

# #eddwch



the magazine of CND Cymru

Late Summer 1997  
FREE (or donation) 14

Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

## Radioactive pollution and cancer in Wales

### Fallout from nuclear tests

Since 1975 Wales has experienced a cancer epidemic whose origin lies in genetic damage from radioactive pollution. The original source of this pollution was the atmospheric testing of nuclear bombs in the period 1955-63. Although these were exploded on the other side of the planet, the force of the explosions drove large quantities of radioactive materials into the upper atmosphere to fall in areas of high rainfall like Wales. There is no argument about this: the presence of substances like Strontium-90 in milk and Caesium-137 in food was established by government scientists, and trends over the period are available for all to see. The government also publishes figures showing a sharp rise in infant mortality at the same time as the peaks in Strontium in 1961-64. Nothing was said about this: nuclear matters were part of the Cold War and nothing could be allowed to suggest that weapons tests might actually be killing people. How could anyone then suggest that they could ever be used in war?

### Highest rainfall, highest fallout, highest cancer incidence

These peaks in infant mortality (echoed all over the planet) were the first signs that something was happening in Wales to our children and us also. Fifteen years later the genetic damage dealt by the radioisotopes began feeding through to cancer and incidence rates for the disease began to rise. By 1985-7 the age-adjusted incidence of all cancers in Wales was 25% higher than in England. Not only this, but the shape of the trend with time exactly echoed trends in radioactive pollution twenty years earlier. For certain types of cancer the situation was worse: 36% for female breast cancer, 42% for leukaemia, 50% for childhood cancers. Significantly, the North of Wales had the highest rainfall, the highest radioactive pollution and also the highest cancer incidence. Significantly also, for those arguing that chemical pollution was the cause of cancer increases, areas of low rainfall, like East Anglia, had lower cancer incidence, for childhood leukaemia four times lower.

Continued on page 2



Chernobyl: "A nuclear attack in peacetime"



Nuclear fears for families



Revelation raises new dump fear

visit  
**Trawsfynydd**  
POWER STATION

it's  
**FUN**

Cancer rates 'linked to radiation'



exciting

CND Cymru works for international peace and disarmament and a world in which the vast resources now devoted to militarism are redirected to the real needs of the human community



## Radioactive pollution and cancer in Wales

(Continued from page 1)

### Sellafield and our coastline: the most radioactive sea in the world

Global bomb-testing fallout is, of course, not the only source of radioactive pollution in Wales. The Irish Sea is the most radioactive in the world, having been the sink since 1952 for enormous quantities of man-made radioactive pollution from the BNF reprocessing plant at Sellafield. Pollution comes ashore with silt and spray all along the coast of Wales and Ireland. The nuclear industry, who argued that discharging their waste to the Irish Sea was a safe method of disposing of it, had not been able to anticipate the strange physics of airborne restoration of Plutonium to the land. Plutonium from Sellafield has been measured in the air and on biological samples as far as 100 km inland. Shellfish and fish from the Irish Sea contain radioactivity from Sellafield and carry a small but real risk if eaten. Lobsters have been caught recently that are classifiable as low-level nuclear waste under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993.

### Defying belief – plans for Trawsfynydd

As if this were not enough, there is also Trawsfynydd, the only inland nuclear power station in Britain, which has polluted its cooling water lake, to the extent that this lake now contains as sediment more low-level nuclear waste than the entire quantity that NIREX have to dispose of, and is probably the most radioactive lake in Europe. The latest craziness at Trawsfynydd is the donation of the lake by Magnox Electric, who want to get shot of this embarrassment, to the people of the village of Trawsfynydd to be developed as a tourist amenity. Children will then be encouraged to indulge in water sports, part-funded by the Welsh Tourist Board, as part of the bizarre attempt by the industry to sell itself as green and friendly. Their project defies belief.

### Chernobyl and the increase in Welsh childhood leukaemia

And finally, for those looking for more proof that low-level

radiation causes serious health effects let us not forget Chernobyl. The final cancer yield in Wales due to radioactive pollution from this accident has yet to be established. The immediate effect was a statistically significant increase in Wales in the percentage of babies born of very low birth weight. Furthermore, in the five years after Chernobyl there was a statistically significant increase in childhood leukaemia in the 0-4 age group, those born after the exposure.

### Time to end the whole deadly nuclear nightmare

The people of Wales have good reason to be angry and frightened. Bomb testing, Trawsfynydd and Sellafield are projects that are about money, power and war, none of which were asked for by any of us. And the side-effects are the premature and terrible deaths of our children and loved ones, and our children's children also.

It is time we forced the closure of the deadly nuclear project once and for all.

