



FOUND! **weapons of mass** **destruction***

USA: 10,640

Russia: 8,600

China: 400

France: 350

Britain: 200

Israel: 100-200

India: 30 - 35

Pakistan: 24 - 48

****and that's only the nuclear weapons***



heddwch

is the magazine
of the Wales
Campaign for
Nuclear
Disarmament
(CND Cymru).

**CND Cymru
works to rid Brit-
ain and the
World of all
weapons of mass
destruction,
for peace and
human and
environmental
justice.**

**Comment, letters
and articles for
consideration are
welcome.**

Editor

Jill Stallard
(01550) 750 260

Translator:

Sian Edwards
sian@derwen.demon.co.uk

Printed by Redkite
Print (01591) 610 844
redkite@onyxnet.co.uk

Packed and mailed
by volunteers in
Cardiff - to join this
happy and invaluable
group for one after-
noon every 3-4
months please contact
Brian Jones (01792)
830 330.



heddwch 2

Wales against War the exhibition

"Wales Against War - a year of inspired citizenship" is a photographic display of just some of the anti-war actions and events that took place in Wales in the lead up to and during the war on Iraq. The exhibition has so far been on display at the National Eisteddfod, the Plaid Cymru Conference, The temple of Peace in Cardiff, and Newtown Methodist Hall. It will be in the University of Wales, Aberystwyth for the Conference "The UN and the Global Agenda" on November 15th (see Diary Dates Page 18).

The display consists of joined 4 double-sided boards 7'x 3'. If you know of a suitable venue in your locality for the display please contact Jill or Rod Stallard, CND Cymru (see Contacts). The size of the display can be adapted for specific needs.

cover:

- World-wide, there are more than 30,000 nuclear weapons at any one time including those in store, being refurbished or awaiting dismantlement.
- Today's nuclear weapons have a combined destructive power of around a million times greater than the one bomb that the USA dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.
- Individual nuclear weapons are not directly comparable. Delivery systems, accuracy and range all affect the potential devastation of any single nuclear weapon.
- Britain has never been involved in any nuclear weapons reduction talks, although it is a signatory of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Article VI of the NPT commits Britain and other signatories to "pursue in good faith negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament".
- The likely consequences of nuclear war would make other threats to the environment pale into insignificance.
- There are enough nuclear weapons in the world to destroy all life on earth several times over. One bomb could destroy a city and its surrounding areas. The British Trident nuclear weapons system is capable of destroying all life on a whole continent and would scatter lethal radionucleides throughout the world.



trident ploughshares



We are truly part of a mass movement and we have to realise and maximise our own strength. We are moving in the right direction but we have a long way to go.

name:
address:
..... postcode:
telephone: email :



CND Cymru Membership, 72, Heol Gwyn, Yr Alltwen, Pontardawe, SA83AN

proliferation

Weapons to worry about

The war on Iraq and its ongoing consequences has been the Peace Movement's campaigning priority this year. Over the last few months we have been told by politicians and the media that we have to worry about the possession of nuclear weapons by Iran and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK, known in the west as North Korea). CND Cymru condemns all nuclear weapons and whoever has them or is making plans to acquire them.

Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea

It may have nuclear weapons. The DPRK government announced that it was withdrawing from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and that it is building nuclear weapons. The excuse given for this was a need to counter threats made by the United States. The DPRK claims that it has reprocessed enough spent fuel from its nuclear power programme to produce six nuclear warheads. South Korea and Japan have joined the United States in saying that they would not tolerate the DPRK having nuclear weapons. China has expressed concerns that any such move could lead to an escalating nuclear arms race in the region. Japan may also join the nuclear weapons club.

The United States, Japan and Australia want to change international law so that they can stop DPRK ships suspected of carrying missile parts. The DPRK said that any such move could lead to war that would include Japan. The US has developed war plans for any possible conflict. The scenarios include flying surveillance flights very close to DPRK aerospace forcing aircraft to scramble and burn up scarce fuel and staging a surprise military exercise designed to force the people of the DPRK to head for bunkers and use up valuable supplies of water and food. Some US officials think that this would be very dangerous and could lead to US aircraft being shot down or attacks being launched on South Korea.

Iran

Iran does have nuclear power plants and an uranium enrichment plant. Why does a country rich in oil and gas need nuclear power? Iran denies having any intention to produce nuclear weapons. We all know the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and if there are any doubts about Iran, then questions must be asked of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) and the United Nations General Assembly.

The Bush administration is determined to destabilise the Iranian government. The language used at the NPT in Geneva and in the US media is almost identical to what was used to justify going to war on Iraq.

Israel

While the search for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq continues, with no success, Israel is ignored. The UN Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991 (known as the ceasefire resolution) includes a section that calls for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons. Does the press and media mention Israel's nuclear arsenal? It is estimated that Israel could have around 200 warheads, about the same number as Britain has. A country with nuclear weapons in the middle of what is probably the most volatile region on the planet is something to be worried about.

India and Pakistan

The situation here has dropped out of the news lately. That could have something to do with the fact that the sanctions imposed by the United States after India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons have been quietly dropped as a reward for supporting the 'War on Terrorism'. Pakistan received \$3 billion financial and military assistance whilst India is being supported by Britain to try to gain a permanent seat (albeit without a veto) on the UN Security Council. It seems that 'the West' think that it's perfectly OK for two countries who have gone to war with each other four times in the last 40 years to possess nuclear weapons. That's something to be worried about.

Britain

We don't need Hans Blix to lead a team to look for WMD in Britain. We know that nuclear weapons are at Faslane and Coulport in Scotland, at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield in Berkshire, England. We know that there are factories that help in the process of creating and maintaining nuclear weapons at Derby, Chapelcross and Devonport, England. We even have a Defence Secretary, Geoff Hoon, who talks of using them if necessary against a non-nuclear weapons state.

We know that a plant for recycling tritium is to be built at Aldermaston and that there is a new aggressive graduate recruitment campaign to increase its workforce by nearly 4000 by the end of the decade. We also know that there are around 200 visits to the United States by personnel from Aldermaston each year. Scientists from Britain participated in a 'sub-critical' test in Nevada last year and brought back data for their powerful new computers.

The Government says (Hansard 11th June 2003) that Britain is maintaining the capability to design and develop a new nuclear warhead if necessary!



United States of America

The Nuclear Posture Review and the talk of pre-emptive military strikes show that there is a clear threat to use nuclear weapons in a future conflict. The determination to push on with missile defence and President Bush's continued attempts to rule the world, make any new nuclear developments very worrying indeed.

- For the first time since 1989, the US has made a plutonium pit - the fissile core of a nuclear warhead.
- A \$400 million Pentagon budget has been approved for research into low yield nuclear weapons, known as 'mini-nukes' and for Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrators ('bunker busters'). If the Pentagon is allowed at some point to move onto the development stage it will almost certainly mean a resumption of underground testing.
- There is increasing pressure to reduce test readiness of nuclear weapons laboratories to around 18 months or less.
- Congress has not ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and there would seem to be no chance of the Bush administration doing that.

The facts about WMD world-wide present a sorry state of affairs and leave us with plenty to be worried about. Where does all this leave the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty? As long as the declared nuclear weapon states (Britain, USA, Russia, France and China) continue to possess and to develop nuclear weapons the problems will remain. These states want to look at ways of stopping horizontal proliferation (other countries getting nuclear weapons). Yet they justify the export of civil nuclear technologies and facilities. At the same time they ignore vertical proliferation (their own nuclear arsenals). In order for the NPT to have any chance of success, all nuclear issues must be addressed.

Tony Myers, British CND Campaign Worker

Additional material was provided by Nigel Chamberlain at BASIC and Caroline Roach, (British CND intern).

heddwch action

Think globally - act locally! The plans to expand and 'improve' facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston in Berkshire, England include building new laboratories and hydrodynamics research and laser facilities. The AWE say that they need these facilities to test Trident nuclear warheads and develop and test a new type of British nuclear weapon. AWE will submit their plans to West Berkshire Council which can not reject them but can refer them to the Secretary of State and call for a Public Inquiry. Aldermaston Women's Peace camp and CND are calling for a Public Inquiry on the grounds that the European Commission has said that military nuclear practices must be justified. Please write to West Berkshire Council calling for an Inquiry. There can be no justification for extension or expansion of the British nuclear weapons system. Contact: Lisa Smith, Senior Planning Officer, West Berkshire Council, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5DL and/or write to the MoD with your comments, questions and objections: Geoff Hoon MP, MoD, Room 220, Old War Office, Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU

Award for welsh peace campaigner

Joel Kenrick, a leading activist in this year's local anti-war movement in Wales, has been awarded a 2003 Young Leader Award by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce (RSA) and the British Youth Council (BYC) for his 'exceptional contribution made to community life and wider society'.

Joel was nominated by Atlantic College Vice Principal Nick Lush who commented: "Joel is a born-campaigner, someone who has consistently protested about injustice and inequality. Whilst at Atlantic College, he showed inspirational leadership qualities and a remarkable ability to put words into action on many an occasion. His qualities of intellect, energy and passion will ensure that he goes far."

