition instead.

Many see the year 2000 as a time to reassess the past and consider the future. Some campaigns have adopted '2000' in their title including Abolition 2000, a global network to eliminate nuclear weapons in which CND is involved. Taking stock of the progress on nuclear disarmament, there seems little cause for optimism. More countries have nuclear weapons, treaties to contain them are in danger of unravelling, and talks to begin the elimination of nuclear weapons are deadlocked. But amid this gloom, let us be cheered by the words of Canadian Senator Doug Roche (see pages 7-8): "We are tempted, at this moment, to despair that we will ever be heard. That is the wrong reaction. We are being heard as never before, and the proponents of the status quo are being forced to invent the most preposterous reasons to justify their slavish adherence to weapons that have justly been called 'the ultimate evil'. We do not have the luxury of despair at this moment. We must continue, with all our growing might, to speak truth to power."

Mark Ramsey – Editor



Nottingham CND Bulletin #2000/1

The Bulletin is produced quarterly by Nottingham CND, using Serif PagePlus 6.0. Any articles or opinions expressed within are not necessarily the policy of Nottingham CND.

The next issue of the Bulletin is due in May/June 2000. Articles (preferably on PC computer disk) or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to Nottingham CND at the address below or e-mailed to the editor mramsey@spch.com by April 10th 2000.

Nottingham CND, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, Sandfield House, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB. Tel: 0115 9348459

The Year 2000 – Still Needed

A belated but happy New Year from me. We have now entered the year 2000 and sadly in December 1999 we saw the fourth Trident submarine arrive at Faslane. We are still spending approximately £3 million a day to maintain nuclear weapons – this cost is set to continue for at least 30 years. We were all hoping, perhaps naively, that our movement could end but we are still needed.

Nottingham CND has entered the new millennium with renewed determination – and so has Nottingham City Council. This year we have been granted permission to have our stall at St. Peter's Gate, but with conditions - we are supposed to have only ten stall dates during the year and only two organisations are allocated a space at St. Peter's Gate at any one time. The council's wonderful excuse for this is that the stalls cause a congestion and leave litter behind them. We have sent a letter of objection to them and asked to see them but have not had a favourable response. We have been left with a dilemma whether to ignore the City Council or send in our ten stall dates. Reluctantly, we feel we must see our group as responsible, understanding that not all of our members who help on the stall would be happy going out illegally - although if people wish to take the stall out at other times I don't see a problem. The first date for the stall going out (weather permitting) is *March 11th*. If

you can help please call me on 0115 9812034. On a positive note we have found a home for the stall, back in the old Hiziki shop on Goose Gate. To celebrate we have bought a new suitcase on wheels with a handle which should make the stall easier to transport.

Nottingham CND will also be covering two local events up to the end of May. We have booked a stall at the University of Nottingham Students Union's One World Day on Tuesday 21st March. This will be a great opportunity to promote CND and hopefully get new members. Please can I have as many volunteers as possible. The second event is May Day when we hope to have a stall. Please ring for details nearer the time as nothing is concrete yet. We also hope to take our stall to Derby during the May elections as a committee has been formed in Derby in response to the nuclear generating plant at Raynesway (Rolls Royce). Again more details near the time.

If you are unable to help as a stall volunteer, a useful way to be involved is to write letters on topical issues to the local press. Nationally there is a demonstration at Menwith Hill on March 4th and in June we are hoping to have the National Trident tour either in Nottingham or Derby.

We hope to see you in the year ahead.

Diane Lunzer - Secretary

May Day 2000 Nottingham's Carnival Against Capitalism

Anyone wishing to be involved in planning May Day 2000 should contact Ian Juniper on 9348457

Campaigns Summary: early 2000

In December 1999, the Council of CND endorsed a set of campaign priorities. Chairperson Dave Knight sent local groups a bulletin, on which this review is based.

The first will be already over when this is read: the 14th Feb blockade of the Faslane base, organised by Trident Ploughshares 2000: this in particular celebration of the court verdict acknowledging the anti-war aims of the 'ploughshares' protesters. Being Valentine's Day prompts the shamelessly opportunistic tagline 'Make Love Not War'. [See elsewhere in this Bulletin for news of the blockade.]

During June the mobile lorry-based display 'Trash Trident' takes to the road. Last year its East Midlands schedule clashed with the Slab Square surreal sand spectacle. This year we make a second try for a Nottingham visit.

