

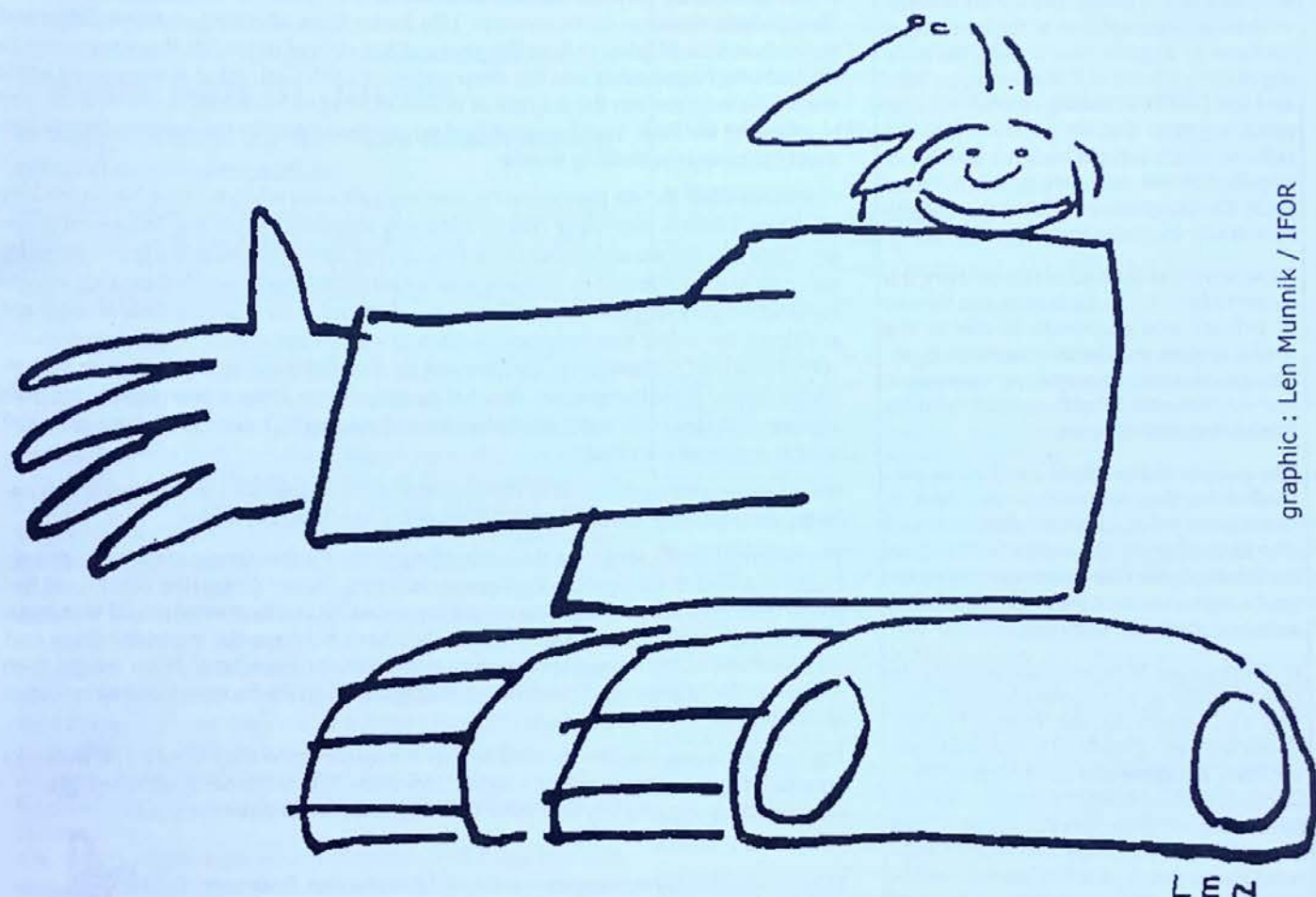
heddwch

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From a Culture of War & Violence



graphic : Len Munnik / IFOR

Towards a Culture of Peace and Non violence ?

inside:

a manifesto for peace

acquittal for Trident Ploughshares disarmers

new beginning for Greenham

Ray Davies takes Mark Thomas' teddy bear to Iraq

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

Editorial

The United Nations has declared that the first decade of the first century of the third millennium should be a 'decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world'.

Questions about the nature of a 'culture of peace' are sure to be asked, particularly in a society where although there may be no violence within our everyday lives, our indifference endorses state preparations for indiscriminate murder and mass destruction. The lack of public and media outrage, with notable exceptions, at the bombing of civilians in Yugoslavia and Iraq, the making of dirty money at British weapon 'fairs' and the 11th hour selling of arms to Indonesia, suggests that we generally live in a culture which accepts violence and is not appalled by our collective part in it. World wide, the acceptance of violence and a culture of war increases in scale.

As we arrive at the end of this century, it is easier to feel that globalisation and the rise of private and corporate power in the world, nuclear proliferation, violence, injustice, greed, environmental corruption and fear do not seem suitable nourishment for this 'cultivation' of peace.

The people of the World need to be persuaded that they control their own destiny, that morality should inform decisions, and that technology is the servant rather than the driving force. Our governments and the media try to convince the public that forced actions are actually desirable actions.

However, if we hope and care at all it is our responsibility to act despite the difficulties. The trial victory for the Trident Ploughshares women in Scotland is a beautiful and uplifting illustration of the power of truth, fearlessness and integrity. Angie, Ulla and Ellen were not dreamers but realists. Their feet were on the ground. The women educated themselves and acted honestly on the veracity of what they had learned. None of their peace 'education' was institutionalised but was the result of a desire to find out and ask questions. It is our duty to question and to encourage our children to question. The year 2000 is to be the beginning of a campaign for more peace education. Not only for educational institutions but for each one of us.

In Wales, *Cynefin y Werin* (Common Ground), of which CND Cymru is a part, will take the 'Culture of Peace and Non-Violence' as its theme for 2000. We hope to promote all forms of education for peace and non-violence, international understanding and human and environmental justice within our country. It is a huge task. It will certainly take more than a decade but there can be no future for this planet without it.

Jill Stallard

Trident Ploughshares 2000 Justice at Greenock!

On Thursday 21st October 1999 Sheriff Margaret Gimblett instructed the jury at Greenock Sheriff Court to acquit Angie Zelter, Ellen Moxley and Ulla Roder who had been charged with causing £80,000 damage to "Maytime", a Trident-related 'acoustic research barge' in Loch Goil, during a Trident Ploughshares (TP) 2000 disarmament action in June this year. The trial had lasted 18 days. The women had served 5 months on remand.

Open Season on Trident

It will come as no surprise that the outcome of the Greenock trial dominates Trident Ploughshare's horizon at the moment. Ulla Roder, Ellen Moxley and Angie Zelter had got on board the *Maytime* in June this year and had cleared out its lab, throwing computers and other equipment into the deep waters of Loch Goil. What is so exciting is not simply the acquittal but the manner of it. Sheriff Margaret Gimblett instructed the jury to acquit on the basis that she could find no criminal intent in the women. Her judgement contained the thrilling words:

'I have to conclude that the three accused in company with many others were justified in thinking that Great Britain in their use of Trident, not simply possession, the use and deployment of Trident allied with that use and deployment at times of great unrest, coupled with a first strike policy and in the absence of indication from any government official then or now that such use fell into any strict category suggested in the ICJ opinion ...the threat or use of Trident could be construed as a threat, has indeed been construed by others as a threat and as such is an infringement of international and customary law. The three took the view that if Trident is illegal, given the horrendous nature of nuclear weapons, they had the obligation in terms of international law to do whatever little they could to stop the deployment and use of nuclear weapons in situations which could be construed as a threat.'

We are summarising the effect of the acquittal as: 'To threaten with nuclear weapons is unlawful. Britain threatens with Trident. Therefore it is open season on Trident.'

The potential implications for the unravelling of the nuclear tangle are awe-inspiring. Could this lead to the Scottish Parliament declaring Trident illegal (the Parliament has power over legal matters) and demanding its removal? If that happened would that mean the removal from Britain as a whole since they have nowhere else to put the thing and could not afford the immense costs of re-establishment elsewhere? What would then happen to the Atlantic bind in which we buddy the US on the Security Council by virtue of our nukes?