Joel, born in Machynlleth, co-founded 'International Citizens for Peace' in January 2003 while a student at the United World College of the Atlantic in the Vale of Glamorgan. Since then he helped organise many events in the run up to the war on Iraq, including a candlelight vigil, die-in and 'citizens weapons inspection' at RAF St Athans. He also brought Bruce Kent and local MP John Smith to the international college to debate with students from countries including Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, USA and Colombia. In addition to his anti-war campaigns Joel organised several conferences on Globalisation, injustice and the environment throughout the year.

Joel has now left Wales to study International Relations at the London School of Economics and he intends to carry on his work. During the summer Joel worked at a summer school for Arab and Jewish children in Israel, later visiting Arafat's destroyed compound in Ramallah. He believes that while unsuccessful over Iraq, the anti-war movement has played an important part in Welsh, and world politics. Speaking at a protest against the arms trade in Cardiff in September Joel said:

"I'm delighted that mainstream organisations such as the Royal Society of Arts are now recognising the importance of the anti-war movement to young people not just in Wales but around the world. A million people on the streets of London may not have stopped the invasion of Iraq but they reinvigorated a generation with a desire to change the world. I'm convinced that, despite all the odds, young people standing up for the ideals they believe in really can make a difference."

Atlantic College, at St. Donats in the Vale of Glamorgan is the world-leading international college in Britain dedicated to the United World College ideals of international understanding, peace and justice. Contact: Communications Officer Laura Henderson (01446) 799 147 laura.henderson@uwcc.net.



Joel Kenrick (2nd left) and friends in Cardiff in January

US Government 'tolerates' British nuclear weapons

A 'senior' US official has confirmed that Israel does have nuclear-armed cruise missiles aboard its submarines and that the US tolerates them "for the same reason we tolerate them in Britain and France... We don't regard Israel as a threat." The official went on to admit that the US Government was disclosing the information about Israeli nuclear weapons in order to caution (or bully?) Israel's enemies. However, the statement will probably have the effect of encouraging other Middle Eastern countries to seek to acquire nuclear weapons.

Source: Los Angeles Times

groups round-up

Working for peace and justice

Bridgend CND/Coalition

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Friends Meeting House, Park Street, at 7.30pm.

The issues on which we are currently campaigning are naturally - the illegal war, occupation and economic exploitation of Iraq; the illegal detention and torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay; the illegal military occupation of Palestine and the repression of its peoples by the Israeli Zionist government and we are promoting support for a boycott of Israeli goods.

We are also supporting the development of the Scarweather wind farm offshore from Porthcawl. Our support for this is not only for environmental reasons but also to resist the power of global oil and gas interests. Street stalls are regularly held at Friday lunchtime in the Bridgend shopping centre near the Oxfam shop, for leafleting and the collection of petition signatures. We recently lobbied Hugh Iranka Davies MP who unrepentantly supports the Blair line on Iraq.

We have organised a public meeting at 7.30 pm, in the Evergreen Hall, Council Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend on Monday 1st December. Speakers - Milan Rai and a leading member of the Coalition to Stop War. Subject: Iraq and Beyond. This will be followed up by a social event with the showing of Faces of War. **George Crabb**

Contact: Bridgend Coalition - Phil Dixon, (01656) 729321, kjardine@freezone.co.uk
Bridgend CND - George Crabb, (01446) 774452, georgecrabb@ybontfaen.freemove.co.uk

Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace & Justice Group

Still here and still thriving, with meetings every Monday at 6.30pm (y Ffynnon, Prince's Rd, next to the Anglican Chaplaincy), our group also holds a stall most Saturdays, weather permitting, by the Clock in Bangor High Street 11.30am-1.00pm.

Our campaigning priorities are defined as Iraq and Afghanistan, Palestine, the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, the detainees at Belmarsh, asylum, the arms trade, international law and the role of the UN. Phew!

So, what have we been up to? Lobbying Ynys Môn MP Albert Owen, for a start. We had a really good session with Milan Rai discussing options for Iraq. Some of us got

to the London rally in September and we can't wait to give a warm welcome to Dubya in November. We are in cultural mode too, with a film season incorporating talks and discussion running at Theatr Gwynedd through to December. The theme? 'Beyond the axis of evil'. The season was kicked off in October by some wry observations on the state of the world from broadcaster and comedian Jeremy Hardy.

More heavyweight events have included a theological insight into Israel & Palestine: Conflict & Struggle, a lecture by Professor Marc Ellis of Baylor University, Waco. There will be a public meeting on the Future of the United Nations and International Relations featuring Sir Harold Walker (former UK Ambassador to Iraq) and Malcolm Harper (Chair, United Nations Association UK). This at the University of Wales Bangor Main Arts Lecture Theatre, 7.15pm Saturday 29th November.

Group members travelled to Palestine in October and we look forward to hearing eyewitness reports on their return. That is where our focus must remain: on the current injustices being perpetrated around the world with the support of our government.

Phil Steele

Contact: Bangor Peace and Justice Group (01248) 490 715 phil@tycrrig1.freemove.co.uk

Cardiff Women in Black

Meeting for a silent vigil on the steps of the National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park between 12 and 1pm on the last Saturday of every month. Wear Black!

Contact: sian@derwen.demon.co.uk or Jill (01443) 473 592.

Bro Emlyn Peace and Justice Group

Bro Emlyn Group took to the streets of Carmarthen in September (right). They staged an Alternative Arms Fair to protest at the Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEI), Europe's largest arms fair which was taking place in London at the same time. Some of their 'props' included tins of beans, decorated with pens and paper to represent cluster bombs. The police found a tin of beans the group had inadvertently left behind,

and decided that it represented a 'potential danger', sealed off the surrounding area and called out the bomb-disposal squad. The tin of beans was then subject to a 'controlled explosion'! Celia Lang, one of the group was upset at the disruption caused by the beans incident but did acknowledge that it highlighted the danger that cluster bombs dropped by the US and British military are causing to people in Iraq and elsewhere.

The group meet regularly in Newcastle Emlyn and continue with their lively campaigning, with widespread support in the community. Issues they are working on include Human Rights and the situation in the Middle East and have recently raised funds for the Iraqi Women's League.

Contacts: Celia Lang (01559) 370 991 or Jeremy Clulow (01239) 698 346 jeremy@webswonder.co.uk www.bepj.org.uk

Brecon

Peace and Justice Group

Always combining good food and company with campaigning, Brecon Peace and Justice group continues to meet regularly at Pilgrims' Tearooms, Cathedral Close in Brecon. They have a monthly stall, collecting money for Medical Aid for Iraqi Children, held a World Local Music Event at Theatr Brycheiniog, organise speakers on fair trade, peace, human rights and other political issues.

Contact: Mike Gatehouse (01874) 658 564 bpjg@keen.clara.co.uk

Abergavenny

Justice and Peace Group

Recent events have included a World Feast with a Palestinian theme and hosting Jenny Gaiawyn (Trident Ploughshares activist and International Solidarity Movement volunteer) as speaker. A Public Meeting with Clare Sain Ley Berry of the Welsh Centre of International Affairs was held on the Role of the UN on UN Day (October 24th).

Contact: Katrina Gass (01873) 855



Cardigan Peace Group

This group have recently created a "peace machine" - a structure about 6 feet tall displaying nine moving slogans on each. Because the slogans move, passers-by read them and wait for the next one to come into view as it flips over the top of the machine.



Contacts: Paul Hawkes 07812 711501 or Philippa Gibson (01239) 654561 philippa@maesymorfa.com

Wrexham

Peace and Justice Forum

This group makes really effective huge and topical banners and displays them in very public places! The most recent banner is "THE FIRST CASUALTY OF WAR IS TRUTH" being currently displayed on road bridges in Wrexham. The group hold regular Public Meetings and at 7.30pm on November 11th Owen Hardwicke of the Wrexham Justice and Peace Centre, will speak on the Movement for the Abolition of War (Quaker Meeting House, Holt Road). The group is also continuing to pester local MPs and keeping in the local media spotlight! Wrexham Peace and Justice News is an excellent bi-monthly newsletter available from the contact below.

Contact: (0845) 330 4505
wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com
www.wpjf.org.uk

Blackwood Stop the War Coalition

Owen English, a CND Cymru member from Blackwood will appear in Gloucester Crown court on November 12th. He was amongst a group of protesters at Fairford airbase who brought down the gates of the USAF base, during antiwar demonstrations earlier this year. George Galloway MP was the speaker with Lindsay German (Stop the War Coalition) and Leanne Wood AM at a Public Meeting in October - Has Iraq Really Been Liberated?

