



the magazine of CND Cymru

## 'Breaching the peace'



graphic: Brian Kavanagh (Hartford Catholic Worker)

inside:

- "Son of Star Wars" : relaunch of a disaster
- AM Kirsty Williams supports Nuclear Free Wales
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CND Cymru works for international peace and disarmament and a world in which the vast resources now devoted to militarism are redirected to the real needs of the human community



# Fylingdales : a first strike target in Yorkshire

According to British MoD officials, Britain's Fylingdales early warning radar site is being re-designed to protect the US homeland from a limited missile attack. The Fylingdales radar in Yorkshire is one of five US early warning radar sites incorporated into the Nuclear missile Defence(NMD) system and was upgraded to a 'three-faced phased array radar' a few years ago. Now, the Fylingdales radar may be the only radar with 360 degrees (full circle) capability. That, together with its strategic location, makes it extremely important to US Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) efforts. Such plans undermine the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, and according to a transcript of the official Kremlin International News Broadcast "create an imbalance in the situation between the two poles of the Atlantic alliance, destabilising our strategic system. European Governments are also rightly concerned. In a potential conflict, Fylingdales would be a first strike target for any enemy.

This is a wake up call for the British peace movement as opposing any further modernisation of the Fylingdales radar could be a most effective way to oppose US Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) efforts. BMD has a potential for cancelling out all achievements so far toward nuclear disarmament. As the following article points out, this is a very touchy situation for Britain and with enough internal opposition, some believe that the use of Fylingdales could be denied.

*special thanks to Bob Aldridge*



*"General Hoskins, I don't care if you are in charge of our Star-Wars Defense. You must wear a regulation uniform."*

## Missile Defense is no defence

The 'Son of Star Wars', US missile defense, is rearing its ugly and costly head. It is threatening to shake the fragile global security that we have at present. The US is planning to deploy a National Missile Defense system to 'protect against rogue missiles'. They say it is not meant to be threatening Russia and China, but both countries are opposed to the plan, believing it will provoke a new global arms race and undermine their nuclear capability. National Missile Defence will certainly break the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty, a bilateral treaty between Russia and US, and if this important disarmament treaty falls, it may lead to a collapse of other international treaties and nuclear disarmament talks.

The British government is to support the United States' missile shield by allowing them to use Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire as a ground relay station for information from satellites across Europe and former Soviet States. The Campaign for Accountability of American Bases has taken out a writ in the High Court in an attempt to halt further development at Menwith Hill. The US would like to use Fylingdales, also in North Yorkshire, as a part of a ground-based sensor network for the National Missile Defense. So far the British government has not said if it would support the use of Fylingdales, but the site was upgraded in 1992 to have the capability of being part of a US 'star wars' system. Other European Union countries have not been so reticent in expressing their concern over the US plans. President Jacques Chirac said "We must avoid any questioning of the ABM treaty that could lead to a disruption of strategic equilibrium and to a new nuclear arms race".

In January this year, the US Pentagon suffered a serious setback when yet another missile interceptor test failed. The test missile was supposed to hit a ballistic missile launched from California and prevent it from reaching its target, but it failed. There are obviously huge technological problems which may never be overcome, and the failure of the test in January 2000 has put into doubt the timetable for decisions to be made. At the moment President Clinton is still expected to make a decision about the deployment of National Missile Defence in June 2000, and if he does he is expected to give it the go-ahead.

*Rachel Julian Yorkshire CND*

**heddwch action:** There are several ways to lobby:

1. Write/fax President Clinton with your views asking him not to deploy US National Missile Defence. (President Clinton, The White House, Washington, USA. Fax: +1-202-456-2461)
2. Write to Tony Blair asking him to support other European leaders in expressing concern over US plans.(address p.8)
3. Write to the MoD or to your own MP to say that they should not give permission to the US to use Fylingdales for National Missile Defence. (MoD, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB)

The British Government should be actively trying to dissuade the US from going ahead with National Missile Defence because it will be so damaging. The Pentagon described the missile test failure as a 'setback'. The real setback will be if National Missile Defence goes ahead and the world is plunged into a new cold war and an arms race in space. For more information see Yorkshire CND website <http://www.gn.apc.org/cndyorks> Or contact Yorkshire CND: 22 Edmund Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD5 0BH Tel: 01274 730795 Fax: 01274 414413 email:cndyorks@gn.apc.org