**Chris Busby**

*Dr Chris Busby is a physical chemist and independent researcher into the health effects of low-level radiation. In 1995 he wrote **Wings of Death: Nuclear Pollution and Human Health** which outlines the results of studies showing that low levels of man-made radioactivity are the cause of the recent cancer epidemic in Wales and elsewhere. He has been invited by the Women's Environment and Development Organization to give a paper at the World Conference on Breast Cancer in Kingston Ontario in July and will also be speaking at the 12th Standing Conference on Low Level Radiation at Bristol on July 19th. He has recently made a study of radioactive pollution at Greenham Common near Newbury and will report next month in the British Medical Journal that the county districts containing nuclear outfalls from the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell have significantly greater mortality from childhood leukemia than the national average.*

### † ACTION

As part of this continuing project Dr. Busby would like to hear from anyone who lived at or stayed at Greenham Common and who has suffered any illness that they feel might be related to radioactivity. Please write to Chris Busby, c/o The Low Level Radiation Campaign, 38 Queen Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 1PU. Information will be kept confidential.

## End arms exports to Indonesia!

### "Cardiff Stop the Hawks" get active

Cardiff Stop the Hawks recently organised a die-in on the steps of the Welsh Office in Cardiff to draw attention to the plight of East Timor. The recent announcement of a review of arms to Indonesia by the new Foreign Secretary Robin Cook is seen as a sign of hope that the exports will soon be stopped. The group was formed after two of the "Seeds of Hope" ploughshares women spoke in Cardiff earlier this year. In April it organised Theatre Wallop's performance of "A Hammer in the Hand" – a play about British Aerospace workers and the impact made by the Hawk military aircraft they build, on the population of East Timor.

An official meeting with Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales is being

sought, for reassurance that the export of arms to Indonesia is to be stopped, and that existing licences must be revoked and not left in place as is possible. 350 armoured vehicles, made in Britain are presently awaiting export to Indonesia.

### † ACTION

Write now to your MP, House of Commons London SW1A 0AA, asking her/him to contact the Foreign Secretary, calling for an embargo on the export of military equipment. The Campaign against the Arms Trade can be contacted at (0171) 281 0297.

To get involved and for more information contact Ben Gregory at Cardiff Stop the Hawks (01222) 626961, or Awel Irene, Atal yr Hawks Gwynedd (01766) 771 100.

Theatre Wallop is hoping to take "A Hammer in the Hand" on tour in the

Autumn. Anyone who could help out with venues or financing should contact Frank Kennedy, Justice & Peace Office, 152, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool L3 5RQ (0151) 708 6506.





## Squandering £45 billion of taxpayers' money on Trident

**G**overnment figures show that the current cost of the British nuclear weapons programme is over £1,700 million each year.

The official estimate of the total cost of the Trident nuclear weapons system is £12,570 million. CND believes that this figure is actually between £33,000 million and £45,000 million.

It has been falsely claimed that most of the money for Trident has been spent or committed. If Trident were to be cancelled, the large contingency fund included in the budget could be saved. Last year this sum amounted to £258 million.

Trident's annual running costs are officially estimated to be £200 million – £240 million. These official costs do not cover, for example, the guarding of the nuclear weapons, communications, such as the command and control facility at Northwood, mine sweepers used to ensure free passage for Trident and decommissioning and possible health compensation costs.

### # ACTION

Write to the Prime Minister, 10, Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA. Challenge the official costs and tell him that this money could be better spent – on health, education and housing.



**"Who are these officials who take charge behind closed doors? Charge of our planet, charge of our children's lives? And so bring us heedless and headlong to the edge of disaster?...it was as though some surreptitious, suave Big Daddy had seized the keys of creation, piled up weapons at every hand, squandered our money, condemned the poor – and remained through it all grandly superior, above the wreckage, totally unaccountable."**

Daniel Berrigan

## Want Peace? Work for it!

**W**ith naked sectarianism taking a renewed toll and sending shivers of horror through every level of Northern Irish society, there is a real danger that many will simply feel hopeless at the spectacle of a tiny number giving murderous expression to what's in the hearts and minds of so many others.

Some will look to the so-called peace process among elected representatives to make a difference: and it is certainly to be hoped that they won't increase the danger and perhaps even have a restraining effect.

But the Northern Ireland party-political structure is merely a statement of the problem: electing people as tribal representatives is easily done and gives the illusion of democracy because the ballot box has been used.

But democracy means, from its Greek roots 'demos kratis' – 'the strength of the people'. Electing tribal representatives is an expression of the weakness of the people: it merely highlights and focuses on the profound sickness of being imprisoned by atavistic notions of identity, and represses the real humanity of most.

The Peace People have never lost faith that the Northern Irish people have far more understanding, far more compassion, far more ambition for themselves and their children, to be trapped like this forever.

That is why the 'political' position of the Peace People has always been to create a genuine Northern Irish community and body politic visibly based on these strengths, and able to accommodate the harmlessly colourful aspects of identity instead of being imprisoned by identity's darker powers. So the challenge is there: if you want to see an end for ever to mob terror and its organised expression through terrorism, you have to join the effort and bring your talents to bear upon creating the new community, from the bottom up and across the whole spectrum.

Anything less leaves the disease intact, ready to break out again and again.

Is that what you want?

