



EXETER CND NEWSLETTER

1981
10p.
(FREE to MEMBERS)
NOVEMBER

Cruise Missiles: Towards The Final Abyss?

Prof. Michael Pentz, Dean of the Faculty of Science at the Open University and author of the pamphlet 'Towards the final abyss? The state of the nuclear arms race' will be speaking at St. Georges Hall on Sunday 29th November, 7.30 p.m.
Dr. John Somers, lecturer in the Department of Education at the University of Exeter, will also be speaking.
We urge you to attend what promises to be a very interesting talk.

Christmas Tree Appeal.



Exeter CND has offered to pay for and provide a Christmas tree to be put up in Princesshay. The City Council has accepted our offer. This could cost up to £500. We could cover the cost if everyone sent 30p to the Treasurer or to their area group Co-ordinator. Please be generous!



CND LEADERS SUPPORT GROUP
Sunday, 22nd November
7.30 p.m. prompt (until 9 p.m.)
14, South Avenue, EXETER

We are engaged in the most difficult campaign of the whole of human history - the campaign to rid the World of Nuclear Weapons. In the face of the great obstacles before us it is easy to fall prey to hopelessness and powerlessness. So it is vital that we feel our strength and our support.

As one means of doing this I am starting a regular leaders support group which is for all of you as you are all leaders.

DON'T HIDE YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BARREL

All of us fine people must be seen to be proud to be members of CND. We must show it all the time. Wear a CND/Anti Bomb badge at all times:-

- *It enables us to feel our strength - acknowledge everyone wearing a badge.
- *It reminds our friends, who know us to be good people, that CND is right.
- *It encourages response from acquaintances and strangers.

Make sure there is a poster in your window and a sticker in your car. We need to be seen.

We must put our message in front of the people. If any shyness, reserve, or other little fears are preventing you from doing these things, then stop and think. What is more important - survival or hiding behind our shyness and fears of disapproval. I want there to be 1,000 CND badges, 1,000 posters and 1,000 car stickers to be seen in Exeter, to let the people know that we are proud to be members of this great campaign for peace and eager for them to join us.

Richard King.



S.W. Villages

Social evening on Saturday 21st November, Mill Bungalow, Dunchideock, 8 p.m. Members of other groups very welcome. Bring a bottle/food. Ring 833152 to let Ken Cole know you're coming. Showing of 'The War Game' on Friday 27th Nov., Whitestone Village Hall, 8 p.m.

St. Leonards

This group will be meeting, once every month on the first Wednesday of each month. The meetings will take place at 61 Marlborough Rd. 7.30 p.m.

Rougemont

Next meeting on Monday, 14th Dec at Black Horse, Longbrooke St., 8 pm.

Pennsylvania

Next meeting on Wed. 9th Dec., 8, Prospect Park, 8 p.m.

Heavitree/Polisloe

This group will be meeting once every month on the 2nd Thurs. of each month. The meetings will take place at 14, South Ave. at 7. 45 p.m.

On Sunday, 8th Nov., this group started to canvass each house in their area. Our goal is to find out the attitudes of the people living in this area about nuclear weapons and disarmament. We are taking the arguments of CND to the doorstep in the belief that there are many people who are sympathetic to the unilateral cause but who would not otherwise join CND. CND desperately needs 'Street Credibility'.

We believe this is the only way to achieve it. On Sunday 7 people turned up to canvass. This campaign could take 2 years to complete. Therefore we need people! 7 is an appalling turnout. We urge anyone who wants to join us to do so. Members from other area groups are more than welcome. Contact Olwen Goodall (214077) if you can help.

University

Showing of 'WAR GAME', M & D Room, Devonshire House, Wed., 18th Nov., 1 p.m.

Exeter CND Council

Next meeting of the Council will be on Mon. 7th Dec., at the Black Horse, Longbrooke St.

DON'T GET COMPLACENT!

We haven't stopped a single missile yet! 1,000 people from Exeter travelled up to London to join the national rally. This was a great show of our strength but Rome wasn't built in a day. We need your time and effort if we are to make any impact on the People of Exeter. Yes, it's good fun to join in with the more fashionable activities of CND - demonstrations and marches are essential ingredients of our campaign. But we must now be prepared to get out on the streets, knocking on doors, talking with people and facing up to their real fears. CND is dealing with issues of life and death - put your action where your mouth is and lets make this campaign succeed.

LETTERS PLEASE

This newsletter invites your views and opinions on any disarmament issues. Write to Barry Webb, 25, Regents Square, Heavitree, Tel. 31514.