## Kirsty Williams, Assembly Member for Brecon & Radnor supports Nuclear Free Wales

The possibility of Britain's nuclear-armed submarines being based at Milford Haven was highlighted by Llandrindod CND at a recent meeting with Liberal Democrat Brecon and Radnor AM Kirsty Williams. It was pointed out that Trident may be declared illegal under Scottish Law, leaving Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire as a prime alternative deep-water harbour to base British Trident submarines. This follows the October 1999 landmark judgement by Sheriff Margaret Gimblett at Greenock Sheriff's Court who instructed a jury to acquit three Trident Ploughshares 2000 activists on trial for damaging a research laboratory connected to the Trident nuclear weapons system. The Sheriff's decision was made on the grounds that she concluded that the three accused were justified in their action to attempt to disarm Britain's nuclear-armed Trident submarines. The Lord Advocate has referred Margaret Gimblett's ruling to the High Court for legal clarification.

Kirsty Williams agreed to table a 'Statement of Opinion' at the Assembly for AMs to call for an inquiry into the legal status of Trident under the law in Wales. Llandrindod CND Secretary Sarah Isaacs stressed that as the radiation from nuclear weapons affects innocent civilians and even innocent nations, such weapons must be illegal under international law and basing Trident in Wales can not be an option. Kirsty Williams also expressed strong support for the Group's concerns about the proposed nuclear waste dump at Trecwn in Pembrokeshire, adding that she was against any further nuclear sites in Wales. She agreed to table a second Statement of Opinion at the National Assembly to support the aspirations of Nuclear Free Wales, originally established by local councils throughout Wales in February 1982.

**heddwch action:** contact Llandrindod CND (Sarah Isaacs, Bridgend Cottages, Llangammarch, Builth, Powys LD4 4ED (01591) 620 561 for the full text of these two Statements of Opinion. Ask your AM to support these Statements. (Your AM, The National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1NA)

## The ideal and the possible Henry Richard (1812 - 1888)

Until very recently I knew little about Henry Richard. Then I read two excellent pamphlets. One was *Peace and Power Henry Richard, A Radical for our time*. It was written by Gwyn Alf Williams. The other was *Henry Richard: Apostle of Peace 1812 - 1888* by Ieuan Gwynedd Jones. Both appeared in 1988. Finally I came across a seven page essay, also of great interest but sadly with no author's name or date.

I was fascinated. Richard's work as Secretary of the Peace Society for nearly fifty years, as Member of Parliament for Merthyr Tydfil, as Christian Minister and as an 'interpreter between England and Wales' was really astonishing. It became clear to me that we do not learn enough from history or know enough about the great peace personalities of the past who still have important lessons for us. Richard must have been an amazing man. He managed to keep all the various peace and pacifist interests working together. He knew how to combine the Ideal and the possible.

To him we owe, in some large part, the eventual foundation of the present World Court. He almost managed to get a resolution through the House of Commons which would have meant that before any war could be launched parliamentary agreement would have to be obtained.

Then came a more personal interest. I discovered that one of his first speeches was delivered in Finsbury Park, not many yards from my front door. He is buried, in a rather dilapidated tomb in Abney Park cemetery where my great grandfather also lies, only a mile or so from my present home,

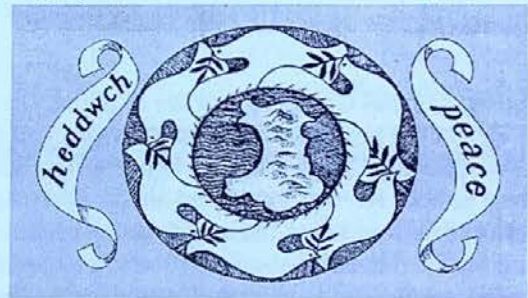
In this UNESCO Year of the Culture of Peace I thought it right that we should honour, in Westminster, on his birthday, this great Welshman of the 19th century from whom we still have much to learn.

Bruce Kent

**heddwch action:** attend yourself, and/or ask your MP to support the meeting on April 3rd at 7pm in The House Of Lords, London, everyone is welcome. For more details see 'Diary Dates'.

## Calling for a commitment to peace & justice

Wendy Lewis has especially designed the card for CND Cymru to send to each Assembly Member, MP and MEP for Wales asking them to support the UNA manifesto for a Culture of Peace and to honour peace, environmental and human rights in all the decisions they make on behalf of their constituencies and the people of Wales. If you would like to send such a card personally, please contact Jill Stallard (see contacts).



