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Special Branch,

New Scotland Yard,

Broadway,

LONDON, SW1H 0BG

[REDACTED]  
F4 Division  
Home Office  
Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

25th October 1983

Dear [REDACTED]

I attach for your information copy  
[REDACTED] report and appendix  
concerning Saturday's CND demonstration  
which you may find of interest.

Yours [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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S.B. No. (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

24th day of October 1983

SUBJECT

INTRODUCTION

1. On Saturday, 22nd October, 1983 a National Demonstration and rally was held in Central London under the auspices of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). The demonstration took the form of two marches, both starting at Victoria Embankment, SW1 but proceeding by different routes to Hyde Park where a mass rally was held, comprising speeches interspersed with entertainment. A total of about 200,000 persons took part in the day's events (see later) but no serious disorder occurred.

2. The event commenced at 10.30am with a Service by Christian CND and other religious groups at the Embankment. The longer of the two marches (Route 1) commenced at 11.50am and the shorter one (Route 2) about 20 minutes later. Although large crowds had gathered in Hyde Park by 2pm the last of the marchers did not leave the assembly point until about 3.30pm. Two persons were arrested at Victoria Embankment for minor offences and although a group of anarchists attempted to sit down in front of the shorter march when it had almost reached Hyde Park and others of the same ilk tried to disrupt the platform at the meeting (see later) their efforts were unsuccessful. However, twenty-two persons were arrested at Hyde Park and another four persons at other venues for various offences. Uniformed police were present throughout and maintained a firm presence in key areas.

BACKGROUND

3. This demonstration was for the third successive year the major anti-nuclear event on the calendar. The CND, after years in the doldrums, had been injected with a new lease of life in 1979/80 by the Government's decision to allow "Cruise" missiles to be based in the United Kingdom and to spend some 15 billion pounds on a weapons system to replace the Polaris submarines in the 1990s. Following its success in 1981 when some 110,000 persons attended a similar rally, last year produced a smaller number and the organisation appeared to be on the wane. The defeat of the Labour Party at the June General Election seemed to reinforce this view as it had as one of its policies, albeit "fudged", unilateral nuclear disarmament. Together with the disappointing showing at almost every "peace" event during the last twelve months, save those at the Greenham Common Air Base at the beginning of the period, this Branch anticipated

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an attendance at this year's event of between 50,000 and 70,000 persons. This proved to be a gross under-estimate and it is probable that the total in Hyde Park was in the order of 200,000 persons.

4. Although difficult to immediately analyse, it would appear, from a survey of the banners noted, that many small provincial towns provided much larger numbers than anticipated. Nevertheless, many of the "out of town" marchers were committed before the day and the fact that the weather was particularly fine may have had a minor bearing only on the turnout.

#### MARCHES

As previously stated there were two separate marches, both starting at Victoria Embankment, SW1, in the vicinity of Hungerford Bridge, Route 1 being the longer or main march and Route 2 the shorter.

#### Route 1

6. The assembly was very chaotic with supporters arriving from every point of the compass. The situation was not aided by the plethora of left-wing paper-sellers congregating on, and around, the steps of Hungerford Bridge. In addition to this, the arrival of about 25 members of the Hare Krishna sect caused a large crowd to gather in front of the police control van. CND stewards proved to be totally ineffective and the start of the march was delayed for some twenty minutes. At 11.50am the march finally got under way but in excess of 2,000 persons marched in front of the police control van. The assembly was nevertheless good humoured and it was noted that the arrival of one group, Tories against Cruise and Trident (TACT) was particularly well received by those already assembled.

7. This march took the following route:

Victoria Embankment (Eastbound Carriageway)  
Northumberland Avenue  
Strand  
Lancaster Place  
Waterloo Bridge  
Tenison Way  
Concert Hall Approach  
Belvedere Road  
GLC Car Park County Hall  
Westminster Bridge Road

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Westminster Bridge  
Victoria Embankment  
Horse Guards Avenue  
Whitehall (West Side)  
Parliament Street  
Great George Street  
Parliament Square (West Side)  
Broad Sanctuary  
Victoria Street (North Side)  
Bressenden Place  
Lower Grosvenor Place  
Grosvenor Place  
Hyde Park Corner  
Park Lane  
Serpentine Road  
Reformers Tree

Due to the disorganised nature of the beginning of the main march CND was unable to display the main banner "Together we can stop the bomb". However, a more than adequate substitute was found in the person of [REDACTED] MP, the former leader of the Labour Party, whose presence may have had a calming influence because, a few yards behind the head of the march some fifty 'punk' anarchists had gathered. Previous intelligence had suggested that a number of 'punks' had intended to disrupt the event by taking over the front of one of the marches. In the event this did not happen on this march. The distance covered had a 'stringing out effect' for a considerable period and the end of the march did not reach Hyde Park until 5.15 pm.

