

Box

15th December 1982

Thank you very much for your letter of 14th December, with which you enclosed a Memorandum about C.N.D.

I am most grateful to you for having sent this, and I have shown it to the Prime Minister.

I have taken the liberty of sending copies to Cecil and to John Biffen.

I am very sorry to hear about the difficulties which have arisen over Peter Cropper's Report to the Prime Minister about the future of the Research Department, and I hope that this will be resolved at the earliest possible moment.

IAN GOW
Professor Lord Beloff

Disarmed

The anti-CND campaign

A note by Lord Beloff

I share to the full the Government's view that the so-called Peace Movement represents a major threat to the prospects of agreed multilateral disarmament and to the defence of the West until that objective has been achieved. But I am somewhat critical of the tactics being employed to blunt the movement's appeal.

I have no fault to find with Winston Churchill's campaign and the very good MOD film that goes with it. But I maintain that the money allotted for the campaign is derisory compared with what CND and the allied organisations are using. The disproportion is glaring.

I also feel that the basic argument set forth by ministers that the danger arises from the erosion of the credibility of the deterrent and of the chances of multilateral disarmament is quite correct; but this is to assume a relatively open-minded and sophisticated audience. In the case of the Greenham Common women - as their broadcast ullulations show - we are dealing with something quite different, an induced mass-hysteria impervious to argument. People used to say Hitler would never act against the Jews because they were so useful to German science and the German economy. They were wrong because they assumed that Hitler's drive was itself based on rational calculation. So with CND.

For these reasons we must abandon the kid-gloves approach and seek publicly to discredit the Greenham Common women and their supporters in the country. Ministers must stop prefacing their speeches with tributes to their fine motives and tender consciences. This just helps to build them up. To do the reverse we need two kinds of intelligence and ministers should brief our intelligence services accordingly.

How much
when
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First we must get and produce evidence of the sources of the movement's finance. We know from cases on the Continent that in a number of countries money has passed directly from Soviet embassies to the peace movements. It may be that it has been more successfully "laundered" here or perhaps it comes from Gadaffi or other anti-Western sources. It is clear that the amounts involved have not been subscribed in full by bona-fide British citizens.

Who
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Second we need proper investigation of the background and characters of the Greenham Common women; a clean bill of health from the local police is not enough. None appear to be from the locality itself. We need to know more about their political and personal backgrounds so that the aura of martyrdom can be stripped from them.

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Following Silkin's Party political broadcast we must expect that CND will be a channel for recruitment into the Labour Party - we must force the patriotic wing of the Labour Party into the open to denounce this coming together of their Party and Soviet-inspired anti-patriotic groups and their dupes.

Speech
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Finally we must use our best card, the popularity of the Prime Minister among the mass of the British people where they have not been seduced by left-wing anti-patriotic conspirators. I would like the Prime Minister to make a major speech addressed to the women of Britain on the theme that the protection of their lives and families are being wilfully jeopardized by the women of Greenham Common - that the danger to them is from Soviet missiles not those of our allies. The fear of war which is real must be turned against CND. I shall not be content until it becomes as hazardous to wear a CND badge on the streets of London as it would be to sport a swastika in Tel Aviv.

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