## Don Arnott - A Tribute

A former consultant to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Don Arnott became a stalwart of the anti-nuclear movement. A founder of PANDORA (People Against Nuclear Dumping On Rural Areas) in 1979 he put intellectual analysis into our fears, and steel into the backbone of the campaign to stop test drilling for the disposal of high level radioactive waste in Wales.

Don gave huge amounts of advice on the dangers of Sizewell B - followed by very detailed evidence to the Hinkley Point C inquiry on the dangers of the PWR design. Don explained to people in Wales that the at Chernobyl had been caused by an atomic explosion and the inadequacy of monitoring of radioactivity from Chernobyl.

He passed on very amusing and useful insights into the workings of the scientific establishment. Don's advice was always worth listening to. He was passionate about the need for the anti-nuclear movement to get its facts right:

"The constructive exercise of power cannot thrive on a diet of negative attitudes interspersed with gusts of emotion. Positive inputs, aggressively argued are needed."

Don Arnott will be greatly missed.

Hugh Richards



# Caledonia Dreaming

I well remember sometime in early January 1984 sneaking out of the Scottish CND office in Sauchiehall Street under cover of darkness to dump several boxes containing thousands of unsold and now useless badges proudly proclaiming "NUCLEAR FREE IN 83". Well, I've kept one of the badges, and the same sticker graces my bathroom mirror. A salutary and humbling reminder of past follies to accompany my morning shave. Humour sustains us in this insane world, and an ability to laugh at oneself is essential in peacework. The moral of course, is never set up a deadline. I recall this incident because at first glance I may seem to be doing something similar in what I now write. For while I am certainly not going to set out a time limit, I do believe that we are right now living through momentous events, and are on the edge of historic changes. The times they are a-changing indeed, and for peace people, nowhere more so than in the realm of the law. There are three main irons in the legal fire at present.

## Legal

Firstly, glorious Greenock and the acquittal. On 28th January, we got the news that the Lord Advocate had sent the verdict of Sheriff Gimblett to the High Court in Edinburgh for a judicial referral. I attended almost every day of the Greenock trial and know the quality of the evidence presented for the defence. I also know that the prosecution did not produce one single witness to argue for the legality of Trident - they merely produced witness to the facts, which were not in dispute. Knowing the quality of the defence and of the prosecution, and having seen the manifest impartiality and fairness of the Sheriff, I find it very hard to imagine how any honest review could do anything other than come to the same conclusion as she did. So, regarding the outcome of the review my public position is one of cautious optimism; more informally, I am apt to say that the end is in sight and Trident will have to go, and go soon. However...I remember the badges!

Secondly there is the question of my own appeal to the High Court in Edinburgh; I refused to pay a fine imposed by the magistrate in Helensburgh following an action, and appealed to the High Court on the basis that justice was not seen to be done, because the magistrate refused

to hear my defence under international law. The High Court have agreed to hear my appeal. I am still waiting for a date for this hearing. Here too, my advocate John Mayer - the same man who so brilliantly led the defence team in Greenock - is decidedly hopeful.

The third legal iron is as yet only an idea under discussion. This is, that we seek a "declarator and removal" against the British Government. This is a legal process whereby named individuals could claim that they see Trident as a threat, and demand its removal from Scotland. This would be a civil action - a very different matter entirely from all the criminal cases so far - and could prove horrendously expensive. So it's very much a tentative proposition at present.

## Political

Apart from these legal affairs, we see that there are also substantial changes afoot in the political world; in particular, the new Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly of Wales neither of which can legislate on defence. However, there is nothing to stop both from discussing Trident, and no reason why they should not express the will of the people. We have a cross party Scottish parliamentary CND group under the robust leadership of Dorothy Grace Elder.

Scottish CND has also been running the "Declaration of Faslane" campaign for some time now. In this, supporters sign a card demanding of their representatives that nuclear weapons be removed from Scotland. The intention is that boxes containing many thousands of these will be presented to the Scottish Parliament at the appropriate time (a bit like the Snowdrop Campaign against firearms which followed the killings at Dunblane). We have found a lot of support from people when given the chance to sign. Our problem is getting the cards circulated widely enough to get back the large numbers required.