Or do you want to get off your butt and do something instead of reaching for the usual suspects as scapegoats?

The so-called men of violence are as much as anything else, the weak-minded victims of tribal mob dynamics. If you think you are strong minded enough to stand above the tribal argument, then there is a job for you to do – without guns, and without the prospect of personal gain.

It is a challenge that calls for quiet heroes, for the kind of heroism that mothers and families have exercised below the media surface throughout the troubles.

And even if you do not feel strong – minded enough to stand above the tribe, you may feel able to accept that non-violence is the way forward.

A word of warning though: real non-violence is only for the very strong-minded. It demands an integrity of conscience, a willingness to face the truth about yourself and others without prevarication of any sort.

And since the deepest truths about mortal human beings are far more important than tribal comfort, non-violence – living by truth – will eventually cut you off from tribal dependence.

Are you ready for that?

### # ACTION:

This article first appeared in the May edition of 'The Citizen', 'The Newspaper of the Peace People'. This excellent newspaper covering peace issues world-wide is available for £6 (£12 supporting) annual subscription from Peace People, 244 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE (01232) 663 465. Cheques payable to 'Peace People'.

Many thanks to the Peace People for permission to reproduce this article.



## USA: Nevada nuclear tests to resume

Nuclear weapons abolitionists have been protesting at the Nevada Test Site in the US, to call for a halt to plans to resume nuclear weapons testing this year, and to stop all shipments of high and low level radioactive waste onto New Sogobia – Western Shone (Indian) lands. Despite the present moratorium on nuclear testing at the site, it is being kept in full readiness for future testing under the new US "Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program". Although the US Government has signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, it intends to continue nuclear weapons development and keep the Nevada facility ready to resume full scale testing within 6 months notice.

At a demonstration at the site 16 people were arrested. A trial date is set for August 6 – Hiroshima day. The 16 hope to take the CTBT and international law arguments into court.

## # ACTION

Messages of support and more information: *The Nevada Desert Experience*, PO Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV (702) 646-4814 USA.

## Israel: Vanunu – still in solitary confinement for telling the truth

Mordechai Vanunu remains in solitary confinement in an Israeli prison for



trying to tell the world the truth about Israel's plutonium separation plant at Dimona. The Israeli Government have complained to Amnesty International that those writing letters to the Israeli authorities on Mordechai's behalf are 'misinformed...completely ignoring the facts of the case'.

As Daniel Ellsberg said at a recent conference:

"Vanunu should be released from solitary and from prison not because he has 'suffered enough' but because what he did was right for him to do under the circumstances."

A vigil will take place outside the prison and the Knesset, the President's residence and the British, Italian and American Embassies each day between September 22nd and 30th. People from all over the world will be taking part.

## # ACTION

Anyone can just begin to imagine the horror of 12 years of solitary confinement. There can never be too many letters.

Write to Mordechai Vanunu, Ashkelon Prison, Ashkelon, Israel; Ezer Weizman, President of Israel, 3, Hanassi Street, Jerusalem, Israel. The Israeli Ambassador, 2, Palace Green, London W8 4QB. More information, a rebuttal to the reply that will be sent to you from the Embassy from, and donations to: Campaign to Free Vanunu & for a Nuclear Free Middle East, 89, Borough High Street, London SE1 1NL.

## Pembrokeshire: odd one out

As reported in the previous edition of Heddwch, work has begun to persuade Pembrokeshire County Council to affiliate to the Nuclear Free Zones Organisations in Wales and Britain. Pembrokeshire remains the only Unitary Authority in Wales not affiliated. In a single morning, over 1000 signatures were collected in Haverfordwest urging Councillors to reconsider and to join the Nuclear Free Zones Fora. This work is being followed up.

## # ACTION

if you want to know more and /or to be involved – please contact Mansel Kedward (01239) 891 294 or Paul Hawkes Teifi Preseli CND: (01239) 614 856.

## Women Insist on Nuclear Disarmament!

WIND is an international network of women working locally, nationally and internationally for nuclear disarmament as part of the Abolition 2000 network.

It is a campaign of the Women's international League for Peace & Freedom.

WIND places the experience of women at the centre of their work, questioning why war is the proving ground of masculinity and why patriotic nationalism and militarism have become so rampant.

## # ACTION

contact Margot Miller, Balcombe House, Teapot Lane, Baltonsborough, Somerset BA6 8QE (01458) 851117 for more information

## Welsh celebrity at Low Dose Radiation Conference

The meeting of delegates to the British Nuclear Energy Society on "Health Effects of Low Dose Radiation: Challenges to the 21st Century" was attended by a surprise visitor. For one and a half hours the ghastly figure of Death himself stood silently at the front of the meeting having chained himself to the stage. Copies of Dr. Chris Busby's book "Wings of Death: Nuclear Pollution & Human Health" and leaflets were distributed amongst the scientists at the Conference by other campaigners.

The leaflets invited the delegates to read the book and to ask themselves serious questions about bias and deceit in radiation research.