Contact: Ian Thomas (01495) 225 326 or huw_williams6@hotmail.com

Aberystwyth Peace Network/ Students against the War

The Peace Network meet every Wednesday at 6.30pm in The Cooper's Arms (Y Cwps), Northgate Street/Llanbadarn Road. Following the brilliant all Wales national demonstration and rally in the town in April, the Peace Network has worked hard to focus attention on the situation in Palestine and Israel. Direct actions have included the decoration of a bridge with a bilingual banner "freedom for Palestine" in time for the arrival of 'freshers' and their families. Some members also built a wall in the town centre with cardboard boxes to give a symbolic impression of life in the occupied territories of Palestine. The 'wall' was accompanied by a street stall with documents and maps, a leaflet to distribute and coffins and body bags "displayed and 'used' in a creative way"!

Contacts: Aberystwyth Peace Network
Olwen Davies (01970) 611994, Bettina Collingwood bettina@reprise.fsnet.co.uk or Students Against the War, Lydia Bulmer 0781 307 9583
www.asaw.org.uk



No More War Lies!

CND Cymru and the Wales Coalition to Stop War led peace campaigners from all over Wales to the national demonstration calling on the British and US governments to end their occupation of Iraq (above). Banners from Wrexham, Bangor, Cardiff, Swansea Newport and elsewhere were clearly visible in the crowd of some 100,000 marching to the rally at Trafalgar Square.

The British taxpayer is contributing to the £5 million pounds which is being squandered every day on the illegal occupation of Iraq. That is £5 million which can't be spent on our schools, hospitals and public services.

The responsibility for rebuilding Iraq and transferring democratic power to its people should lie with the United Nations. We in Wales will continue to campaign in support of the UN and against the occupation of Iraq.

Ray Davies
Vice Chair CND Cymru

heddwch action: Early Day Motion EDM 1666 : ANTI WAR PROTESTS AND THE USE OF ANTI-TERRORIST POWERS 10.09.03 Adam Price, Mrs Ann Cryer, Paul Flynn, Andrew George

"That this House notes with deep concern the use of powers provided by the Terrorism Act 2000 to police anti-war protests during the recent conflict in Iraq; further notes with deep concern that the use of these powers labels legitimate peaceful protesters as terrorists; condemns the use of section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 against protesters at the arms fair in London on 9th September; calls for the Home Affairs Committee to investigate the use of these powers to police anti-war protesters during the recent conflict in Iraq, as well as the protesters at the arms fair; and further calls on the Government to reaffirm its commitment to basic human rights by establishing an independent human rights commission, and in future to allow anti-terror legislation to be used only against individuals who pose a genuine threat to the security of the United Kingdom, and not citizens practising their right to peaceful protest against their government's actions."

Please send a copy of this EDM to your MP and ask them to sign up.

Wylfa nuclear power station : continuing problems

Wylfa nuclear power station suffered more problems this summer. One of the reactors was shut down in May for its biannual overhaul. Marks were found on pipes inside the pressure vessel in mid-July causing the shutdown of the second reactor, to inspect the corresponding pipes. The station was closed for a month.

When one of the reactors was restarted, a pipe carrying high pressure steam exploded. A worker was injured suffering 15% burns. Station managers as usual tried to play down the accident. It is not only the radioactive cores of the reactors which are causing concern, but also the fragile condition of the network of pipes running out of the reactors.

At the end of September, BNFL presented a case to the NII to extend Wylfa's operational life for a further six years from 2004. It is obvious that BNFL want to squeeze the maximum electricity out of Wylfa to finance the decommissioning process. PAWB's major concern is the danger to station workers and public alike from working the Wylfa reactors so hard. It wouldn't be surprising if the NII granted an extension to Wylfa's life, but considering safety problems there over the past ten years, it will be difficult for BNFL to reach their target of running the station until 2010. That is common sense, but BNFL's greed for money defies common sense. Time will tell whether the NII is prepared to act in an independent manner and close this clapped out station once and for all.

Dylan Morgan PAWB

NII: Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
BNFL: British Nuclear Fuels Limited

A call for an outward looking Wales

In the run-up to National Assembly elections on 1st May 2003, 24 international partner organisations joined forces to challenge candidates of all political parties to pledge action towards overcoming social injustice - on issues ranging from rights for asylum seekers and refugees and education on global citizenship to the consequences of war with

Iraq! The campaign manifesto has received huge praise from all parties. Health Minister Jane Hutt commented, "this is perhaps one of the most important documents to be laid before the National Assembly and provides a clear direction by which we as the government of Wales can contribute to the global fight against poverty." The manifesto can be ordered for free from the Amnesty Cymru office. We will be holding the newly elected government and AMs to their pledges with a follow-up lobby of the Assembly in June.

contact : Amnesty Cymru:
(02920) 375 610 wales@amnesty.org.uk



heddwch 8

Nuclear terror

Nuclear waste

A committee for nuclear waste management is to be set up by the British Government. It is expected that they will offer bribes to communities to accept a 'dump' for nuclear waste. It is believed that these 'dumps' may be above ground, underground or even under the sea.

Nuclear submarines

Consultations are due to restart in December to look at ways of dealing with the radioactive reactors in scrap nuclear-powered submarines now being stored afloat at Rosyth in Scotland and near Devonport in England. Various proposals are being considered but the favoured plan involves storing the reactor compartments in a purpose-made store near Loch Lomond in Scotland. For any community to accept any proposals for a nuclear waste store it seem obvious that the production of the nuclear waste and hence the nuclear submarines must be stopped. There is a need to find a site where the reactor

components can be removed from the submarines and stored in a retrievable, monitorable form, in purpose-built stores. We must however insist that no new sites are contaminated with radioactive material.

Nuclear trains in north Wales

Nuclear waste is regularly being transported by rail across North Wales from Wylfa nuclear power station to Sellafield via Crewe. The timetables of this transport are available on 'Freightmaster' A trainspotter's guide, which is also available on the internet (www.freightmaster.uk.com/). It is feared that such easy access to information could make these trains a target for terrorists. Realistically, to stop the risks, stop the transport of nuclear waste; stop the dangerous nuclear industry!

British Energy

The EU must agree a £5 billion rescue plan for the bankrupt nuclear electricity producer before it can be implemented. If it is implemented then electricity production by nuclear power will continue but you and us the taxpayers will be responsible for financing the plant decommissioning and for the costs of the storage of all the nuclear waste produced by the decommissioning.

heddwch action:

If you are concerned about any of these issues contact your AM, MP, MEP, Local Authority Councillor alerting them and asking them to join the call to halt the nuclear industry.

Cynefin y Werin challenges globalisation and militarism

In October, a lively and interesting day was organised to investigate the issues surrounding globalisation and militarism and the ways we have been and can continue to campaign on these in issues Wales. Many activists from groups and organisations around Wales listened to Jill Evans MEP and CND Cymru Chair speak of the dangers of the proposed European Convention which represents a dangerous increase in military powers for the European Union. She also told the meeting of her experiences at the World Trade Organisation Ministerial Summit in Cancun, Mexico where all-important discussion took place in closed session ignoring any need for public accountability or openness.

A talk by Mark Curtis, author of 'Web of Deceit' (see Book Review page17) inspired some interesting discussion. Mark suggested that by organising democracy at grassroots and community level in new and appropriate ways this would eventually affect change 'higher up' the chain on a national and international level. It was agreed that Cynefin y Werin would work with CND Cymru and other organisations to produce material on the arms industries and related manufacturing in Wales and on military establishments and training in Wales. This material would be of use as a campaigning tool and could be presented to our elected representatives in the National Assembly to highlight our areas of concern for an institution which claims to be based on Environmental Sustainability. It was agreed to make links with the Social Forum Movement, Grassroots Opposition to War and UN Reform movements.

The next all-Wales Cynefin y Werin event is on November 15th on "The UN and the Global Agenda" at Aberystwyth University (see Diary Dates on page 16). A meeting on The Militarisation of Wales will be held in the new year.

heddwch action

Cynefin y Werin is a network of organisations and individuals in Wales working together to promote peace, human rights, social and environmental justice and equality. To get involved or to find out more please contact Clare Sain Ley Berry: 02920 821 055 claresainleyberry@wcia.org.uk or Ben Gregory (01286) 882 359 benica@gn.apc.org

if...

...Blair had not declared war against Iraq, and managed to get our parliament to agree to it afterwards, would we ever have realised just how autocratic our society was? Our leader is elected, yes, but so are hundreds of other representatives, and so top-heavy is our system that the leader, tossing all ideas of a consensus aside, can declare war in our name, can make treaties and decide foreign policy, all without the need to refer to our parliament. We stand sorely in need of more democracy, and the war against Iraq highlights this need blatantly.

...Blair had not taken us to war, would we ever have realised how powerful was the grass roots aversion to war in this country? That huge demonstration, the active visible tip of the British anti-war iceberg, when more than a million blocked the streets of the capital with their banners, is reassuring, even though the politicians, driven by a 'New World Agenda', were able to commit our forces anyway.