The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty takes place in New York in April-May. CND's lobbying for abolition needs to include letters to MP's, ministers and PM. Dedicated postcards are available. Petitions are also important: we may expect vigorous prompting from Holloway Road HQ: we do not need it, of course.

As part of the Global Abolition Week of Action, March 1-8, vigils and citizens' inspections are planned at Tactical Weapons sites. Again: more info via our office (934 8459) as available.

On the party political front, Labour CND has the document 'How to influence Labour Party policy' - copies available from Nottm office. This year the party will decide its nuclear policy as part of the consultation 'Britain in the World'. There is also a model submission to guide (inspire?) local branches etc. Lobbying will also take place at the Liberal Democrat

March conference.

Briefings and campaign materials are in preparation on European Security, in the conventional and nuclear weapons contexts.

Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) is a new threat: its deployment would break the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty and threaten a new nuclear arms race. It would also sabotage the international nuclear disarmament process, either through Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, the Conference on Disarmament or the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Individuals and governments must lobby the US not to proceed with BMD: CND campaigning will include information on the militarisation of space. Legal work may be feasible on the lines of the existing World Court Project, examining the illegality of nuclear arms.

Work continues around the Plutonium Economy. Actions in Cumbria, following similar ones in Germany and elsewhere, will protest at the importation of German nuclear waste. 'Mixed Oxide' fuels and Waste management are subjects of submissions to government. Nuclear Transport campaigns continue (warheads and waste).

All this adds up to a formidable list, but it is being tackled by the shared effort of individuals and local groups, each concentrating on smaller, manageable parts. Above all, Dave Knight stresses that 2000 is the United Nations Year for the Culture of Peace: this theme should inform our campaigns. CND can be an effective part of that culture of peace.

Jeremy Jago

Old Faithful by Jeremy Jago

CTBT stands for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Britain is one of the signatories. The US is not – though it says it will abide by the 'spirit' of the treaty. (Interestingly, the Senate vote was 48% in favour of signing: 66% would be required for support).

With nuclear budgets reduced and few if any test firings, governments have every incentive to prolong the service life of existing warheads and delivery systems. Nuclear weapons, like most machines, age. The nuclear elements in warheads require periodic overhaul due to degradation. The high explosive triggers become chemically stale, requiring renewal. Complex electronic and mechanical gear also decays, hastened by radioactivity and heat in the immediate environment of the warhead elements. The maintenance of older weapons clearly aims to prevent spontaneous firing but maintain viability.

Here are some bombs – do they still work? The traditional answer has been to pick one out from time to time, and try it. Up until 1965 or so this was often done in the atmosphere: many attributed suspiciously pretty sunsets to dust pollution from this cause. Then, underground rock caverns were used by most nuclear states. Tests were also used in the course of designing new bombs. Post-CTB Treaty, more ingenuity is expected, preferably not involving taking the whole thing to bits too often. It is here that an interesting divergence of policy emerges between the UK, the US, and the former USSR.

According to a recent Radio 4 programme, the American way is to produce a computer model of the weapon, programmed with the decay characteristics of every single part and material. This task is

reportedly harder than anything before tried by computer and the gear needed would, even by the speed of computer progress today, take fifteen years to develop. Those responsible are racing against time while the people who designed the weapons in the first place are still actually alive to be consulted.

If uncertainty cannot be resolved by model or non-destructive test, the US President would invoke the USA's 'right to conduct a reliability test'. In other words, fire one off underground again - one reason, it is believed, why the US Senate wouldn't ratify the CTBT signing.

Britain's Atomic Weapons Establishment's approach is a 'check strategy', part of which involves trundling a gas sampling cart, the size of a small car, up to a weapon unit. Extracted air is then analysed in a mass spectrometer, the size of a small garage, and the characteristic smells of decaying bomb innards assessed for seriousness.

The ex-USSR are said – by Americans – to do more or less as they used to. Namely to withdraw old stuff at intervals and replace it with new. Given the state of the CIS economy this sounds highly theoretical. Furthermore, the decay factor only adds to the questions surrounding nuclear materials and weapons units known to be in criminal hands in the Eastern bloc: questions which remain unanswered.

The Nottingham CND Stall needs your help

The stall is our chief visible face in Nottingham but to have it out we need people to staff it. If you can help please contact Nottingham CND

UN Nuclear Weapons Vote

In November 1999 there was a vote at the U.N. on a proposal put by the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) calling on the nuclear weapons states to begin the process of disarmament as they have undertaken to do in Article VI of the Non Proliferation Treaty. The New Agenda Coalition is a group of neutral countries working to hasten nuclear disarmament. The following is an excellent and positive commentary by Canadian Senator Doug Roche, a strong supporter of the New Agenda Coalition.

