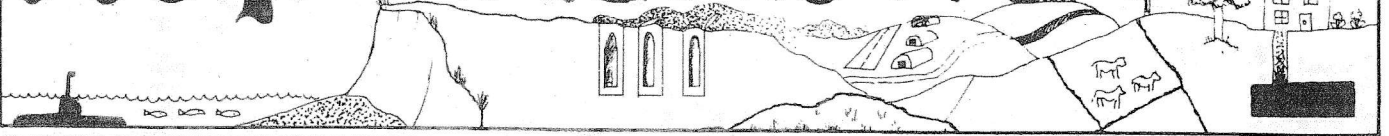


# REGIONAL NEWS



## PEACE CONVOY COMES TO GREENHAM

On Wednesday June 30th about 130 vehicles, carrying 500 people, arrived at Greenham Common from the Stonehenge festival in a 'Peace Convoy'. They established a large campsite near the works entrance (where silo's are under construction for cruise missiles) and began a new phase in the protest against cruise.

On arrival at Greenham they found the council had blocked their path with ditches and one police van was in their way. The van - with a policeman inside - was bodily removed, and the ditches filled in.

The peace convoy originally arrived for a cosmic counter cruise carnival which was intended to last 2-3 weeks. Since then, some of them have decided to stay, and more people have arrived day by day. If enough people join them, and make a long term commitment to this protest, then the Peace settlement will last indefinitely.

The local council, in spite of outbursts of rage from local residents, have decided they can do nothing about it. Chief Executive Brian Thetford told the local 'Mercury' - 'There is very little we can do. We can't physically evict that many people and by the time we got an eviction order they would have probably already left'. They are hoping the settlement will go away of its own accord.

The police, following the same policy employed at Stonehenge, have maintained a low profile, keeping an eye on the site and only intervening to prevent a breach of the peace.

On July 4th the settlement declared independence as the 'Peoples' Free State of Greenham'. In the meantime, at another ceremony within the base, the flag of 511 Tactical Missile Wing was raised on Greenham Common.

● See article, page 15.



A solitary police van is removed to make way for the convoy outside the works entrance. The main body of police had gone to the front gate of the missile base.

## HARD ROCK CANCELLED/WILTS NFZ CAMPAIGN

Operation Hard Rock, the government's Civil Defence exercise, which was to have taken place this autumn, has been cancelled because of the strength of resistance from local authorities which have declared themselves Nuclear Free Zones.

In Wiltshire, a major demonstration had been organised to protest against Hard Rock. This was set for Saturday October 9th, and a list of speakers, including E.P. Thompson, Bruce Kent,

and Michael Pentz had been confirmed.

After a long obstructive debate, Trowbridge District Council had finally agreed at a meeting on July 14 to allow the demonstration to take place in Trowbridge Town Park. The District Council had objected that groups of a "political or controversial nature" should not use the park.

This demonstration is going ahead. It will launch the 'Make Wiltshire

a Nuclear Free Zone campaign'.

The demonstration will include a march through the town and a rally outside County Hall. Full details are yet to be arranged.

For further information contact: Inge Fette or Gepff Hunt (for CND and Peace Groups), 54 Park Street, Trowbridge (Trowbridge 65897). Tony McFarlane (for Labour Party, NALGO and Trades Unions), 45 Islington, Trowbridge (Trowbridge 4484).