... we had not seen the proof of disquiet among the populace, the sudden distrust, the plunge in the opinion polls recently taken by our formerly 'charismatic' leader, would we have ever realised that here in Britain there is a widespread notion that there are rules in the diplomatic game, that war is not considered a legitimate tool of foreign policy? Blair is today being asked for his proof that weapons of mass destruction did exist in Iraq. He is being hounded, and it is quite likely that he will be seen as discredited, that he will be forced to resign over this issue. And does not this show that we are a civilised nation with some standards, even though the whole Iraq episode does prove that the rules of our society do need reform? We are in need of reform but we will not stand in the way of this reform out of self-interest. As a nation, we have certain standards.

...over 20,000 people would still be alive.

Thanks to Harry Davis, Kingston Peace News

Low flying military aircraft

It has been reported that once again low-flying military jets have caused a civilian passenger aircraft to take evasive action. The aircraft an Aer Arann ATR42 had 32 passengers aboard and was flying between Cork and Edinburgh in September. The near-miss occurred over the Northern channel between Belfast and Scotland during a NATO exercise. A Ministry of Defence spokesperson however claimed that the low-flying military jet was not involved in the exercise!

heddwch action:

Hate military low flying? Does it ruin your day - both in principle and in practice? Complain! Phone the MoD complaints line (0207) 218 6020 and tell your MP AMs and Council Environmental Health Department.



graphic: charlotte turtle

US missile 'defense'

Don't take the peace out of space

Plans for US 'full spectrum dominance' continue

"The risk of weaponisation of outer space is mounting". Efforts are now underway to "control and occupy outer space". The Chinese envoy Hu Xiaodi told the UN Conference on Disarmament at the end of July. His remarks were directed primarily towards US plans for Missile 'Defense'. The remarks add weight to the arguments of campaigning organisations that have pinpointed the dangers of the militarisation of space in threatening international stability.

Provocation

In its recent annual report to Congress on Chinese military power, the US State for Defense admitted that one of the key reasons that China is increasing its arsenal of nuclear weapons is that it wants to maintain the "credibility" of its nuclear weapons in the face of US Missile Defense. Missile Defense is already provoking arms proliferation as predicted, and the consequences of a burgeoning Chinese nuclear arsenal could be a similar increase in the arsenals of India, Pakistan and North Korea.

Lies

Why are so many states, organisations and individuals so concerned about Missile Defense? Essentially, because the word - "Defense" - is a lie. Missile 'Defense' is actually an integral part of the Bush administration's doctrine of 'full spectrum dominance' - the dominance over land, sea, air and space - and pre-emptive military strikes. US Missile Defense serves several juicy cuts of Republican ideology up on one plate.

I don't know how to put this, Mr President, but somehow the laser beams seem to have missed a couple of the incoming missiles!



Threats

The threats it poses to future peace and stability are immense. In July, China and Russia responded to one threat by calling for an international moratorium on the placing of weapons in space until a new Treaty - The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) Treaty can be negotiated. The US isn't interested. The British Government is sticking to its current policy of doggedly supporting all US foreign policy objectives and has thrown its weight behind US Missile Defence. In January this year the British Government gave the USA permission to use the "RAF" Fylingdales Ballistic Missile Early Warning Radar Facility in North Yorkshire for the system. No doubt as soon as the US asks to use the space satellite relay facilities at Menwith Hill "RAF" Base in Britain (also already a US base and also in North Yorkshire), they will be given the go-ahead for that too.

Big bucks

Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon - has signed special secret agreements with the US for British arms industry involvement in the system. So keen are the MoD that they have just opened up a 'virtual UK Missile Defense Centre' to establish a key role for British arms companies in the project, establish a lead role in Missile Defense for Britain, provide information for policy decisions and to build a 'British Missile Defense team'. Those working at this 'Missile Defense Centre' include British MoD officials and arms corporations (namely Stasys, DSTL, Insys, BAe Systems, AMS, MBDA and Qinetiq).

Weasel words

In reply to questions in the House of Commons in June, a Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Ingram stated that "United Kingdom involvement in co-operative work with the United States on missile defense, including the use of RAF Fylingdales for missile defense purposes, is entirely compatible with the UK's commitments under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)."

Insisting that "The Government have taken no decision about the acquisition or deployment of a missile defense system. The United States has not made any request to site interceptor missiles in the United Kingdom as part of its missile defense system".

Alaska

Despite criticism of the whole NMD program in the US Senate by Democratic senators, construction has begun on several missile silos at Fort Greeley, Alaska. The Bush Administration's \$500 million construction includes the installation of a vanguard of rocket-propelled interceptors to 'protect' against a ballistic missile attack.

In October, a demonstration, jointly organised by Yorkshire CND and the Campaign for the Accountability of American bases (CAAB) was held at Menwith Hill US Base - the home of spying, war planning, war fighting and 'star wars'. A spokesman for Yorkshire CND commented:

"The US, and others, really do want weapons up there and they really do want to fight from space and in space. We must act now to highlight the dangers and to stop them all."

heddwch action:

More information from: www.takethepeace.org or www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk or Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 22 Edmund Street, Bradford, BD5 0BH Yorkshire, England. (01274) 730795 e-mail: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Write to your Assembly Member about this issue. This is a matter affecting the economy, the security and environment of Wales and should be an issue of concern to those representing us in our Assembly.

Write to your MP asking him/her to support all initiatives to stop this terrifying escalation in military dominance over the world, which will promote nuclear proliferation and endanger world peace and security and to call for the withdrawal of British Government complicity.

Three things you can do with a nuclear bomb in your pocket

1. Human rights? Occupation wrongs

Since the invasion of Iraq, US/British military forces have been accused of many human rights abuses. There are "increasing reports of Iraqi men, women and even children being dragged from their homes at night by US patrols or snatched off the streets and taken, hooded and manacled, to prison camps around the capital" (*The Times* 9/07/02). Thousands have been detained without charge, effectively 'disappeared', including children as young as eleven years old.

Amnesty International have reported:

- Routine lack of access to lawyers and family for lengthy periods – sometimes for many weeks.
- 'Cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment', including lack of shelter, water and sanitation facilities.
- Allegations of torture, deaths in custody and unlawful killing at demonstrations.
- Excessive use of force during searches, with destruction and confiscation of property, without justification or compensation.
- Lack of legal accountability, reparations or redress for abuses suffered.

Voices in the Wilderness have produced a postcard for individuals to send to Tony Blair which demands that the US and British Governments treat the Iraqi people and their culture with respect, abide by international human rights law and that all prisoners of war and civilians held without charge are released immediately.

For copies, contact Voices in the Wilderness, 5, Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX or voices@voicesuk.org

2. The Guantánamo scandal continues

In March 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell said that "states which show a high degree of respect for human rights are the most likely to contribute to international security" yet the US Government continues to dismiss international concerns about the prisoners at Guantánamo on Cuba. More than 650 'prisoners' are being kept by the United States in conditions that are themselves torture. They have not been charged, are being kept in degrading

conditions, have not seen their families for 2 years and have no expectation of a fair trial under US executive military commissions with the power to hand down death sentences.

Amnesty International have drawn attention to the indefinite detention without charge or trial, confinement to tiny cells for up to 24 hours a day, shackling during the bare minimum of exercise time granted, the cruelty of keeping relatives wondering about the plight of their loved ones, repeated interrogations without access to legal counsel, and the prospect of executions after unfair trials without the right of appeal. The human rights organisation asks: *"Is it any wonder that the international community is asking serious questions about the USA's commitment to human rights?"*

Amnesty International has repeatedly said that the US is violating international law and standards on this issue, including the principle that detainees should be able to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. In response to Amnesty's

concerns about the prisoners at Guantánamo, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer commented: "I just dismiss that as without merit".

Children as young as 13 are among

the Guantánamo detainees. A senior Pentagon spokesman has commented that "despite their age, these are very, very dangerous people" on a "terrorist team". There have been over 30 suicide attempts at the prison camp.

For more information contact Amnesty International (02920) 375 610 wales@amnesty.org.uk Amnesty International, 5th Floor, Market Buildings, 5-7 St. Mary Street, Cardiff CF10 1AT <http://www.amnesty.org>

3. Privatisation in disguise

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz spelled it out:

"There will be no role for the United Nations in setting up an interim government in Iraq. The US-run regime will last at least six months, probably ... longer than that." And by the time the Iraqi people have a say in choosing a government, the key economic decisions about their country's future will have been made by their occupiers.

The process of getting all this infrastructure to work is usually called 'reconstruction'. But American plans for Iraq's future economy go well beyond that. Rather, the country is being treated as a blank slate on which the most ideological Washington neo-liberals can design their dream - fully privatized, foreign-owned and open for business.

The \$4.8 million management contract for the port in Umm Qasr has already gone to a US company. The US Agency for International Development has invited US multinationals to bid on everything from rebuilding roads and bridges to printing textbooks. How long before they meld into long-term contracts for privatized water services, transit systems, roads, schools and phones? When does reconstruction turn into privatization in disguise?

Entirely absent from this debate are the Iraqi people, who might - who knows? - want to hold on to a few of their assets. Iraq will be owed massive reparations after the bombing stops, but without any real democratic process, what is being planned is not reparations, reconstruction or rehabilitation. It is robbery.