8. It was evident that although a number of 'punk anarchists' and other extremists were seen, the overwhelming majority of supporters were genuine pacifists. No incidents of note took place during the five and a half hours it took the marchers to reach their destination. There were no attempts at Non-violent Direct Action (NVDA) in the vicinity of Whitehall or elsewhere. A wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by Bishop Trevor HUDDLESTON but this pre-planned item caused no public order problems.

#### Route 2

9. Assembly for this march was at the same venue as the Route 1 march and was of the same chaotic nature. However, the start of this march was more organised and commenced rather earlier than scheduled at 12.10 pm, led by a large black banner emblazoned with the CND logo and title.

The Route 2 march reached Hyde Park via the following:

Victoria Embankment (Westbound Carriageway)  
Northumberland Avenue

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Whitehall Place  
Whitehall Court  
Horse Guards Avenue  
Whitehall  
Charing Cross  
Cockspur Street  
Pall Mall  
St James's Street  
Piccadilly  
Duke of Wellington Place  
Hyde Park Corner  
Park Lane (Southbound Carriageway)  
Achilles Way  
Park Lane (Northbound Carriageway)  
Broad Walk  
Reformers Tree

This demonstration covered considerably less distance than the main march and consequently was more tightly packed and cohesive.

10. A number of 'punk' anarchists had gathered about fifty yards behind the head of this march at the assembly point and almost immediately after the march moved off about fifty of them moved through the march to gain a position close to the front. These persons were observed throughout the journey to Hyde Park. The march passed the Ministry of Defence building without incident but, as it passed the offices of the Coalition for Peace through Security (CPS) in Whitehall, members of that group began a series of anti-CND propaganda stunts commencing with an air raid siren followed by an address over the loud speaker by the son of the American Senator recently killed in the Korean airline disaster. Additionally, CPS played very loud patriotic music, flew the familiar air balloon bearing the logo "CND = Communists, Neutralists, Defeatists", and ran a banner across to the Whitehall Theatre stating "Losers of the 1983 Nuclear Debate - EXIT". These stunts were met by derisive catcalls from the CND marchers below but nothing more serious ensued.

11. As this march neared the end of Pall Mall it stopped for no apparent reason outside an empty office block at number 37. There appeared to be an attempt at a 'sit down' by some of the 'punk' anarchists near the front of the march yet none of the persons in the front hundred yards were seen to sit down. At this point one young 'punk' was taken to the side of the march by a uniformed officer and was immediately surrounded by a further twelve 'punk' types. However, this minor incident did not develop further and was calmed by the arrival of another police officer and two or three CND stewards.

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The whole affair lasted no more than two minutes and the march continued into Piccadilly. In this area a number of 'punks' once again attempted to stop the front of the march but without success. By this time the 'punk' element had grown to about 200 persons and there was a great deal of obscene barracking directed towards CND stewards. It is perhaps fortunate that the ineffectiveness of these stewards was less of a problem than might have been. They did not retaliate to the verbal abuse and, once the 'punks' realised that they were unable to draw a reaction, they settled down and once more joined the march. This behaviour continued to some extent throughout the remainder of the journey but with less vehemence and caused no further incidents.

12. It was obvious that there was no love lost between ordinary pacifists and the 'punk' element. As on the Route 1 march, pacifists were in the overwhelming majority and had the effect of stifling serious disorder by sheer numbers. This second march reached Hyde Park at exactly 1 pm when the 'punk' anarchists manoeuvred themselves into a position very close to the head of the march and in good view of the attendant cameras. This group of about 200 'punks' later, at about 3.00 pm, gained a position close to the rally platform at Reformers' Tree with the rather obvious intention of trying to disrupt the speeches. This facet had previously been learned from intelligence received from a [REDACTED] and, in the event, proved to be very accurate (see below). The end of the Route 2 march finally reached Hyde Park at about 4 pm.

#### RALLY AT HYDE PARK

13. On arrival at Hyde Park the demonstrators either went immediately to the platform for the speeches, listened to impromptu music, took part in various "street theatre" and other "cultural" activities, or just lay around on the grass. By about 2 pm a very large crowd had gathered in the Park and the rally proper was under way.

