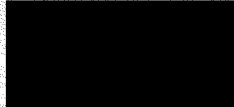




METROPOLITAN POLICE



Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

17th day of March 19 83

SUBJECT

1. The following information has been received from a secret and reliable source:-

2. "Since 1981 8 main peace camps have been set up in England and Scotland. These are:-

- (i) Faslane, Lanarkshire
- (ii) Bovey Hill, High Wycombe, Bucks
- (iii) Upper Heyford, Oxford
- (iv) Lakenheath, Suffolk
- (v) Molesworth, Cambridgeshire
- (vi) Capenhurst, Cheshire
- (vii) Burtonwood, Cheshire
- (viii) Greenham Common, Berkshire

Reference to Papers

3/6/83/2 Pt. 1

3. The "Peace Camp" phenomenon originated in October 1981 when a feminist group, Women for Life on Earth (WLE), marched from Cardiff to London to join the National Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) organised demonstration - "Together We Can Stop the Bomb". On route the women passed Greenham Common Air Base where a small demonstration, involving several women who had chained themselves to the perimeter fence, was taking place. Following this demonstration, amid growing frustrations within "Peace" circles at the impending arrival of Cruise missiles, it was decided, on a collective basis, that women should remain at Greenham Common and form a "Peace Camp".

TOP SECRET

P.A.M.

4. News of the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp was carried triumphantly to the National demonstration and the concept of women "manning the barricades" with men in a supportive role, was received enthusiastically by the majority of those present. In the ensuing months Peace Groups throughout the country gave support to the Greenham Common Peace Camp and the participants themselves toured the country speaking to other Peace Groups, exhorting them to set up their own Peace Camps.

FG/1

BOX 500

5. During this period the Greenham Common camp gradually developed and a considerable number of women from all over the country stayed at the camp for varying lengths of time. In order to combat the ever-present threat of eviction at

contd....



[REDACTED]

the camp so-called "telephone-trees" (method of dissemination of information concerning activities by telephone) were organised and "affinity" groups set up to provide an effective call-out system. In addition women with experience of living at the camp, returned to their own homes and set up local support groups which were linked to the Greenham Common network through the "telephone-trees" system.

6. With a national contact network firmly established, the women at Greenham Common felt confident enough to call a 24-hour blockade of the base on 22nd March 1982, the day following a Peace Festival outside the camp. The blockade was supported by several hundred women and served to place Greenham Common at the forefront of the wider peace campaigns. Despite grave reservations by the National Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) office about the "anarchic" nature of the peace camp, the overwhelming support from "grass roots activists" carried the day. Throughout 1982 other peace camps were set-up at military installations throughout the United Kingdom with varying degrees of success. By the end of the year the peace camp lobby was strong enough to carry an unequivocal resolution at the CND National Conference calling for its unreserved support for the peace camps. At the same conference several past and present members of Greenham Common Peace Camp were elected to the CND National Council.

7. The massive support for the peace camps was demonstrated again on the 12th and 13th December 1982 when women first "embraced" and subsequently "blockaded" Greenham Common base. The level of support for this event amazed even some of the long standing members of the camp.

8. 1983 has already seen various organised events up and down the country at the peace camps and the published list of forthcoming events (attached at appendix A) represents only a sample of the many "actions" planned at a local level throughout the country.

9. Despite certain reservations about the ultra-feminist position at the Greenham Common Camp, where men now find that they are excluded from even providing support groups, their experience and resolution have been emulated at all the other peace camps. It is from this stance at Greenham Common that the politics of Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA) has been developed.

10. The principles of NVDA originated mainly from the passive resistance methods advocated by Mahatma GANDHI, in India, and similarly used to good effect during the Civil Rights and Anti-Vietnam campaigns in the United States of America. Lessons have also been learned from

the CND "first-wave" campaign during the sixties when serious acts of civil disobedience resulted in the organisers receiving long prison sentences and the campaign subsequently declining.

11. NVDA is particularly attractive to peace activists because it provides a framework for action without a particular political obedience. The principles involved are simply an initial acceptance that the State is responsible for siting and defending nuclear bases and that it is too powerful to be influenced by violent means. Accordingly it is necessary to confront the State with a policy of non-violent civil disobedience in order to expose and exploit the retaliation of "state violence". It is assumed that such a policy will cause a groundswell of public sympathy for the campaign which will eventually lead to the government of the day bowing to public pressure.

12. By adhering to NVDA principles peace activists have gradually formed themselves into close-knit units where all decisions are taken collectively and where mutual trust has developed to a high degree. When these groups are linked through the large number of "telephonetrees" that have been set up around the various peace camps the potential for large-scale disruption becomes obvious.

