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Nuclear Free Scotland



BUILDING THE ANTI-TRIDENT CAMPAIGN

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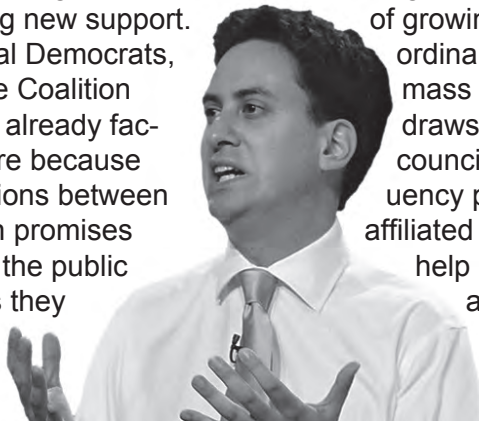
TRIDENT DELAYED

Postponement creates new opportunities for building the anti-Trident campaign

In October the government announced the outcome of its Strategic Defence and Security Review. The Trident replacement project will go ahead but with a delayed timetable. Deployment will be postponed from 2024 till 2028. The Main Gate decision (after which the main contracts are awarded) will be put back till 2016, after the next General Election. The already delayed Initial Gate decision (the start of the detailed design phase) is expected to be announced any day. All this is about deferring costs for a defence budget that is seriously overstretched. But it is also a political decision intended to keep both wings of the coalition happy.

This is, of course, not the decision that we wanted. Most people wanted the programme cancelled and the existing system scrapped. But it does give us new opportunities. It keeps Trident as a live political issue up to and beyond the next General Election. And it provides us with new opportunities to broaden and deepen the anti-Trident campaign.

There are three areas which seem to provide the greatest potential for winning new support. One is the Liberal Democrats, a key pillar of the Coalition Government but already facing huge pressure because of the contradictions between their pre-election promises and the scale of the public expenditure cuts they have supported. Many Lib Dems go beyond their party policy of opposing a like-for-like



‘Ed Milliband and the rest of the shadow cabinet are not immune to these pressures’

replacement for Trident and support outright cancellation. Can we work with anti-Trident supporters in that party to strengthen their position at all levels and ensure that, at the very least, they enter the next election campaign with a clear anti-Trident policy?

Perhaps more important is the scope for returning the Labour Party to an anti-Trident policy. A new campaign to ‘Re-think Trident’ is urgently needed for the Labour Party and trade union movement. Far from defending jobs, Trident actually destroys jobs across the economy. Further work is needed to develop a detailed defence diversification policy for workers in defence dependent areas like Barrow, Faslane and Aldermaston.

But what will really tip the balance will be the growing anti-cuts movement and the extent to which issues like Trident (and the war in Afghanistan) can be integrated into the campaign. A government that chooses to spend over £2bn a year on useless and dangerous weapons is choosing not to spend that money on meeting social need at a time of growing hardship for ordinary families. A mass campaign that draws in MPs, MSPs, councillors and constituency parties, as well as affiliated trade unions can help impact Labour at all levels. Ed Milliband and the rest of the shadow cabinet are not immune to these pressures.



Demonstrator at NATO's Lisbon Summit

That's why lobbying candidates for forthcoming Scottish Elections will be so important (see page 6). At a time when the Scottish Government budget has been cut by £1.3 billion this year alone, scrapping Trident must be a key part of any alternative policy.

NATO IN COLD WAR TIME WARP

In the streets around NATO's Lisbon summit, 40,000 took part in an international anti-NATO demonstration while in London a further 10,000 called for withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. Inside the summit the heads of state followed the script. The war in Afghanistan, opposed by a majority in almost every member state, will continue for another 4 years. NATO's new Strategic Concept, like its predecessor, is caught in a Cold War time warp. It pays lip service to the aim of a world free of nuclear weapons, and then goes on to reaffirm the concept of nuclear deterrence. The calls from three member states - Germany, Holland and Belgium - to have US tactical nuclear weapons removed from their soil are ignored.

It identifies new challenges in the form of international terrorism, cyber attacks and energy security but fails to draw the conclusion that any such 'threats' are blowback from its policy of war and occupation in Afghanistan. It claims that a ballistic missile attack is today 'a significant threat to the Alliance' but fails to explain from where this threat would come. It commits the alliance to building a missile defence system to cover the continent of Europe but fails to come clean about the destabilising nature of this system and its real target - not Iran but Russia. Under these circumstances the offer to Russia to cooperate in NATO's new missile defence system is likely to be a smokescreen. Indeed, Medvedev's proposal for a sectoral missile defence system has already been rejected.