14. The speeches (fully reported below) had been in progress for some time when, at about 3 pm, the group of 200 'punk' anarchists referred to in paragraph 12 above were seen to move "en masse" towards the edge of the dais, aiming for the point closest to the speakers. Their language and behaviour was such that other members of the crowd moved away allowing the 'punks', after a little time, to commandeer the area immediately in front of the speakers but behind barriers placed to protect the platform. For about twenty minutes the group heckled, swore and shouted at the various speakers and, occasionally, threw objects including fruit and other small missiles.

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15. At about 3.25 pm, during the speech by [REDACTED], a sub-group of these 'punk' anarchists invaded the stage and one (politely) removed the microphone from [REDACTED]. This anarchist (an unidentified male) said that "Cruise" was being unloaded at that very moment in Felixstowe. He made a short speech advocating a more aggressive approach towards the disarmament issue before handing the microphone back to [REDACTED] and leaving the platform.

16. Following this incident, uniformed police moved in front of the platform and the 'punk' anarchist element increased their verbal abuse. This led to a number of arrests during the next hour or so and, finally, some 22 persons, all thought to be of the 'punk' persuasion, had been arrested. This gathering was the only serious hint of disorder during the afternoon and was tightly contained by uniformed police.

#### Speeches

17. At 1.30 pm [REDACTED] took the stage and stated that he would introduce the speakers and entertainment during the course of the afternoon. The first person introduced was [REDACTED], a black 'Dub ranta' (political poet) who rendered a series of anti-war poems.

18. At 1.40 pm [REDACTED] G, a blind female folk-singer, took the stage. She sang a series of ecological and peace songs. Her final rendition was a song she had written for 'Babies Against the Bomb' and 'Women for Life on Earth' entitled 'Shall there be Womanly Times or Shall We Die'. She informed the crowd that profits from the record would be donated to above-mentioned groups.

19. [REDACTED] then took the microphone and congratulated one marcher in particular. He referred to [REDACTED] who has been on a hunger-strike for 58 days. [REDACTED] informed those present that NELMES would remain on hunger-strike until there was constructive movement towards disarmament.

20. At about 2 pm [REDACTED], a representative of Schools against the Bomb, was introduced. She was clearly overcome by the occasion and, in a nervous and disjointed speech, mentioned the problems of unemployment and praised the numbers of young people who had attended. She received a sympathetic cheer.

21. At 2.15 pm [REDACTED] took the platform. He was introduced as the President of the National Peace Council and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. He said that the demonstration was the most important in the peace



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movement's history. He then said it had taken him 15 seconds to make his opening remarks and that every 15 seconds £75,000 was spent on arms. [REDACTED] said that in the same 15 seconds someone died of famine in the Third World. He said that this was the most salient point about the National Peace Council - that it existed to build bridges across the world. He informed the audience that he had spent the previous five years in Mauritius and that it was a peaceful island where no hatred existed between the various religions and races. He finished his speech by saying "I speak as Chairman of the NPC, the Anti-Apartheid Movement and, most importantly, as a Christian Minister. Whatever our different views we are here today because we are all asking the question - How can we build weapons of mass destruction and pretend man has dignity?" The audience greeted his thought provoking speech with sustained applause.

22. [REDACTED] then read out messages of support from [REDACTED] of 'War on Want' who was attending its Annual Conference in Sheffield; the 'Coalition against Nuclear War' of Halifax, Nova Scotia and the 'Rocky Flats' encampment in Colorado, USA. At 2.22 pm he introduced the chairperson of CND, [REDACTED]. She spoke briefly saying that CND was now on the 'centre stage of British life' and could not be regarded as a fringe or subversive movement. She stated that many 'strands in society' were represented including those who had changed their opinion such as [REDACTED], former US Defence Secretary who had stated that "Nuclear weapons had no military purpose". She then introduced [REDACTED] from 'Greenham Women against Cruise'. LAMB claimed that her introduction to the peace movement had been as a result of her 3½ year old daughter being frightened of nuclear weapons. She wanted to do something for her children and those in Russia and the Third World who were in a less fortunate position. She stated that something could be done and that, if "cruise" missiles arrived in this country, it would be our fault as 'a result of our taxes and silence'. She appealed for financial support for a group of Greenham women who were travelling to the USA to try to obtain a court injunction declaring the deployment of US nuclear weapons in the UK as illegal.

23. At 2.32 pm [REDACTED] introduced the following as being present:

[REDACTED] of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Dora RUSSELL.