Celtic connections! Mary Kelly from Ireland holding the Saltire while the nuclear warhead convoy is being "detained" by protestors at Balloch.

The Greenock verdict has already been raised in the Scottish Parliament. by Alex Salmond, the SNP leader. To the discomfort of Donald Dewar, he pointed out to the house that Sheriff Gimblett's decision had been formulated in the light of the words of a former Lord Advocate, Lord Murray, who was a member of the Labour Party. There are also currently two anti-Trident petitions addressed to the Parliament under consideration.

It must be a sore embarrassment to the Scottish Executive to have to defend the retention and continued deployment of Trident, knowing that the Scottish Labour Party has voted against the beast at the last 16 annual conferences! I suspect that there are many rank and file Labour Party members who are either unaware of the party's current pro-nuclear policies, or if they do know the facts, are severely disappointed at the



obvious prevarication and duplicity over the whole question. I think of the many dedicated peace activists I have known over the years who dreamt of a Labour victory as the means to liberation from nuclear madness. I well remember Bruce Kent addressing a packed meeting in Partick Burgh Halls ('85, I think) telling the audience that - although it was only his personal opinion - he thought that the best way to get rid of nuclear weapons, was to secure a Labour victory in the coming general election... He must have a sad smile to himself recalling these words now.

Since I have already taken a few strolls down memory lane, let me take a final one. I remember one of the most powerful and persuasive anti-nuclear speeches I have ever heard - so good in fact that it made me finally get round to joining CND. This was made by a young red-haired speaker whose speech was so convincing that I can still remember the actual substance of his argument. His name, I recall, was Robin Cook... I wonder what ever became of him? Likewise there is George Robertson, now NATO *numero uno*, formerly a CNDer and of course, Tony Blair. As the good book says, "lay not thy trust in princes and kings"; to this list I would also add politicians, prime ministers, aspiring leaders, important people, and all who seek power. Lord Acton's famous dictum is overworked but none the less still true. "All power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". For this reason, while I personally support the SNP and believe that its commitment to getting rid of Trident is rock solid, I nevertheless will continue to work for a "grass roots up", people-based movement involving cross-party and non-party support. As they say, peace is too important to be left to politicians.

## Direct action

The coming of Trident Ploughshares (TP) to Scotland is another important factor. The wide base of TP, embracing as it does the whole spectrum of age, class, and belief, and its commitment to action, have helped to make links and facilitate co-operation with other more action-based movements, environmental, anti-road, animal rights, anti-GM groups etc. Younger people find it easier to identify with the type of activist campaigning for TP than they do with the rather tired, worn and weary, passe type of image that CND has. TP has also greatly benefited and revitalised Scottish CND itself. The acquittal at Greenock made front page headlines in every daily in Scotland, broadsheet and tabloid. I do not remember when CND had such coverage before.

## Love of life

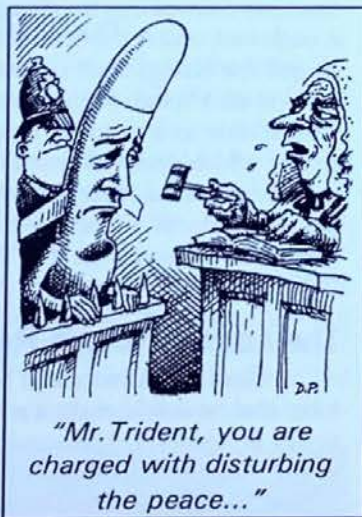
I only hope that this energy can expand to other groups, the political parties and the churches. In Scotland, both the Roman Catholic bishops and the Church of Scotland have rejected Trident, as have the leaders of other faiths. The

SNP has an anti-nuclear policy, but does not prioritise the campaign against Trident. Perhaps an appreciation of the historic roots of Ploughshares, and of the Spiritual value of peaceful, non-violent and accountable action - Gandhi's satyagraha - might touch a nerve and awaken a more lively commitment to peace. When I made the long walk last summer from The Hague, to NATO Headquarters in Brussels, what struck me most was the enormous diversity of the groups represented; Indian farmers protesting against biopiracy and terminator genes of Monsanto, folk from *For Mother Earth*, Abolition 2000, Earth First and Our own Faslane Peace Camp. People of every age, colour, culture and country. From Moscow to Melbourne, from the Cameroon to Christchurch, people had come because they knew what united them - their love of life - was more important than all that seemed to separate them. I was reminded of the words of Art Laffin of the Dorothy Day Catholic Workers House in Washington:

*"In my view, the basic hope of the Ploughshares action is to communicate from the moment of entry into a base or plant - and throughout the court and prison witness - an underlying faith that the power of non violent love can overcome the forces of violence; a reverence for the sacredness of all life and creation; a plea for justice for the victims of poverty and the arms race; an acceptance of personal responsibility for the dismantling and the physical conversion of the weapons; and a spiritual conversion of the heart to the way of justice and reconciliation."*

I feel that all the spirit and strength of all those committed to the "reverence for the sacredness of all life" is growing, and is ultimately unstoppable.