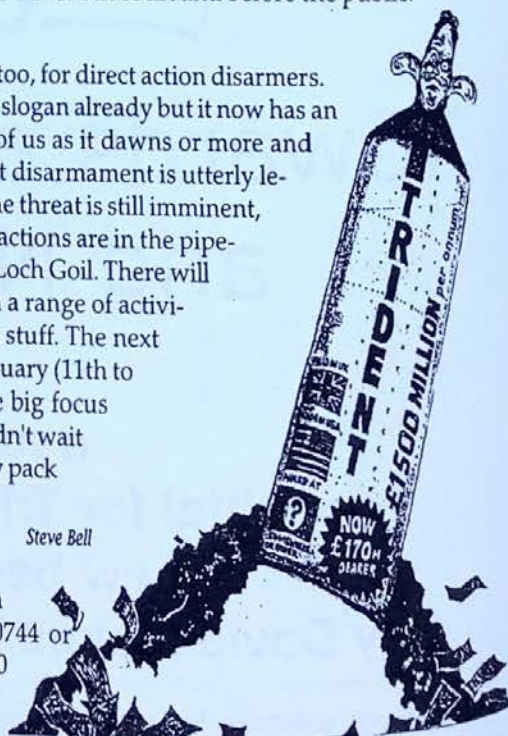
The Lord Advocate has now decided to refer the matter to the High Court. The women's acquittal stands but he is seeking a legal clarification. This is further good news, giving us another opportunity to expose Trident in court and before the public.

There is additional encouragement, too, for direct action disarmers. 'Open Season on Trident' has been a TP slogan already but it now has an extra ring to it. There will be more of us as it dawns on more and more people that peaceful and direct disarmament is utterly legitimate. And we never forget that the threat is still imminent, that the work remains urgent. More actions are in the pipeline, some of them along the lines of Loch Goil. There will be more people ready to take part in a range of activities, from blockades to more serious stuff. The next big weekend of action will be in February (11th to 13th) at Coulport and next May the big focus will be on Aldermaston. But you needn't wait for that. Phone us for an introductory pack and for details of the next training opportunity.

David Mackenzie, TP 2000

heddwch action: for more information call David Mackenzie on (01324) 880744 or check the Trident Ploughshares 2000 website: www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/

Steve Bell





Acquitted: Ellen, Ulla and Angie

Peace jam in Japan

A visit to Japan for the 1999 Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration

I was invited by Gensuikyo as a CND representative this year to speak at the World Conference Against A and H Bombs on 6 and 9 August. There is no doubt that this was one of the most memorable CND visits I have ever made.

The event was enriched by being an international conference so that we met many Japanese anti-nuclear weapons and peace activists as well as friends from all over the world - India, Sri Lanka, China, Greece, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and many more. We were also privileged to listen to the testimonies of the Hibakusha, the survivors always dignified, never bitter - as well as the test veterans from the Marshall Islands, Kazakhstan and a US soldier who had been at Bikini. They all shared courage and determination and, despite the terrible affliction to themselves and their families, they spoke out to the world begging all governments to disarm and stop developing nuclear weapons. The Hibakusha included speakers from Japan but also Korea, (whose nationals had been living in the Japanese cities in 1945 as forced labour), reminded us that 54 years have now passed and that soon they would all be dead and it would be left to younger ones to carry on the message.

The political message which concerned all those present was that of US hegemony. Just as the US militarily dominate NATO and the Euro-North Atlantic region, so the same pattern can be seen in the Asia/Pacific region. The new Guidelines for US/Japan Defense Co-operation will give the US virtually free rein to use its bases on Japan 'in times of emergency'. Who will decide the emergency? The US government! It is worth remembering that Japan is unique in the world in having a 'war-free' constitution, in which Article 9 states: 'Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.'

Then there is the fearful possibility that these bases could be used for nuclear attacks. As Hiroshi Suda, General Secretary of the Japan Peace Committee, said: 'To think that Japan, the only A-bombed country, has been turned into a sortie base for the US nuclear forces and, worse, that the Japanese self-defence forces are obligated to engage in joint operations after the painful lesson learned from Japan's past war of aggression. Such a situation must be prevented.'

Peaton Wood

For Ellen Moxley

Up the tiny glen
in the shade of great beeches
fingering your path with a glossy green spray,
the mossy soft path round the torn roots
to the dry dyke whose blocks
rock woodenly as you cross;
to a clearing where a dreamcatcher hangs above
fire-rings like cup marks on the soft mould;
and through the frames of the branches and the boles
the pale hush of the loch under the moon.

In this twining place I could be
rubbed into calmness
by the warm fingers of honeysuckle;
could grow where I am
as the stripling birch grows and makes another spoke
in the root-wheel of a reclining fir.

What will we say,
when we return here
in the days of the long healing,
when the roots are sifting the old concrete
and the waters run and run pure?

David Mackenzie 1999

(Peaton Wood is a small stretch of woodland and a roadside space about half a mile from the main gate of Coulport naval base on Loch Long, where Trident missiles are stored and loaded onto the submarines. The wood belongs to peace campaigner Georgina Smith who bought it from the Ministry of Defence)

But we were all encouraged by the strength of the peace movement in Japan. Gensuikyo make successful efforts to work at the grass roots. For example, vigorous campaigns are being organised locally against US nuclear powered or nuclear armed ships using the ports. We were impressed and delighted with all the young people at the conference. 'Snapshots' I remember: a young High School girl of 16 giving a confident speech in English to hundreds of delegates, appealing for children's peace statues to be built around the world, or two young students asking us to go along to their 'Peace Jam' in Nagasaki (which over 2,000 attended). The New Japan Women's Association organised a meeting for over 2000 women (and some men!) where we had a mixture of singing and dancing, passionate testimonies and political speeches.

The Japanese value their links with Welsh people. In their newspaper on Hiroshima Day was a picture of a ceremony in Wales in an account of actions around the world. Being among such a warm and welcoming group, with such searing stories to tell of the true meaning of nuclear weapons, we from Britain came away resolved not to give up the struggle for our goal of a nuclear weapons free world.

Rae Street, Vice Chair CND

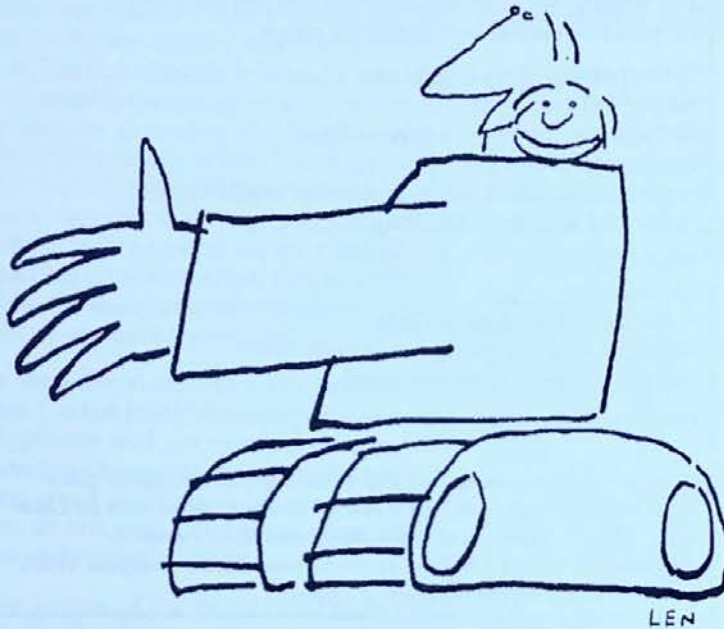


Rae Street (Right) campaigning in Nagasaki

The Culture of Peace!

"The year 2000 must be a new beginning for us all. Together we can transform the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace and non-violence. This demands the participation of everyone. It gives young people and future generations values that can inspire them to shape a world of dignity and harmony, a world of justice, solidarity, liberty and prosperity. The culture of peace makes possible sustainable development, protection of the environment and the personal fulfilment of each human being." (Manifesto 2000)

This has been a century of wonderful achievement; yet has witnessed



war, violence and genocide on an unprecedented level; systemic poverty; widespread socio-economic, cultural and racial exclusion; and deepening environmental catastrophe. The influence of society's prevalent culture of violence, is clearly portrayed through the century's disasters, more obviously than ever at the end of this century. As the millennium draws to a close, we have a choice to move away from a culture of war and to embrace a culture of peace. Such a culture is rooted in the ideals of non-violent conflict prevention and resolution. It is a means of thought and social interaction based on tolerance, solidarity, and sharing on a daily basis.