SALES

A New Service for our Readers

Advertise your goods for sale here FREE. All we ask is that you donate 20% of the proceeds to Exeter CND's funds.

Double drainer sink unit	£20
Double kitchen wall unit	£15
Single kitchen wall unit	£10
Vacuum cleaner	£ 5
Book case	£10

G. Baker, 33, Birchy Barton Hill, Exeter 59935.

WORKING GROUPS

The continuing and exciting growth of membership is making even more difficult the administrative task of inviting the large members of volunteers for Working Groups to attend their relevant meeting. The cost of postage alone is a waste of precious resources. Could we please put the onus on you? If you are a member of a working group and haven't had recent news of a meeting could you ring the Group's convenor:

- A. Literature and Education
John Shepherd (LUNNON 74141)
- B. Fundraising
Celia Shepherd (" ")
- C. Events and Publicity
Janet Barber (EXETER 213612)
(Walter Cairns is difficult to contact by 'phone)

The directory of Working Group B talents and special abilities is time-consuming to prepare. In the meantime we are tending to use known and proven members - apologies to those who've more recently offered their services. Please remember: the co-ordinator of your local group would be glad to use your skills and enthusiasm. We need more initiatives and events coming from the Area Groups and the co-operation of Working Group volunteers at this level would help enormously.

WORKING GROUP C (Fund-raising)

The next meeting of Working Group C will be on November 10th, at 8.30 p.m. at 12, Thornton Hill, to discuss ideas and make plans for fund-raising activities for the next twelve months. Meanwhile please continue to save all your used stamps and give them either to your co-ordinator or to Celia Shepherd, 12, Thornton Hill.

Area groups should be aware that the A.G.M. looms on the horizon. Resolutions to be put to the A.G.M. and proposals for Council Officers should now be being thought of within area groups.

Area group co-ordinators should also be aware that subscription renewals will be due in January. They should therefore be preparing to contact all members in their group to remind them of this.

Administratively, January is likely to be a busy time so it is best to be well prepared in advance!

CHRISTIAN CND

CHRISTIANS AND UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT

Conference organised by Honiton CND at King's School, Ottery St. Mary; October 17th, 1981; 300 Christians, including all priests and ministers in East Devon, were invited.

Important propaganda lesson

The Bishop of Bath and Wells (Rt Rev John Bickersteth) was first speaker. He rejected the British Establishment's view by declaring that nuclear war is the most important issue of our age and that it is not survivable. On Christian grounds he repudiated the outlook encapsulated in "Better Dead than Red". But he proposed that the British should press for multinational nuclear disarmament; and dismissed unilateral disarmament on the ground that 'it is mere childishness to suppose that Americans and Russians will be nice enough to follow our good example'. This view clearly won support from the gathering.

Richard Acland, second speaker, assured the meeting that unilateralists entertained no such childish hopes. He noticed that Britain, in 25 years as America's nuclear poodle, had contributed nothing towards multinational disarmament. Only a nuclearly unarmed

Britain will be qualified to lead unarmed humanity into a huge international campaign putting huge international money behind the World Disarmament Campaign which now has to do its best on private money. He proposed £50 million a year on intelligence. 'We might not be able to find out all the Russian and American secrets, but it would be good, for the first time, to have a powerful agency trying to tell you the whole truth'. He proposed £50 million to beam broadcasts, and £50 million for an international airforce with pilots risking death to drop leaflets on cities where governments failed to tell citizens the whole truth. On this understanding of the unilateralist case, those who remained to the end of the conference passed a unilateralist resolution by 48 votes to 3 with 8 abstainers who included the

Bishop of Crediton.

The important point is this: honest influential people do not want to support CND because if they did they would offend their establishment friends. They want a respectable reason for not supporting it. If they can believe that unilateralists expect that Britain's good example would be followed by the nice Americans and Russians they have got the respectable reason they want. CND propagandists must take trouble to avoid giving these people their easy way out.

Richard Acland.

Carols around the Christmas Tree

On Saturday, 19th Dec., there will be a Carol Singing Session around the Christmas Tree in Exeter. Singing will be for an hour between 2-3 p.m.

Carols for Peace

On Monday, 21st Dec., 7 p.m., at St. Stephens Church, High St., Exeter, Christian CND have arranged 'Carols for Peace'. Traditional carols will be sung as well as readings from the Bible and other literature concerned with the theme of Peace. Coffee, lemonade and mince pies will be available.

Prayers for World Peace

Starting on Dec. 4th every Friday between 2 - 4.30 pm prayers will be said at St. Martins Church, Cathedral Close. This will be a regular event to go along and pray for peace.

