

Heddwch

the magazine of CND Cymru



Summer 1996
25p

No thanks



INSIDE:

World Court declares nuclear weapons threat and use illegal!

Nuclear trains across Wales

Safety fears at Nuclear 'car-boot' sale

... and more

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More information, ideas or offers of help? Please get in touch with your nearest CND Cymru Vice-Chair.

The Prime Minister's Mantra

A Special MANTRA I have got –
I chant it all the time.
'Deterrence' is the Magic word
– most difficult to rhyme.

It's odd that when one utters it
A Holy Hush there falls,
And no-one asks "What do you mean?!"
– One's bluff just no-one calls....

...And God forbid they ever should...
For then, what could I say?
Confess I really didn't know?
– Alas! and Well-a-Day!

I'm only the Prime Minister...
I've never thought it out,
And not had time in my career
To learn what it's about.

So hopefully I'll just go on
And trust that they'll trust me.
(In Bombs we trust – forgive us, God,
That we no more trust Thee).

*Lib Rowland Hughes,
Llangollen*



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Heddwch

- The next issue of Heddwch will appear in October 1996.
- Please send contributions to Jill Stallard (see above for address); Phone Jill for the next issue's copy deadline
- Contributions on computer disk are welcome. Please contact Jill, or Mike Southern (01222 488748) for details.
- All help with editorial gratefully received.

World Court declares nuclear weapons threat and use illegal!

July 8th 1996 may well be remembered as the day when a nuclear weapon free world became more than a dream. On that day, the International Court of Justice declared that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be "contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict" in just about any imaginable circumstance.

The only exception to this amazing declaration of illegality was that the Court could not declare definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self defense, in which the very

survival of a state would be at stake.

The Court unanimously stressed that, in accordance with Article VI of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty: "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

Commander Rob Green, Royal Navy (ret.), of the World Court Project said:

"With this remarkable decision, I could never have used a nuclear weapon legally. This places a duty on the military to review their whole attitude towards nuclear weapons."

What a blow to the nuclear states who urged the Court not to consider this case!

Now we must spread the news.

Copies of the ruling (about 40 pages) are available from CND Cymru.

The implications of this are profound. Two Early Day Motions are to be presented to the House of Commons. Two direction Questions are to be asked in the House of Commons.

- For more information about where we go from here – watch this space, contact Jill Stallard at CND Cymru, or The World Court Project, 67, Summerheath Road, Hailsham, Sussex, BN27 3DR (01323) 844 269.

Safety Fears at Nuclear 'Car-Boot' Sale

The commercial pressure that has been applied to all nuclear stations since 1990 is increasing as privatisation proceeds. Of the seven stations with Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors included in the sale, four have been identified by the Science Policy Research Unit of Sussex University as producing power at above market rates: Dungeness B, Hartlepool, Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B.

Despite threats of the dire consequences of passing on information which may affect the market value of British Energy employees at Hinkley Point have warned that:

- operational rules and limits of plant performance are being tested to the extreme in preference to shutting the plant down
- the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is being constrained from action over issues that might affect privatisation
- staff are being subjected to intolerable mental and physical stresses from an

increasing workload

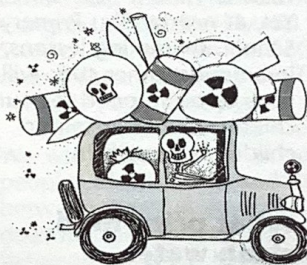
- British Energy intend to increase the output of Hinkley Point B by 6% after privatisation.

Under British company law British Energy has as its sole responsibility the maximisation of its shareholders' interests. It is already clear that unrealistic and unsustainable plant and financial targets are being set which are compromising safety.

It has been confirmed that a 'main objective' shared by the public sector Magnox Electric and the soon to be privatised 'British Energy' is to extend the lives of the nuclear stations so that they can generate cash for as long as possible, and to put off the day when closure converts each station into a massive liability.

The Government has insisted that 'liabilities must follow assets' into the private sector. However, in their desperation to privatise the AGR's and Sizewell B they have:

- slashed British Energy's debts from the £1.5 billion originally sought,



to £700 million.

- underwritten the costs of accidents over and above the first £140 million.
- provided British Energy with start up capital of £230 million for its 'segregated decommissioning fund'.
- allowed British Energy to halve its decommissioning liabilities (on paper) to £3.73 billion by using a 3% rather than a 2% discount rate.
- breached its own policy on sustainable development by allowing British Energy to make a derisory £16 million annual payment to the segregated fund, An appropriate annual contribution to the decommissioning fund would be about £200 million. British Energy's directors have forecast a dividend payment of £96 million for the current financial year, 'substantially in excess of earnings' so

cash is to be diverted away from future liabilities towards current profits and dividends. The taxpayer has paid an estimated £10 billion (at today's prices) for the stations that have been sold off. Sizewell B alone cost between £2.5 and £3 billion. The prospectus for British Energy values its net assets at £1.54 billion. The taxpayer is getting an incredibly bad deal, now and into the indefinite future.