He also mentioned [REDACTED] (Jews Organised for a Nuclear Arms Halt) and greetings from Dunoon CND, a Tokyo group 'Anti-Atom', [REDACTED] Borough Council and West Midlands TUC.

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24. Between 2.38 and 2.51 pm a comedy singing group 'The Flatlets' performed a musical interlude. There was then read a brief message of support from 'Keep NATO out of Stornaway' and then [REDACTED] introduced [REDACTED]. She began by stating that Australia (of which she was a native) had long been considered a rich country in terms of mineral wealth, this was particularly so with regard to uranium deposits. She said that Australia could be considered a prime target for a nuclear strike and that much of the uranium was mined on land held sacred by the aborigines. This was particularly wrong in view of the fact that the Federal Government and four out of seven State Governments were supposedly Labour administrations. She announced the formation of a peace camp at Pine Gap near Alice Springs and also spoke of the necessity of peace supporters persuading those who were currently uncommitted. Finally she performed a song in company with the Cut and Thrust Theatre Company.

25. At about 3.02 pm [REDACTED] spoke briefly introducing [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the Liberal Party. He stressed the need for CND to be a 'broad front' party before introducing [REDACTED] to speak.

26. At 3.06 pm [REDACTED] began by stating that future generations would ask the question 'What did you do for peace, daddy?' He said that 200 people East and West held mankind's destiny. He said "Cruise" was not needed by NATO, would not strengthen NATO's defence, would only increase Soviet paranoia, and stated that peace was 'too important to be left to politicians'.

27. At about 3.15 pm [REDACTED] began speaking. He said that an answer to accusations that CND was failing was provided by the numbers that had attended today. He mentioned that many of the European governments including the Dutch, Belgian and Danish governments were disagreeing to the deployment of "Cruise" missiles and the Greek government was seeking a postponement. Willy Brandt, former West German Chancellor, was addressing a peace meeting in Bonn. NATO was divided by the missiles which were meant to strengthen it. He said that the Government had not got the courage of the peace movement and was regarded as the soft touch of Europe. At this point [REDACTED] was interrupted by 'punk' anarchists as outlined above in paragraph 14. He was restored to the microphone after a few minutes. He congratulated the Greenham women and said that if "Cruise" did arrive the peace movement would close around the base and ensure that this was only a temporary deployment. He called for a breakdown in East/West borders, and criticised police baton charges at Comiso in Sicily.

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28. At 3.27 pm a telephone call from Ulva NIRDAHL (ph) Swedish Nobel Peace Prize winner was relayed to the crowd. In this she stated that a nuclear free country, such as Sweden, promoted peace of mind in its citizens.

29. At 3.30 pm Ron TODD, National Officer of the Transport and General Workers Union, took the stand. In his ten minute speech he quoted extensively the figures for the cost of nuclear weapons in comparison to those involved in proposed National Health Service cuts and also mentioned the cost of the proposed US satellite weapons. He finished by calling for world disarmament.

30. At 3.40 pm [REDACTED], a black singer, was introduced and he sang a song entitled 'Profitable Genocide'. Of certain significance was his final speech to the crowd. He said "Its not enough to demonstrate, its good because it shows we have solidarity, but its not enough. You've got to hit the people who are doing this, hit them, hit them. Freedom comes first, peace second. How can I be at peace when you're standing on my head?" His comments drew applause from a section of the audience.

31. [REDACTED] was followed by [REDACTED] a coloured American lady, who was introduced as an associate of Martin Luther KING. She began by referring to the previous speaker and the applause he had received. [REDACTED] said "I believe in non-violence" which drew considerable applause from the crowd. In her speech she admitted that the 'peace movement' was in a minority and that its different strands must 'strategise together'. The audience, many of whom were not sympathetic to the 'Freeze' idea, and many of whom were even less sympathetic to her constant use of 'Americanisms', greeted this very honest appraisal of the peace movement's difficulties with only polite applause.

32. [REDACTED] then returned to the platform and read out greetings from the 'Americans Against Nuclear War' group in New York State. He informed the audience that many peace activists were setting up a peace camp outside the Seneca Falls Arms Depot in New York this week end. [REDACTED] then informed supporters that the end of the march was nearly in Hyde Park. He then introduced 'the President of the United States, Ronald REAGAN'. The stage was taken by [REDACTED], an American anti-nuclear comedian, who specialises in impersonations of the President.

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33. [REDACTED] completed his "performance" at 4.15 pm, and [REDACTED] TT, the Treasurer of CND, took the platform. He made the predictable appeal for funds, claiming that 'Heseltine has the CPS and [REDACTED] and lots of money'. He went on to claim that the Government was 'conning' the public and concluded with an appeal to place money in the CND collection buckets.

34. At 4.20 pm [REDACTED] was introduced to the crowd and was greeted with a mass ovation. At this point the 'punk anarchists' near the front once again began to jeer and heckle the Labour leader. [REDACTED] began by saying that he wished all the audience could come up to the rostrum and see themselves. It was, he said, "Fantastic". He went on to say that it was "two or three Wembley Stadiums, this is the answer to the Thatchers and Heseltines. This is the movement for life". He derided the idea that the peace movement was weak and unrealistic and said it was the movement that had the strength 'to care'. The Leader of the Opposition went on to say that he found himself agreeing with a recent speech made by the Prime Minister when she had said "We are resolved to defend our way of life". He said "That's why we're in the park. That's why the Labour Party will vote against the cuts". He continued in this vein by making a speech for several minutes which many non-aligned pacifists regarded as 'party political' before returning to the issue of disarmament. He asked the rhetorical question "How do we defend our way of life? - Not with Cruise". He then went on to explain that his objections to "Cruise" were based upon the fact that it was a 'first-strike' weapon and not under British control. [REDACTED] then outlined his objections to Trident, stating that it was a 'monstrous' user of resources and was a 'hired system'.

35. He continued by attacking the Government's record on disarmament. He said that the Government insisted upon speaking from a position of strength. He said, "Talking from superiority means no meaningful reductions". [REDACTED] said "weapons must be put on the table, I say to this Government - You're indulging in rhetoric, not saving lives". The Leader of the Opposition condemned what he saw as the new belief of those who have always supported deterrence. He claimed that many of these now believe in 'first strike'. He described the horrors that could result from such a 'strike' and concluded by saying that "the only sane use for Polaris is in negotiations. We reject nuclear defence but we will retain conventional defence". He added a final rider to this by saying he would not tolerate a conventional arms race.

36. [REDACTED] received a rapturous ovation from certain sections of the audience. He was heckled and jeered continually

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by the 'punk anarchist' section of the crowd who were obviously attempting to disturb his speech. It must be said that many members of CND were very disillusioned with his efforts. Comments from certain groups referred to a "fudge" of the issue, and the question left on many pacifists' lips was "what would happen if negotiations on Polaris did not end in a manner which a future Labour Government liked?" His presence was considered by a large section of 'pure' CND support to be divisive.

37. At 4.40 pm [REDACTED] was re-introduced. He began by mentioning again [REDACTED] 6, currently on hunger-strike. He said that the state of CND was healthy despite comments made by Michael Heseltine MP. He stated that Heseltine should be interested in defence cuts and firmly stated a unilateral policy including "Cruise", Trident and Polaris. He reminded the crowd of CND's success in preventing last year's Civil Defence exercise 'HARD ROCK' and that the name of Greenham now had world-wide significance. He said that today's demonstrations were being held world-wide. The Conservative Party claimed to be the party of law and order but they demonstrated not too much order and more and more law. They should look more at the Hague and Geneva conventions which legislated International Law and behave like a party of law and order. He claimed that servicemen were now faced with a real dilemma in that, when called on to defend nuclear missiles, such action was contrary to the common law of humanity prohibited in the manual of military law, for which Germans were hanged after the Second World War. It would not be just a sin but a crime. He said that a religion not based on earth is no religion at all. He then asked those assembled whether they wanted 'Cruise', whether they wanted Trident and whether they wanted Polaris. Each question was answered with a rousing "No". He finished speaking at about 4.50 pm when he introduced [REDACTED], who 'would finish the meeting'.

38. [REDACTED] told the crowd how delighted she was with the attendance. She said that she had a "feeling of immense strength that was nurtured in non-violence" and continued the attack against the deployment of 'Cruise'. Of particular interest was her admission that a majority of people did not support unilateral disarmament. She stated that people's minds could be changed and quoted as an example George Keenan (ph). He was, she claimed, an architect of the cold war and was a former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union. [REDACTED] finished the meeting by saying "We will succeed, we will bring unilateral disarmament to Britain, a nuclear free Europe and a nuclear free world" and appealed for support for the Greenham Women on December 11th 1983. The audience sang 'We shall overcome' and [REDACTED] claimed that between 300,000 and 500,000 had attended.