13. As a good example of this type of NVDA organisation it is interesting to note how the most recent and well orchestrated action was planned at Greenham Common when the base was "embraced" and blockaded. The idea would have been put forward originally by one of the peace campers and discussed for several weeks by the women who happened to be present. Once it was decided, on a collective basis, that the idea was sound, the group members would have organized the various tasks, i.e. press and publicity, legal advice, transport, observers, and catering. The press and publicity resources of National CND were also utilised, and all contacts were sent a letter outlining the action which they were asked to pass on to ten other contacts. (A copy of the letter is at Appendix C). "Telephone-Trees" were set in motion and women in organised "affinity" groups throughout the country set about allocating the same tasks as those of the initiating group. Other women who wished to participate were asked to report to the peace camp where they would be allocated tasks. In this way, by the time the action took place, the thousands of women present had organised themselves into small self-sufficient groups, which were left to decide how the action should be implemented within the framework of the initiating group's overall scheme.

14. It is a common feature of NVDA actions that even the initiating group are unaware of what precise decisions will be taken by the participating groups. The response to any

proposed action depends entirely on the appeal of such action to the particular participants. There is no central organising committee for NVDA only an initiating group which could be one of several hundred such groups. This type of organisation thus minimises infiltration and maximises the uncertainties which confront the police and put the loose federation of NVDA groups in a strong position to exploit police response. The loss of any one group will not, therefore, affect the overall strategy.

15. The emergence of NVDA has also presented the structured hierarchy of CND with certain problems which are regarded as a double-edged sword. On the one hand it is proving to be the most effective tool in the Campaign, but on the other hand it is taking decision-making out of the hands of the National Council. Furthermore, with several peace campers on the National Council, CND now find that they are expected to support and advertise events with which they are not fully in accord.

16. In an attempt to influence NVDA, National CND has organised regional trainers, who hold regular weekend instruction sessions. This however, has only served to exacerbate the problems. The trainers are drawn mainly from feminist and anarcho/pacifist groups and the principles they impart at their sessions only serve to take more control away from National CND and put it in the hands of the activists. Of particular influence in this field is the Peace News collective.

17. In conclusion, it can be stated that NVDA is without doubt the most influential force within the peace movement at the present time. Working within a well-organised federation of groups, NVDA is able to offer activists an outlet for their frustrations whilst avoiding the trap of centralising the campaign and offering the authorities a "target".

18. A copy of the programme used by the women at Greenham Common on 13.12.82 which also contains notes headed "Legal Briefing" is attached at Appendix E.

19. References:-

CND	- 100/82/141
NVDA	- Mentions
Peace News Collective	- Mentions
Women for Life on Earth	- Mention
Greenham Common Peace Camp	- Mentions

[REDACTED] 1  
Nigel Short

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX 'A'

to Special Branch report dated 17th March 1983  
concerning Peace Camps

Forthcoming Peace Camp Activities:-

Lakenheath

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Sunday 24th April<br>"Fly for Peace not War" | - Day of kite flying<br>outside the base.                                |
| Monday 25th April<br>24 hour blockade        | - 24 hour blockade of the<br>base from 6am on Monday<br>25th April 1983. |

Upper Heyford

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 31st May-3rd June<br>Blockade and Peace Pentecost | - 4 day blockade of the<br>base (supported by<br>National CND)   |
| 21st-23rd May<br>March                            | - Saturday 21st May - march<br>from Worcester to Upper<br>Heyford.<br>Sunday 22nd May - NVDA<br>training.<br>Monday 23rd May - "Some<br>Action" (organised by<br>Christian CND). |

Molesworth

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Sunday 3rd April<br>Sowing the Seeds of Peace | - A day of planting trees,<br>flowers and shrubs on the<br>base. |
|---|--|

Fasano

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Sunday 20th March<br>"Celebration for Change" | - A day of festival and NVDA<br>planning at the base. |
|---|---|

contd....

[REDACTED]

Daves Hill (High Wycombe)

5th-10th April  
International Days of Action  
for Peace

- Friday 8th April  
"Day of Education"  
at Bucks College of  
Higher Education.
- Saturday 9th April -  
"Peace Chain" between  
Daves Hill and Naphill  
followed by rally at  
Daves Hill.
- Sunday 10th April -  
march from Hughenden  
Park to Hollywell Mead  
via Daves Hill followed  
by rally.

Naphill, Nr. High Wycombe, Bucks

- Proposed setting up of  
Summer Peace Camp by  
Pensioners for Peace.