Dr. Chris Busby wrote the cover article in this edition of Heddwch. He lives and works in Aberystwyth. (It is believed that Death himself was from Builth, Powys.)

## # ACTION

"Wings of Death" (£10.99 inc. p&p) is available from Low Level Radiation Campaign, 1st Floor, Ammondale, Spa Road, Llandrindod, Powys LD1 5EY.

## Russia: Alexander Nikitin still facing charges of high treason



There is still confusion about the nature of the charges facing Nikitin. He has spent 10 months in prison for his work in outlining radioactive contamination from Russia's Northern Fleet. He has been released from prison but is under close surveillance with restricted movements. He was recently prevented from leaving his St. Petersburg home to attend a ceremony in the US to receive the Goldman Environmental Prize.

The Kola peninsula, adjacent to the Norwegian border along the Barents Sea has the highest concentration of nuclear reactors in the World. There are 52 retired submarines still containing their fuel and 67 operating nuclear submarines. The danger of catastrophic radioactive contamination, especially from corroded and leaking hulks is enormous.

The death penalty is the maximum punishment for treason in Russia.

## # ACTION

Tatiana Chernova, Nikitin's wife, is urging people to write to the Russian





authorities demanding that charges be dropped. Write to Prosecutor General Yuri Skuratov, 103793 Moscow Bolshaya Dmitrova, 15 a. Russia.

### Ukraine: Chernobyl

The European Bank for Reconstruction is considering a plan to complete two Ukrainian nuclear power stations to replace the power supplied by the two remaining nuclear reactors which account for about 5% of the country's electricity supply.

Friends of the Earth International say that funds to be provided will only complete the reactors to minimal safety standards. They have pointed out that this amounts to a kind of blackmail, closing Chernobyl only to open other equally unsafe nuclear plants. The money should be spent on energy conservation measures.

### Cardiff: Amersham International

Hugh Richards of the Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance has discovered a statistically significant link between rates of infant mortality and morbidity in the Cardiff area and rates of radioactive tritium and carbon 14 gas discharged from the Amersham plant North of the City. Amersham International manufactures radionuclides for medical use. Local community campaigners have held meetings to organise objections to the discharges.

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities have provided funding to help Hugh Richards carry out a similar study around Sellafield. The results of this study, linked with the Cardiff study could result in serious questions being asked about these discharges.

When tritium was dumped in a river in Massachusetts USA, it resulted in a 50% increase in five different cancers, a 40% increase in heart disease and a 110% increase in infectious disease leading to mortality. Other problems such as birth defects, affected the contaminated population. Correlations have been found in epidemiological research between tritium and Down's Syndrome.

It has also been reported that radioactive waste from the old Atomic Energy Authority plant at Harwell in England, which is closing down, is to be brought by road to the Cardiff factory for storage. The Cardiff factory is set amongst shopping areas, homes, schools and offices.

### # ACTION

more information from Hugh Richards (01982) 570 362 and Friends of the Earth (01222)229 577.

### Scotland ... or a beach near you?

Highly enriched uranium particles have been found at Sandside Bay near Dounreay, in Scotland. The Scottish Environmental Agency has warned that "if it stuck in the gut, you would get an ulcer within 4 to 6 hours.. this find has called into question previous estimates of the likelihood of coming into contact with such a particle".

### USA: Help Free Leonard Peltier

As previously reported in Heddwch - Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist was jailed in 1976 for the murder of two FBI agents. He has been a long time campaigner for Sioux rights over land guaranteed to them by the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. That Treaty had been continually broken by the US Government and corporate business since uranium was found in the Black Hills in Dakota in 1951.

Peltier has long claimed to be innocent, and secret FBI files recently obtained have revealed that Peltier had been listed to be "neutralised" because of his involvement in protests.

Although it has been admitted that no direct evidence exists against him he remains in prison, guilty only of protecting the land and its people.

### # ACTION

please write and ask for 'Executive Clemency' for Peltier to:

President Bill Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC 20500 USA For more information contact: International Leonard Defense Committee: c/o: Lesley Worrall, 140, Garmoye road, Liverpool, L15 SAD (0151) 733 7691

### Irish Sea: nuclear waste in the Beaufort Dyke

It has been admitted by the Scottish Office that up to 2 tonnes of radioactive waste from at least 3 private companies

have been dumped in the Beaufort Dyke, also used as a munitions dump, 6 miles off the Scottish coast.