On November 9th, the U.N. First Committee adopted the New Agenda Coalition resolution with 90 yes votes, 13 nos and 37 abstentions. Last year's First Committee vote was 97-19-32. The heart of the resolution is contained in Operative Paragraph 1: "Calls upon the Nuclear Weapon States to make an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the speedy and total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and to engage without delay in an accelerated process of negotiations, thus achieving nuclear disarmament to which they are committed under Article VI of the NPT."

Four NWS (the U.S., Russia, the U.K., and France) again voted no and China repeated its abstention. In 1998 NATO, which then had 16 states, voted 0-4-12. This year, with 19 members Turkey and the Czech Republic moved from no to abstention, while Hungary and Poland voted no. Thus the NATO count was 0-5-14. Though some states (e.g. Azerbaijan, Benin) dropped to abstention from last year's yes, the effect of this was offset by 14 NATO states together sending a message to the NWS that progress must be made.

The Explanations-of-vote contained revealing observations. The U.K. said the NAC resolution was incompatible with the maintenance of a credible minimum deterrence. France accused the NAC of having ulterior motives in challenging the right to self-defence. The U.S. said it had already given a "solemn undertaking"

concerning Article VI of the NPT and why should it be asked to give more? Canada, which abstained, praised the resolution but added: "The nuclear-weapon states and their partners and alliances need to be engaged if the goals of the New Agenda resolution are to be achieved." This was a tacit admission that the Western NWS (the NATO leaders) had tied Canada's hands. Australia, which also abstained, said it did not want to challenge the sincerity of the NWS commitment to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is disappointing that the leaders of the NATO countries could not bring themselves to vote that the Nuclear Weapon States make an "unequivocal undertaking" to engage without delay in negotiations to achieve nuclear disarmament. The present situation is truly alarming: the U.S. Senate has rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; the U.S. is preparing to deploy a missile defence system over the objections of Russia and China; India is preparing to deploy nuclear weapons in air, land, and sea; Pakistan, which has successfully tested nuclear weapons, is now ruled by the military; meaningful discussions at the Conference on Disarmament are deadlocked; the preparatory conferences for the 2000 Review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) have failed; the Russian Duma has not ratified START II. The gains made in the past decade on reducing the dangers posed by nuclear weapons are being

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UN Nuclear Weapons Vote

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wiped out. Immense dangers to the world lie ahead if the present negative trends are not reversed.

We have offered logic, law, and morality to government leaders as reasons for them to move forward on nuclear disarmament. We are tempted, at this moment, to despair that we will ever be heard. That is the wrong reaction. We are being heard as never before, and the proponents of the status quo are being forced to invent the most preposterous reasons to justify their slavish adherence to weapons that have justly been called 'the ultimate evil'. We do not have the luxury of despair at this moment. We must continue, with all our growing might, to speak truth to power.

It is disturbing to be thwarted by a residual Cold War mentality driven by the military-industrial complex that infects the political decision-making process with fears of an unknown enemy. It is myopic for NATO government leadership to live in fear of U.S. government retribution for voting to advance nuclear disarmament. It is an abrogation of governments' responsibility to humanity to stare silently into the abyss of more nuclear weapons.

But rage bounces off the shields of denial constructed by the powerful. It does little to berate government leaders. Those in governments and in civil society who have worked hard for the successful passage of the NAC resolution as a way out of looming catastrophe must be humble enough to recognize that there is still not a vibrant public opinion in our society against nuclear weapons. The public generally does not know enough about the present situation even to be in denial.

The time has come to inject renewed energy into the nuclear weapons debate. The sheer force of this energy must pene-

trate the consciences of decision-makers in the powerful states and thus transfer the nuclear abolition debate into a whole new field of action. We must rise up above the political, economic, social and cultural blockages to abolition and infuse the societal and political processes with a dynamic of action. The approach I am calling for must be based on our overpowering love for God's planet and all humanity on it. In this call to witness, we will find new confidence in our ability to overcome the temporary denial by politicians and officials who do not understand the power of this transformation moment in history.