Naomi Klein - US author of 'No Logo' www.thenation.com



graphic: charlotte turtle

On the streets of Baghdad

Welsh human shields return to Iraq to help restore human rights to street children

Two Welsh peace activists who spent time in Iraq in February and March this year returned to Iraq in October to help the increasing number of traumatised children living on the streets of Baghdad.

When Helen and Kevin Williams of Newport stayed in Baghdad earlier this year they visited schools, hospitals and nurseries; took part in peace demonstrations such as marches, banner-drops, and vigils; spent lots of time in markets and tea shops meeting & talking with ordinary Iraqi people. They travelled freely and unaccompanied and visited Mosul, Kerbalat, Babylon and Basra (while

air-raids were taking place) They both chose to 'shield' a Baghdad water purification site which at that time provided safe drinking water for 3 million people and where the Red Cross were bagging emergency sacks of water.

This time the couple have returned to help street children in Iraq. They had previously met twenty or so children who were working on the streets, cleaning shoes, or doing other 'jobs' such as selling tissues. These children would return home each evening having earned a little money to help their family supplement the food ration from the UN 'Oil for Food' Programme via the Government.

The Williams found that since the US and British attack on Iraq with orphanages destroyed shut down or unable to function, parents killed and homes destroyed, there are over a thousand vulnerable children living on the streets of Baghdad. To alleviate their suffering, these children have turned to glue sniffing and taking alcohol and hashish - something the Williams, did not witness before. There are widespread reports of child abuse - rapes, murders, abductions and bullying.

The Williams are helping fund the one orphanage that remains open. The staff of this orphanage were not being paid and had been feeding the 105 children with their own food. In addition the couple rented another building to take more desperate children off the street at night, the most dangerous time. A safe place to sleep and perhaps one decent meal a day is the least that these children deserve and need.

heddwch action:

To donate to this project send cheques payable to 'Our Home - Iraq' to PO Box 70, Newport, South Wales NP20 5XX or 23 Warwick Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3SB or contact the same addresses for more information, or see <http://ourhome-iraq.blogspot.com> A faxed leaflet about the project is available contact Jill Stallard (01550) 750 260.

A school trip visiting the Lion of Babylon at the beginning of the year, before the attack on Iraq. Helen says "We often wonder how many of them are happy now".



Welsh activists return to Palestine

Ray Davies and Myrfa Eastland from CND Cymru and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign Cymru left for the occupied territories of Palestine on November 1st to join international peace activists from Palestine, Israel and all over the world. They will be helping to harvest the olives vital to Palestine's survival, and join in the world-wide non-violent direct action against the apartheid wall, which threatens to imprison the entire Palestinian population and destroy all hopes for peace with justice in the Middle East.

Nuclear submarines in Liverpool?

It has recently been revealed that there are plans for Liverpool Docks to once again house nuclear submarines (Z-berth). Southampton City Council has recently approved plans for a similar Z berth in Southampton Docks in the South of England.

Such a move for Liverpool would probably take at least two years to implement as it involves agreeing plans with all emergency services to comply with European legislation. There must also be a full public consultation. Visits by nuclear submarines to Liverpool and in Wales, Cardiff and Swansea Z berths were halted at the end of the nineties because the submarines were "being deployed elsewhere".

Many still remember the near catastrophic fire aboard a nuclear powered submarine in Liverpool Docks in the sixties. The presence of boats with nuclear reactors onboard so close to big centres of population was roundly condemned by the fire service and local people alike. Anti-nuclear activists and environmentalists in Liverpool are ready to campaign against nuclear submarines visiting Liverpool again.

In Southampton, campaigners and nuclear and legal experts fear that the plans approved by the City Council would not be sufficient to protect the public in the South of England in the event of a 'major radioactive leak or terrorist attack'. They are challenging the Navy to justify exposing local people to a radiation risk.

We in Wales need to watch the progress of these developments in Southampton very closely and support campaigners in Liverpool by challenging the Merseyside authorities before they take any potentially disastrous decisions. Not only does radiation know no boundaries, and would put the whole of Wales at risk, but the plans highlight the traffic of nuclear powered and nuclear armed vessels in the Irish Sea. CND Cymru will be quizzing the authorities of Cardiff and Swansea to discover if there are similar plans for Welsh ports.

heddwch action:

If you live in or near the coast of Wales contact your local councillor, planning authority, AM or MP asking if there are any plans to provide Z berths for nuclear powered submarines in local ports. If you live in North East Wales contact your elected representatives and Emergency Planning Department (local Government) expressing your concerns about the Liverpool plans. Please contact CND Cymru if you have or need information.

Now let's talk about terrorism

A MINUTE OF SILENCE FOR EVERYONE?

If you are still shaken by the horrifying scenes of September 11th 2001, please observe a moment of silence for the 3,000 civilian lives lost in the New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania attacks on that day.

While we're at it, let's have :

- * 10 minutes of silence for 300,000 Japanese killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US atomic bombs dropped by the USA in August 1945 and a few moments to remember those thousands who continue to die yearly as a result of the radioactive fallout from those bombs and their continued manufacture and testing.
- * 10 minutes of silence for all those killed in Vietnam, which is not something Americans like to admit. The US went to another continent thousands of miles away and burnt tens of thousands of Vietnamese peasants with napalm.
- * 10 minutes silence for the 200,000 Iranians killed by Iraqi soldiers using weapons and money provided to young Saddam Hussein by the US Government before the great eagle turned all its power against Iraq.
- * 5 minutes of silence for the Russians and 150,000 Afghans killed by Afghan troops supported and trained by the CIA.
- * 5 minutes for the victims of the massacre in Panama in 1989, where American troops attacked villagers and left 20,000 Panamanians homeless and thousands more dead.
- * 3 minutes of silence for the 130,000 Iraqi civilians killed in 1991 by order of President Bush Sr. Take another moment to remember how Americans celebrated and cheered in the streets.
- * 60 minutes for the millions of children who have died because of the USA embargoes on Iraq and Cuba.
- * 60 minutes for the hundreds of thousands brutally murdered throughout the world by US-sponsored civil wars and coups d'etat (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Guatemala, and El Salvador, to name a few).
- * We hope that Americans finally begin to understand their vulnerability and the attacks and other tragedies that they have caused around the world. The dead in other places hurt as much as the dead at the Twin Towers.
- * What about the 560,000 Iraqi children (as per current UN data) who have died as a direct cause of the US supported sanctions against Iraq?
- * And the new generation of Iraqi children currently having their lives ruined by improper nutrition, lack of medicine and inferior education because of US supported sanctions and the destruction of Iraqi infrastructure by the US/British attack on Iraq and the subsequent chaos?
- * Let's remember the so far estimated 9,000 Iraqi civilian deaths directly caused by the US led attack on Iraq this year, the 13,500 plus Iraq military conscripts, the 17 journalists and 25 NGO/UN/aid workers, all those people raped and injured as a result of those attacks and those whose lives have been ruined - by decree of the US and British Governments.

Now, let's talk about terrorism, shall we?

Thanks to Mike Gatehouse, Brecon Peace and Justice Group, Iraq Body Count (www.iraqbodycount.net) and 'The Other September 11th Chileans in Australia': www.celook.com/11chile1973 (September 11th is also the anniversary of the 1973 military coup in Chile). Wrexham Peace and Justice are calling for help to make an Iraq Body Count banner to hang from bridges in Wrexham - to help please contact Genny Bove (0845) 330 4505 or wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com

Weapons testing in Scotland - very unfriendly fire

The British Government has renewed a contract with the US military for use of the Dundrennan firing range near Kirkcudbright in Dumfries and Galloway, Southern Scotland. As a result, a US electromagnetic (EM) gun (pictured left) is to be tested on the military ranges because the US Department of Defense says that Scotland is 'the only suitable place where such testing can take place'. It is thought that the contract will allow the electromagnetic launcher to be tested at full power. The EM gun fires the US tungsten shells at 7,500 miles per hour and is seen as a 'half way measure' before the US can 'perfect' laser weapons for use by armoured vehicles and in space.

Opposition politicians claim that the British Government has kept the public in the dark over plans for testing the weapon. There are calls for the Ministry of Defence to halt trials until a local consultation can take place and for the issue to be debated in the Scottish Parliament, even though the issue of 'defence' is reserved for Westminster. It is hoped to raise the issue in the House of Commons. The Ministry of Defence has so far insisted the project was simply "continuing research" and says that the tests had been public knowledge since the US began testing electromagnetic launcher technology at Dundrennan in the early 1990s.

The military range at Dundrennan has long been the scene of protests by campaigners angry that thousands of depleted uranium (DU) tipped (US 'Charm') shells have been test fired from the range into the Solway Firth, despite official denials that this causes any damage to the environment. The range itself is littered with shot-up battle tanks, unplotted unexploded shells, shrapnel, radioactive sabots, used DU test plate and DU dust.

Many are asking: why test a US weapon in Scotland? How can Scotland be the only place suitable for such a test? Is it that there are certain details of the proposed test - such as potential contamination by Depleted Uranium fallout that would be unacceptable under US legislation?