Moreover, it papers over the cracks in an alliance that is well past its 'sell-by' date. The post-Cold War project to expand NATO into an alliance for global intervention led by the United States has run into the sand. The new government of the Ukraine seeks to build a new relationship with Russia and no longer wishes to pursue membership of the alliance. The plan to admit Georgia is on hold due to opposition from key members states such as Germany and France. The growing death toll in Afghanistan is a source of conflict between those states who are involved in a combat role in that country - the US, Britain, Canada, France, Denmark - and those who are not. Meanwhile individual member



states like the Netherlands and Canada have broken ranks and responded to domestic pressure by withdrawing their troops early. Indeed, the experience of becoming involved in such a pointless, unpopular and unwinnable war will make further overseas military intervention hard to sell. And in an age of growing austerity European NATO members can only meet the NATO demand for increased military spending at the expense of other public spending such as health, education and welfare.

THE FOLLY OF MISSILE DEFENCE

The price quoted for the new European Missile Defence project is a mere €200 million divided between 28 member states over a 10 year period. It is not exactly clear what this remarkably small sum will pay for, but the Phased Adaptive Approach (PAA) of missile defence may be the clue. In other words, this is only the first of a series of further developments of increasingly sophisticated radars, sensors and interceptors arranged in a layered defensive shield. Missile defence is an expensive, improbable and unproven way of defending any country from ballistic missile attacks. It can be easily overcome by decoys and countermeasures (which are also much cheaper). But missile defence is not really about defence. It

is the shield that complements the nuclear sword and allows the United States, at least in theory, to launch a first strike with impunity. It is a bid for US global supremacy, the first stage in a plan to weaponise space and use it to control the world below.

There are, of course, safer, cheaper and more rational methods of reducing the risk of nuclear war. Instead of building an elaborate and destabilising missile defence system, why not negotiate a treaty leading to nuclear abolition - a Nuclear Weapons Convention? There is overwhelming support for such a treaty across the world. But that would hit the profits of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon who manufacture these systems. So the Pentagon prefers to exaggerate the threat from minnows like Iran and North Korea, create a demand for its military hardware, increase its involvement with the armed forces of other countries all over the world and create a 'security' dependence on the United States.

All of this plays to US military strength and economic weakness. And nowhere is this scheme more advanced than in the continent of Europe.

Alan Mackinnon

**MARCH
FOR THE
ALTERNATIVE:
JOBS • GROWTH • JUSTICE**



Broadening and Deepening Britain's Anti-Nuclear Campaign

CND has been very encouraged by the US ratification of the new START Treaty which – in spite of all the tensions associated with missile defence and tactical nuclear weapons – symbolises a continuing global desire for progress towards nuclear abolition. There was considerable speculation that since the Republican victories in the US mid-term elections, there might be insufficient support for ratification. In the event, there was much greater support than many had anticipated: it passed by 71 votes to 26, with the backing of 13 Republicans. The Russian Duma then went on to pass the Treaty by 350 in favour to 58 against. Russia's upper house, the Federal Council, is now also required to ratify the Treaty, with a vote expected this month. Now is not the moment to think that nothing more can be achieved on the US front. It is clear there is some bipartisan support for nuclear disarmament initiatives and this must be pursued. Obvious candidates for progress are to secure ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and work towards a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. And it goes without saying that

“ work needs to be done in the Labour Party to finally smash the myth that Labour lost the 1983 election because of its unilateralist policy

there must be strong opposition to increased US funding for nuclear weapons 'modernisation'.

Changing Attitudes in Britain

The desire for disarmament that made new START possible is strong and growing within Britain itself – polls repeatedly show a majority for scrapping Britain's nuclear weapons system, Trident. The key issue which we have faced over the past few years has been government determination to start work on a replacement system, which would not only cost in excess of £76 billion, but would also make Britain a nuclear-armed state until 2050 and beyond. We know that is not compliant with the UK's Article Six commitment under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.



Kate Hudson speaking at the Cut Trident Not Jobs rally in March 2010

Our campaigning has focused on preventing a replacement going ahead and we have been delighted that the government has delayed the decision on replacing Trident until 2016 which is likely to be shortly after the next general election. This is extremely welcome and presents us with a huge opportunity, not only to defeat replacement once and for all but to ensure the scrapping of the existing system too. That goal is now actually on the political agenda in Britain too and in the light of that development, CND Conference last autumn voted to prioritise the Scrap Trident demand above No Trident Replacement – a clear indication of the progress that has been made.

Election Potential

The fact that Trident will almost certainly be a general election issue presents us with some clear goals, notably to shift party policies in the intervening period. Particular work needs to be done in the Labour Party, to finally smash the myth that Labour lost the 1983 election because of its unilateralist policy under the leadership of CND-founding member Michael Foot. In fact it lost because of the SDP split. And we don't want a situation where Labour sticks to its guns as a de-



fender of the Trident replacement status quo, hawkishly attacking the Tory-led coalition government for equivocating on the replacement timetable. There are opportunities for pressing for policy change on the issue through the party's National Policy Forum and through constituency parties and the national conference procedure. However, party policy/political shifts require mass popular pressure to be applied to elected representatives as well as grass roots work within the parties. As we often hear from members of the cross-party Parliamentary CND group, the main thing that motivates MPs is their constituents' opinions, because ultimately that equals votes. Policy changes also require a further shift in public opinion against nuclear weapons on a sustainable political basis. Our goal over this year – for 2011 - is to lay the groundwork for such shifts by working to further win hearts and minds against Trident.