Nuclear privatisation is an exercise of breathtaking cynicism, motivated by the need to raise cash for short term electoral bribes. The taxpayer will remain a stakeholder in the nuclear industry, responsible for the vast liabilities of the Magnox stations, but with no dedicated fund to pay for them, and the cash flow largely privatised.

It was always on the cards that a nuclear industry in terminal decline would present greater dangers than one which was still expanding. Privatisation adds a vicious twist to the saga as ageing reactors are thrashed by managers with commercial imperatives using a demoralised workforce. This one could end in tears.

Hugh Richards

Nuclear Weapons – Targeting People Everywhere

Firstly it must be stated clearly that there are still huge nuclear arsenals in the world, of which the USA is by far the largest holder. Despite the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty last year which committed the nuclear weapon states to moving to nuclear disarmament, the US, the Britain and France have sought to find ways to circumvent the Treaty. Rather than disarming, the nuclear states are consolidating their arsenals.

Cynical moves

Take the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: the US only agreed to sign up to that when it was sure that it could carry out computer simulation tests in the laboratory. Further the US, Britain and France have now agreed to share that data. These cynical moves are endangering global security because other nation states will not forever put up with 'do as I say not as I do' attitudes.

NATO could be the first to use a nuclear weapon

NATO still has a policy of first use of nuclear weapons and believes that nuclear weapons are 'essential' for 'war prevention'. NATO will now also 'integrate the substrate capability of the Britain's Trident submarines' (*NATO Review January 1996*). In effect, this is an European nuclear force.

What price our children's security?

So what is this 'Trident' which the power holders claim brings 'security'? It is a nuclear armed submarine of which one boat can carry 4,000 times the killing power of the bomb at

Hiroshima. The design for the missile system is totally US; we are purchasing the missiles from the US; the crews are trained in the US. So much for independence. The warheads are made in Britain at Aldermaston and shipped on our narrow roads up to Faslane in Scotland. The cost is astronomical:

£11,000,000,000, with a possible £25,000,000,000 to come. Public money is spent on Trident like there is no tomorrow – £800 million was lost at the Faslane Trident base alone. Yet, at nearby Rhu Primary School, swimming lessons, in amongst other cuts, will have to be stopped for our children. What price our children's security?

What price food, clean water, education, and health?

This is happening in our name. If we ask ourselves, what do we want for people everywhere and particularly children, would we answer 'the provision of food, clean water, education, health care', or would we say 'nuclear warheads which could destroy the world'? If we choose the former, then we must each and every one of us set out to expose the lies, give out the information, and join with others to campaign for a nuclear free world. "Abolition 2000", a global network to eliminate nuclear weapons, has set out a reasonable and attainable agenda – let us all work for that. Together we are stronger; the CND organisation is needed as never before. Join and invite your neighbours to join.

Rae Street

Stop the Hawks Gwynedd

The last issue of *Heddwch* carried an article mentioning, amongst other things, the Peace Camp held outside RAF Valley, Anglesey over the weekend of June 8-10. The main objective was to call the public's attention to the use of Hawk aircraft to support the oppressive and genocidal policies of the Indonesian government against the people of the small island of East Timor. Indonesian pilots are trained here at Valley.

Some three or four hundred people visited the camp in the space of the three days, with 150 or so attending the rally held on Saturday. The high spot of the rally for most of us was the message from Estevao Cabral, a student who has been exiled from East Timor for the last ten years. At the end of the rally, 50 or so people climbed the air base fence and held a mass symbolic die-in in solidarity with the inhabitants of East Timor.

The camp gained national and local press and media attention and we can safely say that what is happening in East Timor has now reached a substantial audience. At the end of the weekend there was general agreement that the camp and the rally had been a success on several levels for those present. Certainly the event inspired and encouraged campaigners and visitors who have been involved for some years in England.

Inevitably in the circumstances, after the excitement and the hard work, the next challenge is to sustain the momentum created. After a short break, we will need to organize and plan for the future. Our intention as a group in the next months is to build on our success so far. As we go to press, four women from the north of England who caused damage to Hawks at British Aerospace in January this year are on trial. Members of our groups will be in court to show their support.

We hope, with the co-operation of other organizations, to organize a presence in the Cnapan, Dolgellau Folk Festival and the Eisteddfod in Llandeilo. We would be very glad of any practical support in the future and are grateful for the assistance and support we have already received. The spate of financial contributions received in the last few weeks have not only been a big boost to the campaign but have also gladdened our hearts. Thanks to everybody.

These are early days yet for us as a campaign and the ideas which are evolving at present. In the next few weeks, for example, we will be investigating the possibility of issuing a legal writ against either Ian Laing, President of the Board of Trade, or Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary for promoting crimes against human rights by supporting Indonesia, morally and financially, in the oppression of East Timor. Watch the press for details!