Next Meeting

of Christian CND will be on Monday, 14th Dec., at 7.45 p.m. at 50 Wonford Rd. Exeter.

Mills Antiques

George and Veronica Mills offer the following deal to any member who buys an article valued at £10 and over from their shop: The purchaser can choose either to take a 5% cash discount or a 10% discount off the value of the article. In the latter case, however, the 10% discount would go as a donation to Exeter CND. The shop, Mills Antiques, can be found in Fore St., Cullumpton.

TRAVELLERS FOR PEACE (alias CND Tours Incorporated!)

For some months now I have been writing to Dr. Dagmar Scherf-Deskau (one of the leading members of the peace group in our German twin town of Bad Nomburg). This is a project that, as a total pacifist, particularly appeals to me. We have held out our hands in friendship to a country that has been at war with this one twice this century and found friends ready and eager to grasp them. Recently Graham Baker spent a day with Dagmar and, due to the warmth of the welcome he received, feels that a group of us could perhaps visit Bad Nomburg for a few days in 1982. I shall find out what events (such as another 12 day Peace Festival similar to the one they've just held) there will be and arrange a visit during that time. There are six people already interested in this idea - including Graham Baker and myself - and if anyone else would like to come can they contact me: Janet Barber, 17 Jefford House, Copplestone Drive, Duryard, Exeter 213612.

Professions for World Disarmament

Major One-Day Conference to support the aims of the World Disarmament Campaign. To be held at Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7 on Saturday 13th February, 1982, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The programme will include; expert speakers on world disarmament and development, an Open Discussion and the UN film 'Nuclear Countdown' Fee: £5 Students £2.50. Contact Miss Helen Lang-Brown, WDC Professions Conference, 57B Somerton Road, London, NW2 1RU.

DEMONSTRATION

STOP PRESS!

SAT. 12th DECEMBER
MID-DEVON ACTION FOR
PEACE ARE HOLDING A
TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION
IN OAKHAMPTON.

A COACH WILL LEAVE
EXETER COACH STATION
AT 5.00 PM.

Exeter Trades Council have organised a demonstration against the Education cuts. They have asked for this to be advertised in the Newsletter for those C.N.D. members who would like to go along and make the point that expenditure on defence could and should be diverted into more socially useful projects - such as Education.

The March is on Saturday, 28th November, and people are requested to gather at Bury Meadow at 10.30 am.



It is very difficult to be brief when discussing my visit to E. Germany and Czechoslovakia - partly because it was such a packed fortnight and partly because just a list of where I went and when is of little interest and value. I decided, therefore, to make it more digestible by giving it to you in two doses.

N.B. These will be very much personal impressions and visiting 3 cities in a fortnight doesn't make me remotely an expert on Eastern Europe.

My week in the GDR was as one of an official party being entertained by the UNA groups in Weimar and in Dresden and was in some ways fairly formal. There was a very full programme of events and conducted tours which did restrict our freedom of movement somewhat. I am quite convinced however that this came from a concern to show us as much as possible of their country and way of life in a short time - and not to prevent us from seeing what we shouldn't.

We were long enough in Weimar to break through the initial barriers of politeness and ask awkward questions - which would have seemed rude initially to people who were so kind and helpful and proud of all their country had achieved in the last 35 years. We also found time to wander around the city and chat to people in coffee bars. I left the Weimar UN Association a file of the work Exeter CND has been doing and brought back the following message:

Members of the local branch of UNA in Weimar, GDR, have met and talked with members of Women for World Disarmament and CND from England, and wish to send greetings and a short message via these friends from England. We believe that it is more important now than ever before and more urgent, that all people throughout the world who wish for peace, no matter what their nationality, social background, or personal beliefs may be.

As citizens of the GDR we believe that peace should not be a period between two wars, but a necessary fundament in the structures of all societies in the world.

We have learnt in more detail from our discussions that have resulted from this recent exchange of ideas of the efforts being made in England now for disarmament and peace.

The citizens of the GDR fully support the words of their chairman of the GDR State Council 'never again should a war start from German territory'.

The people of our country believe that the reopening of SALT 2 negotiations would be a promising beginning for resuming discussions for peace.

We believe that such new weapons as the neutron bomb, cruise missiles and other weapons that can only cause mass destruction and misery to all people, should be banned from all European countries, both East and West.

The idea of waging a limited nuclear war is both totally unrealistic and ill-informed and can only lead to the complete destruction of all our countries and our peoples.