It has been revealed that the MoD is also interested in the EM gun and that it is being part developed by British Aerospace. EM technology has also been developed for the US 'National Missile Defense System' to 'shoot down enemy missiles from satellites'.

trident ploughshares Taking action in Scotland, England and Belgium

Direct action to disarm the British nuclear weapons system in a non-violent and fully accountable manner continues apace and with passion. Court cases arising from these actions also proceed.

This summer, disarmament camps have taken place in England at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston where the Trident nuclear warheads are manufactured) and in Scotland at Coulport, where the Trident nuclear missiles are stored.

In October, a five-day international disarmament camp was held at Devonport, Plymouth in England. The camp acted as a focus for direct action against the refitting of the Trident submarines in the dockyards. Eleven peace activists were arrested nine of them while on their way to Devonport Dockyards, these were charged with "Conspiracy to cause a public nuisance". The other two protestors were arrested while blockading a dock gate.

Peace activist Ivor Bernie said: "Once again our government is wasting its resources arresting peaceful protestors going about their duty, instead of helping them to disarm the UK's illegal weapons of mass destruction."

Marcus Armstrong of Trident Ploughshares said: "The Trident refit poses appalling hazards from radioactive emissions and horrifying danger from an accident or a terrorist attack to every living being within at least a 30 mile radius of Plymouth. And all in the middle of a major and densely populated city, home to over 270,000 citizens."

In September two Trident Ploughshares activists were arrested after scaling a perimeter wall at Devonport naval dockyard. Sue Brackenbury from Faslane Peace Camp in Scotland and Matt Bury from Taunton, England were on their way to disarm the nuclear weapons submarine HMS Vanguard. In her statement Sue said: "I have signed a pledge to prevent a nuclear crime and this is the reason why I am back here in Plymouth. I was stood on the Hoe when HMS Vanguard went past in February 2002. It was a horrible day and the sorrow has never left me." Matt said: "I have undertaken this direct action against Britain's nuclear weapons as a British citizen who recognises the greater weight of international law over British law. I am also aware that, despite being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Britain has failed to take any steps towards nuclear disarmament and is working on a new nuclear weapons programme at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston."

Last November two more Trident Ploughshares activists boarded Vanguard and were able to 'inspect' it for some time before ringing the alarm bell themselves to attract the attention of security.

heddwch 14

On 25th October this year, Trident Ploughshares activists joined the "Bomspotting" campaign in a non-violent direct action at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe) at Mors, Belgium. SHAPE is the NATO military headquarters, and it is here that NATO makes military plans for the nuclear weapons stored at bases around Europe, and for the nuclear weapons based on Trident submarines on patrol in the North Atlantic. People from around the world attempted to enter the base in a non-violent and accountable way to carry out a citizens' weapons inspection to uncover the plans for the use of illegal nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

heddwch action:

- * **Become a Trident Ploughshares Pledger.**
- * **Come to the mass actions.** All who want to protest non-violently against Trident are welcome to join mass actions. As well as giving lots of support and encouraging noises for those being arrested, you may want to consider joining in the action. If this is a possibility then attend a 'mini-training' - an enjoyable few hours spent ensuring that you know what to expect.
- * **Give money and Raise Funds** There is an ongoing need for campaign funds. Please send donations (cheques payable to 'Trident Ploughshares 2000') to the address below.
- * **Petitions of Support for Trident Ploughshares** Petitions of Support for individuals, organisations, parliamentarians, celebrities, spiritual leaders and academics are available to sign. Contact Trident Ploughshares for more information: Trident Ploughshares, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR (0845) 45 88 366 or (0845) 45 88 364 info@tridentploughshares.org www.tridentploughshares.org



Trident Ploughshares challenges the UK's illegal and immoral possession and threatened use of nuclear weapons. TP activists pledge to dismantle the UK's nuclear arsenal in a peaceful, non-violent, open and accountable manner. So far in the campaign there have been over 2000 arrests, 300 trials, 1,970 days spent in prison and £59,917 of fines and compensation

Four Fairford trials

All defendants in the four USAF 'Fairford' court cases - Paul Milling, Margaret Jones, Phil Pritchard, Toby Olditch, Josh Richards, Kate Holcombe, Geoffrey Cornock and Owen English - invoked 'lawful excuse' as their defence to disabling, or attempting to disable, planes and support equipment at USAF Fairford Air Force Base (Gloucestershire, England) in the weeks prior to the invasion of Iraq. All defendants claim to have acted on the grounds that the war on Iraq was illegal making their non-violent direct actions, or attempted actions, legal. It is this defence of 'lawful excuse' that has made it necessary for the trials to consider the legality of war itself.

Gate openers

The Plea and Directions hearing, presided over by Judge Jamie Tabor, took an unexpected turn in September when Judge Tabor decided to 'de-link' from the other trials, the case of Kate Holcombe, Geoffrey Cornock and Owen English (who are charged with pulling open a perimeter gate at a demonstration in February 2003). This case will now go ahead in Gloucester Crown Court on 12th November. It is hoped that everyone will support these three defendants, who did so much to make the demonstrations and the camp at Fairford effective. They really deserve our backing.

Cases to be heard in Bristol

The other three cases are being moved to Bristol Crown Court. This is because the trials are likely to take weeks, rather than days, and are to be of considerable general public interest. Judge Tabor decided there was a need for better facilities for the jury and members of the public, than Gloucester can provide. There will be a preliminary hearing in Bristol Crown Court, on legal issues concerning the Iraq war, probably some time in January. This preliminary hearing on legal issues is expected to last about a week. It will be followed, in due course, by the three separate trials.

Questions

It will be interesting to hear answers to the questions: "Did the war on Iraq breach international law? If so does that make the war a crime under British domestic law?" <http://www.fairfordpeacewatch.com/IraqWarOnTrial.html>

weapons manufacture and trade

Saying no

Arms manufacturers and traders are being held to account for their part in the dirty war machine.

Action in London

Many activists from Wales took part in direct actions – vigils, marches and symbolic events, against the Arms Fair (DSEi) in London's Docklands in September. The authorities responded with the illicit use of the anti-terrorism powers (even arresting a man for meditating). The human rights group Liberty is challenging police tactics in the High Court.

Action in Wales

A mid week aerospace exhibition and conference event in Cardiff this September was picketed by well over a hundred individuals and members of groups including Cardiff Women in Black, CND Cymru, The Quakers, Cynefin y Werin, Cardiff Social Forum, Cardiff Anarchists Network, Côr Cochion Caerdydd, Campaign Against the Arms Trade Plaid Cymru and the Green Party. They were protesting against the presence of several military-related participants and exhibitors including armaments companies and 'defence' manufacturers.

Suits

The civilian and military aerospace event MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) Europe, was held at the Cardiff International Arena (CIA), and participants

included British Aerospace (BAe), Boeing, Rolls Royce and General Electric and the US Company Raytheon (producer of Patriot and Tomahawk Cruise missiles, laser-guided bombs and unmanned military aircraft). US company *Aviation Week* who organised MRO Europe promoted the event by saying that companies in Wales are already involved "in a diverse range of activities from displays for the US F16 fighter to equipment for NASA and specialist propellers for unmanned aircraft". The event was sponsored (with our money) by the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and the National Assembly for Wales. The WDA attempted to explain that MRO Europe was a civilian aerospace event and that the protestors had made a mistake, but it was clear that their story wouldn't stick, not only because attendees included delegates from ministries of defence but also as the conference agenda clearly included items on armaments-related production.

Several activists went inside the CIA to talk to organisers. There were no arrests.

Stop the bus

CND Cymru Vice Chair Rod Stallard, said: "The valuable resources in Wales should be used to deal with the problems which cause conflict, not promoting further investment in the war machine. If we prepare for war, wars will be fought." Leanne Wood AM and Jill Evans MEP and Chair of CND Cymru were at the protest. A bus full of delegates starting out for a tour of RAF St. Athans was stopped for 45 minutes by protestors sitting in the road outside the CIA. Police were forced to physically remove the blockade.

Triumph at Aberporth

Another demonstration had been organised to greet visitors to another Conference: "Selling to the MoD Aberporth Update", which was to have been in the Qinetiq weapons testing site in Aberporth West Wales. After the protests were announced the Conference was called off,

IT'S ALRIGHT...HE PROMISED NOT TO USE IT.



ostensibly because of 'lack of interest' in the Conference itself.

The conference agenda had been arranged to encourage businesses in Wales to sell to the MoD. The event purported to attract business from within Wales, yet all publicity was only produced in the English language.

Assembly Members Lobbied

In a letter sent to all Assembly Members, warning them that arms related industries are not environmentally or economically sustainable, CND Cymru reminded Assembly Members of the hopes of people in Wales:

"In 1998, many were really pleased to know that we now had the possibility of raising our families in a forward looking, right thinking, environmentally sensitive Wales. Our highly skilled and enthusiastic workforce deserves the respect of being given real, ethical employment of which everyone in Wales can feel proud."