International Year for the Culture of Peace

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed the year 2000 to be an International Year for the Culture of Peace. In Wales, the "International Year" is launched on Monday 6 December. Recognising the importance of a Culture of Peace programme, the United Nations has declared the years 2001-2010 the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for Children of the World".

Cultivating peace: education

A Culture of Peace would strive to prevent deadly conflict by acknowledging and tackling issues directly related to violence: exclusion, oppression and injustice, fanatical nationalism, violation, extreme poverty and environmental degradation. Such problem solving revolves around dialogue, negotiation, responsibility and mediation, instead of threats, violence and war. The programme aims to intensify work for an international curriculum for peace and international understanding building on principles of justice and community. The system would embrace all the issues of peace, human rights, cultural pluralism and democracy at all community levels leading to awareness, knowledge and effective action.

Local movements: world statements

From the individual to the planet, human communities are linked together by contracts of balanced rights and responsibilities among their neighbours as well as with regard to the planet and future generations. This initiative hopes to inspire people and organisations at every level, from the individual citizen to international community.

Manifesto 2000

"That a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind... Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed..." (Article 1 UNESCO Constitution)

Manifesto 2000 represents a major initiative and key feature of the Culture of Peace programme. It is a pledge drafted by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, aimed at fostering individual awareness and commitment to the Culture of Peace. Each signature on the pledge represents individual dedication to ideals central to the Culture of Peace:

- respect all life;
- reject violence;
- share with others;
- listen to understand;
- preserve the planet;
- rediscover solidarity.

Manifesto 2000 aims to spread ideals connected with the Culture of Peace and to encourage individuals to pursue such ideals further. UNESCO aims to collect 100 million signatures to the Manifesto 2000 world-wide. These signatures will be presented to the General Assembly Summit of the United Nations in September 2000.

Culture of Peace Cymru

The United Nations Association (UNA) and other peace/peace education organisations in Wales and throughout Britain are actively promoting the Culture of Peace with a number of priority objectives, concerning education and policy, for the International Year for the Culture of Peace:

Priorities

1. Manifesto 2000 is a key focus of the Culture of Peace program. The UNA have been challenged to collect 1 million UK signatures to Manifesto 2000

2. Educational programmes in schools concerning Culture of Peace. The UNA are planning regional, school Model United Nations events, which will culminate in a National Model UN assembly. These Model Millennium United Nations, aim to raise awareness and provoke discussion amongst young people concerning the United Nations and the great global challenges of the 21st century.

3. Global citizenship within the National Educational Curriculum: The UNA are currently working alongside The Council for Education in World Citizenship (CEWC), to deliver effective programmes on Citizenship due to be introduced into the National Curriculum teaching from September 2000.

4. A Nation-wide Disarmament Campaign: an opportunity for the general public and politicians alike to reconsider the huge resources still being devoted to arms throughout the world and the ethical dilemmas raised by contemporary defence policy; and to explore possible paths for resolving this situation. The campaign will consist of a series of People's Hearings throughout the country, followed by a National People's Special Session on Disarmament in early 2000.

5.Olympic Truce: In conjunction with the National Union of Teachers, UNA is working for an Olympic Truce. All warring nations would be challenged to observe a truce during the period of Olympiad, as happened during the classical Greek Olympics.

During the International Year for the Culture of Peace, we aim to catalyse awareness and change throughout the United Kingdom. In hope of progressing the ideals of the Culture of Peace and Manifesto 2000, UNA invites individuals and organisations to add their own signature to Manifesto 2000 and become further involved with the Culture of Peace.

Join us in the creation of a just future!

Richard Jones, Welsh Centre for International Affairs

heddwch action: The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales are launching the 'Culture of Peace' on December 6th at the Temple of Peace. To find out more, or to join the United Nations Association in Wales please contact Richard Jones, Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF13AP (01222) 228549. richardjones@wcia.org.uk

Nuclear testing: the US behaves like a "rogue state"

In October, the refusal of the US Senate to agree to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) dealt a terrible blow to the nuclear disarmament process and prospects for peace in the world.

The CTBT is one of two nuclear arms control treaties underpinning the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament process. Without US support the CTBT can never enter into force. It appears that many senators are afraid that to abandon forever their right to conduct explosive nuclear tests would undermine the hegemonic position of the US. They want to keep the "New World Order" the way it is, with the US 'on top'. China, Russia, India and Pakistan were only some of those waiting to see what would happen in the US before taking any action. We can now only wait and see how many other nations will follow the United States.

The political situation in the now nuclear-armed Pakistan is in the balance. Russia has warned the United Nations Security Council of a "return to Cold War dialogue" between them and the US because arms control talks between them are "currently bogged down".

Mr. Clinton has however insisted that despite the Senate vote his government will adhere to its moratorium on nuclear testing and both China and India have said they will abide by their respective declarations not to carry out any further nuclear tests.

But this is not the way forward for peace. In the long term, unless the US and other nuclear weapons states start taking nuclear disarmament obligations seriously, and the US abandons work on offensive weapon systems such as 'missile defence' - the fragile knife edge of restraint will give way.



George M.Ll. Davies 1880 - 1949

"perfect saint in a hellish world"

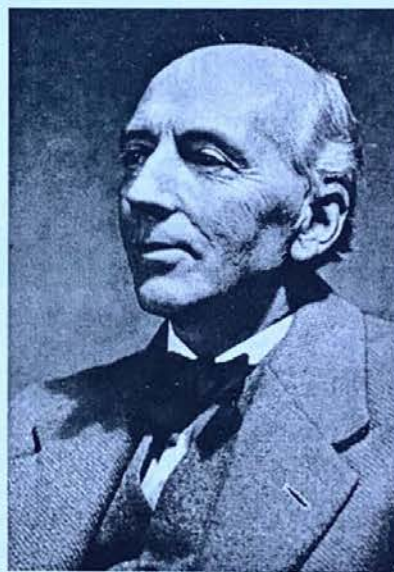
This year, we commemorate one of the greatest Welsh men of the twentieth century - George M.Ll. Davies. A handsome man with a fascinating personality who spent his life preaching the futility of war. He dedicated his life to promoting friendship between man and fellow-man, one country and another, employer and worker, and between religious denominations.

George Davies worked in different areas, going from bank to building society, to herding sheep and working with young offenders. He was a chapel minister and became a Member of Parliament and worked with the poor and the unemployed. He warned the governments that the vindictive Treaty of Versailles would create poverty, ill-health and famine and would give birth to fascism. It was he who brought Ireland's peace terms to Lloyd George.

Gandhi arranged to meet him for a chat before going to see the English Government to discuss freedom for India. He was one of the first Secretaries of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and was jailed for insisting on preaching peace in the midst of war.

We remember a pacifist and a man of the people, a man who was both cheerful and sad, funny and god-fearing, otherworldly and practical. He was described by contemporaries as "a perfect saint in a hellish world".

Maldwyn Lewis



A radical CD from Cor Cochion Caerdydd/Cardiff Red Choir "The Best of Cor Cochion"

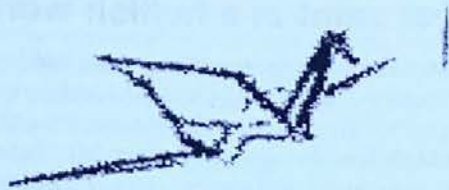
17 songs of peace and freedom

The choir was founded in 1983, when events in Chile, South Africa and at home in Wales demanded that Welsh socialist voices be raised in protest. Since then the choir has raised awareness on the streets while collecting many thousands of pounds campaigning in support of trade unions, human rights, self determination, peace with justice, for an ecologically safe environment and many other causes in Wales, across Britain and in the international arena.