Our common campaign for peace and disarmament, although not an easy task to achieve, is of vital importance, for all of us, our children and future generations. If we all continue our campaign for peace in both East and West, it must be possible to triumph over those who wish to wage war and are presently, and who in the future, making huge financial gains in the arms race.

We sincerely hope that our common aims will be realized in the near future.

Professor Erich Taubert.

They are very interested in twinning with us and I very much hope that, perhaps in combination with Exeter UNA we can develop some useful exchanges.

Weimar is not unlike Exeter - a similar size - but it is more of a cultural centre (Goethe is to Weimar what Shakespeare is to Stratford-on-Avon). It is an ordered and orderly society. No one is unemployed, no one is homeless, very little vandalism - everywhere is clean and safe. There is no obvious

poverty and no obvious wealth and they are justly proud of their social system. There are five political parties - which include the Communist Party, Christian Democrats and the Farmers Party, all of which have their own newspaper. Most of the population is actively involved in local politics - the turn out at election time is 90% plus. It is impressive but I have to admit it's too drab and uniform for me. As women we were frequently told how women in the GDR had equal opportunities in work (50% of the students in the local civil engineering tech were women). Maternity leave and benefits and provision of Kindergartens were excellent. However, all the officials, bar one, who entertained us were men, with the occasional wife in tow. A woman who doesn't want to fit into the mould of wife and mother has little chance of getting a flat and has many social problems. But maybe within a generation the social attitudes will catch up with legislation.

The Russian presence around Weimar is quite extensive but no one seemed at all concerned to hide it. Certainly, the official line is that they are there, at the request of the GDR, as their friends. There is a large camp on the outskirts of Weimar which we passed on our way to Buchenwald. Our interpreter (a self-confessed Christian and member of no political party) who was fast becoming a friend, told us that they were very carefully controlled and were allowed very few visits into the town. We had by now reached the stage where we could ask 'Do you really mean there aren't any SS 20's in E. Germany?'. The reply was a totally serious, 'No I'm sure there aren't', then, with a twinkle 'we rely on British and U.S. intelligence to let us know what we've got - and if they say we haven't - we haven't'. Coming back to Weimar by a different route he gaily pointed out a heavily guarded helicopter base - 'there they are again'. Buchenwald was a strange experience. They spared us the camp and just showed us the memorial.

That was enough. The sense of shame and guilt - though they do have the fascists to blame in E. Germany - is still very real to them. Every school child has to visit one of the concentration camps so that they know what happened in their country - and to underline what we heard so often, their determination that no war would ever again commence on German soil.

The visit to Dresden was too brief (and I was suffering from a stomach upset due no doubt to the excess of food we were constantly served). Two main impressions: one, the obvious area of the fire storm which consumed the centre of Dresden leaving beautiful old buildings around a core of glass, concrete and neon. The other was the official talk given by the Deputy Mayor about the rebuilding of Dresden. He was a boy when the city was bombed and became very emotional when he talked about it - very bitter about the reasons behind the destruction of what must have been an extremely beautiful and historic city. It was bombed while peace negotiations were taking place, four days before the end of the war (shades of Hiroshima and Nagasaki!). Churchill ordered the bombing because the Soviet forces were approaching the border and it was obvious that E. Germany would come under their jurisdiction when Europe was carved up post war (that is fact not propaganda - verifiable by Western sources). I only saw the glass and concrete of Dresden but I saw the beautiful old city of Meissen and if Dresden was like that before it was bombed, I'm not surprised that the Deputy Mayor was choked.

Most of our discussions in Weimar and Dresden were in formal settings - they are great ones for making speeches on all possible occasions - but we were allowed ample opportunity to express our opinions. There is such serious concern about the arms race, horror of the neutron bomb and a very real desire for disarmament. The foyer of the Weimar theatre was given over to an exhibition of about 100 posters for the UN competition leading up to the special session on disarmament next June. It was a superb and imaginative collection of posters from all over the GDR - an art form they hold in high esteem. The television that I happened to see on odd occasions had major items on disarmament issues. I don't doubt their very real concern. The GDR government is working for disarmament talks - but the propaganda is one-sided. They see the US as the major villain - particularly since the re-introduction of the neutron bomb and are not prepared to criticise the Soviet Union openly. **RITA THOMPSON**

EXETER CND ON TV

Fame and glory at last for our illustrious general secretary! Rita Thompson was interviewed last Tuesday by Westward T.V., who also filmed activity in the CND shop. This film is to be incorporated into a programme on Civil Defence to be broadcast on Thursday, Nov. 26th, at 10.30 p.m. Don't miss it!

WOMEN !