CND Cymru are calling for the withdrawal of Assembly support for the promotion of business and jobs in the armaments and associated industries. *Rural Wales already suffers from too many abuses by the military establishment. We do not wish Wales to become a Business Parc for the arms industry as well.*

heddwch action

A Conference on 'The Militarisation (or demilitarisation) of Wales' is to be called by Cynefin y Werin early next year. Contact Clare Sain Ley Berry: 02920 821 055 claresainleyberry@wcia.org.uk or Ben Gregory (01286) 882 359 benica@gn.apc.org for more information.

Liberty needs your help: If you have been or are searched by police using Section 44 powers (Anti-terrorism search powers) contact Liberty www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk (0207) 403 3888



books and pieces



books

The Case against War The Essential Legal Opinions and Judgements concerning War in Iraq

George Farebrother and Nicholas Kollerstrom (Eds.) September 2003

Copies £5 each from Legal Inquiry Steering Group, World Court Project, 67, Summerheath Road, Hailsham, Sussex BN27 3DR (01323) 844 269 or geowcpuk@gn.apc.org www.gn.apc.org/wcp Cheques payable to "World Court Project"

The British Nuclear Weapons Programme 1952-2002

Douglas Holdstock and Frank Barnaby (Eds.)

Authors include Hugh Beech, Rob Green, Bruce Kent, Sue Rabbitt Roff, and Sebastian Pease with a Foreword by Joseph Rotblat. Autumn 2003

A critical look at the history of the British nuclear weapons programme focussing on its health effects and including:

- *testing and its effects on military personnel and indigenous people;
- *production and reprocessing in and around Sellafield;
- *resistance to the British bomb
- *the implications of Trident replacement (a decision must come soon)
- *nuclear terrorism - today's nuclear threat
- *an end to British nuclear weapons?

*Conclusion - it achieved nothing, it did harm; now let's call a halt. £17.50 Published by Frank Cass ISBN: 0714683175

The Promise of Justice

Dr Glen Rangwala. Lecturer in Politics, Newnham College, Cambridge Institute for Law and Peace 2003.

A publication to mark the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

Useful for bookstalls or to send to your MP!

50 pence for a 12 page A5 booklet from the Treasurer, INLAP, 67, Summerheath Road, Hailsham, Sussex BN27 3DR (01323) 844 269 Cheques payable to "The Institute for Law and Peace"

War no More Eliminating conflict in the nuclear Age

Robert A Hinde and Joseph Rotblat

This book provides an account of the real dangers we face and argues that the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and of war are attainable and necessary goals. It examines the key factors believed to contribute to conflict and how a peaceful future can be attained by addressing the gap between rich and poor, having fully effective arms controls and above all, better education.

ISBN 07453 2191 7 £10.99 Pluto Press 2003 (020) 8343 2724

Casualty of War Eight weeks of counter- terrorism in rural England

This report by the Civil Liberties and Human Rights campaigning organisation *Liberty* tells the shocking story of how the police used powers provided by the anti-Terrorism Act 2000 to stop and search peaceful protestors near USAF Fairford in Gloucestershire and other military bases in rural England. The policing disrupted legitimate protest, intimidating and harassing peaceful demonstrators and even, in some cases obstructing the right to freedom of assembly. Liberty and other groups are pressing for an Inquiry into the actions of the police at Fairford and elsewhere. According to an answer to a Parliamentary Question from Adam Price MP for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, policing at Fairford during the war on Iraq cost £6.9 million

The document 'Casualty of War' and the pamphlet containing testimonies of three peaceful protestors can be downloaded

for free from the Liberty website: www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk

Copies of the testimonies pamphlet "Can you Spot the Difference?" are available free of charge. Please send an SAE with a request, to Campaigns, Liberty, 21, Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA. Original Copies of the Casualty of War dossier are available for £5. (cheques payable to Liberty).

music

Peace not War Anti-war two-CD

Compilation of diverse anti war music including tracks by Alabama3, Billy Bragg and Chumbawumba, Public Enemy, Pete Seeger, DJ Spooky, GM Baby and Ms Dynamite... Produced as a fundraiser for peace and anti-war groups. Groups can purchase them for £5 and sell it for £15. Contact Shellshock (020 8800 8110) More details from www.peace-not-war.org or New Internationalist (01709) 513 999 or see www.newint.org

Côr Cochion Caerdydd Happy 20th Birthday Côr Cochion! This wonderful choir has campaigned since 1983 for peace, freedom and justice. They have raised spirits at direct actions and in the streets and have also raised many thousands of pounds for groups supporting people in the struggle for trade union, civil and human rights in Britain and around the world.

For details of how to join the choir or become a Friend of the Côr Cochion, to buy the teshirt or purchase tapes and their latest CD *The Best of Côr Cochion* Contact Wendy Lewis, (02920)889514 wendylewis2@aladdinscave.net www.corchion.unisonplus.net

Celebrating 20 Years of Song and Struggle A Côr Cochion history and songbook

Beatrice Smith
A chronicle of the choir's role in many of the campaigns in which it has been involved, together with the words and music of twenty songs from Côr Cochion's repertoire.

ISBN:0 86243 694 X Price £6.95 from bookshops.

Enjoy World Music and Support VSO Cymru!

SO / Rough Guide African Music CDs/Cassettes on sale. CDs only £5 / Cassettes only £3.50 - while stocks last. State which title you prefer from: The Music of Zimbabwe; West African Music (limited stock so 'phone first); The Music of Kenya and Tanzania; The Music of South Africa; or African Blues (limited stock - phone first). Please send a cheque (payable to VSO Trading) for £5.50 / £4 (50p to cover P&P) to: VSO Cymru, Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3AP. 029 20 415047

Or alternatively buy online: www.vso.org.uk/fundraising and click on the on-line shop. VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) is an international development charity that works through volunteers

celebration

CND Cymru Christmas Cards

Bilingual welsh/english cards in packs of 6 of the same design with envelopes.

Prices £4 for 3 packs; £7.50 for 6 packs (inclusive of p&p) Cheques payable to 'CND Cymru': from CND Cymru Trading, 72, Heol Gwyn, Yr Alltwen, Pontardawe SA8 3AN



One of 8 designs of Christmas card available from CND Cymru.

drama An Old Lie in New Mouths

Patrick Jones' new play "The War is Dead, Long Live the War" was performed at Blackwood Miners' Institute this September. Jones says that he felt compelled to write this play to "bear witness to the war on Iraq ...and this atrophic unfolding of humanity, this alienation, this fake faced soundbitten world".

Describing the background to the play, Jones explained: "This play is not about just the Iraq war or Blair and Bush or Hussein- it is against the futile waste of mankind, against the absurdity of bullets, bombs, khaki uniforms- it is against Prince Phillip wearing rows of medals, against the Queen on Remembrance Sunday, it is against men involved in fox hunting being excused from active duty in WW1, it is against ignorant people giving men white feathers, it is against 2 minutes silence in this century of screams and yes it is against what has just happened- it is against Bush controlling our foreign policy it is against a Labour leader lying to his people, it is against the lies of war- it is saying "if we are the saviours of the world well let us SAVE people in Palestine, Kosovo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Chechnya, Zimbabwe.....Britain.". It is asking how we can send back genuine asylum seekers yet bomb their country and I wrote it in honour of my grandfather gassed at the Somme, my great grandfather who also fought at that same battle... I wrote it for Wilfred Owen for his beautiful words and I wrote it for my three young sons in the hope they will never go to fight in another man's war"

"The War is Dead, Long Live the War" also ran at the ICA in London, with guest speakers George Galloway and Karl Francis.

More information about The War is Dead, Long Live the War is available from www.sortedproductions.com or patrickjones@tiscali.co.uk

There are plans to tour the play in the new year but funds are needed anyone interested in backing the play contact Sally Ann Gritton: info@sortedproductions.com



book review *Regime Unchanged* *Why the war on Iraq changed nothing*

Milan Rai

Pluto Press

ISBN 0 7453 2199 2 (paperback)

The information contained in this meticulously well-researched book should be enough to put behind bars those who 'sold' to the world the abhorrent war in Iraq. The gravity of their crimes cannot be overstated and they are comprehensively exposed in this new book.

John Pilger praises the book as a 'magnificent exposé of the lies that propelled the criminal attack on Iraq', succinctly put, but the book is, in truth, much more. The attack on Iraq was never simply about weapons of mass destruction, regime change, US security or any other such 'noble cause'; it was about oil, greed and political vanity.

Milan Rai begins by chronicling the colossal momentum of the anti-war movement. He points out the movement's great achievements, from scaring the living daylights out of Blair and being so very close to halting the entire war program altogether, to the pressure put on the military by the US administration, which attempted to prevent attacks on Iraqi civilian targets for fear of legal repercussions.