Economic and Security Issues

The wider context – the economic crisis - continues to be favourable to our work, as the government's cuts agenda has driven nuclear spending into the public spotlight. Public opinion remains solidly against Trident spending – a situation which could change if the economic situation eases, hence we need to ensure that public opposition is increasingly underpinned by an understanding of other arguments against nuclear weapons. Whilst the cuts/costs argument will remain our primary strand – particularly in terms of opportunity cost, whether that be welfare, jobs, alternative industrial development in sustainable energy – nevertheless a clear focus on the irrelevance of Trident to meet our security needs and the proliferation consequences of its retention will be strongly emphasised. Recent

government policies make these arguments easier, in particular the new National Security Strategy which reduces the threat of state nuclear attack to a tier two threat.

Extending our Alliances

A key emphasis will be the renewal and extension of our alliances and partnerships within civil society. This requires work with the following: trade unions, trades union councils, faith communities, youth and student organisations, other campaigning organisations working on war, military spending, the environment, debt and developments, the economy and cuts. Our intention is to drive our anti-nuclear agenda into these areas, proactively intervening in political debates, to raise the profile of both anti-nuclear campaigning and CND itself. As well as working to raise our media profile, we plan to make increased use of new media, going to where the online

discussions are taking place, on websites and blogs, sympathetic and unsympathetic. We will be encouraging our local groups to engage vigorously with the local media, in particular bringing the national issues of costs to the local level, in terms of health and education, and the implications for local jobs and services. We are confident that we can make further progress against Trident and win. Fewer and fewer people now argue in its favour with any conviction. Unapologetic pro-Trident politicians are no longer the mainstream, they are now on the fringes where we were once made out to be. Now it is we that are the political mainstream. Let's bring party and government policy in line with the majority political will.

Kate Hudson

Kate Hudson is General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Diary for 2011

- **Sat 26 February**
10.30-13.30 SCND Activists Conference - 'Trident - Building the Campaign' - STUC, 333 Woodlands Rd, Glasgow.
- **Thu 3rd March**
50th Anniversary of the arrival of the US Polaris support ship Proteus at Holy Loch
- **Sat 5th March**
STUC Demo - details to be announced
- **Sat 19th March**
Stop the War Scotland Conference and AGM, Glasgow
- **Sat 26th March**
TUC 'March for the Alternative - Jobs, Growth, Justice' demonstration - 11am Victoria Embankment, London.
- **Sat 16 April**
12.00 Easter Witness for Peace - North Gate Faslane Speakers Cardinal O'Brien, Rt Rev Alan Macdonald and Bruce Kent. Music from members of Wild Goose. Organised by Scottish Clergy Against Nuclear Arms. www.scana.org.uk
- **Tue 26 April**
25th Anniversary of Chernobyl nuclear disaster
- **Sat 11 June**
SCND Post Election Conference on Trident (date provisional) further details to be announced

TRIDENT AND THE HOLYROOD ELECTION

The future of British nuclear weapons was a key issue in the general election campaign in 2010, thanks largely to the efforts of CND members around the country badgering their local candidates. The election this year may be different. The Scotland Act reserves power over Defence and Nuclear Weapons to Westminster, but we are still faced with a significant opportunity.

The Labour Party, when in government, had a clear commitment to replacing Trident. But this stance is weakening now they are in opposition. Former Defence Ministers Des Browne and Bob Ainsworth have called for a review of the decision to replace Trident. Ed Milliband has opened a long examination of all party policies. At the same time the Liberal Democrats find themselves in a difficult place. They are part of a Government which is pushing ahead with a like-for-like replacement for Trident, which is contrary to their own party policy.

The coalition government are facing two ways over Trident. They are about to proceed with design work for the new submarines, but have postponed the construction contracts until 2016. The limited delay means that Trident is likely to be a major issue in the next general election in 2015. It



is important that we use the next few years to build strong public and political opposition to nuclear weapons.

The views of those standing as candidates in the Scottish election can play an important part in this. The position of Labour and Liberal Democrat hopefuls is particularly important. The Holyrood election is a unique opportunity to force key political players to say where they stand. Do they support spending over £2 billion each year on Weapons of Mass Destruction while vital services in their own communities are being slashed ?

The Scottish Parliament is able, and indeed has a duty, to speak up on issues that are of concern to the Scottish people, even if they are reserved. As Christina McKelvie MSP said in Holyrood's debate on Trident – "Defence may be reserved, but morality, decency and common sense are not". The precedent is that the Scottish Parliament can take a stand on nuclear weapons. In June 2007 they voted by an overwhelming majority to urge the UK government not to go ahead with the plan to replace Trident.