By coincidence, the NAC vote, in which the NWS are still showing their defiance, occurred on the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Wall fell because enough people created a force for freedom that became unstoppable. The Wall of resistance to nuclear weapons abolition will also crumble when the non-nuclear allies of the U.S. demonstrate the courage that we must give them. Already there are signs, in the speculation that tactical nuclear weapons will be removed from seven NATO countries in Europe, that the NATO leadership is feeling this pressure.

Our first task now is to give our complete support to the leaders of the New Agenda Coalition, telling them we will not cease our active support of their efforts. Our second is to gather more strength among the public so that even the most skeptical of leaders will feel a new heat on this issue. Our third is to be a witness in our own communities, each in our own way, to our unflinching desire to leave a world for humanity that will indeed be nuclear-weapons-free.

From a World Court Project newsletter

Demolishing the myths by Jonathan Steele

Derided peace movements which caused the fall of the Berlin wall

An insidious myth has been stalking Europe from the moment the Berlin wall was breached. It was there in rabid force at the Tory conference in Blackpool last month, although it is not just a possession of the right. It pervades the memoirs of many of the statesmen who were in power in the closing years of the cold war and is fast hardening into the cement of official wisdom.

So now, as its 10th anniversary approaches this month, it is worth getting back to the facts behind the fall of the Berlin wall. The key role in creating the climate which led to the dramatic climax of the cold war was not played by the Reagan administration's hardline strategy, aided by its British ally Margaret Thatcher, of "standing up to the Soviets", but by the much-derided peace movement. The marchers, the banner-wavers, and the women of Greenham, who are still often pilloried as Moscow's patsies and agents of influence, did more to open the wall than the western governments of the time.

Am I joking? Not a bit of it. The huge street demonstrations which grew in number in East Germany against communist party rule throughout the autumn of 1989 had their origins in the country's peace movement. They were centred on the Protestant churches which had courageously developed a common programme for peace and human rights for a number of years before the rest of East German society threw off the mantle of fear, turning a movement of a few hundreds into one of hundreds of thousands.

That initial hard core of peace activists was emboldened by colleagues and friends from the west. Take Bärbel Bohley, one of the co-founders of East Ger-

many's Neues Forum, the dissident movement which started the demonstrations in East Berlin in 1989. Six years before the wall fell, as a key member of the "Women for Peace", her movement was already feared by the East German security police, the Stasi, and she was arrested after meeting a woman peace activist from Britain. On her release she was in regular contact with Petra Kelly, the charismatic peace campaigner and Green member of the West German Bundestag, in one of several such efforts to create "detente from below". On both sides of the wall, anti-nuclear activists saw a common interest. The realisation that Germany, east and west, would be the first target for annihilation in a new European war created a psychological unification of the country long before political unity became a reality.

This is irrelevant detail, the critics sneer. The end of the cold war came from above. It was caused by Ronald Reagan's massive arms build-up after the waffly Carter years, his proposal for a star wars programme of space-based systems to shoot down incoming Russian missiles, and the decision by Nato to deploy cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe. By proving they were willing to stand up to Moscow as well as the hordes of anti-nuclear demonstrators in the west they provoked the Soviet Union's reform programme, known as perestroika, once Mikhail Gorbachev and his inner circle of advisers realised the west was not going to disarm unilaterally. The Soviet economy could no longer afford to maintain a global arms race, let alone find the trillions of roubles needed to match Star Wars, while also

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Demolishing the myths

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doing something to improve its woeful consumer goods sector.

So far, so simple. In fact, the first steps in re-orienting Soviet spending away from foreign military outlays and towards the consumer were taken by an earlier Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov. In his first programmatic speech in November 1982, months before Reagan announced his star wars scheme, Andropov said that the Soviet Union's strength and reputation depended on its successes at home. This was the first hint of the retreat from empire which Gorbachev took up after he came to power in 1985.

Gorbachev's perestroika resulted from a complex amalgam of political, economic and ideological pressures, most of them from inside the Soviet Union, which had been building up for years and to which the elderly, pre-Gorbachev leadership failed to respond. The new Soviet leader was different. He understood that Nato's victory in getting its various parliaments to approve the deployment of cruise and Pershing, only after narrow votes and with intense arm-twisting, was Pyrrhic. He saw the strength of the western peace movements, accepted their arguments about the unwinnability of nuclear war, and appreciated that unilateralism was not one-sided surrender but a way of jump-starting a process in which both sides would match each other in reducing their arsenals until they reached "reasonable sufficiency".

In Britain the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament had a small minority of members who took an uncritical line on Soviet policy but they were constantly outvoted, as Bruce Kent has made clear. European Nuclear Disarmament (END) had strong links with activists on the con-

tinental and was always even-handed.

