

CAMPAIGN WALES



CND CYMRU MEMBERS NEWSLETTER.

No. 4 July - August 1987

(Extra copies 15p)

WELL DONE, WALES

Following the result of the General Election, where do we go?

Despite Mrs Thatcher's substantial majority in England, the Welsh and Scottish positions are very different. The parties supporting a non-nuclear defence policy gained a large majority of the seats in Wales, with 24 Labour, 3 Plaid Cymru and 3 Liberal MPs in the new House of Commons, which now has only 8 Welsh Tory MPs. 4 Labour candidates and one from Plaid Cymru (all CND members or supporters) won seats from the Tories. This shows clearly that the Tories have no mandate for a pro-nuclear defence policy in Wales.

This situation **must** give us new opportunities for working and campaigning effectively in Wales and so enable us to strengthen our support still further.

Perhaps our first priority is to state quite simply that CND is not going to go away. We have the support of nearly half the people of Wales (but we need more!).

Should each of us set about getting at least one new signed up member of CND Cymru before we go away on our summer holidays?

The Welsh people have voted at national, county and in many cases at district and community council level for a Nuclear Free Wales. To focus attention on our aims we are planning actions at Brawdy, Caerwent and the Welsh Office during the next few months and Hiroshima Day is to be highlighted at the National Eisteddfod in Porthmadog. These actions, however, are only a small part of the work being done all over Wales by local peace groups, often working with other related groups, to build steadily on our level of support.

Given the initiatives now coming from the Soviet Union there is an opportunity for real measures in **disarmament**. In the past we have concentrated on campaigning against weapons systems such as Cruise and Trident, but we must now work positively to put pressure on our Government to reach effective agreements on disarmament. The peace movement has an opportunity to represent the views of the people of Wales and to ensure a positive response to the Gorbachev proposals.

We must go all out for disarmament and nuclear free policies, emphasizing in as strong a way as possible the criminal waste of resources being used for weapons of mass destruction, when we have widespread deprivation in Wales and when starvation threatens over half our world.

PLEASE NOTE -

Completed (or even part filled) **NUCLEAR TEST BAN PETITIONS** to be with Bob Cole, Bryn Elltyd, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog by the 1st of September

Pic. - Shows the thousands of people from Wales who joined in the London 'March for a Nuclear Free Britain' on April 25th. Rhodri Glyn Thomas and Bob Cole are to be seen carrying the CND Banner.

LOOKING AHEAD

- July 4** American Independence Day
Demonstration and 'Snowball' at Brawdy.
Protest against American Nuclear Bases in Nuclear Free Wales.
12 noon — Newgale Sands
1.00 pm — Brawdy US Submarine Tracking Station
A carnival atmosphere with some people making the symbolic protest of 'cutting the wire'.
- July 11** 'Snowball' Caerwent. Contact Carol Hancock (0633) 881 741.
- July 17** Launch of anthology of Peace Poems in Cardiff. (St Steven's Church, Bute Town)
- July 31** Launch of Peace Poems near Porthmadog (Oakley Arms Hotel, Tanybwllch, Penrhyndeudraeth)
- August 1-9** Eisteddfod Bro Madog, Porthmadog. Please support the CND Cymru tent and on:
- August 6** **HIROSHIMA DAY** — a procession will leave Tremadog at 10 o'clock — passing through Porthmadog to the Eisteddfod field. There we shall mobilise support for the 'Peace Chain' ready to encircle the Pavilion at midday. Bring your banners and be sure to be there to commemorate the dropping of the first atomic bomb on August 6 1945.
BYTH ETO HIROSHIMA — we must never forget.



The Link between the Welsh Language Society and the Peace Movement

If I had to illustrate the connection between the peace movement and the language I would draw a picture of the Preselau mountains with Waldo superimposed on them. Here was the man who saw clearly the link between peace and the survival of the language, for he recognized the direct threat presented by the coming of the destructive forces (militarism) to the survival of small communities in the Preseli.