Please lobby your existing MSPs and all the candidates who are looking for your vote in May. Information on their views is available on www.scotland-4peace.org. Drop them a letter or email, even better arrange to visit them at a local surgery or hustings meeting.

John Ainslie

Anniversary Date Activity

At the recent AGM of Scottish CND a motion was put forward by Adam Beese calling for CND activity around certain significant anniversary dates. These include the Chernobyl Anniversary and the anniversary of the kidnapping of Mordechai Vanunu.

In addition to these dates we already have August 6th and 9th which are the anniversaries of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We also now have an United Nations Peace Day designated as September 21st each year.

At the recent Executive meeting ideas for action around these dates came up.



The Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries already have activities organised by a number of CND groups. However the following activities were suggested for some of the other dates:

- **April 26 - Chernobyl Anniversary** - gatherings in town centres with short speeches followed by leafleting
- **September 21- United Nations Peace Day** - peace exhibition in local building eg Library
- **September 30** - Film show to highlight **Mordechai Vanunu** exposing the Israeli Nuclear Weapons programme.

These are just some ideas of the types of activities which could be used to mark significant anniversary dates for the Peace Movement. Any further ideas are welcome - please contact the office with suggestions.

Arthur West

THE HIGH COST OF NEW START

In late December the US Senate finally ratified the US-Russia New START treaty on nuclear weapons cuts by 71 votes to 26. This is, of course, good news and may open the way to a follow-up agreement. But the Senate approval was bought at a high price. Obama has agreed to a continuation of the Bush-era tax cuts for a further 2 years. This will mean cuts in welfare programmes at a time of high unemployment when one in eight Americans depends on food stamps to eat.

Perhaps more importantly, Obama has sweetened the deal by pledging a staggering \$185 billion in a 10-year plan to maintain US nuclear warheads, modernize their supporting infrastructure and modernize nuclear delivery systems. And this is only a baseline figure. As specific programmes are proposed such as the replacement of the US Trident fleet, further budgetary requests will be made. It could be argued that this will make the process of nuclear decommissioning safer and faster. But it could also provide an irresistible temptation to this president or the next to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons. Already it represents a considerable increase in spending on the nuclear weapons laboratories over the previous Bush administration. Quite a triumph for the lobbying power of the nuclear weapons industry and its captured men and women of the US congress. At a time when the numbers of US nuclear weapons have fallen from 22,000 in 1989 to around 5,000 today, it seems strange that the cost of funding these weapons should continue to escalate. While we heartily endorse any cuts in warheads and delivery systems, all of this looks much more like Cold War-era arms control rather than movement towards a nuclear free world.



Presidents Obama and Medvedev sign the New START agreement in April 2010

What is New START?

New START is a treaty between Russia and the United States which reduces deployed strategic nuclear weapons by approximately 30%. The treaty was signed by Presidents Obama and Medvedev in April 2010 and has now been ratified by the US Senate and the Russian Duma. It limits both countries to a maximum of 1550 warheads and 700 launch vehicles (bombers, missiles and submarine tubes) and establishes a new verification system to monitor each other's nuclear arsenal.

Documents recently sent to the Senate detailed how the cuts would be made.

At least 30 missile silos, 34 bombers and 56 submarine launch tubes would be taken out of service. Most of the bombers will be converted to conventional use. None of the 14 strategic nuclear submarines will be retired. Instead, each will have 4 of its 24 launch tubes removed.



Next Steps

So what next? Take weapons off alert, further reductions in strategic nukes, or get rid of tactical nuclear weapons? Or better still, what about a new treaty that combines all three and gets rid of non-deployed weapons at the same time? What are the barriers to such an agreement? For Russia whose nuclear arsenal is vulnerable to pre-emptive strike and whose conventional forces are a shadow of their former self, further agreement may need to be linked to setting limits on US/NATO missile defence plans and conventional forces in Europe. Obama faced a major battle to get Senate ratification of New START. Any new agreement could be even more difficult since the Republican mid-term successes.

More importantly, perhaps, why not extend the process to include all nuclear weapons states in a framework with a clear timetable for working towards nuclear weapons abolition? Winning broad support for this in Scotland can help build the momentum to get this onto the international agenda.

WOMEN & PEACE

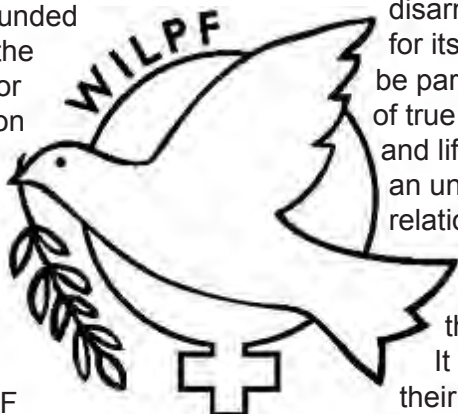
SCOTLAND & THE WORLD

At the start of a year when we are thinking about ensuring that nuclear disarmament is high on the agenda for candidates standing for the Scottish Parliament, I am remembering the eve of the last election, when a few hundred women walked in Princes Street in memory of the Women's Walk for Suffrage that had taken place in 1909. Why was that an important action for peace activists?