Ronald Reagan's "zero option" of November 1981, which proposed to cancel cruise and Pershing along with the Soviet SS20s, was first put forward by END in April 1980. "We ask the two superpowers to withdraw all nuclear weapons from European territory. In particular, we ask the Soviet Union to halt production of the SS20 medium-range missile and we ask the United States not to implement the decision to develop cruise and Pershing-II missiles for deployment in Europe," said its inaugural appeal.

It was pressure from the peace movement which changed the superpowers' international agenda and managed to launch a peace race, even before Gorbachev came to power. "Ronnie, you have to present a more peaceful image," Nancy Reagan was heard to tell her husband in the run-up to the 1984 election, when polls showed his cold war rhetoric and "evil empire" talk was costing votes. Reagan may have been simple-minded, but he was an idealist. At their first meeting in 1985, Gorbachev and Reagan issued a statement parroting the peace movement: "A nuclear war cannot be won and should never be fought."

Two years later they agreed to dismantle cruise, Pershing, and the SS20s. Reagan abandoned his Star Wars programme unilaterally and converted it into more modest research. At the United Nations in 1988, Gorbachev announced a massive unilateral reduction in Soviet ground troops in Europe, which paved the way for a total pull-out.

One can see why western leaders want to claim credit for the end of the arms race and then, for good measure, throw in the collapse of communism and

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Sellafield Shut Down Threat

Government safety watchdogs yesterday threatened to shut down commercial activities at Britain's biggest nuclear site, at Sellafield, after damning reports set out a catalogue of "systematic management failures" which allowed workers to routinely falsify quality assurance records.

Three highly critical reports from the nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) demanded that senior management of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) be held responsible for the comprehensive failure of safety culture at the site, in Cumbria. The board of BNFL had appeared to distance itself from responsibility for safety.

One report covered the falsification of data about mixed oxide fuel manufactured at Sellafield for sale to Japan. The report found that workers had been so bored by the tedium of checks that they had not bothered to do them. Management's lack of safety culture had allowed this to happen from as long ago as 1996 and it had continued since.

BNFL Nuclear Fuel Rejected

The future of BNFL's £300m plant at Sellafield which is designed to manufacture plutonium-based mixed oxide (MOX) fuel for nuclear reactors was thrown into doubt after Japan's biggest nuclear power company rejected a controversial consignment of plutonium fuel from Sellafield and accused the company of being untrustworthy.

Kansai Electric abandoned plans to load the fuel into reactors because some of the safety data was suspicious. The Japanese trade and industry minister said "With these new reports of dishonesty, we have to say that trust in BNFL has collapsed. Until BNFL regains that trust, we cannot import its fuel."

Another report was into the backlog of high-level liquid nuclear waste kept in tanks. The NII is so concerned that this is not being properly dealt with that it will shut the £1.8bn Thorp reprocessing works if BNFL does not show significant progress in dealing with it.

The main report was highly critical of the safety culture throughout the company. The NII found that safety had gone downhill badly as thousands of jobs were cut to prepare for the government's bid to sell 49% of the company. Safety had ceased to be a priority because middle managers were so overworked that they had no time to visit the shop floor and make sure the correct culture was in place. Generally the standard of achievement on safety across the site "is only just tolerable" the report said. There was a "poor safety culture in many areas of the site".

Taken from various reports in The Guardian Dec 1999 - Feb 2000.

Hinkley Point may shut for good

One of the oldest nuclear plants in the country may have to shut permanently because it was not built properly in the first place and is unsafe.

The 35-year-old Hinkley Point A magnox station in Somerset has been shut down for months after checks through old papers found that some of the parts of the steel pressure vessel were not tested properly when the station was first built. BNFL believes it can "work up a safety case" to allow the two reactors to start up again, probably in April. Local people are so alarmed at the prospect of the station being allowed to generate power again that they have begun a campaign called simply Stop Hinkley.

Threat from US Missile Defence

America is planning a missile shield that will endanger world treaties and world peace and probably not even work. And Britain will be dragged into making it happen.

National Missile Defence (NMD) purports to be a defence system that will shield the US and her allies against missile attacks by so-called rogue states, something different from the Soviet nuclear war on which the theory and practice of deterrence has been based for 50 years. It is fantastically ambitious. Its governing notion is that a US missile will track and destroy any incoming missile - perhaps nuclear, or merely biological - launched at the mainland, or at an ally. The detection and radar network would be global, and so, ultimately, would the enemy, with North Korea, Iran and Iraq in the frame. The plan would involve upgrading the early warning radar station at Fylingdales and the US spy base at Menwith Hill.

