



SDP GREENS

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Dear David

Many thanks for your two excellent letters re: Embassy / Green Gathering.

As you are no doubt well aware, I am in full agreement with almost everything you say. If you have had rather a silent response, I should interpret that as silent agreement. The contrary effect is very strange - after the 1983 debate I spoke to many people on the subject - If you remember it was an obsession of mine at the time. In private the overwhelming majority of people expressed general dis liking, but unable to clear the subject in their minds, and somehow fearful of appearing "not properly green" must would not state their preference openly. I have only two things to add to what you have

said. ① That the police are obviously quite glad of the existence of the Conway Effect - since their job of controlling large gatherings is obviously made a lot easier.

In order to maintain credibility tho', they do from time to time have to send in the heavy brigade, but after a bit of smashing and shunting let everyone go again. I do not have sufficient evidence myself to put the case clearly - I'm sure you have! There is no doubt in my mind that if the police wanted to break up the Conway for good, they could do it quite easily, even acting ~~the~~ within the law.

② The majority of people who make up the "Conway" at any one time, when approached individually, would agree that the "Conway" was not a good idea. People just get caught up in the romance / lack of money / does not vs / then identity of being on the road. It's concerted propaganda effort including G.C. ~~too~~ is needed to win the argument.

Details of the wreckage left by the Conway must become public knowledge. So long as individuals are not named, you will find few who will support their ^{Conway's} actions.

As regards my involvement in organising
International event:- I am now so heavily
smothered with baby / SDR fees / etc that I could
not offer a major hand. My personal feelings
are that the change to green communism is taking
place quite satisfactorily - not as fast as we'd like,
of course, but certainly visibly.

The things which tend to accelerate the change,
tend to be events, and knowledge of events. The
things that tend to slow it down tend to be
bad publicity and loss of credibility.

One final point: How are you going to stop
some members of the Collective inviting the Convoy?
I have spoken with Wan Deyin on the subject, and
she says that the same thing happened to her at
Longham - some people invited the Convoy - the
Convoy turned up & erected posters saying "Green Deserts
Welcome the Peace Convoy" - GD lost them and
by having to provide wood etc. Later several
~~was~~ returned to the site for the winter, and
the site was lost. A question that often plagues

me is this - why do Conway members return to
federal sites? - why not to any old field?

It's as tho' there's a built in death wish
in the mentality. I can't put words into
the way I interpret this - but it gives me
a vibe, (a vibe, unfortunately that I find inside
the Gen Collective as well). I suppose if I am
truthful I would say that in my opinion the
effects of the Gen Collective have at best a marginal,
and at worst a negative effect on the green
consciousness. However, while there are still
members of it like yourself who are prepared
to suffer the mind and the insults to try to
make it positive, I give you my blessing and
perhaps even a little help.

I hope that doesn't sound patronising - it
not meant to be.

Best wishes, and all strength to you right on

Mike