

COLD WAR - Banning the Bomb

Source 1



Cartoon published in Daily Mail, 28 February 1961

COLD WAR - Banning the Bomb

Source 2



THE DIRECT ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR

344 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD, LONDON, N.4.

STAMFORD HILL 7062

27/10/59

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:—Pat Acrowmuth, Hugh Brock, April Carter, Frances Edwards, Inez Randall, Michael Randle, The Rev. Michael Scott, Allen Skinner, Will Warren.

W. AFRICAN REP. FOR SAHARA PROJECT:—Bill Sutherland.

SPONSORS:—Horace Alexander, Lindsay Anderson, John Berger, Alex Comfuri, Constance Cummings, Arthur Goss, Amnon Henmazy (U.S.), Homer Jack (U.S.), Dr. Winifred de Kok, Doris Lessing, Benn Levy, Wolf Markowitz, Ethel Murrin, George Mully, A. J. Muste (U.S.), Jayapalash Narayan (India), Dr. Niemöller (Germany), Lord Boyd Orr, John Osborne, Dr. Linus Pauling (U.S.), Herbert Read, Archbishop Roberts, Earl Russell, Bayard Rustin (U.S.), Sydney Silverman M.P., Dr. Donald Soper, Philip Toynbee.

**NEW YEAR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR
JOIN THE NON-VIOLENT PROTEST AGAINST ALL NUCLEAR
ARMAMENTS AT HARRINGTON ROCKET BASE (NORTHANTS.)
ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 1960**

PLEASE RAISE THIS WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION

Nuclear disarmament was not an Election issue. People were more concerned about their purses than about the possibility of a Third World War. And so it is imperative that we renew our efforts to bring home to the general public and the Government the peril in which we live today, and our determination that weapons of mass annihilation be no longer made or maintained in our name.

THE THOR ROCKET BASES—are probably the most potent symbol of nuclear war preparations. A number of these sites have now been completed in E. Anglia, the Midlands, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. But built or not, we must not simply allow the public to accept the bases. We must continue to campaign vigorously against them and all they stand for.

AND SO WE ARE ASKING YOU TO JOIN IN A RADICAL PROTEST

AT HARRINGTON (NEAR BOTHWELL) ON JANUARY 2nd.
HARRINGTON ROCKET BASE—is one of a group of five Thor sites in the E. Midlands. The other bases in the group are at N. Luffenham (Rutland), Polebrook (near Peterborough), Great Dalby (near Melton Mowbray), and Fellingham (Near Shefford, Lincs).

WHY DEMONSTRATE AT HARRINGTON?—throughout the summer the Committee conducted an active campaign in the area, concentrating on Harrington. It therefore seems the most suitable site for a non-violent protest. It is well located for a national demonstration, being right in the centre of England.

Please tear off and return to the Direct Action Committee

I should like to take part in the radical protest at Harrington.....

I could remain at the site if necessary for a week.....

I could not stay a full week, but could for days and nights

I enclose..... towards the expenses of this project.

Name..... Address.....

Phone (home)..... (office).....

P.T.D.

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ACTION ALREADY TAKEN IN THE AREA

For about two months during the past summer the Direct Action Committee, in conjunction with members of six local Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament groups, and supporters from all over the country, carried out an intensive campaign against the E. Midlands rocket sites.

The aim of the campaign was to arouse people in the region to oppose the missile sites, and to persuade workers on them to quit.

It was a varied campaign, which included leafleting and canvassing in the towns and villages, holding open-air meetings and poster-parades, and from time to time picketing the bases themselves.

In addition to asking the workers on the sites to leave their jobs, we called on local contractors with the same request, and collected signatures for a petition to the main contractors, Monk & Co., of Warrington. The petition was presented to the General Manager by members of the Macclesfield Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament group.

We found out all we could about alternative work for builders in the area, and so were able to persuade one or two men who came to apply for jobs at Harrington to go off and look for other work. When canvassing, we asked sympathetic people to pledge sums of money to help any worker who decided to quit his job on conscientious grounds. We were able to write to 17 local people for money when eventually Herbert Ingall and Tom Godfrey threw up their jobs at the Polebrook site.

We made all the contacts we could with local Trade Unions—with the result that we were able to discuss the campaign with twenty Trade Union branches and Trades Councils, 50% of which passed resolutions in support of what we were doing. A number of Trade Unions were officially represented at the demonstration on the airfield at Polebrook rocket base, which was the culmination of the campaign.

Other demonstrations held during the summer were the week-long round-the-clock picket at Harrington, and a non-violent attempt, by a small mostly local team, to "occupy" the Great Dalby site by camping on it at a very early stage in its construction.

A core of sympathisers was located in the course of canvassing Corby New Town. They can form the basis of a Nuclear Disarmament Group there.

THE SORT OF DEMONSTRATION WE HAVE IN MIND

If you come to Harrington on January 2nd, we shall be asking you to run the risk of serious personal hardship. For we believe the situation we are in today calls for courage, resolution and a readiness on the part of many ordinary people to make personal sacrifices.

So we shall be asking you to demonstrate your opposition to all nuclear war preparations **BY SITTING DOWN IN THE ENTRANCE TO THIS ROCKET SITE** and remaining there when the traffic tries to pass through the gates.

This action will mean running the risk of injury, or of arrest for refusing to move and so "obstructing the police in the course of their duty." Volunteers would also be liable to charges under the Conspiracy or the Official Secrets Acts. As a result you might have to serve a term of imprisonment. If anyone asked you to get up and move out of the way you would have to refuse. If anyone tried to remove you bodily, or attacked you, you would offer **NO RESISTANCE WHATEVER**.