So there's plenty of work ahead of us and the campaign is sure to need more volunteers in the future.

- If anybody would like to join in the work and share a bit of the burden, you're welcome to contact us on 01286 870044.



Not Secret, Not Surprising, Not Subtle:

A Tale of the Western European Union

It all began with the Schuman plan. It sounded like a good idea at the time. According to potted history, all the troubles in Europe stemmed from Franco-German rivalry, in turn rooted in iron, coal and steel. Put it under supranational control and there would be no more squabbles between France and Germany, and Europe could dream on in peace and eternal happiness. It never occurred to anyone in Britain that it could lead to a halving of steel production here (with more to come) and the virtual extinction of coal extraction.

Crawling inside the Common Market

Then came the Common Market. It would be a market bigger than the USA. What wonderful vistas opened up for British business! However, they didn't want us with our Commonwealth. When we finally crawled inside, it was without our Commonwealth. In the blaze of pro-Market propaganda (we were taken inside at first without the "full hearted support of Parliament and People" – as in the Tory Manifesto) during the referendum, the British Public was never informed that it would result in our breaking links with the Commonwealth. Net Result: Expansion of trade with EEC ports (Dover and Felixstowe) and almost the total dereliction of our ports dealing with other trade (from London, through Cardiff and Liverpool to the Clyde). As a consequence of this came the demise of the Merchant fleet and ship building. Trade with the EEC before was about 15% and was in balance. Since joining we opened the floodgates to EEC penetration – and not the other way round. As a result in 1988 the deficit in manufactured goods with the EEC reached £13 billions, which has to be found in taxes and a lowering of standard of living.

...Single European Dreams

Now (no matter how strident the screams of the right wing in the Tory Party) we are going to have a single currency. As the Bank of England here is the power behind British business, so then will power be transferred to the new European Central Bank in Germany's financial capital of Frankfurt. And as the Bundesbank will have the greatest say in the Central Bank there, so once again – after half a century – Germany will control Europe.

An Army for the European Superstate

There is no secret about this and it should not surprise anyone. It's all down there in black and white in the Rome and Maastricht Treaties. Now, when this hurdle is cleared (and it will be cleared because the people have not yet woken up) we will be left with a superstate with a common foreign policy and former sovereign governments relegated to the level of glorified county councils (which is why present – day local government is also being downgraded). But one thing is missing to complete the trappings of a superstate, and that is a unified army. That is where the Western European Union (WEU) comes in.

For the Protection or the Suppression of the European People?

The WEU is not new. In 1950, when the embers from the war were still smouldering, the USA wanted to re-arm Germany against the so – called Soviet threat. France was adamantly opposed. While Europe discussed an alternative structure, Germany was rearmed and taken into NATO, because that's what the Americans wanted. In limbo then

for years, the WEU has been dug up to serve as the military support for the European Union (EU). The objective is to provide a European army to serve the foreign policy of the EU and to put down revolts inside the EU (which most certainly will occur when working people throughout Europe have their welfare states taken away from them – a policy implicit in the Maastricht Treaty). The growth of the WEU has been going on quietly for some time. It began with a Franco-German brigade and this has now been turned into a Euro-corps with 40,000 troops from France, Germany and Belgium with a new HQ at Strasbourg. Spain has already applied to join, and France, Italy and Greece are discussing setting up a Euro-Corps no.2. The WEU is not all that subtle. It was active in the Gulf War and it is active at the present time on the Danube in the blockade against Serbia.

German nuclear weapons

It is also a not so subtle way of easing Germany into possession of nuclear weapons and at the same time easing such states as Ireland, Austria, Sweden and Finland out of their traditional neutrality; indeed this was the main reason that Sweden rejected the EEC in the first place. On August 22nd 1961, the Prime Minister of Sweden addressed the Congress of the Steel Metal Workers Union as to the reason Sweden did not join the EEC. It is a lengthy statement clearly illustrating why the Treaty was not for Sweden:

this is the salient part:

"The central question is of course foreign policy...

We wish if possible to smooth out differences between the peoples of the world and to create greater understanding between them, at any rate to see that the line we take does not lead to an increase in suspicion and tension between the great powers or among the minor ones.... When such an examination was made, the Government came to the conclusion that membership of the EEC set in accordance with the Treaty of Rome, in its present form, would not be compatible with the Swedish policy of neutrality."

