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Letter, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to All CND Groups and Affiliated Organisations

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Summary:

This letter, sent out shortly after the arrival of the first Cruise missiles at RAF Greenham Common, sets out the anti-Cruise activities being organised by the CND in the coming weeks.

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Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

11 Goodwin Street · London N4 · 3HQ

Tel: 01 - 263 0977 (4 Lines)

To all CND Groups and affiliated organisations

14th November 1983

Dear Friends,

Our response to Cruise deployment: time for action

So they're here. Despite the massive wave of protest throughout Europe and America the first cruise missiles have arrived at Greenham Common, though they will not be fully operational until the end of December.

Our campaigning over the next few weeks must be relentless. We are all tired, but now - if ever - you can persuade people to drop everything and help. Get all your members involved, and plan yourself a rest at Christmas.

PUBLICITY/EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

The latest opinion poll carried out by MORI for CND shows that only 25% of the electorate want cruise deployed on the present schedule, while 50% don't want it at all and a further 9% want deployment postponed for a year to enable further negotiations. (The other 16% are 'don't knows'.) The posters, leaflets, stickers and billboard posters are all ready and have started to be distributed throughout the country. Make use of them as widely as possible.

CRUISE MISSILE TOUR

We now have the full-size cruise missile launcher recently used for a TV programme, and it is setting off on a nationwide tour on November 21st. It is being organised through the CND regions, so contact your regional secretary to find out when it will be in your area.

This is the beginning of a campaign to make cruise a local issue throughout the country - for more ideas on local cruise campaigning see Page 9 of the November issue of Campaign!

WOMEN RECLAIM THE COMMON AT GREENHAM ON SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

After much discussion it has now been agreed that CND should not itself organise a national demonstration but should concentrate on giving as much support as possible to the women's action called by the Greenham women on December 11th. We will all want to do everything we can to make this action a massive success. Help with publicity, transport, food, legal support, etc - let's make it possible for as many women to be there as want to. (Please find an attached sheet explaining the difficult decisions that have faced us, and a 'pre-leaflet' leaflet about the action.)

REFUSE CRUISE DAY - MONDAY 12th DECEMBER

With the demonstrations that many groups are planning for December 10th, as well as the Greenham action, we will have created an atmosphere in which millions of ordinary people will be ready to listen to our arguments. So find the strength to organise a national day of coordinated protest to complete the whole 'refuse cruise' weekend. Involve every member and supporter in publicly opposing cruise, and we can carry the message to a broader range of people than ever before. (See the attached sheet for ideas.)

cont.....

REGIONAL NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTIONS IN DECEMBER

You will already have received information on regional actions in your November issue of Campaign. Most of these have now produced publicity materials, so use the contacts given to find out more about how to support them.

THERE ARE A TREMENDOUS NUMBER OF IDEAS AND ACTIONS HERE. IF WE CAN SUMMON UP THE ENERGY WE CAN LAY THE BASIS FOR A CONTINUING SURGE OF OPINION INTO 1984 THAT WILL NOT ONLY FORCE THE U.S. TO REMOVE CRUISE, BUT ALSO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE COMPLETE DENUCLEARISATION OF BRITAIN.

GOOD LUCK.





REFUSE CRUISE DAY



LOCAL ACTIONS ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER

On Monday 12th December we can follow up the actions at Greenham by taking our opposition to Cruise into our own towns and villages, into our places of work, schools, hospitals, clubs and playgroups, and onto the streets where we live. Our aim is to involve and affect people we know, work with and live with. In this way we can have a massive direct public effect, through our own actions in our own words. We can not rely on the media to put the right messages.

What your group does on December 12th to 'refuse cruise' depends on your own circumstances and environment; here are a few basic suggestions.