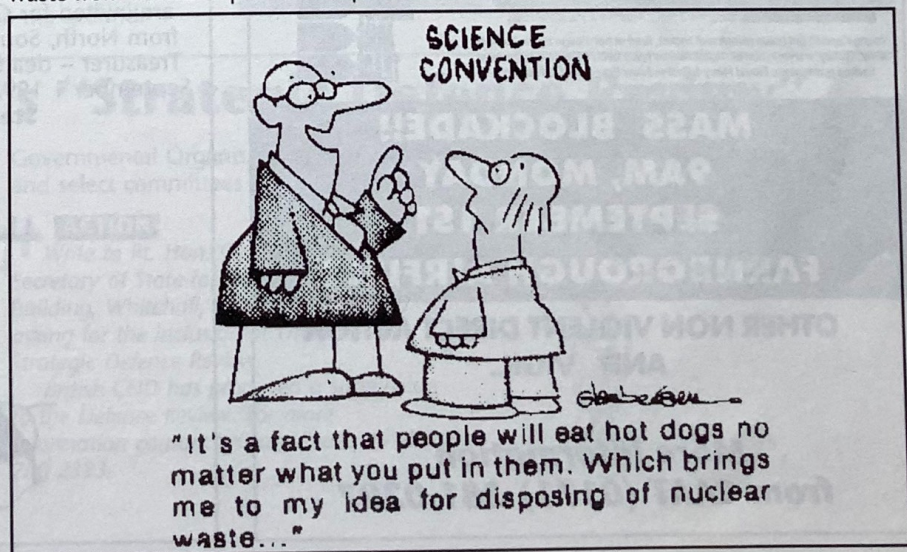
The Celtic League commented "British Governments have been prepared to mislead not only Parliament but also the international community". The Irish Marine & Natural Resources Minister is raising the issue with the British Government. Alisdair Morgan SNP MP is calling for a full public enquiry saying "successive British Governments have behaved in an appalling and irresponsible fashion - and then indulged in secrecy and cover-up in order to mask their folly."

### Sweden and Sellafield: doubts about THORP

The Swedish Government is worried about the risks of nuclear proliferation if plutonium is separated from spent power station fuel as a result of reprocessing. They want Sellafield to return 140 tonnes of spent fuel already sent to the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP) at Sellafield.

British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) has had to make an application for an increase in permissible airborne emissions of tritium as it failed to calculate properly the amount which would be given off as spent fuel rods were unpacked. At present, THORP is running only at a third of its capacity in order to keep within agreed emission limits. This proposed increase in discharges of tritium is even more frightening in the light of evidence of the effect of tritium discharged by Amersham International in Cardiff.

For a huge investment, BNFL could reduce emissions of tritium, but as this would reduce BNFL profits and cost taxpayers money. The Socialist Environment and Resources Association has estimated that halting reprocessing at THORP completely could save £6 billion.





## NATO Expansion & the Labour Government

**L**abour is "committed to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) as the essential safeguard for Britain's security interests" but believes that the process of (NATO) enlargement will need to be approached sensitively to ensure that we do not create new barriers and sources of division across the European continent", and must proceed in parallel with measures that include Russia in a wider security framework". NATO in any form creates barriers and sources of divisions in Europe.

The Labour Government does not support the incorporation of the Western European Union (the European Pillar of the nuclear armed NATO) into the European Union. They also support a strengthened role for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in several areas including conflict prevention and democracy - building.

The decision this summer concerning the states to be permitted to join NATO has profound implications for the future security and defence of Europe.

Analysts at the British American Security Information Council have calculated from US budget details, using standard methods for apportioning costs between NATO members, that Britain stands to contribute £200 million a year for the next 13 years to finance Alliance expansion. This would expand Britain's "Defence" budget at a time when new



Labour MPs have shown a clear wish to cut defence expenditure. The questions which should be asked are not "when will NATO expand" or "should NATO expand", but "why does NATO still exist".

In response to moves to expand NATO, Russia may have overturned its long standing 'no first use' policy. Security Council Deputy Secretary Boris Berezovsky outlined Russia's nuclear strategy in an interview with Ekho Moskvyy radio: "We are not speaking of making a first nuclear strike in order to secure advantage but if we are driven into a corner and are left with no other option we will resort to nuclear weapons."

### BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ARMS FAIR IS BACK...

The British Government targeting oppressive regimes around the world



Young Kurdish girl holds remains of rocket, fired at her village by the Turkish army. Turkey, a known human rights abuser have been a British Government invited guest at the Royal Navy & British Army Equipment Exhibition...  
Photo Richard Weyman

The  
real  
point of  
delivery...

CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST  
ARMS  
TRADE

**MASS BLOCKADE!!**

**9AM, MONDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 1ST**

**FARNBOROUGH AIRFIELD**

**OTHER NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION  
AND VIGIL.**

**More information  
from CAAT (0171) 281 0297**

**Please support this event!!**

**CND Cymru  
Public Meeting**

**Wales Says No to Trident!**

**September 20 1997. 10.30am**

**Temple of Peace, Cathays Park Cardiff**

**Speakers to include**

**Bruce Kent**

*Vice President British Campaign for Nuclear  
Disarmament*

Everyone welcome -  
come along and bring some friends!