IT IS EXTREMELY LIKELY that the authorities will make every effort to avoid arresting anyone, in order to avoid publicity (as is suggested by the Police attitude during our summer campaigns). They may very well be prepared to remove demonstrators bodily from the site time and again, perhaps for days on end, rather than make any arrests.

AND IT IS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT that a large number of people volunteer for the protest demonstration—more than went to Swaffham last year. And there must be a large core of people prepared to remain at the site solidly for a week, so that the demonstration does not dwindle and peter out.

**A FURTHER CIRCULAR CONTAINING MORE DETAILED
INFORMATION WILL BE SENT OUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE**

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Source 3

S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy)

Special Report }

SUBJECT
Direct Action
Committee
Against
Nuclear War.

Reference to Papers
400/59/64.

Page No. 9

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH,

21st day of December, 1959.

This report, concerning the activities of the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War, is submitted for the information of the Director of Public Prosecutions; the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire County Constabulary; and the Home Office.

A report from the Metropolitan Police Special Branch on a meeting of the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War, December 1959

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The first session was held on Saturday between 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m., and proceedings continued on Sunday at 10 a.m. and ended at 2 p.m. About sixty people attended the first session and forty five the second session. The proceedings were orderly and dignified.

M.P.-59-64854/12M_w112 (2)

2.

The chair was taken on both days by Mrs. Damaris PARKER-RHODES, East-Anglia Regional Delegate to the Co-ordinating Committee of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. With her on the platform for the first session were:-

Ian Edward DIXON

Anthony Frederick ("Tony") WEAVER

She was supported on the platform on Sunday by:-

Ian Edward DIXON

Brigid YOUNGDAY

John DENNITHORNE

Terence CHIVERS

A report from the Metropolitan Police Special Branch on a meeting of the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War, December 1959

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She stressed the necessity of non-violence, and the fact that the Committee were being frank with the authorities.

3.

In conclusion, Mrs. PARKER-RHODES pleaded for formality of attire, so as not to give the general public the impression that the demonstrators were a "lot of cranks", but were, indeed, a cross section of the British public making a genuine protest against genocide.

A report from the Metropolitan Police Special Branch on a meeting of the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War, December 1959

COLD WAR - The Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

Source 4

On the 4th February, 1962 at 1130 GMT.

This is the "V.O.N.D." broadcasting on Channel I Sound only.

Here we are continuing our interviews with the following members of the Committee of 100:-

(names unintelligible)

There now follows a discussion between two members to give their impressions when interviewing people about nuclear disarmament. They also discussed the affect of the Press etc. upon people thinking.

1st man. Well, there is a thing built up by the Press in anti "C.N.D." cartoons

2nd man. Well, I think that if they can see and talk about the bomb do you feel this Recently he had read about a lot of bus conductors who left their buses to join a queue for smallpox vaccinations. Well, now this fall-out is obviously doing the same amount of damage in the long run. The possibility of catching smallpox is just as much a danger to human beings if you have a vivid sense of imagination.

1st man. Well, I quite agree with that. I think for instance the scare about the milk a month ago probably made more people think about this than 6,000 speeches or 20,000 articles.

2nd man. practical in the idea that the milk bottle left every morning on the doorstep might affect one's children. I think the great difficulty is to make people think in concrete terms about the bomb and the outcome.

1st man. No, you have got to find out The importance of the sitdown in Trafalgar Square is that it is obviously concrete. You think that the people themselves who you are talking to are solidly against such demonstrations. You think what is going on in their minds, they are people who have children too and yet it seems to affect them so little. They are so wrapped up in themselves.

Woman. You have been listening to the "V.O.N.D." We will be on the air next and every Sunday at 11.30 in the morning. In view of the impending trial under the Official Secrets Act of several members of the Committee of 100, the "V.O.N.D." will be making special broadcasts next and every Saturday and Sunday evening after closedown.

A report by the British Joint Intelligence Committee on Soviet missiles in Cuba, October 26th 1962

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Source 5

CONFIDENTIAL

**Unilateralist
Demonstration**

Aldermaston
March

(Previous
Reference:
CC (68) 26th
Conclusions,
Minute 5)

3. *The Prime Minister* said that, in view of the risk of disorder arising as a result of attempts by persons taking part in the march from Aldermaston to London to break into the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE) and the Royal Ordnance Factory, Burghfield, it was important that it should be made clear where responsibility for controlling any disorder lay. He had accordingly asked the Home Secretary, as the Minister responsible for the maintenance of public order, to ensure, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Defence and the Minister of Technology, that a clear command structure was established, that adequate numbers of service and departmental police were available at the two establishments and, if necessary, that helicopters were provided to move police reinforcements to the scene of any disorders.

SECRET

Extracts from a discussion of the British Cabinet about a CND march in 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

The Home Secretary said that the march was expected to attract to this country foreign students, including a number of German students of a type which had introduced new and more violent tactics on the occasion of the demonstration in Grosvenor Square on 17th March. The police were anxious that foreign students should be refused entry, but only one of those expected had been charged as a result of the disorders in Grosvenor Square and it was not clear on what grounds the exclusion of others could be justified.

In discussion it was pointed out that this type of demonstration was increasingly being organised on an international scale by anarchist and Communist elements, who, unlike the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, were interested in provoking violence. The Government would be open to criticism if so soon after the Grosvenor Square demonstration they permitted foreign students to come in and violence of a similar kind occurred. On the other hand, it was wrong to exclude all foreign students, irrespective of any known record of previous violence. Moreover, it was important

Extracts from a discussion of the British Cabinet about a CND march in 1968