I remember Waldo coming out of prison when I was ten years of age. I was amazed that my elder sister was going to welcome somebody released from gaol! It was utterly confusing. A few years later, in the sixties, I joined Cymdeithas yr Iaith and CND and I began to understand. However, since CND was something remote, housed in a London office, I was merely a paid-up member and that was all until Brawdy and Greenham Common in the Eighties.

Other movements in the Sixties seemed to have closer affinities with the Society. There were the great anti-Apartheid rallies in London, which we joined because we believed in justice for all men. Yes, men! The Women's Movement made us fully aware of the injustices suffered by women ... a two-fold injustice facing us ... as women and as Welsh speakers ... the cry of the minority that was also a majority ... Injustice is the root of the connection between the two ... the indifference towards the simple needs of people ... that sprang from a patriarchal standpoint.

In addition to these great issues, we saw, at the end of the Sixties, the consequences of the arms race. Not so much the nuclear race, but rather Vietnam and the effects of napalm on women and children - the gigantic militarism of America and its 'Righteous' war (today for Vietnam read Nicaragua). We could therefore see that the struggle of both movements was essentially identical. The survival of what we regard as vital ... namely culture, language ... and work: and a world not dependent on destructive forces.

The existence of nuclear arms and weapons of oppression lies heavily on the body and the spirit. The attempt to destroy a language through neglect or a refusal to offer it support is another sort of oppression. We must therefore as members of the Language Society fight on two fronts - to halt the destruction of what is dear to us in our community and also on world-scale issues - to promote the right of world languages and communities to exist without fear of war.

Being a non-violent Society we are also in harmony with the essential principles in the peace movement. To follow the spirit of Martin Luther King by rejecting the 'violence of the spoken word', the 'violence of the heart' and 'the violence of the clenched fist'.

We must never become complacent. We know that the road will be long and hard. Nevertheless we have succeeded (whatever some might think) in making the language an issue and an object of deep and passionate hatred and scorn. We must expect therefore the peace movement to run the gauntlet of a similar experience making peace an everyday topic like discussions on a particular or favoured brand of coffee! As one anti-Vietnam campaigner said in America, 'love's opposite is not hostility, but indifference'.

The Society and the peace movement must respect each other and perhaps here lies the dilemma for those campaigners with imperialistic attitudes when the issue of language is broached. They are in the minority, thank God! Be we must expect hostility in this context, to ensure change.

When it comes to campaigning we hope that the members of both the Language Society and the Peace Movement will work as one to convince Welsh speaking and non Welsh speaking people alike of our aims. We must strive to create a more sensible and peaceful world so that we may all live within the bonds of love and social justice using the language of our choice without fear of oppression and violence.

Menna Elfyn

Should we pay for Nuclear Power?

The Consumers against Nuclear Energy (CANE) Campaign, organised on a regional basis, involves making a protest against the use of your money to support Britain's nuclear programme. One direct way you can protest is by withholding a symbolic (17%) portion of your electricity bill each quarter, and informing your Electricity Board of the reasons for your action. The withheld portion of your bill (which represents the contribution of nuclear power produced electricity) should be sent to your regional co-ordinator to hold in Trust for you until you require it. This gives you additional legal protection, as it is evidence of a bona fide dispute with the Board and is proof that you are not simply trying to avoid payment. In this way you can open up a dialogue with your electricity board.

You need not fear disconnection as it is up to the individual how far they take their protest. The money held in trust will be repaid promptly when you feel too uncomfortable and you can start withholding again with the next quarterly bill.

Disconnecting your electricity supply can only be carried out with your consent or with a magistrate's warrant and then you would have plenty of notice. The interest earned on 'withholdings' held in trust, together with donations and money from fundraising activities, goes to fund our activities and support research into renewable energy systems.