**To be followed at 2pm**

**CND Cymru Annual Meeting**

All members and delegates very welcome. Nominations are invited for Chairperson, Four Vicechairs (one each from North, South and Mid Wales and one other) and Treasurer - deadline for nominations and resolutions is September 1 1997. **For more information contact Jill Stallard (01550) 750 260**





## CND Cymru goes to Drumcree

In July, a delegation from Côr Cochion Caerdydd (Cardiff Red Choir), all members of CND Cymru, made a journey of solidarity and support to the Garvaghy Road Women's Peace Camp in Portadown. They were invited by the coalition to sing at the planned community peace festival.

The Peace Camp was a collection of tents on the hill overlooking the Garvaghy Road, perhaps half a mile from Drumcree Church around the corner. Here, they joined local women who were gathered as a peaceful presence to witness the events unfolding. The women talked of the violence that had driven many of them out of mixed communities and which accompanied the Orange Parades every year. They expressed their hopes that Mo Mowlam and the new Labour Government might represent a new chance for peace. The choir entertained the camp with songs of Peace and Freedom.

Each night at 7 pm the whole community lined the Garvaghy Road on a peace picket, calling for the Orange Order March to be re-routed. There was an international presence. Côr Cochion's singing formed the focal point of the demonstration. Cars tooted their horns in support of the banners lining the street – including CND Cymru's.

Women monitored the road continuously. At 1am on Sunday morning the good news was sent around that British soldiers were setting out barbed wire barricades to stop the Loyalists marching through their community. A wave of fear soon replaced the great sense of relief and tears of joy when the women were violently evicted and plastic bullets were fired. An independent observer was shot in the neck at point blank range as the army and RUC wrecked the camp.

By 3 am the community was sitting in protest out in the road, but within minutes this was met with unbelievable violence as thousands of troops and police and armoured cars sealed off the streets in small pockets. As non violent protesters were hurt, ambulances were refused entry through enemy lines. Yes, some youths threw stones and whatever else was to hand, and three petrol bombs were lobbed at the armoured cars, but the violence of the authorities seemed completely out of scale.

By 8 am the violence had subsided. Over 18 people had been hospitalised and hundreds of others injured. Local residents were desperate to attend Mass at their local church on the other side of the Garvaghy Road. They were not allowed to pass, so an open air service was held surrounded by armoured tanks. Our choir sang "Senzenina – What have we done to deserve this?" – a beautiful South African freedom song. It was a very powerful moment when the priest, having spoken of the need to love your enemy, went up to the troops to accept the hand of reconciliation.

As the silent, police – protected Orange Parade passed, the community defiantly banged dustbin lids on the ground.

Frustrated and angry young people later took to the streets, burning cars and blocking roads. As local coalition leaders tried to restrain them they replied "Who protects us? not the police, the army nor the British Government".

When asked by a member of the choir why they had destroyed the Peace Camp, the Police said that it had been "a front for a bomb factory". The papers said that it was in response to threats against the Catholic Community and to death threats from the Ulster Volunteer Force. The politicians say they will not speak to those who advocate violence.

Even though there could be no Peace Festival, it was felt that Côr Cochion Caerdydd had made a worthwhile contribution to the struggle for Justice in Northern Ireland.

Ray Davies



## The Government's "Strategic Defence Review"

The new Labour Government is to conduct a "strategic defence review in order to reassess Britain's essential security interests and defence needs in the light of the profound changes in the international security environment since 1990".

Despite the fact that the end of the "Cold War" has changed the targeting strategy of the nuclear weapons states, this Defence Review will exclude nuclear weapons policy and Trident.

CND is calling for the Review not to be held in secret, and for Non-

Governmental Organisations, academics and select committees to be included.

### # ACTION

Write to Rt. Hon. George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB, asking for the inclusion of Trident in the Strategic Defence Review.

British CND has produced a submission to the Defence Review. For more information contact William Peden (0171) 700 2393.





## Poetry Review In Praise of Carnivores

Janet Dubé.

Gomer ISBN 1 85902 413 0 £4.50

Janet Dubé wrote this collection of poems over a period of twenty years of living in rural west Wales.

Janet Dubé not only praises the fox and the cat but all who are nourished by the earth. She writes with a sensuous, intimate knowledge of her 'spirit of place' – the landscape and all that grows here – trees, flowers and vegetables, children, dreams and ladybirds. She places her piece of the planet strongly in a world which includes the Lebanon and Buenos Aires, knowing that although news for her family may be "clear and happy", "we are feathering our poisoned nests with poisoned feathers"

Janet Dubé's experience is one many of us would understand, the bitter truths of war and the way cruel world events interfere with our everyday experience of an astonishing natural beauty. She has been part of the Welsh peace movement since the early 80s. These serious, strong and happy poems touch on what it is to be a late 20th Century human being, they are a delight to read and a wonder to understand.