The CD is priced at £12.00 + £1 p&p, and is available from B. Smith, Ty'n y Graig Road, Llanbradach, CF83 3LH (01222) 886113. Beatysmith@hotmail.com
Cheques payable to "Cor Cochion Caerdydd"

Campaigning updates

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: never again



The decision-makers and those in power have continued to demonstrate that they are incapable of making the leap of imagination towards a world free from constant threat of a nuclear holocaust. It remains up to the ordinary, extraordinary people to remember what is becoming increasingly possible. This August, all over the World, events were organised to bear witness to the suffering of the victims of the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Amongst other events in Wales, candles were floated on the river at Newport, Pembrokeshire, Aberystwyth CND published a message of hope and remembrance in the local newspaper, Swansea CND and Llandrindod CND planted trees.



No More Hiroshimas - Roath Park August 6th 1999

August 6th in Roath Park

It was Hiroshima day. The weather was absolutely appalling. We had already organised for the annual commemoration of this evil crime against humanity. The telephone tree had been put into operation, everyone had been contacted, but who was going to feel motivated to stand in silent vigil by Roath Park Lake getting soaked to the skin? Wendy and I remembered the recent visit to Wales by some Hibakusha, survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the harrowing accounts of their experiences as victims of the allied bombing. We decided that no matter what the weather we must make the effort. Within 5 minutes of our arrival at the lake, 6 members of the Red Choir, George and Jeanne Crabb and many friends from Bridgend, Barry and Cardiff had turned up in their raincoats. The event was very moving. Cor Cochion sang a number of songs for peace and freedom, and it was quite obvious that I was not alone in feeling a great need to commemorate the disgraceful and inhuman act of inhumanity against the Japanese people in 1945.

Ray Davies

Wales & East Timor: the bloody connection

About 50 members of the Gwynedd Stop the Hawks Campaign gathered at RAF Valley on Ynys Mon in response to the news of the mass slaughter in East Timor. The Campaign draws attention to the link between RAF Valley, where pilots are trained to fly Hawk jets and the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Leaflets were handed out to the military and civilian workers at the airbase.

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Hawk aircraft, built by British Aerospace, have been sold to the Indonesian military in a deal underwritten by the British Government (the government with the so-called 'ethical foreign policy'). As part of the sales package, the Indonesian pilots have been trained to fly the Hawk jets at RAF Valley, and low over the Welsh countryside.

At the protest, campaigners, backed by messages of support from leading Welsh politicians and religious and local government leaders, stood in silence to remember the East Timorese victims. In a statement they said that the temporary, 4 month suspension of British arms sales to Indonesia on 12th September was too little too late.

The government and media treatment of the Indonesian Government over recent months has been in stark contrast to the demonisation of regimes such as those in Yugoslavia and Iraq. It is of little comfort to the East Timorese, nor to campaigners that previous 'Stop the Arms Exports to Indonesia' direct actions have now been vindicated. Abercynon MP Ann Clwyd admits that the Government's claim to an ethical foreign policy is now 'very thin'.

Trecwn - nuclear waste dump?

The future of the former Naval Armaments Depot in Pembrokeshire is still uncertain. It seems increasingly unlikely that the 58 underground storage chambers will ever be used for the promised aero-engine refurbishment facility, with the creation of up to 500 jobs. It is now a year since Omega Pacific, the purchasers of the site, additionally offered the chambers for the storage of low and intermediate level nuclear waste.

Any decision made on this issue could set a precedent for the storage of such waste at other sites in Wales. There is huge opposition to the nuclear waste storage plans. Storage at new sites such as at Trecwn would involve new transport routes by air, sea, road or rail across and around Wales.

At the October Nuclear Free Zones Forum AGM in Rotherham, Councillor Luke of Goodwick announced that Geoffrey Beveridge, Director of Decommissioning for BNFL had stated categorically that BNFL were not interested in storing nuclear waste at Trecwn.

Richard Edwards, Preseli AM has submitted a Statement of Opinion (SoO) to the Assembly which has been supported by an Assembly majority of 32 Assembly Members. Additionally, most cabinet members have indicated support but protocol forbids them from signing a SoO. Richard Edwards is very concerned that a company can make a speculative planning move that blights a whole area with no prospect of redress for the people affected. He is currently looking at setting up an all-party meeting in the Assembly to demonstrate opposition to Omega Pacific's plans. The Statement of Opinion is as follows:



"The National Assembly for Wales declares its total opposition to the proposal by a private firm to store nuclear waste at the former RNAD site at Trecwn in Pembrokeshire. This would cause catastrophic blight to the economy and environment of Pembrokeshire and pose great potential hazards to the well being of the people of West Wales and beyond."

heddwch action: Lobby your AM in the week of action, (January 14th-22nd). To get involved contact the Pembrokeshire Anti Nuclear Alliance. (Martin John) (01348) 874199 or Paul Hawkes, Teifi Preseli CND (01239) 614856

Nuclear cargoes in the Irish Sea

Teifi-Preseli CND is lobbying the National Assembly for the banning of nuclear cargoes from the Irish Sea. The incident in May when a ship carrying enriched uranium caught fire off the Welsh Coast highlighted the dangers of such transportation. Both Gwynedd and Ceredigion Councils are intensifying pressure on the Government not to allow the start up of the Mixed Oxide (MOX) processing plant at Sellafield which would result in more consignments of nuclear materials being transported through the Irish Sea. Paul Hawkes of Teifi-Preseli CND commented:

"The consequences of a nuclear shipping accident could be horrendous...prevention is better than cure, so nuclear shipments must stop."

heddwch action: get involved in the campaign, contact Paul at Teifi-Preseli CND: (01239) 614856

Trawsfynydd - public affairs must be conducted in public

The Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance (WANA) has discovered that new regulations intended to open up nuclear decommissioning to public scrutiny may be abused by BNFL Magnox in order to avoid having to defend their position at a public inquiry. The European Directive (97/11/EC), which came into force in March this year states that "development for the purpose of dismantling or decommissioning a nuclear power station or other reactor shall not be treated as development". If planning permission is not required then British regulations would not apply and the whole purpose of 97/11/EC has been lost.

BNFL Magnox could decide to withdraw their planning application for the Trawsfynydd "Safestore" and then, under the new regulations, behind closed doors apply to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate for consent to their proposals. WANA points out that this would be profoundly undemocratic and would fail to command public respect. The taking back of a decision that the National Assembly thought that it was going to take would be an affront to the Assembly. The National Assembly would then have to ensure that the people of Wales apply directly to the European Directive.

heddwch action: contact Hugh Richards WANA PO Box 1, Llandrindod LD1 5AA Powys (01982) 570 362
hughrichards@gn.apc.org

Helen John: painter and decorator extraordinaire



As the MoD know, it's hard to keep track of Helen! At the time of going to press, she has been released on bail after five weeks on remand in Holloway prison. She has been charged with causing £35,000 of criminal damage to the Houses of Parliament in London by painting: "Ban Trident", "No Star Wars" and "Ban Depleted Uranium" on the wall near the

public entrance. She has also been charged with painting "Recognise International Humanitarian Law", "Ban Trident", "Ban Depleted Uranium", "Do Not Collude with Genocide", "Resist Nuclear American Take-Over (NATO)" and "Free Angie, Ellen and Ulla, TP2000 activists" on the High Court in Edinburgh. The High Court's copper doors were turned into women's symbols and a CND symbol. Helen is also alleged to have painted "No Blood on Scottish Hands", "Resist War Crimes" and "Ban Trident" on the Scottish Parliament Visitors' Centre.

heddwch action: for updates on court cases and/or to support Helen contact Cat Euler Cat@freewomen.freemove.co.uk or Helen 26, The Oval, Otley LS21 2ED Yorkshire (01943) 468 593.

Aldermaston - public consultation

For the first time ever, a public consultation has been held concerning the radioactive discharges into the environment from the Atomic Weapons Establishments at Aldermaston and Burghfield. Liquid radioactive waste bearing plutonium and enriched uranium is currently released from Aldermaston into the Thames and the Kennet Rivers. Last year, Aldermaston AWE revealed that it planned to make a 'one off' release of tritiated water containing a billion becquerels of activity into the Thames. The operators have now withdrawn their proposals following sustained public and local authority protest. The wastes are now expected to be dealt with on site by evaporation, raising local concerns about increased tritium emissions to air.



CND is calling for an urgent public enquiry into health and safety at Aldermaston following revelations that the site's groundwater is heavily contaminated with tritium and that the site surface is contaminated with plutonium and uranium, some of which has washed off in heavy rainfall. Between 1984 and 1996 there were four separate accidents involving leakage from plutonium stores. These and other accidents were omitted from "comprehensive" accident reports given to the local liaison committee.