The technology is demanding: like making one bullet hit another bullet at 10,000 mph. Only two tests have been held so far, of which one succeeded. There's only one more to make, in April, before President Clinton has said he will decide whether to approve deployment of NMD. The line from the Pentagon is that a strike rate of two out of three will be enough to push the button, on a programme under development for the last five years, which would then cost another \$12bn.

The gains of NMD are remotely probable, while the risks are immediate and certain, as the authoritative US journal, *Foreign Policy*, spells out. The testing programme, for example, invites a decision on far too little evidence. Instead of three test firings, or even the 19 that are

ultimately planned, a weapon that had a 95% chance of hitting an incoming missile which was protected, as it would be, by decoys and other counter-measures, could be proved only after "hundreds of tests conducted under different scenarios, costing billions of extra dollars". No such programme is planned, yet without at least 95% efficacy, NMD cannot be regarded as a reliable performer of its task.

What it immediately does, however, is reopen the delicate balance of deterrent relationships. It induces emerging missile powers to increase their arsenals, to improve their chances of penetrating NMD. By apparently (even if imperfectly) enhancing US defence, it upsets the painstaking arrangements in the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty which has served Washington, Moscow and the world well since 1972.

Washington wants to renegotiate the ABM treaty. But NMD deployment would be deeply disturbing to both Russia and China. Coming in the wake of the Senate's rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, it would indicate a new recklessness in the US policy, born of an arrogance that Russia could not be expected to watch in silence, nor China, with its relatively small missile armoury, to countenance without increasing its own nuclear force.

At the foreign office and among the military top brass, there is much suspicion of NMD. Their doubts need to be taken out of the closet. Here we have an aspect of national security which should not be allowed to fester behind the usual claims to official secrecy. There must be some public debate of these issues before anything becomes silently irreversible.

Based on reports in The Guardian

Toy guns create violent adults

Children who are allowed to play with toy guns are likely to be violent in later life. A definitive new study shows that parental attitudes to play-fighting and aggression are the most important factors in shaping a child's future behaviour.

Researchers have found that parents who had a relaxed approach to fighting and who used the 'if they hit you, hit back' mantra had more aggressive children. Parents who encouraged their children to

see that fighting was wrong at an age where they were still playing and who encouraged them to talk their way out of conflicts had more peaceful offspring.

In a definitive study of nearly 9,000 American teenagers, the psychologists found that by the age of 12 children were already showing remarkably different levels of aggression depending on their upbringing.

Taken from The Observer 21 Nov 1999

Danube study questions warfare pollution

The rules of warfare which resulted in the people of Serbia and Kosovo being faced with life-threatening pollution should be reviewed, the head of the UN Environment Programme's Balkans Taskforce, set up to study the environmental aftermath of the Kosovo conflict, said yesterday.

Pekka Haavisto, a Finnish pollution expert, questioned the bombing of industrial plants close to big cities when it posed an immediate risk of pollution. He has delivered the taskforce's report to the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, and is said to be angry that its findings have been played down in Nato countries.

Philip Weller of the World Wide Fund for Nature's Green Danube project congratulated Mr Haavisto. "There are a lot of

issues this war has raised that we cannot walk away from," he said.

"Depleted uranium is one we do not know enough about. But there are some, like the leaking of mercury and other toxic substances from the Pancevo canal into the Danube, that we do know have to be dealt with, and quickly. If not, then innocent people downstream in Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania and as far away as the Ukraine will suffer.

"By bombing oil refineries and chemical factories Nato was conducting a highly dangerous chemical experiment with unknown and possibly devastating consequences. We have to question whether rules should be in place to prevent that happening in the future."

Taken from The Guardian 27 Oct 1999

Demolishing the myths

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the end of the USSR as well.

One can also see why the peace movement believes it won, though it is humble about its effect in prompting Gorbachev's democratic changes. His "new thinking" had internal causes, and the Soviet reforms preceded those in eastern Europe. The Polish government's round

table talks with Solidarity - the first of the dramas of 1989 - came half a year after Gorbachev's announcement that elections to the Soviet parliament would be open contests. But when it comes to the international agenda of the 1980s, the historical record shows the western peace movement played the major part.