Brian Quail Vice Chair of Scottish CND  
Trident Ploughshares 2000 activist



## CND Cymru members arrested at Faslane

Welsh protestors were amongst the 183 arrested at the St. Valentine's Day "Close the Base" non-violent demonstration at Faslane Trident Base. CND Cymru Vice Chair Ray Davies, Wendy Lewis and others were arrested and charged with "Breach of the Peace" and "Resisting Arrest" as they blockaded the Main Gate at Faslane. As a result of the protest, traffic into the base was seriously disrupted and halted for long periods. Several protestors padlocked themselves together onto a bed in the road and another group locked themselves together around the shape of a heart. The police had great difficulty removing a wheelchair campaigner who was also 'locked on'. Member of the Scottish Parliament Tommy Sheridan and Green MEP Christine Lucas were amongst those arrested.

Ray Davies commented to the press:

*"At least 4 hospitals in Wales are under threat of closure, social services and education go underfunded and the British Government can not contribute "match funding" for the most deprived areas of our country, yet can find £1500 million each year to pay for an illegal and obscene weapons system which is constantly ready to destroy the lives and environments of ordinary people all over the World.*

*It is time that those in power redefined the meaning of "security" and realised that it is about water, food and shelter, education, welfare and a sustainable environment for all. The British Trident nuclear weapons system threatens every one of these basic human rights."*



# Campaign Updates

## The UN Culture of Peace and Non Violence: proclaimed in Wales

The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales (Cymdeithas Y Cymod) organised an inspiring day of events and entertainment for the Launch of the UN's 'Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non Violence for the Children of the World' on December 6th 1999. The day also celebrated the life and deeds of the Welsh peace campaigner George Maitland Lloyd Davies who died tragically in 1948.

At the event, a group of sixth formers from the Cardiff area performed a musical based on the life of George Davies. A sixth form discussion on war and the building of peace, covering issues of the arms trade, nationalism, violence, weapons of mass destruction, the media and education was ably facilitated by Gary Owen. Later, a commemorative tree for George Davies was planted in the Temple of Peace Garden (see photograph). In the afternoon, a meeting was addressed by Aled Edwards, National Assembly Worker for CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), David Morris, Chair of CND Cymru and Elnora Ferguson, Vice President of the National Peace Council and member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.



Planting a tree in memory of George M.L.I. Davies.  
Left to Right: Parch.E.H. Griffith, Nia Rhosier, Awel Irene, Parch.Alma Roberts

More events based around the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non Violence are planned.

## Campaign launch at Hinkley

In February, Hinkley Point A, the Magnox nuclear power station on the coast of Somerset celebrated its 35th birthday. At a successful meeting in Bridgewater a new campaign to Shut Hinkley A was launched. Hugh Richards of the Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance spoke of the design problems of Magnox reactors:

- the reactors were not designed to meet modern standards - We do not know how to quantify the risk from the Magnox Stations
- Magnox stations were designed to have an operating life of 20 years
- Hinkley Point A reactors share the embrittlement problem which led to the closure of Trawsfynydd almost 9 years ago
- The most vulnerable parts of the Reactor Pressure Vessels at Hinkley Point A have now received greater neutron bombardment than at Trawsfynydd
- The most serious accident possible at Hinkley Point A is now considerably more severe than the design basis accident

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- There are no emergency plans to protect the public from such an accident.

BNFL have announced the closure of the Magnox nuclear power station Bradwell in Essex by March 2002, as they can not justify the huge costs to keep it running beyond that date. Interestingly, in a flourish of unbridled optimism, the company announced that decommissioning would take only about 4 years.

**heddwch action:** please put all your concerns about Hinkley A in writing to your MP and/or the Health and Safety Executive, Nuclear Safety Directorate, Rose Court, Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HS. Please send copies of any replies to Stop Hinkley Campaign: Jim Duffy, Rydon lodge, West Quantoxhead, Taunton TA4 4DW (01984) 632109

## Trident Ploughshares News

November was a bumper month for Faslane Peace Camp actions. This started with November 5, 'Torch Trident' action and party. Coulport was invaded, and both gates at Faslane were blocked for several hours. On Monday, 15th November a group of Trident Ploughshares activists managed to prevent workers entering the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Coulport, Loch Long, (where Britain's Trident nuclear warheads are stored) for over an hour. There were 13 arrests, mostly for 'Breach of the Peace'. Among those arrested were Morag Balfour and Roz Bullen, both Scottish wheel-chair users and long-time peace activists. Sylvia Boyes, Marjan Willemsen and Jenny Gaiwyn locked-on to three separate buses to blockade a second gate before being removed and arrested. This was Sylvia's second arrest that weekend and she and Jenny were due in court the following morning for a previous peace-related charge.

A Trident Ploughshares activist appearing in a Scottish court has claimed that the charge she faces, 'Breach of the Peace', is outlawed under the Scotland Act 1999. Pamela Smith challenged the charge itself on the basis that the European Convention on Human Rights, which has been incorporated into Scottish law as a result of devolution, rules out any criminal charge which does not specify the limits of acceptable behaviour. Breach of the Peace, traditionally a catch-all charge, plainly did not conform. JP Stirling took this claim seriously and adjourned the case pending a 'Diet of Debate' on 25th January 2000.

## The Lord Advocate Refers Greenock Ruling

The Lord Advocate of Scotland, who indicated last October that he would make a reference to the High Court of Justiciary in relation to the acquittal by Sheriff Margaret Gimblett of the "Trident Three" in Greenock Sheriff Court, has finally lodged the official referral papers. Ellen Moxley, Ulla Roder and Angie Zelter were acquitted of 'malicious mischief' estimated at £80,000 worth of damage, after they openly admitted they had thrown Trident-related equipment into Loch Goil. In acquitting them Sheriff Gimblett said that she could find no criminal intent in the women's action.

A 'Lord Advocate's reference', of which there are only five recorded instances, is a device whereby the Crown can seek a ruling on a particular case, when the point of law to be clarified will not otherwise be raised, e.g. at an appeal. There is no question of the acquittal being overturned. To date there is no information on the nature of the clarification sought, or of the date of the hearing. A Trident Ploughshares spokesperson said: "Unless the reference is merely technical, the hearing will provide another opportunity to demonstrate the unlawfulness of Britain's nu-



clear weapons policy and the solid justification under international humanitarian law for peaceful disarmament action against Trident."

The Danish Peace Tax Foundation has awarded their annual Peace Prize to Ulla and they covered her travel expenses! She has also been awarded the annual Peace Rose from the NeverMoreWar Group.

**heddwch action:** support Trident Ploughshares 2000 contacts: David Mackenzie 01324 880744 (07775711054) Jane Tallents 01436 679194 Trident Ploughshares 2000, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NR, phone: + 44 (0) 1324 880744 fax + 44 (0) 1436 677529 <http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/> email: [tp2000@gn.apc.org](mailto:tp2000@gn.apc.org)



## Barrow

Two Trident Ploughshares activists were arrested inside the VSEL dock at Barrow-in-Furness in November and appeared in Barrow Magistrates Court on a charge of conspiring to commit criminal damage. Sylvia Boyes, a peace campaigner from Birmingham, and River, a university lecturer from Manchester, had intended to swim across the dock and board the nuclear weapons submarine Vengeance, which was due to be commissioned the following Saturday. They were carrying with them disarmament equipment such as hammers, glue and spray-on varnish. Sylvia Boyes applied for and was refused bail. During the hearing she welcomed the description of her by the Prosecutor as a "dedicated peace activist". A Trident Ploughshares spokesperson said: "This vessel and all parts of the Trident system are illegal. We will continue to act to disarm it, even if this means swimming in dirty freezing water in the middle of the night and going to prison."