The site is still using 1950s nuclear waste stores and lacks space to deal with projected nuclear waste arising from work. **Heddwch Action:** The date for submissions for the consultation closed on November 5th.

heddwch action: For more information about Aldermaston and what you can do contact the Nuclear Awareness Group: Di Macdonald, 31, Westwood Road, Southampton SO17 1DN (01703) 554434
nipdimac@gn.apc.org

British CND conference 1999

At September's Annual British CND Conference, reports showed that CND is still a campaign active at grassroots level working to raise awareness of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and militarism. Resolutions were passed on the following issues:

Weapons in Space:

it was resolved to campaign to 'Keep Space for Peace';

NATO: a strong call for Britain's immediate withdrawal from the NATO nuclear alliance;

Depleted Uranium Weapons:

a call for an end to the manufacture, export and use of such weapons;

Armed Conflict:

it was agreed that CND should always highlight the potential for armed conflict to escalate into nuclear war and actively encourage the use of non-military means to resolve conflict with increased support for the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);

Yugoslavia:

NATO bombing of Yugoslavia was condemned and the British Government was called upon to provide immediate financial and humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia, support the lifting of economic sanctions, oppose further military action and instead promote peaceful resolution of conflict under the auspices of the UN.

A full report of the Annual Conference is available from British CND: 162, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ (0171) 700 2393 cnd@gn.apc.org

heddwch action: further details are available, including moving pieces of testimony from the defendants. Phone Ciaran (07930) 961842 or George Farebrother, World Court Project (01323) 844 269



The National Eisteddfod : a week of peace on Ynys Mon

Y Babell Heddwch, the Peace Tent, was a landmark on the National Eisteddfod field this summer. The media certainly knew where it was and could focus easily on our daily programme of protest against Wales' involvement in preparations for war and participation in peace making and justice world-wide. Y Babell Heddwch was also a milestone bringing together even more justice and peace groups. CND Cymru took the initiative by booking a double bay on the field. Cyfanfyd (meaning 'the whole world'), the United Nations Association, Gwerin y Coed (the Woodcraft Folk) and Cymdeithas y Cymod, (the Fellowship of Reconciliation), all worked with CND Cymru in producing an exhibition pointing to a more hopeful world without conflict.

On the Monday, Myriel Davies and Sian Howys addressed a public meeting on the topic "is war the answer?"

On Tuesday, a delegation of children from the Western Saharan refugee camps, victims of a 24 year old annexation of their homeland by Morocco, performed a tea ceremony for their guests, Ieuan Wyn Jones, Welsh Assembly and British Parliament representative for Mon, and Meredydd Evans, the respected Welsh broadcaster. Wednesday, a large crowd took the message "No more arms sales to Indonesia" and "Make Wales a war-free zone" to the Welsh Assembly stand on the Eisteddfod field.

Children from Caernarfon performed in the rain on Thursday and a collection was sent to the Balkan Peace Team.

On the Friday, depleted uranium and its use in weapons deployed in the Gulf and Kosova was the theme for a workshop at Y Babell Heddwch. It was also Hiroshima Day. Prayers were said for the victims of nuclear war and for a world without nuclear threats, a world of peace.

Warm thanks to Awel Irene, and all those dear friends in North Wales who helped to make this year's Eisteddfod such a wonderful success.

CND Cymru Annual Meeting 1999

At September's annual meeting held in Llandrindod, members and delegates heard of the intense and constant campaigning taking place within Wales, Britain and world-wide. The dangers arising from the creation of a European nuclear military policy to be formalised at the EU Summit in 2000 and the inclusion of Trident nuclear weapons in this policy were discussed. It was resolved to continue strongly with our campaigning in an international political climate in which nuclear conflict is becoming increasingly likely. Rae Street, Vice Chair of British CND spoke of her recent visit to Japan and of our place within the international peace movement. (An article about this visit is included elsewhere in this edition of Heddwch.)

Officers elected for 1999-2000 are as follows:

Chair: David Morris;

Vice-Chairs: Olwen Davies, Dave Andrews, Ray Davies and Rod Stallard

Treasurer: Jean Bryant.

Jill Stallard, National Secretary has retired from her post after almost 8 years. The vacancy is still open and CND Cymru has now to address the management of its campaigning and administration.



PHOTO :At the National Eisteddfod 1999

Campaigners picket arms fair

Welsh protestors joined the hundreds of anti-arms trade activists who protested outside the opening of Britain's biggest-ever weapons fair in September. The protestors crowded around the main entrance of the Defence Systems Equipment International 99 show in Chertsey, England. More than 20,000 delegates, including officials from some of the world's most repressive regimes visited the exhibition which took place over 4 days in Surrey and London's Dockland. Jeremy Corbyn MP commented

"There is no point in condemning human rights abuses around the world if we are selling the weapons that the death squads are using."

heddwch action: to get involved in the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, or for a free information pack, contact CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ (0171) 281 0297 www.caat.demon.co.uk

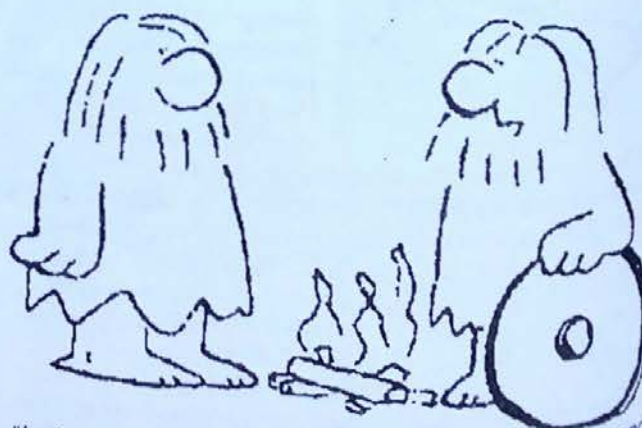
Swedish ploughshares bread not bombs trial

Annika and Stellan returned for retrial in Preston following their September 1998 Ploughshares action on Vengeance, the fourth British Trident then under construction at VSEL shipyards in barrow in Furness. Along with co-defendant Ann-Britt Sternfeldt they were held in prison on remand for 6 months before being released by a hung jury at the conclusion of their first trial last May on charges of "conspiracy to commit criminal damage" to Trident.

On Friday 21st October this year the jury returned with a 10-2 guilty verdict. The judge sentenced Annika and Stellan to time served and left it to the prosecution to take the initiative on Ann Britt's case (she is at present too ill to stand trial).

In contrast to the Loch Gail case, the judge directed the jury very narrowly, simply on the facts and refused to allow expert witnesses for the defence to show that they were upholding, and not breaking, the law. We are relieved that Annika and Stellan will not have to return to prison but frustrated that they have not had the chance to represent their case fairly.

George Farebrother



"Let's concentrate on technology for a couple of thousand years, and then we can develop a value system"

Embracing life : a commemorative site at Greenham

On 5th September 1981 a mixed group called 'Women for Life on Earth' marched 110 miles from Cardiff to Greenham Common to protest about the threat that nuclear weapons presented to our planet. Once there, they demanded a live television debate with the Secretary of State of Defence on the NATO decision to site U.S. Cruise Missiles armed with nuclear warheads in Britain. That debate did not happen. The women didn't go home.

The Greenham Women's Peace Camp grew from the seed of this direct action. For those dissatisfied with the undemocratic decision making of Government it provided a platform from where they could be heard and effect change through taking non-violent direct action.

After 18 years of continuous commitment to this work the women at Greenham who have been arrested, evicted, robbed, threatened, criticised, insulted, soaked and chilled on some occasions; idolised, supported, imitated, sun-warmed, welcomed, prayed-for, immortalised, loved and willed to success on others, are initiating a new phase. Planning permission has been granted by West Berkshire Council to develop a commemorative and historic site on the land that the Women's Peace Camp has occupied. The Women have commissioned a sculptor, Michael Marriot to draw designs for a monument consisting of 7 standing stones and sculptural representations of the four earthly elements. The promotion of the site will be carried out by a collective of women who, over the past 18 years have taken part in the work of non-violent resistance to nuclear weapons. These women see the site as extending the influence of that work into the future beyond the physical presence of the Camp.