Colin Powell's attempted 'Adlai Stevenson' presentation to the UN is rubbished as Rai inserts the one crucial element missing from Powell's presentation: the truth! Bush's (successful) efforts to undermine the weapons inspectors are dealt with at length as are his (unsuccessful) attempts to discredit the UN, a stance he adopted once it had become abundantly clear that Saddam had no Weapons of Mass Destruction and posed no threat to the West, or indeed his neighbours.

After Bush had effectively deemed the UN 'irrelevant', Rai comments on the obvious relief in Washington when "the threat of peace had been averted"! The US agenda of 'leadership change' rather than 'regime change' is also exposed with evidence of the re-employment of leading Ba'athists to positions of authority in Iraq.

Rai has harsh words too for the 'subservient' press with their willingness to trade factual evidence and tough questioning for joy rides in tanks - they should redeem themselves by serialising this book!

The work of Milan Rai is absolutely invaluable if we are to see through the lies and spin and understand the real reasons why the self-appointed 'forces for peace and justice' wage war.

Ian Jones

Milan Rai is also author of ARROW (Active Resistance to the Roots of War), anti-war briefings and War Plan Iraq. *Regime Unchanged* (available for £10.95 from bookshops or £10.00 including p&p direct from Justice Not Vengeance (JNV), 29, Gensing Road, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN 38 0HE (0845) 458 9571. Make Cheques payable to 'JNV'.)

book review *Web of Deceit:* *Britain's Real Role in the World*

Mark Curtis

Vintage Books 2003

ISBN 0-099-44839-4

This is a shocking and disturbing expose of British Foreign Policy. Even those familiar with non-mainstream accounts of Britain's role in the world will be horrified at what Curtis reveals in this timely and explosive book. Using previously undisclosed secret government documents Curtis elucidates the brutal and bloody record of those charged with executing British Foreign Policy. *Web of Deceit* casts Britain as an 'outlaw state', overthrowing democratic governments (Iran and British Guiana); allying itself with repressive regimes and supporting state terrorism (Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Russia); violating international law (at the UN and through the arms trade); and complicity in mass slaughter and torture (Indonesia), shattering the myth of Britain as 'a force for good in the world'. Curtis brilliantly unravels the Blair government's role in the 'war on terrorism'; the recent attack on Iraq; the hypocritical policy on arms exports; and the terrifying threat to use nuclear weapons, in each case exposing the double standards and deceit at the heart of Blair's unethical foreign policy. Curtis also offers a damning indictment of the acquiescence of the corporate media in these crimes through an analysis of its all too often uncritical and subservient propaganda role.

Central to his analysis is the thesis that Britain's political and economic policies are nothing new but a continuation of Britain's historic quest to control the world's economic resources and ensure the compliance of other states and their populations with scant regard for any notion of democracy or human rights.

Web of Deceit concludes with a short chapter on the challenges ahead for justice and peace activists. Here, Curtis urges 'a big new push by concerned people and organisations to democratise policy making and the governance system in Britain' (p439). For Curtis '[t]he history of British foreign policy is partly one of complicity in some of the worlds worst horrors. If we were honest, we would see Britain's role in the world to a large extent as a story of crimes against humanity' (p432). Thus, faced with the grim and shameful historical record that Curtis provides, it remains up to us 'to halt what is currently being done in our names and to reconfigure Britain's role in the world to at long last promote human values' (p440).

Web of Deceit is not only gripping, terrifying and informative it is also surprisingly accessible. It should be required reading for everyone. Get a copy, read it and pass it on - now!

David Mcknight

diary dates

November 9th Remembrance Sunday – wear white poppies as a symbol of our determination to work together to abolish war for good. Contact Peace Pledge Union 0870 770 7944 wp@ppu.org.uk www.whitepoppy.org.uk

November 9th The Wall Must Fall! A world-wide Protest Day against the new 'Apartheid Wall' currently being erected by Israel across the Occupied Palestinian Territories. On November 9, 1989 the Berlin Wall, the symbol of shame of the politics of division of the 20th century – was torn down. Palestine Solidarity Groups are urging people to take action in their own communities. Contact Jill Stallard to let us know what you have organised so we can let others know (01550) 750 260 heddwh@nantgaredig.freeuk.com For more information about world-wide actions: Palestine Solidarity Cymru www.pscymru.org or www.stopthewall.org Action in Bangor on 9th Contact Awel Irene: (01766) 771 475

November 11th 7.30pm Wreccsam Public Meeting: Movement for the Abolition of War Owen Hardwicke details page 7

November 15th 10.30 – 4.00 Hugh Owen Building University of Wales Aberystwyth. Day Conference: *UN Reform and the Global Agenda* sponsored by the David Davies Memorial Institute, UNA Wales and supported by CND Cymru. £5 (£3.50 WCIA/UNA and CND Cymru members). Contact: una@wcia.org.uk or Clare Sain Ley Berry (02920) 821 055

November 12th – 16th Paris, France. European Social Forum – Stop War! Against Corporate Power – No Privatisation! No Fortress Europe! Protect Cultures and Biodiversity! An open meeting of civil society groups and movements committed to building a just society. Contact: www.fse-esf.org or www.mobilise.org.uk (020) 7053 2072

November 19th – 21st Stop Bush! State visit to Britain by the US President George Bush. Stop the War Coalition are calling on campaigners to protest against this war monger by making banner drops at colleges,

workplaces, bridges, theatres and galleries to publicise continuing opposition to the war.

November 20th All-Britain National Demonstration London (assembling at 2pm) organised by the Stop the War Coalition, CND and the Muslim Association of Britain, on a scale suitable for a weekday. Direct action events including toppling of Bush's statue in Trafalgar Square at the end of the demonstration and other forms of NVDA will also be incorporated into the programme. Why not organise local activities throughout the three-day period? Please let CND Cymru know if you or your group plans an event in Wales (see contacts). Contact British CND for London-based events: (020) 7700 2393 or see www.cnduk.org

November 29th Bangor "The Future of the UN and International Relations" Public Meeting with Harold Walker (former British Ambassador to Iraq) and Malcolm Harper (Chair UNA Britain) Contact: Bangor Peace and Justice Group (01248) 490 715 bajustpeace@hotmail.com

December 1st Prisoners for Peace Day. Write to those imprisoned for being true to their consciences. Contact War Resisters International for names and addresses of Prisoners for Peace (020) 7278 4040 or see www.wri-irg.org

December 6th 11.00am CND Cymru Cyngor – preceded by a short extraordinary meeting to accept the revised CND Cymru Constitution. All members and delegates invited to attend. Contact National Secretary (see Contacts).

December 11th 2.00pm – 6.00pm Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff *The International Criminal Court* Speakers Graham Blewitt (International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia), Gerry Simpson (LSE) and a representative from the US Embassy. Tickets: £5 book in advance (02920) 228 549 or centre@wcia.org.uk

December 13th – 15th Menwith Hill, Yorkshire, England. Women's Peace Camp & Blockade Menwith Hill is the biggest US spy-base in the world and part of the planned US National Missile 'Defense' System, which would allow the US to

launch pre-emptive nuclear strikes on another country without fear of retaliation.

Contact Helen John (01943) 458 593 helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk

January 2004 Bangor Workshop: Making Peace with the Inner Terrorist with Jo Berry (Tufnell). Contact: Bangor Peace and Justice Group (01248) 490 715 bajustpeace@hotmail.com for details

17/18 January 2004 Reclaim the Bases weekend of anti-militarist action A weekend of non-violent action at military bases - from vigils to NVDA. Start organising an event at a base close to you. Networking via: www.reclaimthebases.org.uk discuss@yahoogroups.com email@reclaimthebases.org.uk

February 23rd 21st Anniversary of the signing of the Nuclear Free Wales Declaration by all County and many District and Community Councils in Wales.

March 6th 11.00am CND Cymru Cyngor. Contact National Secretary (see Contacts) for details of venue and agenda.

CND Cymru Constitution

To all Members and Delegates of paid-up groups and affiliates

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) prior to CND Cymru Cyngor 11.00am December 6th 2003 been called to formally accept an updated CND Cymru Constitution as agreed in Rhayader by Cyngor on October 11th 2003. Any member or delegate wishing to attend the EGM or who wishes to see a copy of the updated Constitution, please contact the National Secretary before November 20th 2003.

cnd cymru contacts

chair:

Jill Evans MEP
(01978) 311 564
jievans@europarl.eu.int

vice chairs:

Rod Stallard
(01550) 750 260
David Bradley (north Wales)
(01978) 311 564
tryweryn@tiscali.co.uk
Olwen Davies (mid Wales)
(01970) 611 994
Ray Davies (south Wales)
(029 20) 889 514

membership & affiliations:

Brian Jones
(01792) 830 330

trading

Jan Henderson
(01792) 830 330

treasurer:

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

national secretary & heddwh editor:

Jill Stallard, Nantgaredig,
Cynghordy, Llanymddyfri SA20 0LR (01550) 750 260
jill@cndcymru.org

If you have any queries or ideas or want information please contact your nearest vice chair. For more information about CND Cymru, or how to receive heddwh regularly please contact the CND Cymru Membership Secretary.