Taken from The Guardian 2 Nov 1999

Mass arrests at Faslane Blockade

In the early hours of Valentine's Day almost 500 people from all walks of life arrived at Faslane to blockade the Trident base. 189 of them were arrested including politicians and church leaders. The action was jointly organised by Trident Ploughshares, Scottish CND and British CND

Those arrested included the Scottish Socialist MSP Tommy Sheridan and the Green MEP Caroline Lucas, who plans to claim parliamentary immunity, forcing a debate on Trident in the European parliament. "These weapons are illegal under international law," said Dr Lucas after her arrest for breach of the peace. "I agreed to risk arrest because it is time the government owned up to the fact that its possession of nuclear weapons is illegal." Dr Lucas said her immunity could be lifted by the European parliament only after a formal debate, at which she would claim she was legally allowed to "disarm" Trident.

The protest was the biggest at the base for 15 years, and the two main entrances to the facility had been blocked for

up to two hours causing severe disruption to the base.

In a letter to the Scotsman newspaper, printed on 16th Feb, Rev Norman Shanks (Leader of the Iona Community who was arrested at the blockade) said:

"There is no moral, theological or military justification for Trident; since opinion given by the International Court of Justice in 1996 there is no legal justification either. The risks involved are so much more substantial than the risks we would be exposed to without it. The costs involved are huge: money that could be spent on redeploying workers who are understandably worried about their jobs, and in responding to the need for extra resources for health, education, housing, the fulfilment of our commitment to overseas aid, and much more. Why, then, does the government still refuse to listen to this groundswell of concern or even talk to those who seek meetings to discuss this pressing issue? This is very much a cause whose time has come again!"

NPT Review Conference Action

The 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is taking place April 24-May 19, 2000 in New York. We want to demand urgent completion of negotiations on a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons.

What you can do:

Write to Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 10 Downing St., London, SW1A 2AA.

Sample Letter:

I am writing to you concerning the 2000 Review and Extension Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). As a matter of highest priority and urgency I urge you to attend the NPT Review Conference and call upon the leaders of the nuclear weapons states to begin negotiations on a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. The fate of the world will be in your hands during these discussions. At this Review Conference, you have the ability to alter the course of history and leave a legacy of a more secure future for this generation and generations to come.

Campaign Against Arms Trade

CAAT has just published a report on investments in arms companies as part of its Clean Investment campaign. It reveals that the Labour Party, the Church of England, health trusts and a range of charities including the Royal Opera House are continuing to invest tens of millions of pounds in weapons companies.

Companies in which they hold shares include Britain's main arms manufacturers such as BAe Systems, GKN, GEC, Vickers, and Hunting, makers of the cluster bomb. The Labour Party has more than 45,000 shares in both GEC and Vickers. Labour-controlled Edinburgh council has hundreds of thousands of shares in BAe, GKN, GEC, Rolls-Royce and Racal. Other councils with large investments in big defence companies included Rhondda, Bradford, Derbyshire, Devon, South Yorkshire, Wolverhampton, Lambeth and Islington.

The pension fund of Unison has large shareholdings in BAe and GEC. The Universities Superannuation Scheme, the Co-operative Insurance Society and the Mine-workers' Pension Scheme have thousands of shares in Hunting.

The Church Commissioners and Central Board of Finance of the Church of

England - which last year sold its shares in BAe because of ethical considerations - still has over 2m shares in GKN and GEC.

A CAAT spokesperson said: "If the Labour Party, via its pension funds, has had holdings in arms companies like Vickers, and chooses not to immediately disinvest, it seriously risks compromising the position it has tried to maintain in the eyes of the general public - that it has a commitment to an ethical foreign policy it can't be in the pockets of the arms companies and have a commitment to human rights. There is an obvious conflict of interests here.

"Clearly health trusts, churches, charities, educational institutions have aims which most reasonable people would see as somewhat contradictory to the deaths, poverty and repression caused by the international arms trade. It is essential that these institutions disinvest as a matter of urgency - there is no justification for such public institutions to invest in companies like BAe Systems - a company notorious for its sales with torturing states, countries involved in repression and regions of conflict like the Middle East and the Far East."