It is hoped that the work will begin some time in the year 2000. The Peace camp is to be closed down at that stage to allow the work to commence. There will be a gathering at the Women's Peace Camp on 31st December 1999 in order to see out this century with its infamous historical landmarks of wars, concentration camps and nuclear weapons - and to welcome in, with hope, the new century. The Commemorative and Historical Site will not only mark resistance to nuclear weapons in this country, but will also, hopefully, have some influence in creating a world without them!

Greenham Commemorative Site Fund, Wales: The aim is to collect, in Wales, at least £1000 towards the cost of the Greenham site. To donate, or pledge money or for further further information contact Mary Millington (01633) 265244.

Remembering Helen at Greenham

August 5th saw the 10th anniversary of the death of Helen Wynne Thomas of Castellnewydd Emlyn, who was struck and killed by a police horsebox outside the main gate of what was then USAF/RAF Greenham Common in 1989. Mary Millington at the commemoration:

About 15 of us gathered at the camp that day. We left flowers sent by Beth Junor, a Greenham woman living in Edinburgh, at the spot where Helen had died. We then joined hands in a circle around Helen's garden, created immediately following her death. Each woman shared happy and positive memories of her life and her aspirations for Peace, Justice and for the Welsh language. Pictured in the photograph, from left to right: Isobel Strang (local peace and green activist); Jean Hutchinson (Brynaman and Greenham Common); Sarah Hipperson (London and Greenham Common); Frances Vigay (Cornwall); Rosy Bremer (Portsmouth); Janet Thomas (Helen's Mother and Magistrate from Castellnewydd Emlyn); Mary Millington (Newport WILPF); Katrina Howse (Greenham Common); Janet Turner (Sweden) and Mary Crofton (Newport). Also present was Abigail Adams from Yorkshire and Helen's aunt, Iris. It is hoped that Helen's garden on Greenham Common will be incorporated into the Commemorative Site (see story).



Charlotte Tuttle

C.N.D. Cymru Christmas Sale

Christmas Cards

selection of 25 cards and envelopes £3.50

Badges

selection of 5 badges £1

Stickers

selection of 5 stickers £1

Posters

limited stocks of the following posters 50p each:

White Poppy for Peace Peace? (Red Poppies)
Lord Mountbatten on Nuclear Weapons
Beware the Toys of War
We could learn to live in peace
Their right - a future without fear
Bread not Bombs
Bara nid Bomiau
One World
Make Peace not War
No more Hiroshimas War is not healthy for children
While hunger rules,
Peace cannot prevail
Trident - Britain's Self Destruct Mechanism
Nuclear Free Air Land and Sea
Gone with the Wind

All prices include inland post and packing except posters: please add 50p for postage (for any number of posters). Please make cheques payable to "C.N.D. Cymru Trading" and send to:
CND Cymru Trading, c/o Jan Henderson, 72 Heol Gwyn, Yr Alltwen, Pontardawe, SA8 3AN (phone: 01792 - 830330)

news round-up

Something nasty in the sea: Canada

The Canadian navy has recently admitted that it left 6 tonnes of uranium on the seabed off the coast of Nova Scotia. Target practice, using depleted uranium shells was conducted near Nova Scotian fishing grounds. The hardened shells, used to penetrate armour plating were fired just before the Gulf War. Thousands of the shell casings now lie a few kilometres offshore from Halifax, Canada.

Scotland

In a continuing saga of military contamination of South West Scotland, the military have admitted to losing 1,700 bombs off the coast of tourist beaches in Luce Bay. These cluster bombs disappeared during a military test that went wrong. Since the bombs, designed as a grotesque replacement for banned landmines, would be so dangerous to reclaim, the MoD intend to pave 2 square miles of seabed. Galloway MSP Alasdair Morgan is calling for the bombs to be completely removed and has reminded the MoD of the problems with the bombs 'dumped' in the Beaufort Dyke in the 1950s which are now turning up on Scottish beaches. Cluster bombs are so dangerous that even a small vibration can cause them to explode.

...and on the land

The contamination of parts of Kircudbright by depleted uranium is continuing to cause concern to the authorities in the district. Contamination by radionuclides from Windscale/Sellafield and the Eskmeals military ranges are more widespread than was previously admitted. At the military range, the efficacy of radioactive depleted uranium as armour plating and as a component of armour piercing shells has been tested over a number of years.

Tokaimura - creda quia impossibile

If nuclear scientists had been asked on 29th September of the likelihood of a nuclear accident such as that which happened on September 30th at Tokaimura in Japan, they would have told us "impossible".

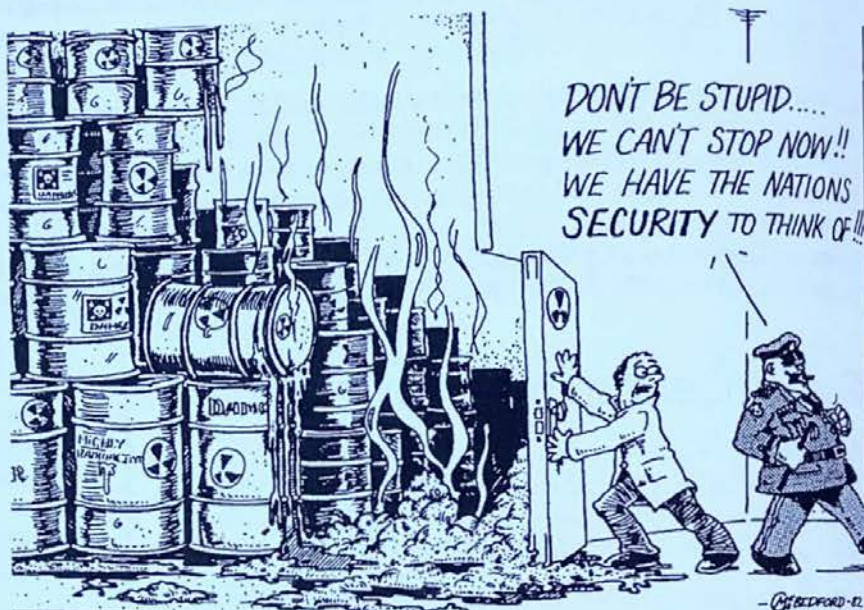
The worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl did however take place, and as we watched, we were gruesomely reminded of the Chernobyl disaster. The authorities were extremely slow to react, 18 workers were mobilised to 'clean up' and these are amongst the 49 of those exposed to high levels of radiation. Doses of some of those injured were equivalent or worse than that of the ground zero at Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Agricultural products harvested in the area have been recalled. Operating manuals were not available to the workers...

This accident was explicit evidence that the nuclear industry worldwide is incapable of applying the high standards of safety they claim to adopt. Nuclear Free Local Authorities in Britain saw this accident, one of a string of nuclear incidents in Japan in recent years as a warning. They said:

"We must heed these warnings and get out of nuclear reprocessing and MOX manufacture. The new Sellafield MOX plant which is waiting for permission to start up again must be mothballed. Nuclear reprocessing contracts between Sellafield, Japan and other countries should be renegotiated. We have to face up to the fact that the burden of risk imposed by this industry is too great."

Derby-the dangerous Rolls Royce donkey

The same nuclear process that workers in which Tokaimura were involved also takes place at the Rolls Royce plant in Derby, England. At this plant, where nuclear submarine reactors are made, fuel pellets of highly enriched uranium are manufactured. CND has revealed that at Derby, mixing for the pellets is done by hand as was happening at the Tokaimura plant. CND has called for some urgent answers to some serious questions. At Derby there are no emergency plans for the local population in case of an accident and it is uncertain as to whether there are any containment procedures for a criticality accident. More information about the Derby plant is available from British CND (0171) 700 2350 or see the briefing on the CND website: www.cnduk.org/briefing/derby.htm



Double double toil and trouble at Hanford

A nuclear blob has risen like bread dough in a million gallon radioactive waste storage tank at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation part of the US nuclear warhead production plant in Washington State. The blob is provoking new concerns about possible environmental contamination or even an explosion. This tank is known as Hanford's "burping tank" which used to release thousands of cubic feet of radioactive gas into the atmosphere every three months or so. This was regulated so that the amounts released were smaller and more constant. The regulation has led to the development of a growing crust on the tank now 10 feet thick. There are fears that the radioactive pollution of the water table could increase even further if the tank spills.