Denis Martin

sixth international conference on peace tax campaigns and war tax resistance

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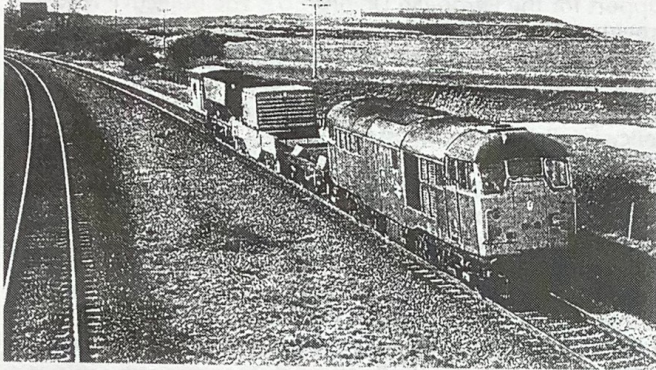
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Nuclear Trains Across Wales



Every year there are over 500 rail movements of flasks containing highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel rods between nuclear power stations in Britain and BNFL's reprocessing plant at Sellafield.

Wylfa

In Wales flasks travel from Wylfa (Ynys Mon) by road to Valley and then by rail to Sellafield. On Tuesdays and Fridays every week. Although Wylfa is the only British nuclear power station to have dry stores on site, these are not large enough to handle all the spent fuel coming out of the reactors. (Moreover, when Wylfa is eventually closed it is planned to empty the dry stores and have the fuel reprocessed at Sellafield).

Hazardous timetable

The nuclear flask trains leave Valley shortly after 3pm (Tues and Fri) and travel through Bangor and Llandudno Junction (where formerly the train was coupled with that bringing flasks from Trawsfynydd – all the spent fuel from Trawsfynydd has now been removed to Sellafield) before following the coastal railway via Colwyn Bay, Abergele, Rhyl, Prestatyn etc. to Chester and then on to Sellafield. Empty flasks travel to Valley on the same days arriving around 9:15am.

Spreading radioactivity

The highly radioactive rods in the flasks give off radiation detectable 440 yards away. There is no

'safe' dose of radiation – any dose can cause cell damage and increase the risk of cancer.

During the transport of the flasks there is always the danger of a serious accident – independent research suggests radiation could be spread up to 28 miles and swirl over a wide area, depending on the weather.

Reprocessing

At Sellafield the spent fuel is eventually reprocessed, allowing the recovery of Plutonium, which may then be available for military purposes. The Government has admitted that it transferred material from the civil to military side on no less than 571 occasions between 1979-1994!

Reprocessing also creates up to 160 times more radioactive waste by volume than was present in the first place. As yet there are no firm plans for dealing with this waste which is being held in storage at Sellafield. There is also no way of permanently making this waste non hazardous.

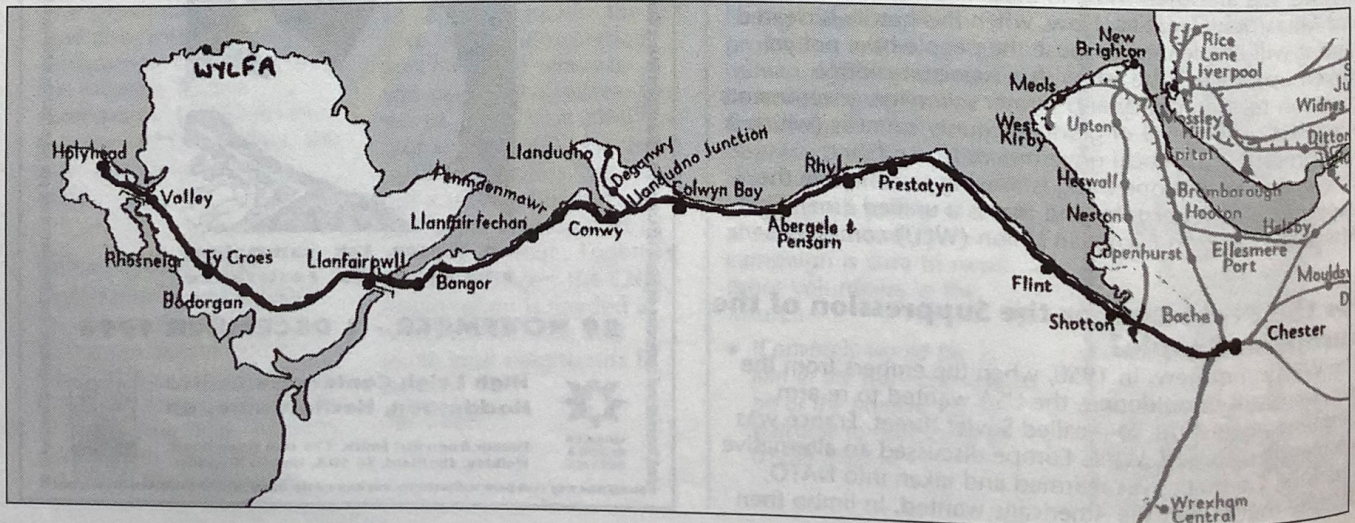
Accidents now – devastation when?