PEACE AND FREEDOM

When some of us in CND learnt that You Gov indicated that there was likely to be a low turn out of women at the polls, we were worried. Women are statistically more likely to vote for peace, not parties, and we needed those votes. So some of us who had been inspired by the images and stories of the event in 1909 decided that reminding women of how hard their vote was won, might encourage them to use it. The inspiration extended to ensuring the success of Gude Cause, a project which was responsible for a major re-enactment in 2009 with a wide range of ancillary events throughout the year, not least of which was the re-emergence of the Scottish branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

WILPF was founded in 1915, from the outset called for an "organization of the society of nations," and in 1919 welcomed the establishment of the League of Nations. In 1948, WILPF



was in the first group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to receive consultative status with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), under Article 71 of the UN Charter. In addition to its focus on an international approach to conflict resolution, WILPF has always regarded war and the use of violence as completely unacceptable in dealing with conflict resolution, focussing instead on negotiation, conciliation and the development of international humanitarian law.

REACHING CRITICAL WILL

Recognising that nuclear weapons play an integral role in the militarism, ecological destruction, and social injustice threatening our world, WILPF has always been opposed to nuclear weapons and the rationale that lies behind their construction and deployment. In 1999 WILPF created its Reaching Critical Will (RCW) project in order to promote and facilitate engagement of non-governmental actors in UN processes related to nuclear disarmament in preparation for the 2000 Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Reaching Critical Will is predicated on the understanding that disarmament cannot be for its own sake, but must be part of the promotion of true human security and life on this planet in an understanding of the relationship between nuclear weapons and the structures that maintain them. It is necessary for their elimination to iden-



Janet Fenton Speaking at the Hiroshima Day event at Kelvingrove Park in August 2010

tify those who benefit from their maintenance. RCW has been influential in organising the coming together and information sharing of NGOs in New York. But is this particularly women's work? Is Peace a gendered issue?

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325

When The UN Security Council became concerned about civilians in armed conflict, it emerged that women and children constituted most of the victims and were increasingly targeted by armed elements. This impacted on the possibilities for peace and reconciliation. Were appropriate reparations being included in conflict exit strategies?

Additionally, women played an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and therefore it was important that they were equally involved in the process of maintaining international peace and security. It was also recognised that there was a need to adopt a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations and the training of personnel on women's rights.

Security Council Resolution 1325 was unanimously adopted on 31st October 2001 to provide a legislative framework to recognise and address the needs and the roles of women in relation to conflict. Unlike Resolutions passed under Chapter VII powers, SCR 1325 is to be complied with by agreement and has no enforcement mechanism.

Ten years on, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) General Secretary, Madeleine Rees, has expressed concern about the progress and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The level of implementation of the Resolution is of serious concern, to the extent that overall the representation of women in peace negotiations has actually fallen since 2000 and the level of violence, particularly sexual violence continues unabated.



But the Resolution does not exist in a legal vacuum. It is part of an existing legal framework of both international humanitarian law, and human rights, with their respective enforcement mechanisms. SCR 1325 has been followed by three additional resolutions: 1820, 1888 and 1889, which together form the Women Peace and Security agenda. Specific mention is made of human rights and in particular, to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). With support from Governments, including the UK Government,



this legislation could help to build lasting peace in countries like Afghanistan.

UN WOMEN

The United Nations made history in January 2011 when UN Women officially began its work to implement gender equality and the empowerment of women. This ambitious new organisation brings together and scales up all UN activity to achieve gender equality, offering the promise of accelerated progress in realizing the rights of women worldwide. UN Women has been created because the UN has been failing women by fragmenting responsibility for their rights across four small, poorly funded and poorly coordinated entities. Before now, despite numerous international agreements on women's equality, no UN agency had responsibility for ensuring governments delivered on these promises and, as a result, progress has been slow and inadequate.

In 2008 the combined funding of the previous four UN gender entities was less than one percent of the entire UN budget, even though women make up 70 percent of the world's poor. A minimum funding target for UN Women has been set at \$500 million,

but there has been some concern that this is still inadequate and should be set an initial budget of \$1 billion. Without adequate funding the organisation will be unable to hold governments to account on the promises to improve gender equality.

SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTIONS

It is important that men and women can call to account government commitments to UN resolutions already agreed. Members of the UN security Council have committed to including women in post conflict programmes of training and peace-building. The implementation of measures that support local women's peace initiatives and ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions will make a difference everywhere for everyone to the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict. We might even ban the bomb.

Janet Fenton

More on WILPF and an excellent video at <http://www.wilpfinternational.org>. For links to the activities relating to the NPT, see <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org>. To contact Scottish Wilpf, email scottish-wilpf@peaceandjustice.co.uk

CND Group Reports

Stirling

We have managed to persuade Clackmannanshire Council to become part of the Mayors for Peace network. The situation with Stirling Council is confused. We had been informed that Stirling had reversed its earlier decision not to join Mayors for Peace but we have been unable to get this confirmed. If nothing is forthcoming soon we will submit a formal petition.