Jill Stallard

### from 1982, a lament

When it's a fine day  
and the house is quiet  
and I'm on my own;

when the fire gets low  
as the cat kills a bird  
and the sun is blazing

on the daffodils; when  
the chickens scratch  
and cluck, scratch

and cluck, and the house  
is quiet and the sun  
is blazing on the rockery;

when the pale mauve  
anemones are open to the sun  
and the blue green daffodils

unsheath to yellow  
in the blazing sun,  
when the house is quiet

as the chickens scratch  
and cluck and lambs  
learn to eat grass,

when the blue green  
daffodils unsheath to yellow  
as the jets scream overhead

should I plant onions  
or write a poem? Shall  
I plant flowers or read

the paper? Would it be better if I had  
a job

or is that part of the war

machine? is it better  
to be certain  
or uncertain? if I do

something for peace  
does it help? if I do  
something for peace

does it help peace  
or does it help me?  
if I do nothing  
what does that mean?  
Tell me, its the one thing  
I ever wanted to know, tell  
me this one thing and I'll  
never ask again, tell me  
the truth, it's what I want  
to know, I need to know,  
tell me, how am I joined  
to the war machine, tell me  
can I get off?

Janet Dubé



## Diary dates

**August 8 – 16** Women on the Road for Peace Bike Ride. *More information Sian (01222) 396 563*

**August 6** Hiroshima day – CND Cymru action on the National Eisteddfod Maes, Bala. *Contact Rod Stallard (01550) 750 260*

**August 1-11** International Peace Camp, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium. Despite the decision of the International Court of Justice, nuclear weapons remain at the heart of NATO's military strategy. *Contact For Mother Earth Lange Steenstraat 16/d, 9000 Gent, Belgium.*

**August 9** Nagasaki Day action on the National Eisteddfod Maes – see above.

**August 9** Nuclear Weapons Abolition Days Worldwide: Protests at "sites of crime" Demonstrations at Faslane (Scotland), Menwith (Yorkshire) & Aldermaston (Berkshire). *More information from British CND (0171) 700 2393, Youth CND (0171) 607 3616 and Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp (01943) 468 593.*

**September 1st** Reading crown Court Greenham Women's Court Case. *More information from Sian Evans (01222) 396 563.*

**September 6** 11am. County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff. Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance Meeting. *Contact 01982 570362*

**September 3-7** Faith and Resistance – explore the link between spirituality & non-violent resistance *Contact: Fellowship of Reconciliation (01832) 720 257.*

**September 20** 10.30 am Temple of Peace, Cardiff. CND Cymru Public Meeting with Bruce Kent. All welcome – Be there! *contact Jill Stallard*

**September 20** 2pm Temple of Peace Cardiff. CND Cymru Annual Meeting all members and delegates very welcome. *Contact Jill Stallard.*

**September 25 – 28** Moscow International Peace Bureau Conference: "Global Security, National Interests – the Role of Civil Society. *Contact IPB, 41, rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland*

**November 1** 11am. County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff. Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance Meeting. *Contact 01982 570362*

**November 22-23** British CND Conference University of London registration £25 (£8 concessions). *Contact Tony Myers (0171) 700 2393 Deadline for registration 24 October.*



# Decommissioning Llanishen AWE

## Nightmares from the bad dream factory

**A**s decommissioning of Cardiff AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment) at Llanishen commences, so has begun the careful management of "truth" about the legacy the plant will leave behind.

### Contaminated waste

Radioactive depleted uranium and beryllium, together with a number of other toxic substances have been discharged into the air and sewers of Cardiff for almost 40 years. These substances have been used to make the casings for British nuclear warheads – this work will in future be carried out at AWE Aldermaston. A large stockpile of contaminated waste has built up on the site and with decommissioning this waste will increase dramatically in volume.

### Transporting the lethal legacy

During operation, the radioactive waste has been taken to Drigg in Cumbria for "disposal". According to the AWE, "filters and all other wastes from both the depleted uranium and beryllium workshops has been disposed of to licensed landfill sites".

Other toxic and radioactive waste is to be taken by road through Cardiff and then to Aldermaston in Berkshire, where, as reported in a previous Heddwch, there are already 4,500 tonnes of nuclear waste which no one knows what to do with.

### Armed police in Cardiff suburb

There are "special" armed police on the site, situated right next door to "Safeway" supermarket, who will remain until all the uranium and beryllium has left the site – possibly by December this year.

### Where the truth lies

Hunting BRAE, who have operated the plant since 1993, and the Ministry of Defence who own the site both have a dismal record on health, safety and clearing up their mistakes, yet are dealing with some of the most toxic materials on earth and with no real public accountability.

The defence industries and organisations have always embraced secrecy as an important part of their operation. There is no place for such behaviour in decommissioning contaminated sites – especially one surrounded by homes, schools and shops. Serious questions need to be asked, an independent environmental audit needs to be made and most of all the local communities should be asked and involved in decision making, not simply told what is best for them by those with a vested interest. Any work involved in the moving of radioactive waste of any level is a high risk to the health of the community and the environment, despite what the MoD and the site operators may tell us.

### "Defence" – at what cost?

An AWE spokesman, recently told the Western Mail that there was little danger from the materials on the site, that depleted uranium (DU) "was quite benign and was used as ballast in the hulls of ocean-going yachts and aircraft frames". However, US research has shown that DU can cause chemical damage to kidneys and lungs, that communities exposed to DU have a higher rate of Down's Syndrome and genetic abnormalities.



