

Marjorie Thompson

What newspapers do you take? *The Guardian, The Independent, The Sunday Telegraph, The Independent On Sunday, The Sunday Times, The Observer, The Spectator, and The Nation.*

What foreign languages do you speak? Passable Spanish, a little Welsh.

What is your favourite tv programme? I hardly ever watch tv! *Baywatch, Beverley Hills 90210;* they remind me of what I left behind.

When do you listen to music? When I am angry, nervous, happy, sad or need to get psyched-up: Elton John, The Beach Boys, Sinatra, Dvorak, Crosby Stills & Nash.

When was the last time you prayed? Last night.

What was your first thought this morning? How can I get through everything that has to be done?

What is the most common colour in your wardrobe? Black, brown and navy blue - to look conservative.

Which is your favourite piece of architecture? The Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. An elegant, understated reminder of the tragedy of humanity.

What makes you feel secure? A horrible orange blanket in my front room; drinking bourbon with my great-aunt Mary in St Louis.

How regularly do you consult your horoscope? About twice a month, but only in retrospect.

When did you last visit your parents? Christmas. I talk to them once a month normally, but more frequently since the war began.

What is your greatest regret? The outbreak of the Gulf war.

You're driving through a hot, desolate expanse. What's playing on the stereo? I've driven from California to Colorado - this is not an imaginary answer. *Take It Easy* - The



Marjorie Thompson was born in St Louis, Missouri in 1957 and grew up in California in a politically active Republican family. In 1979 she came to Britain and completed her masters at the London School of Economics. She first became involved with CND in 1983 and was elected to its chair last year. Throughout the Gulf war, Thompson has advocated a peaceful solution through sanctions, negotiations and the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Eagles, 7 Am Constant - The Climax Blues Band, and anything by Journey.

Which is your city of the nineties? Prague - I've always wanted to go there.

How has your diet changed in the past ten years? Less fat, no beef, more fruit.

What physical exercise do you do? Swimming, aerobics, ice-skating, but very little of anything else these days.

Under what circumstances would you use private medicine? If I were diagnosed as having an incurable disease I would go home and be looked after by my dad, who's a doctor.

At what age do you want to stop working? 80 (politically), 55 (paid job).

Do you really need your car? I don't have one!

What is your favourite advertisement? I like the billboards illustrated by women with spray paint against sexism.

Who do you respect, and why? Denis Healey for his wit and style, Oriana Fallacci for her courage and writing, and Vaclav Havel for living in truth.

What would you die for? My partner, my family, and in a just war, my country.

What current campaign do you

most support? Apart from CND - Amnesty, Chile Solidarity and War On Want.

What do you now own that you had never dreamt of owning? I can't answer this question, because I was never without anything I needed - I have, however, done things I never dreamed of doing, like having a tv in my bedroom when the war broke out.

What is the most amount of money you've spent on an item of clothing? £85 on an Arabella Pollen dress. I bought it when I got my job with CND.

What hi-tech device scares you? Anything above an electronic typewriter.

How much time do you spend each day on the phone? Far too much.

Under what circumstances would you support censorship? Pornographic material which is degrading to women, children and the men who look at it.

Are you better off paying your poll tax? I would be slightly better off if I had paid it.

What has been the most significant event in your life? I'm not sure that I want to share that with a family magazine!

What makes you feel guilty? Being so disorganised that I don't have time when friends need me.

Complete this sentence: If I were dictator for a day... I would call for a ceasefire and a Middle East peace conference on the Gulf. I'd also begin a worldwide arms conversion programme, and rehabilitate those involved in the arms trade. All men would receive instruction in women's rights as well!

How much more do you want to achieve? Personally, to make more time for things that count. Professionally, this is as far as I'd ever imagined going.

How has the war in the Gulf left you feeling? Angry, but determined.