green party

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Dear Friends,

FROM TWO BLOCS TOWARDS ONE WORLD

I have so far received contributions to the booklet from:

Ireland
Sweden
Denmark
U.K.

Where are the rest?????????

We must arrange the printing of the booklet soon if it is to be ready for the end of April. We have announced to the press that it will be ready then and our next opportunity to do something will not be until the end of September,so it is essential that we move quickly.

I know that some parties are very tied up with changes in their organisation, elections and other matters,but we did agree to the idea of a booklet in November last year and,at our January meeting,confirmed this. I can do nothing about design or typesetting until I have all the contributions,or you have told me that your party can do nothing,in which case we shall print what we have. At the very least,you might consider including part of your peace programme.

Please let me have also, about 250 words about your party and the correct contact address.

Next week,I shall send out the draft of the leaflet text and also the redrafted AIMS of the Campaign,together with copies of the articles I have.

Best wishes,

Jean

Jean Lambert

P.S. I NEED FROM YOU: information about your party
your order form
your article

FOR THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN GREENS - November 23/24

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BLOCS - second version

TIME SCALE - Our contribution to the United Nations Peace Year (due to end October 1986). We could continue from then if we wish to.

CONTEXT: Not all countries represented by the European Greens are members of NATO. Of those representing member states,we do not all have the same policy on membership of NATO:the U.K. Greens are committed to withdrawal but Ecolo have a policy of demanding changes within NATO's structure and aims before considering withdrawal. These differences present some difficulties when considering the direction of our campaign and the focus of various actions:for those of us in NATO,US bases are an obvious target we must consider what an equivalent site would be for Ireland or Sweden.

OUR MESSAGE: The message our campaign gives to people should be,I would suggest, that the Warsaw Pact and NATO are more likely to bring about war than to guarantee peace and that there are alternative ways of defence that are effective,non-violent and probably cheaper!

AIMS OF THE CAMPAIGN:

1. To ensure that the role of NATO and the Warsaw Pact as de-stabilising influences on world peace is widely debated.
2. Thus,to inform and educate politicians and the public (and the military?) about NATO and the Warsaw Pact:
   - i) the history of their development
   - ii) their aggressive,not defensive role and an assessment of their 'threat' potential (to whom and under what circumstances would they attack? What other threats are posed by their existence?)
   - iii) their powers as occupying armies
   - iv) their political role in the world,both within member states and their encroachment on non-member states
3. To give the issue of the Blocs a higher profile within our national peace movements
4. To promote:
   - i) the concept of Nuclear Free Zones (Pacific,Nordic etc....) as part of the peace process
   - ii) friendship and understanding between peoples of West and Eastern Europe.
   - iii) solidarity with other countries and peoples under Superpower oppression and hegemony around the world (e.g.Afghanistan,Nicaragua)
5. To show that there are alternatives to the Bloc structure,by promoting the policies of the European Green parties, especially those on :

A short-term
- i) rejection of nuclear,chemical and biological weapons
- ii) opposition to the Arms Trade and the positive reconversion of weapons industries
- iii) the right of European countries to decide their own defence policies

B long-term
- iv) our commitment to the scaling-down of conventional weaponry and the introduction of non-violent social defence (the disarmament race)
- v) movement to a less vulnerable social structure (small-scale,self-reliant...)

MATERIALS

1. A poster. Could this be done by a competition to be judged at the January meeting,the entries displayed for the Press Conference and the winner then printed?
2. A joint leaflet for use on demonstrations,actions .... One side a reproduction of the poster,the other to be an agreed text.(each party to print their own?)
3. Booklet:a collection of essays,speeches,cartoons,photos with at least one contribution from each party on different aspects of the Blocs and the possible solutions. Could it be published to coincide with a meeting of the European Greens or a Conference?
4. A badge? Also a competition for January?
5. We need research material on the history,present role and effects of the Blocs. How might this be collected and circulated?
6. An exhibition about the Blocs:the basic materials to be 'centrally' provided and then distributed for each party to adapt and use as they wish as part of the educational aspect.

POSSIBILITIES FOR CAMPAIGNING - these range from the very small-scale to the more ambitious.