Some effects do not become apparent for 20 or 30 years following exposure. Beryllium has a gangrenous – like effect on living tissue.

What kind of a "defence" do nuclear weapons provide when their production kills and maims their makers and our families now – even when no shots are fired?

Jill Stallard

### # ACTION:

In letters to Cardiff Councillors, MPs, the Secretary of State for Defence, and newspapers the possible dangers should be pointed out and questions asked. What measures are being taken to protect the public in the case of an accident? Whom or what are the armed police at AWE Llanishen supposed to protect? If you live near a landfill site anywhere in South Wales – check if it is being used for waste from Llanishen AWE. Do you live on the route between Llanishen and Aldermaston? Do the people of Berkshire want radioactive waste from Wales in their backyard?

If you are interested in the continuing campaign contact Llanishen CND (01222)756 422 Please send CND Cymru copies of letters and any replies you may receive!

- Llanishen Atomic Weapons Establishment was first opened in 1940. During World War II to manufacture anti-tank weapons, employing a workforce of more than 3,000.
- At the end of the 1950s, the plant began to make nuclear warhead casings using the very dense and radioactive depleted uranium and the deadly toxic beryllium.
- Llanishen CND, CND Cymru and the Women's regular Friday vigil have campaigned constantly to break the shroud of secrecy surrounding the plant. Over the years Llanishen has been the focus for many peace rallies and demonstrations.
- In 1993 Greenpeace and CND Cymru drew attention to the dangerous storage of contaminated waste in an open air compound close to homes, offices and a major supermarket. The AWE has a licence to store up to 50kg of depleted uranium on site, and until recently was receiving over 1000kgs of beryllium each year.
- On April 1 1993 the AWEs were contracturised to Hunting BRAE – a consortium comprising 3 companies – Hunting plc, Atomic Energy Authority Technology and Brown and Root. A Greenpeace investigation and a BBC Panorama programme called into serious question the integrity of these companies.
- The AWE ceased production in February 1997 and the same work is now done at Aldermaston.
- There will be 92 workers on site until December 97 and 76 up until December 98. It has been reported that all the workforce so far made redundant have found jobs outside the defence industry.



### I want to join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Name \_\_\_\_\_

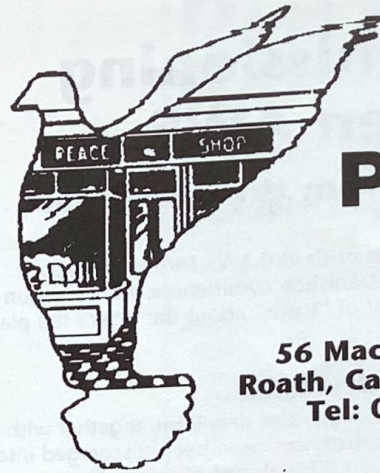
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose a cheque/PO for £ \_\_\_\_\_

payable to CND Cymru. Couple £15; Adult £10; Unwaged, pensioners,  
youth £3. Return to CND Cymru, Membership, Peace Shop, 56 Mackintosh  
Place, Roath, Cardiff CF2 4RQ



## Peace Shop

56 Mackintosh Place,  
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Goods from – Traidcraft, Amnesty International,  
Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, CND,  
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T-shirts and stickers.

## CONTACTS

CND CYMRU



THE PEACE SHOP  
56 MACKINTOSH PLACE, ROATH, CARDIFF

### NATIONAL SECRETARY

**Jill Stallard.** Nantgaredig,  
Cynghordy, Llanymddyfri, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA20 OLR Phone/  
fax (01550) 750260

### CHAIRPERSON

**David Morris MEP (01792)  
643542**

### VICE-CHAIRS:

#### NORTH WALES

**Dave Andrews (01978) 310491**

#### MID WALES

**Olwen Davies (01970) 611994  
Rod Stallard (01550) 750260**

#### SOUTH WALES

**Ray Davies (01222) 889514**

### MEMBERSHIP

c/o The Peace Shop

### AFFILIATIONS

**Rhoda Jones (01766) 762739**

### TRADING

**Jan Henderson (01792) 830330**

### TREASURER

**Jean Bryant**  
16 Ty'n y Cymer Close,  
Y Porth, Rhondda CF39 9DF

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

**Want to complain about low level military jets? Get in touch  
with the MOD (0171 218 6020)**

## Forum for UN Renewal LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

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3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 3EL.  
Tel: 0171 930 0272. Fax: 0171 930 5893.

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## Heddwch contributions

- The next issue of **Heddwch** will appear in November 1997.
- Phone Jill for the next issue's copy deadline
- Please send contributions to Jill Stallard (see Contacts for the address): contributions on computer disk or email are welcome. Please contact Jill, or Mike Southern (01222 488748 email 100533.241@compuserve.com) for details.
- All help with editorial gratefully received.