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Friday 27 December 1974

NEWSLETTER 2

Dear friends,

Firstly, an apology to any of you who received your first newsletter either very late, or a little singed, or in duplicate, or - worst of all - not at all. Within 10 minutes of the major batch of newsletter 1 being posted, the pillar box containing them blew up (it was the box right outside our office here, and the first of the three to blow up that Monday night). It was known more or less which ones were there, and so those which couldn't be salvaged were sent out again. We hope you all got one in the end.

Since that previous newsletter, our mailing list has doubled, and also copies are being sent out by other organisations - so we're starting with 500 copies of this, and hoping to need more before the next one in six weeks' time. So, support and interest is growing - things don't look too bad after only about six weeks - but a lot more has to happen before we can make much impact. The rest of this newsletter tells you of some things that are happening, and many more that could happen if our supporters (that's you) are prepared to help.

Apart from the issue of the arms trade being raised at a number of conferences, as appropriate, there are some meetings being arranged by some local groups already.

In Bristol, there is a meeting at Redland College on Thursday 9 January with a speaker about CAAT, organised by the World Development Movement; a meeting to launch a local CAAT group at Horfields Friends Meeting House on Thursday 16 January; and a speaker about Britain and the arms trade at the area FOR Conference on 22 February; further details on these from Frank Rix, 75 Kinsale Road, Knowle, Bristol.

In Leeds, a meeting is being arranged for early in February about CAAT.

In London, the London School of Nonviolence is having speakers about the arms trade at its meetings on 3 and 5 February in the Crypt of St-Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square; 7pm.

A meeting is being arranged at Harpenden during the spring.

There are many areas of the country with several people interested in CAAT, but who perhaps don't know of one another. So could you please write in to volunteer to be a local contact for your area - you will then be sent the names of others near you who have been in touch with the Campaign. If we are to have an impact, it's very important to have groups all over the place, so please be in touch as soon as possible.

There are many things that local groups - and individuals - can be doing, there were lots of suggestions in the first newsletter. More suggestions include the production of an exhibition on this topic, something mobile. We've already had a request to mount a display, but as yet we have nothing appropriate. Could your group help? Then we needn't turn down further chances!

Also, you could volunteer to help with the working groups in London who are "servicing" the Campaign. For example, could you help the research group? They need more volunteers who could spend time in libraries digging up useful facts and figures for the factsheets they want to produce.

Then there's letter writing. Could you all write two letters every week? One to MPs and the national press - try especially to raise the issue of the secrecy surrounding arms sales. This is an issue in its own right. A minimum demand must be that we can know what is sold, and to whom. And the other to local press - try to get a debate going in your local paper. Then, if you've time after these two, phone your local radio station, and also remember to get the coverage the Campaign needs in the various peace movement and sympathetic journals that you know of.

And you can order CAAT badges for all your friends.

A local CAAT group in Oxford have done street theatre on the arms trade. Also, they've collected information on specifically the trade with Chile. For more information about either of these, contact: Celia Brown, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

We've had gifts for the office ranging from a handful of rubber bands, to an electric typewriter. But we still need a filing cabinet, or some sort of shelving or storage space.

Here is an up-to-date list of items we have available for your use:

- 1) "Principles of the Campaign" leaflet, which those of you who weren't involved in the original setting up of the Campaign might not have seen. [*]
- 2) Introductory leaflet for you to distribute to involve more people. [As enclosed with newsletter 1.]
- 3) Question & Answer sheet 1, for talking with potential supporters. [*]
- 4) Arms trade Factsheet 1. [*]
- 5) Booklist - suggestions for basic reading on the arms trade.
- 6) Information kit: 4 pamphlets/booklets, copies of several newspaper articles, items 1-5 as above, and a poster; 50p. Contents may vary - for example as we acquire more pamphlets and factsheets, we may enclose extra of those instead of a poster - since it is after all meant to be an information kit rather than a propaganda kit!
- 7) CAAT badge with the Campaign's symbol on it; 5p.
- 8) CAAT stickers; 5p for a sheet of 6, or £1 for 25 sheets (150 stickers). [As on the envelope this is in.]
- 9) Poster, "CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE"; 15p.
- 10) Poster, "ARMS SALES - POINT OF DELIVERY"; 15p.
- 11) Poster, "Exports Up! G.B. DEATH SALESMEN"; 15p.
- 12) Poster, "The hungry need bread not bombs"; 15p.

There is no fixed charge for the unpriced leaflets, but we would much appreciate a donation to cover printing costs if you order them in large quantities. Also, could you be sure to include a stamped addressed envelope (or at least stamps) when you write in for things. Thanks.

[* The three starred items are included with this newsletter to all people who receive it direct from us - please let us know if you want more.]

1975 is International Women's Year, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has launched a "Shopping for Peace" campaign calling for resources and trade to be concentrated on constructive items and not on weaponry. For more details, write to WILPF, 29 Great James Street, London WC1.

The date of the next Campaign Council meeting is Monday 20 January, at 7.30pm, at 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. We hope some of our supporters who haven't been before will come.

If you change your address, or for any reason don't want to continue receiving these newsletters, please let us know so that we can save postage, which is one of our major expenses. In fact, we'd appreciate any donations possible. Our budget, approved at the last council meeting, requires £700 in donations etc (over and above money received for materials used) just to survive for a year.

Before you stop reading this, please ask yourself - have you volunteered as a local contact; written two letters; sent in for badges; offered to help with the research;etc????