

*Defence
Policy
of
Removal*

PRIME MINISTER

CND Demonstration: Saturday 22 October

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CND plan two marches on Saturday taking different routes from the Victoria Embankment to a rally in Hyde Park. Estimates of the numbers attending range from 70,000 to 200,000. The Leader of the Opposition will be among the speakers at the rally.

The routes for the marches have been agreed with the police. One will pass along Whitehall, and the Secretary of State for the Environment has given permission for a wreath to be laid at the Cenotaph. This will carry the CND symbol, but any inscription will have to be agreed with the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The police accept CND's claim that the demonstration is intended to be peaceful. Nevertheless there clearly could be some disorder, and arrests (e.g. for non-violent offences such as obstruction). The police have contingency arrangements to deal with any large-scale offences of this nature.

There are also two pro-defence policy events planned for Saturday (one organised by Lady Olga Maitland and the other by Coalition for peace through security). Much smaller attendances are expected, and there is no reason to expect disorder.

The police are in close touch with those responsible for the security of Government buildings (including No. 10) and the staff likely to be affected have been warned.

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DMB

20 October 1983