Greenham Common

March and April 1981  
"Snakes and ladders"

- NWDA Groups are invited to  
attend and camp anywhere  
around the 9 mile perimeter  
and take part in actions  
involving entering the base  
either over, by ladder, or  
under the fence. (Chain  
letters have been sent to all  
contacts).
- 31st March/1st April - 32 hours  
blockade of the base from  
6am on 31st March to 2pm on  
1st April. (National CND  
event).
- Late July-August 6th -  
"Star Marches", a series of  
small marches from all over  
the country converging on  
Greenham Common on Hiroshima  
Day (6th August). (Organised  
by Women for Life on Earth).
- May 24th - International  
Women's Day for Disarmament.  
A decentralised day of action  
called by Greenham Common  
Women

APPENDIX 'B'

to Special Branch report dated 17th March 1983  
concerning Peace Camps

# PROGRAM for OFF 13

This is a woman's day of Action. Whenever women are being creative in speaking out, this is a day of action. There are many things we can do: none are more important than others; camping on the common, talking to workers, singing, blockading, littering, our imagination and humour work - all for direct actions. Do not think you have to get arrested. The point of the action is not getting 'arrested' but stopping Cruise. This involves all kinds of action: some may be legal, some illegal. Those choosing to do illegal actions need the support of those who are not. Everyone is equally individual and important, whatever role they choose to take.

We have found that a good way to do actions is for women to form small GROUPS of 10-15. This makes large, decentralised actions easier to coordinate and service. More important, it allows women to get to know one another. It provides a basis for mutual trust and support in which women can share ideas, think them through and carry them out. It also provides a network for further actions both locally and together. In those groups taking action that could result in arrest, there must be women who do not get arrested: (a) a legal observer (see legal briefing sheet) and (b) women making sure everyone in their group has what they need. Is happy, warm and fed.

If you have not already formed an affinity group, there will be opportunities from Sunday night onwards to do so. Come to the information tent at the Music Gate to find out where.

Sunday Night: Groups staying for Monday should register at the information tent (Music Gate) and tell us which gate they will be at. This makes it easier to coordinate the blockade and provide legal support.

Monday, 10 am: Groups will be gathering at different gates and potential gaps in the fence. Here they can discuss how they are going to do the blockade and what other actions they might take. Whatever actions we choose to do, it's important to remember to think through what its effect will be, not just on the base but on other groups of women taking action too.

## 2 pm - 6 pm: BLOCKADE

Communication between gates will be by means of walkie-talkies. At each gate there will be at least one Communication Woman. Please use her - keep her informed as to what you're doing and what's happened to your group. She will be able to tell you what has happened at other gates. It's important that all the actions support each other and don't undermine one another. A good flow of information makes this possible.

Whatever happens this day depends on our ideas and what we've made out of them. The belief of the Women's Peace Camp is that we can stop Cruise coming with determined NON-VIOLENT women's action. We will not fight violence with violence.

## Women with the Earth

BEGIN AT THE ROOTS OF DEPENDENCE -  
WOMEN FIND  
THE PROBLEM TO UNWIND  
INTO THE EARTH  
THE ENERGY SHE BURROWS -  
SIMPLE FINGERS,  
WOMEN'S HAND,  
MAKING WHOLE IN HIDDEN PLACES.  
BLACKTHORN, WHITETHORN, THIRTEEN COMB,  
FLOWING, DREAMING - SPIRAL RUN,  
THE TIME IS ALWAYS - BEAUTY AWAKES  
HEARING THE SONG THE GODDESS SRAPE.

WOMEN SEE THAT  
BLOOD GIVES LIFE TO THE SEEDS -  
IT FEEDS -  
IN ITS MUD EARTH WOMB,  
TO BE BORN SOON.  
THE TREE OF LIFE -  
RE-NEWED, RE-MADE, RE-MEMBERED,  
WOMEN LABOUR FOR RE-BIRTH -  
UN-SILENCE AND MIRROR  
THE LOST MOON MIRTH.  
WE SPIN AND WEAVE AGAIN  
THE WEB OF LIFE.

*me*



# Legal Briefing

We have found that organised women's actions, when every woman knows what role she is taking, understands the implications of her actions and has confidence in herself and those supporting her always go well. These notes are to inform you and give you confidence and dispel unnecessary fears. Please read them carefully and ask about anything that is still unclear.

1. Offences for which you may be arrested: (a) Obstructing the highway; (b) Obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty; (c) various public order charges, eg. breach of the peace; (d) criminal damage; (e) Official secrets act.

a, b, c and d are the offences most often used by police in enforcing order. They all carry the power of arrest and allow police to remove you from the action and possibly hold you in custody overnight. They must be heard in a magistrates court.

In all cases we list the Maximum penalties; but mostly it is a small fine or an order to be bound over. If you refuse to pay a fine or be bound over, you will be jailed.

- a) Obstructing the highway: highway means any highway available to the general public which need only be partially obstructed or obstructed by someone else because of your action.
- b) Obstructing an officer: useful to police when they cannot get you for anything else and almost impossible to argue with (arguing could itself constitute an offence). Max. penalty: £200 fine and/or 1 month in prison.
- c) Breach of the Peace: It is an offence to use 'threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour' either deliberately or which could cause a breach of the peace in any public place. You can be charged with this if it seems likely that a breach of peace might happen. Max. penalty: 6 months in prison and/or £1000 fine. Or the magistrate can be asked to bind you over to keep the peace. This will be for a specific time with the surety of a fixed sum.
- d) Criminal damage: It is an offence to 'without lawful excuse deliberately destroy or damage property belonging to another'. Max. penalty if damage less than £200: 6 months and/or £1000 fine. If more than £200 can be tried in crown court with max. penalty of 10 yrs and/or large fine.
- e) Official secrets act: This is mentioned simply to acquaint you with the remote possibility of it being used at some point in the next year against a few individuals to deter us from increasing activity. It is very unlikely to be used against a large mass of activists.

## 2. Other Legal Hassles:

Bye-laws: Infringement of bye-laws can only be prosecuted in the magistrates court and normally carry a maximum fine of £50. **THERE IS NO POWER OF ARREST.** E.g. camping - if police claim this is illegal on the common, explain that it is a matter between you and the council - i.e. a civil matter and nothing to do with police. Possession orders are equally irrelevant. Be prepared to give your name and address, they could hold you if you refuse. Even so, police may try to arrest for obstructing them, so judge for yourself whether to back down. We suggest all women use the peace camp as their address.

3. Getting Arrested: Each group should have a legal observer with (a) names, ph. nos of members of group (b) to observe everything that happens, keep notes and be witness in court (c) to stay with her group and not get arrested - inform our central information point (Gate 8) (d) note no. of arresting officers. (e) If you are arrested hand over idsk to someone else. If you are arrested: you are usually warned first and given the chance to leave. If you decide to stay (a) call your name to the legal observer; (b) you will be taken to a police stn, asked your name, address and ph. no, birth date and occupation, then searched. They may question you - you don't have to say anything. You do not have to have fingerprints or photos taken. Once you are charged you will probably be released. If not, **DON'T PANIC.** A solicitor will have been contacted on your behalf, but if no-one contacts you before 6 hours are up, phone Kingsclere 298712.

N.B. A more comprehensive legal briefing is available.

APPENDIX 'C'

to Special Branch report dated 17th March 1983  
concerning Peace Camps

WOMEN FOR LIFE ON EARTH SAY 'NO CRUISE MISSILES AT GREENHAM COMMON'

Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp,  
Main gate, USAF/RAF Base,  
Greenham Common, Newbury,  
Berkshire.

14 October 1982

Dear women,

The US air base at Greenham Common in Berkshire is the first place in Europe where 96 Cruise missiles are to be sited in December 1983. Since September 1981 women have been camping outside the main gate of the air base, protesting against this decision which has been taken without consulting the people of this country.

The women who set up the Peace Camp have made personal sacrifices because they feel so strongly about this issue. They have left their families and friends, and given up jobs to live in tents and borrowed caravans without electricity or heating throughout the severe cold of last winter. They have already faced 2 evictions and some of them have spent time in prison - but they are still here and will continue to stay and make a peaceful stand. We all feel that we cannot rely on those in power to protect our lives. The women who have left their families feel that they are taking the greatest responsibility in caring for their children by stopping Cruise missiles coming to this country. We are all individuals with a responsibility to sustain and nurture life - something we can do together, with mutual support.

The Peace Camp has been a women's initiative. Reversing traditional roles, women have been leaving home for peace, rather than men leaving home for war. The camp involves women of different ages and backgrounds. Some have never taken part in any political action before; others have been members of the Labour Party or women's groups, but all feel the urgency of the nuclear threat and are determined not to remain silent. As women we have been actively encouraged to stay at home and look up to men as our protectors. But we reject this role. We cannot stand by while others are organising to destroy life on our earth. It is not enough to go on demonstrations. We must find other ways of expressing the strength of our opposition to this madness. We have one year left in which to reverse the Government's decision about Cruise missiles. There is still time to stop them.

We are inviting women from all over Britain, Europe and the world to come to Greenham Common on December 12 and 13 to take part in a mass action that will show our strength and our intention not to allow Cruise missiles to be sited here. The 2 days will express the spirit of peace and the politics of peace. We want this to be an international action as it is important that people from all the countries facing the threat of these weapons should not remain isolated in their struggle, but should join together and gain strength from each other.

OPEN THE BASE ON SUNDAY .....

CLOSE THE BASE ON MONDAY

The action will be in 2 stages.

MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER: EMBRACING THE BASE

The base has a 9 mile perimeter fence with 7 gates. Each gate will have a theme. Throughout the morning women will be gathering at the gates. Women are asked to bring personal things that represent the threat of nuclear war to us and that express our lives, our anger and our joy - for example, photos, posters, banners, writing, cardboard 'gravestones' with the names of victims of male violence, children's clothes, toys, ribbons, balloons... We want to decorate the entire fence with personal things which have meaning for us. At 1 o'clock we'll begin to move outwards from the gates to make an enormous circle of women, holding hands and surrounding the whole base. Together, thousands of women will sing the same songs. Then we'll return to the gates and as dusk falls we'll light candles and hold closing ceremonies.

Those women who want to stay on and take part in Monday's action can sleep in their own tents, or marquees provided, or return EARLY in the morning.

MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER: CLOSING THE BASE

We shall blockade the base completely. In order to co-ordinate this action there will be nonviolent direct action workshops in the morning. But because of limited time women who intend to take part in the blockade should prepare themselves as much as possible beforehand, in local groups. If anyone wants any help or advice about this they should contact Lynne Jones ( [redacted] Privacy, [redacted] Privacy ). If you don't want to actually blockade the base we also need women to give support and to act as legal observers. This support is just as important as blockading and vital to the success of the action.

Women are asked to arrive early on Sunday morning and to be as self-sufficient as possible.

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING

Warm, waterproof clothing, food, sleeping bag/blankets, personal things for decorating the fence (see above), wool, string, scarves for linking us all together and for weaving webs, and a candle. If possible, bring a tent. Since the eviction at the end of September the women at the Peace Camp have not been allowed to put up tents, so hundreds of women putting up tents will help them to get round this.

WHAT FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED

Information, maps and a programme of events will be available at every gate. Limited accommodation in marquees will be available from Saturday evening. Please let us know in advance if you need accommodation by contacting [redacted] Privacy, [redacted] Privacy; phone: [redacted] Privacy. There will also be food, medical supplies, sanitation, legal advice and support, a creche, limited nonviolent direct action training.

CAN YOU OFFER ANY HELP?

By providing accommodation, if you live in the south of England. If so please contact: [Privacy] (see above for details). Can you lend walkies, CB/walkie-talkie radios? Can you provide food, warm clothing, blankets or money? If so, please contact Deborah Law ([Privacy])

LOCAL ORGANISING

Can women organise publicity in their area to make contact with others beforehand and perhaps to arrange transport down to Greenham (sharing cabs, hiring a minibus, booking a coach or whatever) and to arrange nonviolent direct action training etc. Posters will be available from Deborah Law (see above)..

Men who want to support this women's action will be welcome at the Children's gate, where they can help with food and child c. e. Another important way men can support us is by giving publicity to this action and with donations which can be sent to [Privacy] (see above) or direct to Lloyds Bank, 5 Bridge Street, Newbury, account number 0824564. Cheques should be made payable to Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp December 12 Appeal.

This is a chain letter. If every woman copies this letter and sends it to 10 friends and they each send it to 10 others, then we shall be THOUSANDS. Although there will be posters and press publicity, the main way we are publicising this action is through these letters to women we know personally. So we are all part of the organising. Each woman is like a spring, who together with others becomes a stream, a river, an ocean.

THIS IS A CHAIN LETTER WITH A DIFFERENCE. WE LL MEET AS A LIVING CHAIN  
SEE YOU AT THE CHAIN-LINK FENCES!

With peace and love, from the women at Greenham Common.

Contacts:

[Privacy] accommodation offered and needed; donations  
Deborah Law, [Privacy] offers of help; posters  
Lynne Jones, [Privacy] nonviolent direct action training  
Lloyds Bank, 5 Bridge St. Newbury A/C number 0824564 - Greenham Common women's Peace Camp., December 12th Appeal.

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WE NEED 16,000 WOMEN TO SURROUND THE ENTIRE BASE

PLEASE TELL EVERY WOMAN YOU KNOW

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