1. Messages of support form the European Greens to peace demonstrations,actions, conferences.
2. A speaker from the European Greens at peace demonstrations etc.....Could we develop a 'speakers list' on peace issues?
3. An input to the Spanish Referendum Debate about membership of NATO
4. What role might we have at the Agalev Conference discussing NATO?
5. Should we commission our own opinion poll about membership of NATO or the effects of NATO and the Warsaw Pact on world peace? Could we afford this? Would we get the 'right' answer?
6. An international conference/seminar on "The Role and Practice of Social Defence" with invited guests (academics,peace activists,resistance workers etc...)
7. An international meeting on the topic of 'Arms Coversion' - what is being done, what might be done.
8. Co-ordinated actions at USA and USSR embassies (could we decorate them with sunflowers) on Hiroshima Day,for example?
9. Action on East-West border (is this possible?) on the theme of 'Arms Down-Curtain UP'. Would a balloon release (each ballon carrying a peace message) be possible?
10. An Anniversary leaflet in the home towns of our defence ministers to commemorate the deployment of the first CRUISE or PERSHING missile? Or the Helsinki Convention?

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Should we endeavour to keep a balance in our condemnation of both Superpowers in our Campaigning?What are the political implications for us if we don't?
2. What contacts do we have ,or can we make with Eastern Europe?
3. How can we express our support for countries like Afghanistan and Nicaragua? Should this be a major or minor part of the campaign?

RESOURCES

1. How much money do we have?
2. How many people need to be involved? How can we best use those who are intersted?
3. What priority is each Party prepared to give to this campaign? Will any materials be used,any actions set up?

JEAN LAMBERT - November 1985.

- - FROM TWO BLOCS TOWARDS ONE WORLD

AIMS OF THE CAMPAIGN

INTRODUCTION

The Campaign is designed to express our opposition to the tyranny and blackmail practised by the Superpowers and to show that there are alternative means of defence that are more likely to contribute to a peaceful future. We reject the 'Arms Race'. What we want is a 'Disarmament Race'

AIMS

Firstly,we wish to ensure that the role of NATO and the Warsaw Pact as de-stabilising influences on world peace is widely debated and that the issue of the Blocs will have a higher profile within our own Peace movements.

To achieve this,we intend to inform and educate politicians and the public about not only the military aspects of NATO and the Warsaw Pact but also the political, social and economic influence they have.We shall be researching and publicising the following:

i) the history of their development
ii) their aggressive,not defensive,role and an assessment of their 'threat' potential
iii) their powers as occupying armies
iv) their political,de-stabilising influence within the world,within member states and their encroachment on non-member states
v) the social consequences of Bloc involvement such as the emphasis on employment for military ,rather than peaceful production and the disproportianate amounts spent on military research and development rather than constructive,socially useful projects
vi) the economic influence they have,not only through procurement contracts and control of resources but also on the Third World and non-aligned countries

Ecologically,the Blocs effect is less obvious but equally pernicious. Apart from the threat to the planet's survival posed by nuclear weaponry,there are the long-term radiation effects of the nuclear power progamme upon which programme the military depend. The use of the earth's dwindling resources to provide weapons is appalling, especially when one considers the absolute poverty of so many of the earth's people.

contd.....

We intend towork independently within our own countries to promote our common aims of: the development of the Nuclear Free Zones as part of the peace process;the increasing of understanding between peoples of East and West and to demonstrate our solidarity with other countries under Superpower hegemony and oppression throughout the World.

We shall work together to promote the common policies of the Green Parties in the European Co-ordination on defence and peace. Short-term policies,such as the rejection of chemical,biological and nuclear weaponry;our opposition to the Arms Trade and our commitment to the positive conversion of the weapons industries . Also, long-term policies,such as our commitment to the scaling down of conventional weaponry and the introduction of non-violent social defence;a movement towards less vulnerable social structures,which are small-scale and self-reliant.

JL
March 1986

MILITARY BLOCS -

LIKE NATO and the WARSAW PACT-

THINK ALIKE!

THE BLOCS' EXISTENCE MEANS:

- INCREASE of armaments and global insecurity

DISTORTION of politics to serve military ends

DECLINE of socially useful employment in favour of arms production

ARMS instead of aid to poor countries

DEGREDATION of the environment by warfare

WE, THE GREENS, ARE WORKING TOGETHER THROUGHOUT EUROPE FOR:

- DECREASE of conventional and nuclear armaments and increased feelings of security and peace
- REFORMATION of politics to serve the needs of future generations
- CONSERVATION and rational use of scarce resourc
- INCREASE in socially useful work
- ENDING the international arms trade:converting some military industry to peaceful production
- SETTLEMENTS of disputes by negotiation not war

START THE DISARMAMENT RACE WITH THE EUROPEAN GREENS!

JOIN THE GREENS TO:

- secure a future without fear
- break the stalemate in international arms limitation talks
- produce for use not destruction
- introduce defence that is only defensive
- stop support for authoritarian regimes
- leave the world a better place for our children

For further information, CONTACT: