

CONSERVATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

32 SMITH SQUARE · SW1

MEMORANDUM

To..... The Chairman ✓
c.c. see below
7/6/82

From..... Peter Shipley

Some brief observations on yesterday's CND demonstration:

Although reliable crowd estimates are notoriously difficult, my impression was that there were probably slightly fewer people present than at the previous major demonstration last October. Total attendance was probably around 150,000. This is still fairly impressive, and although CND's claim of over a quarter of a million are almost certainly excessive, I think it would be difficult to maintain that, on the evidence of yesterday, CND's existing support has been seriously damaged by the Falklands crisis.

The kind of people present were the mixture as before - predominantly young, a lot of women, and a fair number of families with children. From the banners they could be classified under the following:

- (a) members of local CND branches or other Peace Groups, with no political or ideological indication;
- (b) the extreme left, who distribute most of the literature on these occasions;
- (c) religious groups, who were probably more prominent this time;
- (d) environmentalists eg Friends of the Earth etc
- (e) miscellaneous gay, feminists and punks.

There was a rather folksy, relaxed atmosphere at the event - the archetypal Guardian reading parents eating their nut cutler picnics under the trees while the children watched a Punch (President Reagan) and Judy (Mrs Thatcher) sideshow.

Trade Unionists and ethnic minorities are noticeably absent from the main body of demonstrators. CND still seems a very middle class movement.

The press have picked up Scargill's call for civil disobedience - this certainly struck a favourable chord and has been talked about within CND circles for some time now. The civil defence exercise Hard Rock in the autumn will probably be the first major test of CND's resolve in this direction, and then next year when Cruise begins to be developed.

Kenneth Greet of the Methodists announced that the World Disarmament Campaign petition had reached 2,200,000 signatures.

I attach some leaflets collected on the march.

A. CND's 'European Declaration' launched at the demonstration

B. One produced by a collection of church groups

re the Vienna Peace Festival in August

D an anarchist one that was being handed out by
or eleven. NB "F - Ban the Bomb" or so it says.

children of ten

'c.c. Mr Blaker
Mr Churchill
Mr Cropper
Mr Boddy
Mr Hamilton
Mr Turner
Mr Cowell