A briefing pack is available from CANE or the Welsh Consumer Campaign (about 40p, it's being reprinted) which is an excellent guide to 'withholding' and gives you a simple guide to likely responses from the electricity board. There are sample letters to write, for those who find letter writing a headache! We also have 'anti nuclear cheques', and a brilliantly researched pamphlet on 'Nuclear Power, Conservation and the Renewables' (also about 40p). CANE have a complete merchandise list and are a fund of support and ideas. They can be contacted at:

Consumers Against Nuclear Energy
PO Box 697

London NW1 87Q

The address for the regional co-ordinator to whom 'withholdings' should be sent, is
Welsh Consumer Campaign
Crug Farm, Ferwig, Cardigan, Dyfed.

Please contact the above address if you are interested in the campaign and would like some more information, or to receive our newsletter.

A real and comprehensive Test Ban?

As long ago as 1958 the US, USSR and UK began negotiations on a test ban and agreed a moratorium to be reconsidered annually (see background notes below). Thirty years on, no agreement has been reached, but through continued testing many new weapons have been added to the nuclear arsenal. In recent years the peace movement appears to have ignored the need for a *comprehensive test ban treaty* (CTBT) and has campaigned against the new weapons, instead of tackling this more fundamental issue.

The Soviet Union's declaration of a unilateral one year moratorium in August 1985 offered hope that a real breakthrough in negotiations could be reached. Their offer was extended until January 1987, but faced with direct opposition both from the US and UK Gorbachev finally declared an end to the moratorium, arguing that continued US testing might cause 'serious damage' to Soviet security. The Soviets said they would begin a new moratorium at any time if the US would join. The US said they would only negotiate on reductions in numbers of tests and sizes, not on a comprehensive or total ban. The point of a total ban is to agree that no further 'improvements' are made. For the Peace Movement only a total ban is acceptable. As recently as this summer the Soviets put forward provisions for a CTBT. Vladimar Petrovsky, deputy foreign minister, said in Geneva on June 10th that the Soviet Union was ready to resume its nuclear test moratorium 'even today' if the United States would go along . . .

The political significance of a CTB would be enormous, even with only three of the five nuclear-weapons powers as parties. The non-nuclear weapons states give this measure high priority, and it would help prevent proliferation. Once the US, USSR and UK had ratified a CTB, pressure could be exerted on France and China and on the 'near nuclear weapons' states to do the same. A CTB would be a great impediment to any state which wanted to be a nuclear weapons power.

The Soviet moratorium was not a complete failure, because that initiative has stimulated much thought and action. There is once again very real hope that disarmament agreements will be reached this year, and we must now exert pressure to ensure that a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty will be included. In February CND Cymru launched a petition calling for Britain 'to end nuclear testing and to promote through the United

Nations the adoption of a CTBT'. The petition will run until the autumn when it will be handed to the British Government. Help us to make it a success by collecting signatures wherever you go . . . take the petition into your workplace, church, chapel, pub, always have a copy handy when you visit family, friends, travel on a bus, go shopping, or go for a walk in the park . . . contact your local group who may be doing a street stall: they may need an extra helper . . . and don't forget to contact your local newspaper and paper bro. The more publicity we can get, the more signatures we'll collect. It's up to you.

October 10 11 am. Welsh Office, Cardiff. To hand in Nuclear Test Ban petition.

BACKGROUND NOTES

- 1958 Start of negotiations
- 1959 US officially ended moratorium, but did not actually resume testing
- 1960 France conducted its first nuclear weapons test – followed by 3 more
- 1961 Soviet Union resumed testing, citing French tests and 'increased aggressiveness of NATO' as reason. 2 weeks later US resumed testing.
- 1963 Following Cuban crisis negotiations began again and President Kennedy declared moratorium on atmospheric testing. Partial Test Ban Treaty signed by US, SU and UK banning tests in atmosphere, outer space and under water.
- 1974 US and SU signed Threshold Test Ban Treaty restricting yield of tests – not ratified by US.
- 1976 US – SOVIET Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty limiting yield of underground tests for non-military purposes signed but not ratified by US. Both countries said however that they would abide by general prohibition
- 1977 US, SU and UK restarted negotiations for comprehensive test ban treaty
- 1980 Negotiations still in progress when US Administration changed. Reagan Administration discounted talks and in 1982 gave firm indication that it had no interest in resuming them, since a CTBT was only a distant goal

SIOP EIFIONYDD

Porthmadog

**Stoc helaeth o bianos,
newydd ac ail-law
Hefyd recordiau, llyfrau a
chylchgronau yn ein siop
ar y Stryd Fawr**

**R. D. Jones, Siop Eifionydd.
Ffôn - (0766) 2795/2528.**

CELFI CARTREF (BODAWEN) Stryd Fawr Porthmadog.

**Llenni i'ch mesuriadau ac unrhyw
ddefnyddiau ar eisiau i'r cartref
hefyd pob math**

Ffôn - Porthmadog (0766) 2070.

Report from the Annual Conference of Northern Ireland CND

Following a period of relative inactivity, Northern Ireland CND was relaunched at a Conference in April 1986. Since then it has grown and developed as an important region of British CND. They now have 12 groups with over 500 members.

Along with the other Celtic nations bordering the Irish Sea, CND Cymru was invited to send a representative to Belfast for their Annual Conference on April 25th 1987.

We, in Wales, have some special difficulties in organising a nationwide movement. The distance from Anglesey to Gwent, for example, can make the mobilising of people for an all Wales demonstration quite difficult. There are also the special problems of a bilingual movement. These, however, pale beside the difficulties for the people of Northern Ireland in organising their peace movement. Some CND members belong to London CND, some to Irish CND and others to Northern Ireland CND. There is, of course, the Protestant/Catholic divide and the shortage of progressive political parties (for the protestant community), not to mention the fact that neither Stormont nor the elected Council in Belfast are meeting at the present time. We do, of course, all share the same Government with its attitude to nuclear disarmament!

Probably because of the political set up, the Trades Union movement has far greater involvement with NICND. It is one of the three specialist sections, the other two being YCND and Christian CND. Their officers and members are a mix of Protestants and Catholics and the Quakers have been extremely supportive.

It is clear that they feel an increasing concern about the pollution of the Irish sea and what is going on at Sellafield, and it was passed to mount a major campaign for its closure. Perhaps this is where we should come in, as they also decided to contact and work with the peace movements of the countries and islands of the North East Atlantic.

The Northern Ireland Office is proposing to build 3 'bunkers', at a cost of £7-8 million, starting in the summer of 1987. It was felt that opposition to this was growing and an 'anti bunker campaign' will be a main focus this year. They were very interested in the story of the Carmarthen 'bunker' and have asked for our help.

There was a long debate on the nuclear power/ nuclear weapons issue, which produced widely differing views. They have no nuclear power stations, so their position is different from ours. In the end it was passed to campaign on both issues, but not to alter their constitution to include opposition to nuclear power.

We had a very warm welcome and I believe that it was a useful visit both for CND Cymru and Northern Ireland CND.
Rhoda Jones

Women's International Day for Peace and Justice

May 23rd 1987

Brawdy Women's Peace Camp re-established itself on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast for the May Bank holiday weekend. Twenty five women renewed acquaintance with each other around the camp fire and with the MOD police through the fence, some of which came mysteriously unravelled. As we confronted the American personnel, seven eighths of this USA submarine tracking station hummed under our feet.

Women chained to the fence at Trawsfynydd on May 23rd - highlighting the link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

On Saturday 23rd May, Cardiff Women's Peace Group made a presence in the Hayes in Cardiff in support of 'Women's Links', and in recognition of Women's International Day for Peace and Justice.

On that grey, drizzling day, 20 women made a splash of colour with a brightly striped maypole supporting 6 streamers which made the local links clear: Education cuts - save Howardian school; Housing shortages - no bed and breakfast; Nuclear power - pit closures; Hospital cutbacks - waiting lists grow; Pit closures - lost communities. Women against pit closures petitioned passers-by about pit closures and nuclear power.

An illustrated leaflet explained the links to shoppers, and children were given helium-filled balloons with a message and phone number attached. The only one so far acknowledged was from an excited Cardiff resident who thought it had come from Hinkley Point.