In December Stirling CND was represented by David Mackenzie on a delegation that met with Bruce Crawford, Minister for Parliamentary Business in the Scottish Government, at the Scottish Parliament, to hand in an open letter to the First Minister as a follow-up to the Scottish Government's response to the Report from the Working Group on Scotland Without Nuclear Weapons and to discuss the issues that letter raised.

The open letter was compiled by the Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre, The Faslane Weekly Vigil, Greenpeace, Helensburgh CND, The Institute for Law and Peace, Nukewatch, Trident Ploughshares, and The World Court Project and is an expression of the wide concern throughout Scotland to see concrete action

on nuclear weapons taken by the Scottish Government.

The meeting was productive. Bruce Crawford was quick to acknowledge that the steps so far taken had not been communicated to campaigners, but assured us that actions have taken place: letters have been written to the MOD regarding transport, and also to check the number of Trident-related workers at Faslane and Coulport, and also to the UK Government regarding improvements to the regulations. While he indicated that the responses were disappointing, he assured us that he will write to us with greater detail at an early stage.

A substantive issue in the meeting was discussion about the failure of the report or the response to address the issue of legality, and in particular the suggestion that the Lord Advocates Reference (LAR) is binding and provides a final authority. The submission argues that Trident is illegal, the LAR requires review and we were pleased that Bruce Crawford asked what government action we thought could take place if such a review found that it was illegal. He also spoke about the obligation of the government to comply with the Scotland Act, while assuring us of his total commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Bruce Crawford agreed that we would be informed very shortly of the detail of the steps already taken on the recommendations and assured us that he would examine the submitted material carefully and discuss it with the First Minister before responding to us as soon as possible. We pointed out the wide range of

individuals and organisations who have expectations of the Government following election promises, the summit, and working group. Bruce Crawford recognised that a signal in the form of concrete action is required at this stage.

Ayrshire

Ayrshire CND meets on the third Monday of the month in the Vineburgh Community Centre Quarry Road Irvine. The group recently opened their New Year activities with a street stall in Irvine which highlighted the links between spending money on Trident and cutting public services. For more info phone Arthur West on 07803936228.

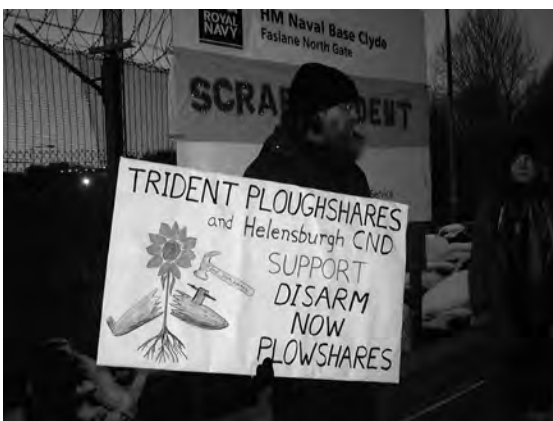
Helensburgh

In September we had a stall at a four day exhibition organised by Helensburgh Rotary Club. It was important that our campaign was included among all the other worthy local organisations.

Unfortunately our Christmas street stall had to be cancelled due to the weather although we have still managed to get out to Faslane every Wednesday to continue the weekly vigil. In December we dedicated the vigil to the Disarm Now Plowshares who were on trial in Tacoma, Washington, USA for entering the U.S. Navy's Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC), on November 2, 2009 in a symbolic act intended to bring light to the immoral and illegal nuclear weapons stored and deployed from there. They were all found guilty and will be sentenced on March 28th.

Edinburgh

Despite the snow Edinburgh CND has managed to run a number of successful stalls at anti-cuts events and our regular monthly vigils. We have a varied programme for the following year: please check the website.



Helensburgh CND demonstrating at Faslane



Glasgow West CND re-dedicating the Peace Tree at Victoria Park, Glasgow

Glasgow West

On September 29th we held a public meeting at the STUC entitled 'There is a Better Way - scrap Trident' Speakers included Dave Moxham, Deputy General Secretary of the STUC. The meeting explored the alternative to spending vast sums on Trident while imposing savage cuts in services and jobs. On Saturday 6th November we held a short meeting in atrocious weather to re-dedicate a Peace Tree in Glasgow's Victorai Park. The tree was first planted by Christian CND some 20 years ago. The plaque had been carefully restored by a local activist. Several people spoke including local MSP Pauline McNeill, Martin Bartos from the Scottish Greens and a local activist from the SNP. Marion McMillan laid flowers at the foot of the tree. Bad weather prevented us holding street stalls throughout most of November and December but we plan to get back to street campaigning early in the New Year.