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Dispersal

39. The rally concluded at 5.15 pm just after it was announced that the 'tail' of the main march had just arrived in the Park. The dispersal was peaceful and orderly and a carnival atmosphere prevailed as the demonstrators sang 'peace songs' and waited in the Park for the congestion to clear at Hyde Park Corner and Marble Arch Tube Station. There were no demonstrations by CND supporters outside the American Embassy following today's march and rally.

INVOLVEMENT OF POLITICAL AND OTHER NON-CND GROUPS

40. As previously stated, the vast majority of the 200,000 or so persons attending this event were pacifists with no overt leanings to extremist, subversive or political groups. However, as was expected, there was sizeable support from the broad left of the political spectrum.

41. The largest Trotskyist group identified was the Socialist Workers' Party (SWP). About 600-700 SWP supporters gathered around nineteen SWP Branch banners and marched together on the main march. This represented the largest turnout by the SWP on a major event for some time. Other Trotskyist groups were seen at the assembly point and at Hyde Park but were mostly concerned with paper-sales and took no really active part in the CND event and had much less influence upon it.

42. Trade Union involvement in the CND demonstration was substantial, well organised and follows the affiliation of many individual unions to the CND during recent years. There were several delegations from the larger London-based Trades Unions and Trades Councils as well as extensive National support.

43. Very few non-white faces were seen during the marches and subsequent rally. Of those coloured persons seen, most were present as supporters of political (extremist) or Trades Union groups. Hardly any CND Branch numbered a member of the ethnic minority in its ranks.

44. Although we have noted of late some cross-flow between "peace" groups and the "animal rights" campaign, few of the latter were seen on this demonstration and those who did attend were acting in their capacity as CND members.

45. The Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) was represented by some 25 different Branches. This was,

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perhaps, less than expected considering the amount of pre-publicity the Party had given to the event.

#### WOMEN AND FAMILIES FOR DEFENCE VIGIL

46. The Vigil for Peace with Freedom held under the auspices of Women and Families for Defence (WFFD) took place at Trafalgar Square from 2.15 pm until 7.20 pm and attracted a fluctuating audience of some 250 persons. The proceedings were conducted by Lady [REDACTED], Chairwoman of WFFD, who explained the vigil was not in opposition to the CND but to express the opinion of the silent majority that 'Freedom and Peace' could only be achieved by multilateral and not unilateral disarmament. The other fifteen speakers, who included Conservative Members of Parliament, individuals such as [REDACTED] from the Freedom Association and exiles from Eastern Bloc countries eulogised on the freedom in this country compared to the majority of the world. These speeches were interspersed with hymns and patriotic music which culminated in the lighting of candles, prayers and communal singing similar to that heard at the last night of the 'Proms'.

47. There was no opposition from CND supporters during their march (Route 2) until 5.30 pm when approximately 200 supporters of the CND returning from the rally gradually congregated and barracked the speakers, generally in a good natured manner. However, a small number of anarchists did attempt to provoke the CND supporters into taking a more militant attitude without success and by 6.45 pm the majority of the opposition had dispersed from the Square.

#### CONCLUSIONS

48. It will be seen that the attendance in Hyde Park was estimated at some 200,000 and although this figure will be inflated by the organisers there is no doubt it can be seen as a surprising success for CND. After several events which failed to attract the numbers expected this national demonstration has shown that considerable support still exists for the organisation, particularly among the ranks of 'ordinary people' who do not march for any other cause. It will be interesting to see whether support for future, smaller scale, actions attract increased numbers, or whether it is only the annual event which has this extra 'drawing power'.

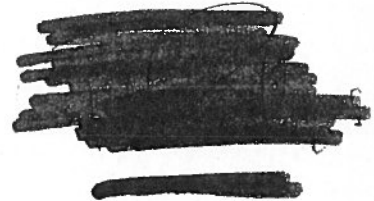
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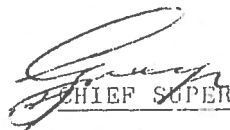
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49. It would seem that many very small branches made an extra effort to be present, and this, allied to the very large numbers from Christian (and other religious) groups, may account for the increased support obtained this year. From the banners carried, the speeches, (and the opinion poll carried in that days 'Guardian' newspaper), it is evident that the majority were demonstrating against the advent of 'cruise' missiles and the expense of the Trident system rather than for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

50. As mentioned previously there was a relatively low turn-out of extremists and although vociferous they had little or no effect on the day's proceedings. This must be a blow to those groups which continue in their attempts to use this large organisation in the wider context of left-wing politics rather than the narrow confines of the 'peace movement'.



Chief Inspector

  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

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