Bill Clinton's Fun Game of 'Do As I Say Not As I Do'

Bill says: "Nuclear weapons are not necessary to security, to prosperity, to national greatness or national fulfilment" (after India & Pakistan nuclear tests, May 1998)

Bill does: The US maintains it's huge nuclear arsenal

Bill says: "We must teach our children to resolve their conflicts with words, not weapons" (after school massacre in Denver, April 1999)

Bill does: NATO forces bomb Serbia

Campaign Against Nuclear Danger In Derby

The Campaign Against Nuclear Danger In Derby (CANDID) has been set up following a leaked report by the nuclear installations inspectorate criticising the Rolls-Royce site at Raynesway. The site processes highly enriched uranium fuel for nuclear submarines. Safety inspectors found serious flaws and inadequate plans to protect workers in an emergency at the site, and no plan to protect the local population in such an emergency. Many of the local population did not even know that there is nuclear processing at the site, and we feel that it is dangerous to have it in such a populated area..

I attended a meeting of CANDID on 26 November 1999 in Alvaston with around a dozen other people. The meeting decided that the aim of the group is to stop nuclear processing on the site and replace it with safer, more useful production. An interim aim is to press for a public safety plan for an accident on the site.

CANDID has already held a demonstration in Derby, and the meeting decided to ask all members to lobby their local councillors and MPs. We decided to call

for a public meeting with council and Rolls-Royce representatives to voice our concerns and challenge any patronising statements about safety which might be made. We also decided to hold a march between the site and the town centre to show how close the site is to the centre of Derby.

A small committee was delegated by the group to plan the march and to coordinate further methods of keeping the issue in the public arena – newsletters, petitioning local shopping areas, etc.

The committee has found it difficult to maintain the initial enthusiasm this year. As a result there are no actions or demonstrations planned and any future action is unlikely until the local elections in May.

This seems like an ideal opportunity for members of Nottingham CND to become involved with a more local campaign. Anyone wanting more information should contact Nottingham CND who will be able to put them in touch with the campaign.

Report by Mark Ramsey

Book Reviews

Dr Strangelove I Presume - Michael Foot (Victor Gollancz £16.99)

When I first heard that there was a nuclear arms race on the Indian subcontinent I felt it was the ultimate insanity. I could not believe Indian leaders would allow it to happen. Apart from the perils of the weapons involved it would mean an end to all hopes of a war against Indian poverty. An excellent book by this long time champion of disarmament tells how with something like 50,000 nuclear warheads in the world the arms race is very much up and coming. Far from slowing down our pace against such weapons we

must remain ever vigilant as the danger is greater than ever.

Scorched Earth - William Thomas (Jon Carpenter)

This book speaks out against the biggest assault on the environment which is from the military throughout the world.

60 Years of Nuclear History - Fred Roberts (Jon Carpenter £12)

Essential reading for everyone who really wants to understand the true story of Britain's nuclear project which has been deliberately concealed.

David Lane

Diary Dates

- Sat 4 March A peaceful non-violent demo at Menwith Hill US Spy Base North Yorkshire. 12 noon to 4pm. Organised by the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases and Yorkshire CND,
- Tue 14 March Leicester CND AGM with Felicity Arbuthnot, investigative journalist, speaking about Depleted Uranium and Gulf War Syndrome. At Friends Meeting House, Queens Road, Leicester. AGM 7.30pm. Speaker 8pm. All welcome. Phone 0116 27056054 for more details.
- Sat 18 March Peace Concert featuring Martin White (oboe), Andrew Morris (flute), Alec Forshaw (bassoon and piano) and The Gallard Trio. Music by Rachmaninov, Ravel, Debussy, Shostakovich and others. Presented by Musicians Against Nuclear Arms in association with University of Leicester Music Department. 7.30pm at Fraser Noble Building, London Road, Leicester. For tickets phone 0116 2522000.
- Tue 21 March Nottingham CND Stall at the University of Nottingham Students Union's 'One World Day' in the Portland Building, Nottingham University. The event is designed to focus attention on the critical environmental and quality of life issues in the coming century and CND has been invited to participate. Any help welcome.
- Sat 25 March Day conference on the U.N - see below.

World Order or Disorder? Peacekeeping, Mediation and the UN

Leicester City Council Peace Action Group's contribution to the UN Culture of Peace Year

Saturday 25th March 9am to 5pm at Vaughan College, Leicester

Speakers:

Bruce Kent (President of the National Peace Council)

Dr Oliver Ramsbotham (Head of Peace Studies, Bradford)

Dr Susan Woodward (Centre for Defence Studies, King's College London)

Plus a choice of six seminars.

Enrol by 21 March. Cost £9.50/£7.00(concs) includes lunch. To College Office,
Vaughan College, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 4LB. Tel: 0116 2517368