Aberdeen

In November Aberdeen CND hosted a public meeting with a team from Nagasaki city led by Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki and Vice-President of Mayors for Peace. Mr Taue and his colleagues spoke about city's involvement in the international movement for nuclear disarmament and peace and gave a moving description of the actual experience of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

Approximately 100 people attended the meeting which took place in the dignified surroundings of the Aberdeen Art Gallery. Mr Taue and his col-



leagues, Mr Takashi Yoshihara, Chairman of Nagasaki City Council and Mr Tomoo Kurokawa, Director of Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, were hosted by Aberdeen City Council as part of the Citizens' Friendship City link-up with Nagasaki. The link-up was initiated by the Rotary Club of Aberdeen Balgownie.

Glasgow University CND

Glasgow Uni CND make the case for disarmament on campus and beyond. The British public greet the new year with a VAT tax increase, along with the phase-in of the coalition-government's savage cuts to public services which even the Telegraph reported will hit the poorest households (with incomes of under £10,000pa) 15 times harder than the richest. Meanwhile the British National Debt approaches nine hundred and ninety seven billion (£997,000,000,000) and each household will have to pay around £1,880 just to cover the interest on this massive figure, almost unfathomable to those of us who still believe that the purpose of paying tax in a liberal democracy is to fund public services rather than to pay off the rich corporate banking oligarchy. In a time where the most vulnerable members of society are being asked to bear the brunt of what are euphemistically termed 'austerity measures,' we see the true measure of parliamentary hypocrisy in light of the majority support, both in the Conservative coalition and the Labour opposition, for continuing to upkeep Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, at the cost of £2 billion a year.

Glasgow Uni CND is committed to engaging with students on campus to raise awareness and organise effective student activism. On the cards for this semester is an evening event featuring live music and protest poetry to raise funds for a student trip to demonstrate at Faslane. Providing education and access to the facts is at the heart of what we do on campus. At a time when the universal availability of tertiary education is at risk, we are entreated to believe that states such as Iran and North Korea may soon pose an imminent nuclear threat in order to justify a renewal of our own nuclear arsenal at a cost of £76bn. Yet when our leaders make the argument for deterrence, they concomitantly empower other nations that may have nuclear aspirations to do the same.

Nuclear Deterrence is a misnomer. Our weapons have won us none of our wars and deterred none of our enemies. Argentina was not deterred from seizing the Falklands.

Antony Sammeroff

AROUND THE TIME OF MICHAEL

SCND is pleased to announce the publication of 'Around the Time of Michael' by Jim Aitken. This is the second book of poems Jim has written for SCND. His first one 'Neptune's Staff And Other Formations (2007)' was very well received and this latest collection looks as if it will do even better. Jim writes with style and conviction and confirms our view that another world is possible. Michael is Jim's 7 month old grandson and while there are poems about his birth there are also poems about the world into which Michael has been born. This is a world of economic recession, militarism, war, greed and inequality - a world of fraught relations particularly in Palestine. However, it is also a world of wonder, beauty and hope. This complex world requires Jim's poetic response and in this collection he looks to classical legend, to eastern religion and to an awareness of the limitations of our economic and political system.

Jim's humanity shines through these poems and it is this quality that we all require to deal with today's issues. There can be nothing greater than celebrating the birth of a human life and in this collection little Michael is not only a baby looking around him, he is a metaphor of hope and innocence for us all to start seeing the beauty that is all around us. Maybe in this process we can come to challenge the ugliness that distorts that.

SAVINGS IN THE DOWN-TURN

Savings

Efficiency ones or just savings

Public sector restraint

And reducing waste

New realities demanding

These new measures

For we all have to tighten our belts

During this down-turn

Which refuses to say

What we are all saving for

And who we all are

While we still fight wars

And order Trident Mark 2

As Lords and Ladies lunch

At the Palace or at the Club

During this down-turn

That affects us all apparently

The rich who grew rich

On the human waste they created

The lives they gambled away

In their Stock Market

And the new poor, new homeless

Along with the previous poor

And the previous homeless

Who have no belts to tighten

During this down-turn.

Jim Aitken

(Around the time of Michael can be purchased from SCND for £5)



WHY TRIDENT VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW

Personal opinion of Judge Bedjaoui on the legality of nuclear weapons (2009)

“

I have been asked to give a personal opinion on the legality of a nuclear weapons

system that deploys over

100 nuclear warheads with an approximate yield of 100 kt per warhead. Bearing in mind that warheads of this size constitute around eight times the explosive power of the bomb that flattened Hiroshima in 1945 and killed over 100,000 civilians, it follows that the use of even a single such warhead in any circumstance, whether a first or second use and whether intended to be targeted against civilian populations or military objectives, would inevitably violate the prohibitions on the infliction of unnecessary suffering and indiscriminate harm as well as the rule of proportionality including with respect to the environment. In my opinion, such a system deployed and ready for action would be unlawful

In accordance with evidence heard by the Court, it is clear that an explosion caused by the detonation of just one 100 kt warhead would release powerful and prolonged ionising radiation, which could not be contained in space or time, and which would harmfully affect civilians as well as combatants, neutral as well as belligerent states, and future generations as well as people targeted in the present time. In view of these extraordinarily powerful characteristics and effects, any use of such a warhead would contravene international and humanitarian laws and precepts. In other



fence, in which the very survival of a State would be at stake, the use of a 100 kt nuclear warhead - regardless of whether it was targeted to land accurately on or above a military target -- would always fail the tests of controllability, discrimination, civilian immunity, and neutral rights and would thus be unlawful.