Women chained to the fence at Trawsfynydd on May 23rd - highlighting the link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

DO SOMEONE A FAVOUR. FILL IN A MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THEIR BEHALF

Name (Block Capitals)
 Address
 County Post Code (Important)

MEMBERSHIP RATES. (Please tick appropriate category).
 Two people at same address £12. Waged, adult £9.
 Unwaged adult or Pensioner £2. Student £3. Youth (21 or under) £1.
 Please find enclosed £..... for membership. £..... donation

Make payable to CND Cymru and send with completed form to:
 2 Plasturton Avenue, Pontcanna, Cardiff CF1 9HH.



If groups would like extra copies of each issue of Campaign Wales (at 15p each), please fill in the coupon and return it to:- Rhoda Jones, Ty Isaf, Ffestiniog, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, who will do the rest.

Name of Group
 Address
 No. of copies

CIVIL DEFENCE IN WALES IN 1987

The Government is losing patience with Wales. In the past, Councils in Wales have been very unenthusiastic in their response to Home Office demands to prepare for nuclear war.

But Government guidelines hint at disciplinary steps, such as the withholding of grants or the sending in of outside bodies at the council's expense if Local Authorities refuse, or fail, to discharge their civil defence planning duties.

The National Steering Committee of Nuclear Free Zones is therefore recommending the NFZ Councils should undertake their civil defence planning in a **thorough, principled and totally honest** manner. By using information provided by the All-Wales Planning Assumptions Study (presently being commissioned by the Welsh Forum of NFZ Authorities), Councils can fulfil their duties to provide *accurate* information on how they would implement the regulations, following a nuclear attack on or near their area. It would, for example, be very interesting for the public to know how Meirionnydd Council would plan for the prevention of disease after a conventional or nuclear bomb landed on Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station; or how Pembroke would dispose of human remains after a nuclear attack on Brawdy.

The Planned Programme of Implementation is a set of guidelines by which the Home Office seeks to monitor local Authorities' civil defence planning, according to the following timetable:

By 1st October 1987

To provide basic information on the objective of all plans and the organisation required to achieve them; and provide copies of up to date operational plans according to subject matter as below:

By 1st April 1988

Collection and distribution of information on the results of attack;
Control and co-ordination of action;
Advice to the public.

By 1st October 1988

Accommodation;
Prevention of disease;
Disposal of human remains.

Ironically, the government's new requirements provide a great opportunity for us in CND Cymru to lobby our councils – to help them become better informed on the effects of nuclear war, and to encourage them to publicize their findings so that the people of Wales know exactly what the government is asking Councils to prepare for.

If we are to take advantage of this opportunity, we need **your help**. Please – don't leave this to other people:

- A. Obtain as much information as possible about civil defence.
- B. Write to your Councillors and ask them:
 1. Whether they are involved in the All-Wales Forum of NFZs.
 2. Whether they are participating in the All-Wales Planning Assumptions Study.
 3. Whether they will meet you to discuss what information they will be incorporating in their plans, and how they will obtain it.
- C. Find out the dates of relevant Council meetings and attend. Please keep us informed of your progress.

By 1st April 1989

Rescue;
Repair and clearance of property;
Volunteers.

By 1st October 1989

Shelters;
Other Essential Services.

For further information contact:

CND Cymru civil defence group,
53 Heol Dwr, Carmarthen, Dyfed. 0267 234158.

Hilary Blunden
Sian ap Gwynfor
Cen Llwyd

MAETH Y MEYSYDD
Princess Street
Aberystwyth
Tel: Aberystwyth 612946



"I'd like a hard sell if you could manage one."

To make Campaign Wales more interesting we should like to include a Letters Page.

Please write with comments and news and send all contributions for the next issue to the Editorial Group, Ty Isaf, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd (076 676) 2739, before August 21st.

Advertisements £15 for 1/8 page, £25 for 1/4 page.
Warmly welcomed.