Safety standards on Britain's railways have deteriorated during the recent

privatisation of BR and Railtrack. There have been three reportable nuclear 'incidents' since Railtrack began operating in 1994. A number of flasks have been dropped during loading and in July 1995 there was a full scale nuclear alert at Rugby station when railway workers reported a "Crackling sound" from inside a flask. Meanwhile, Wisconsin Central, the US company who have recently taken over BR's freight business and are now responsible for running most nuclear trains, have one of the worst safety records in the US. They are also proposing to remove the guard vans from the nuclear trains and end the commitment not to run flammable materials on the same stretch of track at the same time as the nuclear trains.

ACTION

Do you live near the line? We hope to set up a monitoring network along the North Wales Coast Line. We would like people who live near the line to report any sightings or any press/media coverage of the nuclear trains. Perhaps you know railworkers or local councillors who are concerned about the issue or can raise the matter via the Local Authority Agenda 21 Process. If so please contact us. Paul Hawkes 01239 614856. Dave Andrews 01978 310491



So you thought the Gulf War was over

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations has published a study which concludes that the deaths of more than 560,000 Iraqi children can be attributed to the UN sanctions. The UN World Food Programme reported in 1995 that 4 million people in Iraq are at severe nutritional risk. Many children and adults alike are facing psychological illnesses. These conditions are compounded by the impacts of napalm and radiation, and a devastated infrastructure – the legacy of the Allies' "clean" warfare methods.

Sanctions are a weapon of mass destruction in the hands of the worlds' rich against the peoples of the south, and could be seen as being used against Iraq as

a cost-effective tool of mass extermination.

Earlier this year, the UN passed "UNSCR 986". This resolution appears, on the surface, to allow Iraq to sell oil and repair its damaged economy. However, the resolution is heavily burdened with reparation costs to Kuwait (whose current needs are not urgent), involves royalty payments to Turkey, and states that one third of all profit from oil must go toward reparations for the business sector in Iraq.

In this light, the humanitarian element of this UN Resolution seems rather hollow and ineffective, and has been described as "like treating a cancer patient with Aspirin, or handing a starving child a packet of biscuits".

This Resolution is intended to silence the anti-sanction lobby and provide a free rein for US hegemony in pursuance of furthering their interest in the Middle East. As Iraq accepted UNSCR 986, Ambassador Madeline Albright, of the US said "today is the happiest day for the Iraqi people". In truth it was a sad day for Iraq and it will be a sad day for all who remain silent.

Jill Stallard

ACTION

Join the collective voice of reason calling for the lifting of sanctions and a total ban on such inhuman punishment.

- Write to your MP.
- Contact organisations working to address the human rights violations of the Iraqi people suffering under UN imposed sanctions:



MOBILISE FOR PEACE

International Commission on Inquiry on Economic Sanctions, BM 2966, London WC1N 3XX (0171) 436 4636 (supported by Tony Benn MP) Friendship Across Frontiers, c/o 51, Hillcrest Gardens, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey KT10 0BU (0181) 398 3266 (Patron – Tom Dalyell MP).

Mordechai Vanunu – 10 years in solitary for telling the truth about Israel's nuclear bomb



For three decades Israel declared "We will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East". During this time it was secretly developing an extensive nuclear programme, hiding

its existence from the Israeli people and Parliament, and from the international community. Mordechai Vanunu had the courage to break this wall of silence.

Vanunu worked as a nuclear technician at

Dimona, Israel's nuclear installation, from 1976 to 1985. In 1986 he revealed the facts to the world through the Sunday Times newspaper. Based on his evidence, experts concluded that Israel had stockpiled up to 200 warheads, making it the world's sixth largest nuclear power.

On 30th September 1986, days before his information was published, Vanunu was drugged and kidnapped from Rome by Israeli agents. He was tried in total secrecy, charged with "treason" and "espionage" and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. Since then he has been kept in complete isolation in conditions described by Amnesty International as "cruel, inhuman and degrading". The European Parliament has repeatedly condemned the behaviour of the Israeli authorities and

called for his release. Vanunu has been honoured by international organisations and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987, 1988, 1989 and again in 1993 and 1995.

He has written:

"I have sacrificed my freedom and risked my life in order to expose the danger of nuclear weapons which threatens this whole region. I have acted on behalf of all citizens and all of humanity."

ACTION:

Support the campaign to free Vanunu - Write to: The Israeli Ambassador, 2 Palace Green, London W8 4QB, to your MP and MEP and/or The Israeli Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Offices, Hakiriya, Jerusalem, Israel.

Contact the Campaign to Free Vanunu and for a Nuclear Free Middle East, 89, Borough High Street, London SE1 1NL

Thorp, Mox and Nuclear Proliferation

British Nuclear Fuels (B.N.F.L) is aggressively pursuing a development policy that risks the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the inexorable development of the "Plutonium economy".

Thorp on stream!