WOMEN FOR WORLD DIS- ARMAMENT

Mrs. Kathleen Tacchi-Morris as the Founder President of Women for World Disarmament International is very keen that there should be an active group in the West of England. The International organization, founded November 1950, is affiliated to the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Special NGO Committee on Disarmament (Geneva) and the National Peace Council (UK). It is an organization presenting the most important objective of the UN, general and complete disarmament, through the machinery of the UN, with adequate safeguards which are within its jurisdiction.

WWD enables women to express their concern at the long delay in implementing world disarmament, and to assist in alerting the public mind to its urgent need and its possibility.

Organized as a region, in addition to having films and lecturers supplied by the UN, we can work to raise the consciousness and increase the involvement of women for disarmament. There must be thousands of women who are emotionally committed to disarmament, but who have not yet found any channel through which to direct their considerable energies. Working with other women offers opportunities for support and confidence which they may not otherwise find.

Could you bring the attention of women in your area to the WWD Organization and tell anyone who is interested to come to the upstairs room of the Black Horse, Longbrook Street, on Monday 23rd November at 8p.m. If you cannot attend on that evening contact:

Olwen Goodall or Fran Jenkin
Exeter 214077 Exeter 30556

TREASURER'S REPORT

We now have £1,000 in our accounts after all the October events. A small loss was made on coaches on the 24th, as we carried almost 100% of non-waged people as against a forecast of a 2/3 to 1/3 split - it seems all the waged people went by train. The Ceiledh also failed to break even, due to a lack of people turning up to dance and eat the night away. A small profit was made on the Poison Girls concert, income from the leaflet drop has been about £350 so far, and the East-West Accord meeting raised £131 in donations and £49 in membership. £250 worth of literature has also been sold at the various events. To all 1981 members - start saving your pennies now, as you'll soon be asked for your 1982 subscriptions. Thanks to all those who sold things during October.

The Shop

Thanks for the response to my last entry - has anybody got a portable gas cylinder type heater they could lend the Shop, as this is the only type of fire suitable? I'm in the process of looking for alternative premises for our shop business - likely premises in Queen Street are unfortunately just about to be knocked down - does anybody know of any others?

Sunday Telegraph

This paper stated that we had free coaches and trains provided for the London demo, amongst a number of other smears and lies. I wrote protesting about this, and I've had a letter from the Editor apologizing that 'certain inaccuracies were unfortunately included' in their report and he was very sorry that mistakes had been made.

Bad Homburg

Whilst on holiday in Germany in September, I had the pleasure of spending a day with our twin peace group in Bad Homburg, being shown the sights and discussing progress/tactics. If anybody is going to South-West or central Germany at any time, they'd be delighted to see you. Further details from me.

Sanity

Don't forget national CND'S own magazine, featuring Exeter CND this month on page three. Only 40p, and only on sale at our shop!

EXETER CND CONTACT LIST

Officers

General Secretary Rita Thompson
19, Thornton
Hill, Exeter
(32163).

Treasurer Graham Baker
33, Birchy Bar-
-ton Hill, Ex-
-eter (59935)

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Minutes Secretary Richard Sea-
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-andra Terr.
Exeter (33415)

Auditor Tony Cole,
Force House,
Tiverton Rd.
Rewe, Nr. Ex-
-eter (Stoke
Cannon 427)

Working Group Convenors

Working Group A John Shepherd
12, Thornton
Hill, Exeter
(74141)

Working Group B (more a regist-
-er of those
with appropri-
-ate skills -
in a state of
flux at present!

Working Group C Celia Shepherd
12, Thornton
Hill, Exeter
(74141)

Working Group D Walter Cairns,
Cotley, Streat-
-ham Rise, Exet-
-er University
(74622)

Area Group Co-ordinators

West of River Ralph Mackridge,
27, Shaftesbury
Rd. St. Thomas,
(214325)

Topsham/
Countess Wear Andrew David
32, Monmouth St.
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Heavitree/
Polsloe Olwen Goodall
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Rd., Exeter
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Rougemont Theo Goodall
13, Eldertree
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Crediton (03632
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Tiverton Bridget Rowlands
4 Water Lane, Tiv-
-erton (93 255238)

NE Villages Peter Pughe
4 Beacon Rd.
Bradninch (98 725)

SW " Ken Cole, Mill
Bungalow, Dur-chid-
-eock (833152)

SE " Vacancy! Anyone in-
-terested?

Exeter Univ. Jonty Fox, 5, Bea-
-con Rd. Bradninch
Nuclear Dis-
-armament Group or c/o Psychology
Dept. Washington
Singer Laboratory).