China - new intercontinental ballistic missiles

In October, China successfully completed laboratory simulations of a test launch of its latest multi warhead intercontinental ballistic missile, the Dongfeng-41 (DF-41). This missile would have a range of 8,000 miles and could reach targets in most parts of the United States. Defence analysts expect China's acquisition of the DF-41 to force the USA to adjust its defence strategy and speed up the development of anti-missile defence systems. The DF-41 may be deployed in five years if China's leadership agrees to go ahead with development.

Calls within China to speed up the development of more advanced weapons had been on the rise since US led NATO jets bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade on 7th May. The President of China, Jiang Zemin friend of Tony Blair and the Queen of England, has urged the speeding up of the modernisation of the armed forces 'to win regional wars under high-tech conditions'.

Yugoslavia - lift the sanctions!

The Committee for Peace in the Balkans does not support the Milosevic regime but does support the ordinary people of Yugoslavia. The Committee is calling for the non-military sanctions against Yugoslavia to be lifted, humanitarian assistance to be urgently provided and NATO states to fund cleaning up the environment and rebuilding of the civilian infrastructure that they destroyed.

The plight of the civilian population of Yugoslavia has been almost entirely ignored by the media and western governments have imposed sanctions specifically designed to prevent the reconstruction of the civilian infrastructure. This, despite the claims made by government officials replying to the complaints of CND Cymru members that "NATO has no quarrel with the ordinary people of Yugoslavia". Twice as many civilians as military and police combined were killed by NATO's 'precision' bombing.

On top of these problems, Yugoslavia is also coping with the largest concentration of refugees in Europe. The Red Cross is able to feed only a third of the million refugees. Winter temperatures can drop to -20 degrees centigrade, and lack of power is seriously affecting home heating and health care.

The environmental damage caused by the bombing will be a continuing problem in the region for many years to come. Tam Dalyell MP is calling for NATO countries to clean up the poisoned legacy of NATO's war against the people of Yugoslavia. Whatever hope there was for a tolerant society in Kosovo/a, with the individual human rights of each citizen being respected has been greatly diminished by the bombing and the post-bombing fighting within the region.

The cost of the war to the British taxpayers has so far been estimated at £1 billion a year for the next 10 years. Sadly, we can only imagine the outcome had that money been spent in conflict resolution and prevention in the years immediately following the break up of the former Yugoslavia.

heddwch action: Contact the Committee for Peace in the Balkans (0171) 275 0164 c/o Alice Mahon MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Send £2.00 for an information pack email: www.peaceinbalkans.freereserve.co.uk

Chernobyl - spreading in time and space

Most people would agree that Chernobyl happened quite a long time ago (1986) in a place very far from Britain (Ukraine) and quite far from Germany. Nevertheless, a German daily paper has recently (September '99) reported the deaths of seven lorry drivers, years after the disaster and hundreds of miles distant. The link was easily established: they worked for an international transport undertaking based in the former GDR (East Germany) and their lorries were used to deliver various materials to and from Kiev, Gomel, Minsk and Crackow as well as trips to the West. It was on such a trip that a vehicle was tested for radioactivity and found to be heavily contaminated. Eventually, all such vehicles were returned to their depot for 'decontamination'. Precautions were, of course taken, but nonetheless seven of the drivers concerned have since died. The Chernobyl victims are not confined to Chernobyl.

Pit Allen

Trident: bigger and better?

The New Labour Government tells us that it plans to work for international nuclear disarmament yet at the same time CND has discovered that the government is saying one thing and doing quite another. Alan Simpson MP has published a report with CND demonstrating strong evidence that Britain is designing new warheads for the Trident missile system in conjunction with the US and possibly France. These secret plans are costing the taxpayer £200

million and have serious implications for the British obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, let alone parliamentary democracy and public accountability. CND's revelations followed intensive research into official US documents, management documents of the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and the asking of Parliamentary questions by sympathetic MPs. The full report "The Next Chevaline Scandal" is available from British CND 162, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ (0171) 700 2393.

heddwch action: write and ask your MP to ask questions about this - while health and education are given quotas on spending it seems to be quite another matter where military hardware is concerned.



The Cassini Space Mission

Luckily the Cassini spacecraft did flyby the Earth on August 18, 1999 carrying 72.3 lbs. (32.8 kg) of deadly plutonium on board. Luckily it didn't inadvertently enter the Earth's atmosphere at 42,000 mph, burn up and expose five billion people to 99% or more of the radiation from the plutonium (which could have happened according to the NASA Environmental Impact Statement). However, NASA plans more plutonium-carrying spacecraft launches in preparation for the development and deployment of high-energy lasers and battle platforms in space. As we launch more and more radioactive materials on spacecraft, there will be ever more opportunities for accidents. Such disasters as Three Mile Island, Apollo 13, Chernobyl and Tokaimura demonstrate that low probability events do in fact occur. More information is available from Yorkshire CND: (01274) 730795. 23, Edmund Street, Bradford, BD5 0BH cnidyorks@gn.apc.org

A chilling reminder

In October a Spanish trawler fishing off the coast of Morocco caught its nets in a Russian submarine carrying 5 cruise-type nuclear weapons. Britain's Trident nuclear submarines are constantly on patrol in the ocean. Each submarine is equipped with 16 missiles, each missile has been designed to carry a maximum of 8 nuclear warheads and each warhead has the explosive capacity of 100 kilotons. This is 7 times the explosive power of the first atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945 which killed over 140,000 people.

Sellafield workers "save time"

It has been discovered that in order to 'save time', some employees at Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant have been by-passing quality control checks by using data sheets from previous samples. Some batches of Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel rods, fabricated on the assembly line at Sellafield's small MOX 'demonstration facility' were therefore certified as safe when they had not been checked at all. The Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installation Inspectorate (NII) have confirmed that they have been informed of "irregularities in the implementation of procedures for checking the size of MOX pellets for export". A 15 strong NII inspection team is already at Sellafield carrying out a major audit of the site following an increase in accidents at Sellafield earlier this year. BNFL have since admitted to 22 faked quality control data sheets. The friendly Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment (CORE) campaign to stop all emissions from Sellafield and can be contacted at 98, Church Street, Barrow, Cumbria LA14 2HJ (01229) 833851 info@core.furness.co.uk

Y2K : the millenium bugbear

There are many uncertainties and risks associated with Y2K and antinuclear activists and those concerned about the issues need to make preparations. In a nightmare worst case scenario we will have nuclear weapons systems malfunctioning and/or nuclear reactors melting down. Both are possible although it may be that the risk has been greatly reduced by the recent establishment of a "Centre for Year 2000 Strategic Stability" at Peterson Air Force base in Colorado Springs USA. This Centre will be "manned" by 18-20 Russian Colonels and their US counterparts to ensure open communication and information exchange in the event of an accidental launch. Working against this is the worrying fact that 6 of the 7 cold war telecommunications hotlines between the US and Russian Presidents are currently not Y2K compliant.

Britain has already altered its 'notice to fire' from minutes to days. It would be far more effective to take all nuclear weapons world-wide off "hair trigger" alert and to de-couple nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles, but there seems to be no movement in this direction even at this late hour.

The inherent danger of nuclear technology, combined with the potential for Y2K failures could lead to a chain of events such as occurred last December at Hunterston B. The consequences are potentially catastrophic. Keeping nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert at any time does not add to the security of any nation but only adds to insecurity. Last year the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling on the nuclear weapons states to de-alert their weapons. It was wise counsel. The US and Russia alone have some 5000 strategic nuclear weapons that are able to be fired within a time span of 15-30 minutes.

heddwch action: It is not too late to write to your MP, your Assembly Member (this matter relates to the safety of Wales as no other) and/or the Prime Minister demanding: 1. The de-alerting of nuclear weapons systems and the de-coupling of nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles; 2. The managed phase down of nuclear reactors; 3. provision of additional back-up generators at all nuclear facilities with adequate fuel supplies for worst-case scenarios; 4. a world-wide moratorium on the transport of all nuclear materials; 5. the provision of emergency contingency plans for all communities.