The Thorp plant at Sellafield is now well into its active commissioning period and may be given permission by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (N.I.I) to start commercial operation before the end of the year. Meanwhile, B.N.F.L. are spending over £300 million on a mixed oxide (M.O.X.) fuel fabrication plant which is due for completion by the end of 1997. The Sellafield M.O.X plant (S.M.P) will combine plutonium recovered in Thorp with fresh uranium to manufacture M.O.X fuel rods for use in light water reactors (L.W.R.s) around the world. Planning is already being undertaken on a "Thorp2" plant to reprocess spent M.O.X fuel rods.

Income now – liability later

BNFL believe this development strategy will earn them a lot of money and ensure their continued operation well into the next century. They completely ignore the considerable risks that such a strategy presents for nuclear proliferation and the growth of the "Plutonium economy".

At present fuel for most nuclear power plants is made solely from natural or slightly enriched uranium. It contains no plutonium until it has been burnt in a nuclear reactor. Subsequent recovery of this plutonium is difficult because of the intense radioactivity of the spent fuel and generally requires large scale reprocessing facilities, such as those at Sellafield. Any state that began to build such facilities would quickly come to the attention of the nuclear watchdogs.

M.O.X. to bomb

With M.O.X. fuel, however, previously recovered plutonium is incorporated into the fuel rod before it is burnt in the reactor. This plutonium is chemically separable from the uranium in the fuel rod using relatively simple techniques – on a laboratory scale, for example. Each rod of M.O.X. fuel will therefore need to be the target for nuclear safeguards

to ensure no diversion of the plutonium takes place. When fully operational the Sellafield M.O.X plant will produce 120 tonnes of M.O.X fuel a year – equivalent to many thousands of fuel rods each of which could be a possible source of plutonium to a state or terrorist organisation.

Swiss clandestine bombs

BNFL has no domestic market for M.O.X and is attempting to create an international one. The ramifications for the possibility of nuclear proliferation are obvious. Moreover, recent revelations that Switzerland carried out a clandestine nuclear weapons programme until 1988, mean that we now know that all three of Thorp's main overseas customers – Japan, Germany and Switzerland have at various times since the 1960s explored in detail the option for developing nuclear weapons.

Plutonium economy

Reprocessing and re-use of plutonium by some countries will undoubtedly lead others to desire to "recycle" their plutonium and build up stockpiles. Countries with nuclear power programmes will thus have ready access to weaponisable plutonium. This will considerably shorten the length of time between a political decision to go nuclear and its physical achievement.

Misinformation

BNFL are already sowing the seeds of misinformation about plutonium recovery and M.O.X use. They have promoted M.O.X as a means of reducing stockpiles of both civil and military plutonium, conveniently ignoring the fact that most L.W.R.s can, for safety and technical reasons, only take a third loading of M.O.X fuel. The other two-thirds loading of normal uranium fuel will continue to produce plutonium at a faster rate than the M.O.X loading will consume it. Moreover, burning M.O.X fuel produces far more hazardous spent fuel with greater and much longer lived radiotoxicity. This spent fuel will be an extra burden on future generations that have already been ill-served by the past 50 years of nuclear folly.

Dave Andrews

Book Review Real Lives, Half Lives – tales from the atomic wasteland (Jeremy Hall Penguin Books £6.99)

Hold tight – this is a journey through the terrible legacy of nuclear waste we have created for our grandchildren's grandchildren. It is a tale of our meddling with the fundamental order of things, and how, while some humans try to cash in

on it, others try to stop it. The lesson is that there will never be a de-contaminated paradise for us – it is too late.

But this is strangely not a dismal book but a book full of wonders.

In a curious way all of us whose lives have been touched by the existence of human made radiation are brothers and sisters. And here they are – siblings who include Dr. Galimova who studies radiation induced illnesses around Chelyabinsk in Russia; John Weingart, director of New Jersey's Radioactive Waste

Disposal Facility Siting Board; the Mescalero Apaches of New Mexico; Hans Guyt the Greenpeace campaigner who tried to block the Sellafield pipeline in 1987; Bikini Islanders; Taiwanese fishermen; Hugh Richards and Tim Deere Jones – Welsh anti-nuclear campaigners; Cornelia Hesse-Honegger, an illustrator of radiation – damaged wildlife, a Cardiff householder whose home was flooded by radioactive sewerage from Amersham International... We meet them – and more – in this

excellent and highly readable book.

Real Lives, Half Lives is astonishing – it travels about the small planet revealing facts we half knew, announcing new and often terrifying ones we wish weren't true but undoubtedly are. It was somehow a comfort to an anti-nuclear campaigner holed up in a Welsh cottage – it was like speaking of the devil. Do buy it and read it. It's very good.

Jill Stallard

The Southern Hemisphere – an almost Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone?