1 Action at work, school, clubs, playgroups etc

- call lunchtime meetings inside you place of work if possible, or at the gates.
- hang 'refuse cruise' banners from your office, hospital, factory; anywhere there is someone who wants to 'refuse cruise'.
- people who are very supportive can stop work for a time. 5 minutes from 2pm.
- get churches to toll their bells for 5 minutes from 2pm too.



Time is short, to make this work you'll need a group to be responsible for contacting all sympathetic organisations and individuals. Make sure that all members of your group spread the message through their personal contacts, and get them to do so in turn.

A checklist of people to contact should include:

Trade unions: individual TU members, shop stewards, branch/regional offices, trades councils.

Political parties: branch secretaries, councillors, local activists, MP's, agents.

Schools/colleges: Teachers for Peace, Youth CND, Schools Against the Bomb, teachers, schoolchildren, students, student unions, NUS officers.

Churches: ministers, local church organisation. Don't forget there are many different religions practised in Britain, Jews, Hindus, Moslems, Christians.

Health service: Medical Campaign, doctors, nurses, other health workers, clinics.

Charities and other peace/justice organisations: UNA, NCCL, FoE, etc etc.



2 Action in your own street

Let your neighbours and people in your street know what's happening, invite them to help make a street 'refuse cruise' banner and hang it across the road. Don't be afraid to knock on their doors and invite them round for a discussion in the evening. (Hamilton Road in Reading has declared itself a nuclear-free street!)

3 Action in shopping centres

Our actions in public places should be educational and serious. Possibilities include:

- lunchtime non denominational services, peace carols etc
- vigils, fasts, (with candles in the early evening)
- 'read-ins' of works concerned with peace; get local celebrities to join in.



4 Armbands

Whatever else people are (or aren't) doing, everyone can make and wear their own white armband, saying 'I refuse cruise' for the day. They can be worn at work, on the street, anywhere, as a public display of personal protest. (Lapel stickers are available from Goodwin Street, see November Campaign)



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN IF EVERYONE GETS INVOLVED. AS THE PRESSURE MOUNTS SO WE MUST BECOME MORE DETERMINED IN OUR EFFORTS. CRUISE MAY COME - IF IT DOES WE MUST MAKE SURE IT IS 'RETURNED TO SENDER' AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.



REFUSE CRUISE...REFUSE CRUISE...REFUSE CRUISE...REFUSE CRUISE...REFUSE CRUISE

WOMEN ARE COMING TO RECLAIM

GREENHAM COMMON

ON SUNDAY 11TH. DECEMBER.

*
LEAFLETS +
POSTERS WILL
BE AVAILABLE
SOON - MEANWHILE
PLEASE HELP
SPREAD THE NEWS

TO
SURROUND
THE BASE

TO
REFUSE
CRUISE

TO
MAKE A SOUND
AROUND GREENHAM

IF YOU CAME AND EMBRACED THE BASE ON 12TH. DEC. LAST YEAR, YOU WILL REMEMBER OUR FEELINGS OF STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS. THE NETWORKS CREATED THAT DAY HAVE NOT BROKEN. THEY HAVE SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD, UNITING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN IN OUR OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR MADNESS. IN SPITE OF ALL SORTS OF GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA ATTACK, THERE IS STILL A THRIVING WOMENS' PEACE CAMP AT U.S.A.F. GREENHAM COMMON; AND THERE ARE NOW WOMEN ALL OVER BRITAIN ACTIVELY LIVING OUR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE THREAT OF DEATH IMPOSED ON US. JOIN US ON DEC. 11th AROUND THE BASE, AND EVERY HOUR, ON THE HOUR WE WILL MAKE A SOUND WITH VOICES AND INSTRUMENTS. 1-5 P.M. SILENT, CANDLELIT VIGIL - 4.02 - 5 P.M. REQUESTS FOR MORE INFO:

WOMENS' PEACE CAMP,
U.S.A.F. GREENHAM COMMON
NEWBURY, BERKS.

CND: 01-263-0977

GREENHAM OFFICE:
01-251 3133/01-226-6255