Pudding and pie: NATO and Europe

In 1919, after the horrific First World War, John Maynard Keynes spelled out a vision for Europe in which free trade worked as a force for peace, an economic system... "to which everyone had the opportunity of belonging and which gave special privilege to none... absolutely free from the objections of privileged and avowedly imperialistic schemes of exclusion and



Dave Austin : Guardian



discrimination." Many would now take issue with Keynes' theory, in particular the premise that free trade is a force for peace, but it is clear that George Robertson, ex Minister of Defence and new NATO leader does not even see 'peace' as desirable.

NATO is now discussing improving weapons, logistics and communications with the aim of increasing its military capacity. George Robertson has called upon the EU members to prepare themselves for a bigger military role - around the world. European members

of NATO already spend about £102 billion annually on defence. US arms manufacturers, such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin are expected to benefit from any European upgrading of defence systems. This is not the Europe of peace but a Europe preparing for constant war and bloodshed, misuse of resources and pollution.

CND spills the beans on Aldermaston

Documents leaked to CND revealed a horrific catalogue of disasters at the Atomic Weapons Establishments Aldermaston and Burghfield over the past 10 months. It is only luck that there has not been a serious nuclear accident at these sites where Britain's Trident nuclear warheads are manufactured and refurbished.

CND is calling for the closure of the AWEs; a full and independent inquiry into Aldermaston; for the Government to take back control of the plants (currently managed by a private consortium Hunting Brae); genuine openness and accountability by the managers; implementation of recommendations made by previous health and safety reports; closure of the Pangbourne pipeline which discharges radioactive materials into the Thames; the production of a 5 year plan to "clean up" site contamination; the immediate commencement of a 'size reduction facility and solid waste treatment facility' and the production of a realistic nuclear waste storage strategy within the next 12 months for public consultation. . Meanwhile, the threat of a nuclear disaster threatens the workers, the lives and health of the local community and their environment for generations to come.

heddwch action: CND have published "Aldermaston Behind Closed Doors" and a full list of accidents is available on the CND web site at <http://www.cnduk.org/briefing/awesri.htm>. CND can be contacted at: (0171) 700 2393 or CND, 162, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ

Iraqi rebels to be trained in US

In a move reminiscent of the support that the US gave to Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party in the 1980s, Iraqi rebels have been invited to participate in a training course for elite US Air Force soldiers. Two of the participants include two former Iraqi army officers. The US are also supplying the largest opposition groups with allegedly non-military equipment to the total value of \$2.2million in the first stage of an aid programme worth \$97million. The United States has a long history of assisting rebels enough to cause trouble for an opponent but not enough so that they can win and challenge the US themselves.

(Source : New York Times)

Welsh sanctions-breakers risk prison by taking 'Mark Thomas' teddy bear to Iraq

Sanctions are war in slow-motion but with this difference: enemy armies are the least affected. Dictators and oligarchs wall themselves off from the worst effects of deprivation while the most vulnerable suffer directly. Such actions in the name of the high idea that this nation does not target the unarmed and the weak will ring hollow while the child-killing strategy of sanctions remains in place.

Two members of CND Cymru and the group *Voices in the Wilderness* made a sanctions-breaking trip to Iraq. They took with them the giant teddy bear "Geoff" recently featured on the S4C 'The Mark Thomas Product' programme. They also took educational and medical supplies. Ray Davies, CND Cymru Vice Chair and a Labour Councillor for Caerffili and Dave Rolstone, a boat-builder from Efailwen did not apply for export licences and risked a 5 year prison sentence if prosecuted. Dave Rolstone also broke the sanctions earlier this year, challenging the British Government to arrest him and defend its actions before a jury.

Each month in Iraq, according to the UN's own figures, more than 4,000 children die because of UN sanctions. Protests from peace groups like *Voices in the Wilderness* have been ignored. Denis Halliday, a UN humanitarian co-ordinator in Iraq, resigned in protest, declaring, "No one wants to acknowledge the amount of non-military damage, the destruction of cold food and medicine storage, the power supply.... I didn't realise our level of complicity in the suffering." Previous *Voices of the Wilderness* delegates from Britain have been arrested and threatened with prosecution, whilst the group's sister organisation, *Voices in the Wilderness US* has received notification of a \$163,000 administrative penalty. Extracts from Ray's eyewitness account of the trip follow this.

heddwch action: CND Cymru is concerned with the peace, justice and humanitarian consequences of sanctions on Iraq. We do not support Saddam Hussein's regime and are not opposed to military sanctions on Iraq. To contact *Voices in the Wilderness* please 'phone: 0181 - 444 1605 pager 01523 746 462. 12 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ. To contact the Campaign Against Sanctions to Iraq please write to CASI, King's College, Cambridge CB2 1ST fax: 01223 335 219 or phone: 01468 056 984. In Cardiff contact Rabab Ghazoul (01222) 228549 / 405949

Breaking sanctions, singing and bearing witness in Iraq

For months, I had been concerned about the statistics being reported by the World Health Organisation about the large increase in birth deformities, cancers and child mortality in Iraq since the Gulf War. I therefore decided to visit Iraq and carry badly needed medicines, equipment and medical journals with me. My fellow sanctions breaker was Dave Rolstone of Efailwen, Pembrokeshire who had previously made the trip earlier this year. The day before we flew to Iraq via Jordan we delivered a letter to Tony Blair telling him of our intention to break sanctions by taking these supplies.

A near empty warehouse

In Jordan we spent 2 days applying for visas at the Iraqi embassy. We finally left Amman for Iraq by bus on a bus trip of some 600 miles mainly across desert finally arriving in Baghdad 20 hours later. Our first visit was to an Italian aid worker working in a large near-empty warehouse with a pitiful pile of books and an even more pitiful heap of out-dated medicines. We and the books were piled onto a broken down open truck - and taken to visit 3 schools in a deprived district of Baghdad. The children sang us a song of welcome, and when the word got round that I was from Wales, I was asked to sing. I was emotionally upset and the only thing I could manage was Dylan

Thomas', 'Eli Jenkins' Prayer'. It was sung in complete silence with everyone holding hands. With not a dry eye in sight we said our goodbyes.

A plastic tube to save a baby's life

The following day we visited the Iraqi Red Crescent and were met by its President, Dr. Alwash. While we were there, we were able to give a doctor urgent aid for a 2 day old baby born without a roof pallet on her mouth, in danger of dying from want of feeding. Amongst the supplies we had brought was a simple piece of plastic tube with fittings. This one small item of life saving medical equipment had cost us 95 pence in Britain.

Basra - child deformities and malnourishment

We travelled south to Basra and into the No Fly Zone. US planes flew over the area every day, followed always by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire. We visited the Archbishop of Basra who gave daily spiritual sustenance to his flock and distributed food and medicine to the poor of all religions. The main sewerage and water treatment plant was working at half capacity due to a shortage of spare parts.

At a local hospital, the manager told us that in his region there have been many children born with severe deformities due to the use of depleted uranium in the so-called 'smart bombs' dropped during the Gulf War. Children with no brain, no eyes, two heads. Malnutrition and child mortality are on the increase. There was only one ambulance instead of the five needed to bring pregnant mothers to hospital from a wide region. Other forms of transport are not affordable. Visiting the wards was heartbreaking. No preparation would have been adequate for the suffering and the sights that confronted us: one 2 week old baby had no nose, half a mouth, and large eyes others were so severely malnourished that they could fit comfortably into the palm of my hand. Young mothers with their first baby, were crying and desperately trying to keep disease laden flies off of their dying children.

At a displaced persons centre hordes of mostly barefoot children descended onto our small bus. We gave out footballs and pencils but then we ran out of goodies. So I sang a croaking "Calon Lan" - and it brought the house down!

Warmth and friendship

On our return to Baghdad we visited the World Health Organisation (WHO). We showed their top officer correspondence from 10 Downing Street which put the blame for the plight of the Iraqis upon the Iraqi government for withholding food and medicine. He flatly refuted the letter and said that the work of the WHO is to monitor all food and drugs coming into Iraq - and all food had been distributed amongst the population to the accepted high standards of the WHO. He also stated that problems affecting the Iraqi population were directly attributable to the Gulf War and to sanctions.

We finally said goodbye to the Iraqi people: people who should hate us, but instead showed us warmth and friendship.

Ray Davies



Dave and Ray in an Iraqi school

hewdwch 14