Olwen Davies, Vice Chair of CND Cymru took this card with her on her recent happy and successful South African visit. The card referred to the Treaty of Pelindaba, which established Africa as a nuclear free continent and was made by 9 year old Emily Freeman of Cynghordy. In April this year the World Court Project wrote to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to congratulate the African states on the Treaty:

"To all of us working for a nuclear free world, the Pelindaba Treaty is a cause for celebration. With nearly all states in the Southern Hemisphere now covered by nuclear

weapon-free treaties, and a Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty signed on 15 December 1995, it is most encouraging evidence that a growing majority of states wish to dissociate themselves from nuclear weapons as an option in their security policies."

There is another side to the story, however. On the day that the Treaty was signed, an official of the US Security Council said that the Treaty:

"will not limit options available to the United States in response to an attack by a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone party using weapons of mass



■ *The Southern hemisphere – almost nuclear free?*

destruction."

The US reserves the right to use nuclear weapons against an African nation – even if it is a non nuclear weapon state – if it uses chemical or biological weapons.

A South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty

had been signed in December 1995 at a summit meeting of ASEAN at Bangkok, bringing the total of such nuclear weapons free zones around the world to four.

They said that the day of the big demonstration was over. – Wrong! Considering the remoteness of the site, the gathering of Peace Activists at Faslane on 15th June was massive!

They said that the Peace Movement was dying of old age. – Wrong! Certainly the faithful oldies were there but there was a very encouraging representation right across the generations.

We were delighted to welcome a 15 member contingent of the Breton Movement de la Paix, including friends who had hosted us, when in October '95 15,000 demonstrators assembled at the Brest Nuclear Submarine Base.

On the Saturday morning a great rally assembled near the pier at Helenburgh. The Trident Conversion Machine was a popular attraction. A sympathetic policeman liked the idea of popping Trident in one end, winding the handle and watching houses schools and hospitals pour out at the other. An hour or so after our impact on Helenburgh, a convoy of hired coaches,

Faslane – trashing Trident



minibuses and private cars took us all to the Peace Camp which is about one and a half miles from the Base.

In a leisurely way banners were raised and the march assembled on a service road. Eventually in blazing sunshine a very colourful procession set out up the long gentle gradient leading to the wire fortress. We've been to Greenham and we've been to Molesworth but we've never before seen razor wire six coils deep. The police dogs and their

baleful handlers were however very familiar. With a high bank to the left topped by the welded mesh fence, we seemed to walk for ages before we crested the hill and began the long descent to the main gate. It made one realise what a vast waste of our money has been involved in the land based hardware in addition to the Trident nuclear threat itself. As we formed the symbolic blockade we made our presence known to the inmates by blowing whistles, clanging stones

against the guard rails and maintaining thrilling, high pitched ululations. While this joyful cacophony was going on others were busily decorating the fence. One colourful contribution was an arrangement of Welsh stickers provided by the Peace Shop. Then at a prearranged signal the whole throng showed the red card to the base, topically sending Trident off the field of humanity for ever. The speeches followed. Strong Scottish accents with open air amplification were not easy to understand but the message was unmistakable – we must all renew our inspiration to work for a nuclear-free Britain in a nuclear-free world.

Once more to the Peace Camp to admire the beauty of the Loch side and enjoy food and entertainment with those whose vision encompasses a safer saner future and who understand the need to make sacrifices to achieve this in reality. With mutual support and confidence we can win!

Jeanne and George Crabb

Pacifists Occupy Military Control Centre

On June 26th, a group of members and supporters of Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales) entered and occupied the mock church in the fake village of Cilieni on Mynydd Epynt, Powys. The village was built on the 40,000 acre military training area, in the late 1980s at a cost of over £7 million, as a place for soldiers to practice killing people in and around their homes. A building in the form of a church, complete with fake graveyard is used as a control and monitoring centre.

The group of protestors walked unhindered into the village, climbed a fire escape ladder on the church tower and entered by the fire escape door on the fifth floor. The occupation continued for over four hours after which the protestors were carried out from the building by MOD police. No arrests were made, so once again we were denied the opportunity to test the legality of the military Bye-Laws and the application of the Criminal Justice Act in such a situation. The demonstrators demanded:

- 1. The restoration of the area to local people for peaceful purposes.
- 2. The cessation of the use of the fake church as a centre for monitoring of the military training.

Those involved in the protest were from all areas of Wales. They are disgusted by the constant preparation for war and killing carried out by our Government instead of implementing non-violent ways for the permanent resolution of conflict.

One of the protestors, Awel Irene, a shepherd and mother, said:

"Militarism lies silently under the guise of defence and peacekeeping. This is what is happening on Epynt. We must raise our voices against the war industry and against the preparation and training for war and destruction."

- If you are interested in being involved in future non-violent direct action please contact Rod Stallard (see contact list).