The modernisation, updating or renewal of such a nuclear weapon system would also be a material breach of NPT obligations, particularly the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to "accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament" and the fundamental Article 6 obligation to negotiate in good faith on cessation of the arms race and on nuclear disarmament, with the understanding that these negotiations must be pursued in good faith and brought to conclusion in a timely manner. "

Judge Bedjaoui was President of the International Court of Justice when it gave its historic ruling on nuclear weapons in 1996.



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Give Peace A Budget

At the moment, the UK's current tax system does not enable people to express their freedom of thought, conscience, or religion by not paying for war and diverting their taxes away from killing to other forms of security. There are ongoing calls for an update in the law, so that people with a conscientious objection to war can have the part of their taxes currently spent on war and the preparation for war – approximately 10% – spent on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The changes to the tax system are backed by the efforts of Peace Tax Seven and individuals who continue to refuse to contribute to war and killing through taxation. Conscience is a campaigning organisation which supports those who refuse to pay for war.



There have been round table meetings hosted by the Peace and Security Liaison Group (PSLG), under the previous UK Government, which brought together government officials, academics, think tanks and NGOs, and aimed

to strengthen the UK government's conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacity. The report of discussion, 'Securing Peace', states that "Greater attention is now given to the UK's international role in preventing and resolving violent conflict, with an acknowledgement that military solutions alone are not appropriate or effective in the face of complex conflicts which can afflict whole regions". However, it is recognised that the UK government has failed to understand and reflect on inconsistencies and 'double think' in its own policies. Clearly, the UK's position in pushing others to give up their nuclear weapon ambitions would be strengthened by compliance the commitment of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty by immediately decommissioning Trident and ruling out plans for future nuclear weapon systems.

The election of a UK Coalition government requires new actions - campaigners for a peace tax are interested in receiving your help to take forward a more consistent approach to the formulation and implementation of policies which promote peace and security. They are asking any concerned person to write to their MP – whether they are part of the government or the opposition – about where they stand on the issue of non-military security and Peace Tax. Further information and resources are available from Conscience at <http://www.conscienceonline.org.uk> and <http://www.peacepays.org/>

Martha Wardrop

Volunteering in the Scottish CND Office

Political lobbying

Are you interested in Scottish politics? Would you like to help to promote the peace movement in Scotland? We are looking for someone to help with Scottish CND's political lobbying work in the run up to the Scottish elections in 2011. This will include sending questionnaires to candidates, maintaining a database and website with their views and other lobbying initiatives.

Disarmament Campaigner

Could you help us to develop our campaign? We need someone to assist in Scottish CND's work to raise public awareness of the links between spending on nuclear weapons and cuts in public services. This will include circulating information by email, post and social network sites, producing publicity material, and assisting with organising activities.

YouTube Video Producer

Do you have skills in producing short videos? Would you like to put these to use, promoting an important part of the peace movement? We are looking for ideas for short videos to promote our message of nuclear disarmament and assistance in the production of material suitable for YouTube.



Scottish CND has a video camera and video editing software.

Scottish CND is also keen to identify other skills which our members have which might be of use to the campaign.

If you are interested in any of the above vacancies or if you have other skills which could be of assistance please contact John Ainslie in the Scottish CND office in Glasgow, 0141 423 1222, john.ainslie@banthebomb.org



Change of Address

If you are moving home please let us know your new address:

Name _____

Old address _____

New address & postcode _____

I would like to join Scottish CND

Membership rates: Adult £24 Youth £10 Household £36 Low waged £16 Unwaged £10
Student £10 Pensioner £10 (Please tick)

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____ E-mail _____

Help us keep our costs down by paying with the Standing Order below

STANDING ORDER

Please pay from the account below £__ (insert amount) once every year starting on _____ (date*) until further notice to cover my annual membership fee and a regular donation to Scottish CND. **Please make this date at least one month from now.*

Name of bank _____

Address of bank _____

Postcode _____

Account No _____

Sort Code _____

Account name _____

Signature _____

(Bank: Pay to Scottish CND, Ac No 00970363, Code 80-07-67)

Alternatively, I enclose a cheque of £__ for my annual membership fee / as a donation to Scottish CND (delete as appropriate). Make cheques out to Scottish CND and return this form to:
Scottish CND, 15 Barriland St. Glasgow G41 1QH. Tel: 0141 423 1222.

You can also join Scottish online at www.banthebomb.org

