



10 DOWNING STREET

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2 November 1983

Dear Robin,

PEACE PROTEST AND PUBLIC ORDER

I would like to draw your attention to some of the tactics and activities currently being planned by CND and others as part of their campaigning over the coming weeks. They indicate an increased militancy which has important consequences for the preservation of public order.

Clearly the threat to Greenham Common air base and the need to maintain security there is well understood and appropriate steps taken. My somewhat broader concerns are as follows:

- (a) that CND is now beginning a nationwide campaign of 'non-violent direct action' (NVDA) which will not be confined to Greenham;
- (b) that this campaign will include civil disobedience and disruptive activities which may entail law breaking on a wide scale;
- (c) that a minority which is not constrained by principles of non-violence may take more serious action against property and/or persons.

Some of these activities will be properly organised, announced in advance and, like Monday's demonstration in Whitehall, be passive and peaceful, if disruptive. Others however may be guerilla style activities such as occupation of other military installations or Government offices and will not be advertised.

The CND Chairman, Mrs Ruddock said yesterday (on Channel Four) that although official activities would be non-violent, she set no limits to them. CND announced yesterday that it is planning at least 28 separate regional peace actions between now and Christmas, some of which included civil disobedience and were therefore being kept secret. The organisation is presently running NVDA training courses in preparation for these activities. The literature and the activists' manuals describe a hierarchy of NVDA from symbolic protest, to intervention and resistance, which do entail confrontation with the law. It is this higher level of NVDA which is being contemplated now. And there have been some, vague references in the left-wing press to unspecified "spectacular actions".

Among those attaching themselves to the peace movement who are

not committed to non-violence are some anarchist elements. They were a prominent minority on the CND march of 22 October and were concerned in the 'Stop the City' activity a few weeks ago. They are incidentally returning to the City for two Days of Action Against Banks on 4 and 11 November. These people are outlandish in appearance (punk style) and clearly have a desire to shock with their rhetoric as well. If they are serious however, then they may be capable of carrying out acts of violence against individuals in the 'establishment' as well as against property. By contrast, the Marxist extreme left, such as the Socialist Workers' Party, have been increasingly confined to the margins of the peace movement.

Among the advertised activities you may care to note in addition to those mentioned above are the following:

- (i) 8 and 9 November: peace camps at 102 alleged US bases in Britain, organised by the Greenham Women Against Cruise;
- (ii) 12 November: blockade of RAF Bishopscourt, Co Down, Northern Ireland;
- (iii) 13 November: a demonstration at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday immediately after the two minutes' silence.

In conclusion, I would say that we should be prepared for an intense period of activity, not only at Greenham, but in London and at any locations of military and Governmental installations. Events may stretch police resources where there is an element of surprise. Some of the possibilities I have outlined may not happen. But I feel they are realistic enough to merit preparedness. We cannot afford otherwise.

I have copied this letter to Ferdy Mount and Tim Flesher.

*Yours sincerely,
Peter*

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Our ref.:

31.10.83.

Mr. Butler.

TODAY'S EVENTS.

1. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament - mainly women from the Greenham Common demonstration - intend mass-lobbying Parliament this afternoon before the Defence debate. They will assemble from 3.30 pm on in Parliament Square, and will attempt to intercept the new MP for Buckingham, Mr. George Walden, CMG (Conservative) among others.
2. The CND will hold a rally in Trafalgar Square tonight between 8 pm and 10 pm. This may be followed by some form of non-violent action in Whitehall by CND personnel carrying some form of outward identification but no posters.
3. The intention is to stop the Cruise missiles being stationed here. The information is from secret sources.
4. It would be advisable for the Prime Minister to arrive at the House of Commons ^{well} before 3 pm today.

copy to Mr. INGHAM

London Lawton.