Learning from Libya

It's just over ten years since the US bombed Libya using F-111s and EF-111s from Upper Heyford and Lakenheath. This event shocked me in several ways. Not just my horror and distress at the immediate carnage and human tragedy, but also in the form of a deep blow to my inherited world view.

I had been brought up in a peace movement united against nuclear holocaust, against total destruction. The bombings of Tripoli and Benghazi didn't fit into this picture but hurt and affected me just as much. It was the beginning of my education about "interventionary" politics its bloody past and threatening presence. It was also the beginning of significantly changing my nuclear picture of the world.

Nuclear weapons weren't just about two empires facing each other suspiciously, tottering on the rim of nuclear destruction, they were also about two powers maintaining their empires of political and economic influence. Nuclear weapons were intimately linked to interventionary politics.

With the demise of the Soviet Empire, nuclear weapons have managed to survive largely because of this imperial component: the world still needs to know who's boss. The boss still needs the world to know. The announcement of the 'Rifkind Doctrine' made this often previously hidden policy clear for all to see.



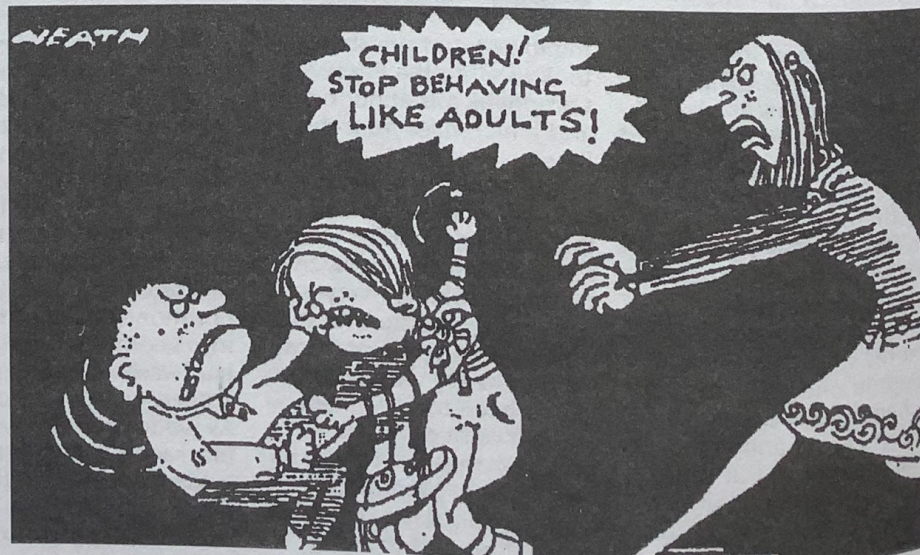
Of course, for people outside or on the edge of Empire it hasn't been hidden it's been obvious, crude and effective. A pervasive terrorism backed up by bloody 'conventional' lessons.

Some quarters of the peace movement in Britain seem reluctant to relinquish a limited and untrue view of the nuclear world. Nuclear weapons are declared useless. But the opposite is true: they are very useful and are being used all the time. A terrorist's power often rests with an unfired weapon.

The peace movement must wholeheartedly take up the implications of 'Tactical Trident' and must honestly change its world view to incorporate its findings and observations. To do so is not only the honest thing but will bring us, and the world nearer to revealing, challenging and reversing the West's long legacy of nuclear and non-nuclear bullying threat and conquest.

Stephen Hancock

- Thanks to Tactical Trident Newsletter Issue 2 Summer 1996
- Stephen Hancock (with Mike Hutchinson) carried out the Upper Heyford Ploughshares action in March 1990, hammering on an F-111 in protest against Upper Heyford's roles in nuclear war – fighting and US interventionism. He and Mike served six months in prison.



To Greenham Women EVERYWHERE

And everyone who has demonstrated at Greenham Common US Airbase near Newbury

Thousands of Welsh women and others who took part in anti - Cruise missile protests at Greenham Common in the 1980s may have been seriously contaminated by radioactive materials (plutonium and uranium) released as the result of an accident at the U.S.base 30 years before.

This information, was kept "Top Secret" by the Government for nearly 40 years, until it was discovered by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

This outrageous scandal of covering up the truth shows the true attitude of nuclear powers - that they will put the lives and health of those they say they are "defending" last . This is only one incident at one site - we must ask : how many other ordinary people in and around how many other nuclear bases have been kept in the dark ?"

The health and lives Greenham Women, the population of Newbury and surrounding districts, and visitors to air displays at the base have all been put at serious risk without their knowledge.

Your Human Rights have been abused !

- ☞ Contact your local MP,
- ☞ Phone the Government Hotline : (0181) 285 76 76



Support C.N.D Cymru in their work for a nuclear Free Future.

For more information about C.N.D Cymru, and a membership form, please write to Nantgaredig, Cynghordy, Llanymddyfri, Sîr Gaerfyrddin, SA20 OLR.

Phone or Fax : (01550) 750260