## Aldermaston Women in Court

In January, at the Lancaster Crown Court, the Judge decided that the trial of Rosie James and Rachel Wenham for an indeterminate value of damage to Trident nuclear submarine Vengeance could not proceed. Originally, Rosie and Rachel had been charged with causing £25000 worth of damage when they swam into Barrow Docks on February 1st 1999 and decorated and damaged "Vengeance" a British Trident Submarine. Over two and a half days, the prosecution procrastinated and avoided bringing clear evidence to substantiate a fourfold rise in the value of the damage. Estimates of the value have ranged from zero to almost £1million. The trial was eventually halted when it became apparent that the lack of substance and vagueness of prosecution evidence demanded independent assessment. As this would mean a substantial delay, a new jury was deemed necessary. Vera Baird, Barrister for the defence said "The sequence of misleading estimates as to the value of the damage leads us to suspect that we cannot rely on a word that is said by Marconi or the Crown." A spokeswoman from Aldermaston Women Trash Trident said "We stand by our disarmament action but we will challenge unsubstantiated claims made by the prosecution."



**heddwch action:** to offer financial or other support contact Aldermaston Women Trash Trident 07808 553 778 email: [awtt@hotmail.com](mailto:awtt@hotmail.com)

## Helen John does it again

### Jury backs granny's anti-nuclear graffiti (Guardian)

Helen John has been found guilty of criminal damage after she painted "Ban Trident" "No Star Wars" and "Ban depleted uranium weapons" on the House of Commons. But the jury handed the judge a note condoning Helen's actions. Judge Henry Blacksell QC, read the note out at Middlesex crown court. "We are unanimously agreed that the defendant had reasonable cause for her actions," He told the jurors: "You can take it I can understand that ... and will be true to it." The judge deferred sentence for six months and gave Helen a conditional discharge provided she remained of 'good behaviour' in that time. He told Ms John, who has 23 previous convictions for similar or related offences: "You made it quite clear during your evidence, the deeply held convictions which you have and your determination to continue ... nothing I say, whether it is sad, good or bad ... is going to alter that. ... But I have a duty to the public to ensure that no further damage is committed."

Helen denied breaking the law and insisted that the public owned the Palace of Westminster and had the public known what she was doing, it would have consented. Riel Karmy-Jones, prosecuting, told the court that despite a "£4,500 clean-up of the graffiti, ghost outlines of the slogans remained and the damage was probably irreparable". Helen was involved in setting up the peace camp at Greenham in 1981 and five years ago set up the women's camp at Menwith Hill, the biggest US spy base in the world. A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's department said it was unusual for a jury to convict a defendant, then condone their actions, but he was unable to say whether the case had set legal precedent.

## Menwith Hill

The Secretary of State for Defence; Defence Land Agent, and RAF Liaison Officer at NSA Menwith Hill had applied for a Writ lodged by Peace campaigner Lindis Percy to try and stop work on the American Space Based Infra Red System (SBIRS) NSA at Menwith Hill in Yorkshire be struck out on the grounds of Abuse of Process of the Court. However, Master Tennant ruled that the Application be denied and that now Lindis Percy must re-amend the Writ and submit it to him for permission to go ahead with a full trial in front of a Judge. The down-side was that he awarded the Defence's Costs of £4,500 against Lindis. These Costs must be paid in full within two months before the Writ can be put in front of Master Tennant again. Lindis Percy said "this writ has cost us a lot so far and £4,500 is a huge amount although it seems a small price to pay to try and stop the new Star Wars from operating here in the Britain!" Already the concrete bases have been constructed for the two new radomes which are intended to house the SBIRS satellite dishes and equipment for the SBIRS European Ground Relay Station (a crucial part of the American National Missile Defense system also known as 'Son of Star Wars'). It is being paid for by the US government, operated and controlled by Americans, and condoned by the UK government. It has never been debated in the British Parliament. It is unlawful, undemocratic, dangerous and unwanted!

**heddwch action:** donations to help pay the £4,500 costs and enable the women to continue with the writ will be thankfully received! . Cheques to CAAB (Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases). c/o Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases 8 Park Row, Otley, W. Yorkshire, LS21 1HQ, England Phone/fax no: 01943 466405



# The New Agenda Coalition and the Nuclear Non - Proliferation Treaty

In 1995 at the United Nations in New York, the minority of Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) forced the majority Non-Nuclear Weapons States (NNWS) to agree to extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) indefinitely.

However, many of the NNWS and the majority of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) felt that the five 'declared' NWS had dominated international disarmament discussions for far too long and did not believe the NWS had any intention of abiding by their commitment to negotiate nuclear disarmament "in good faith".

Important concessions were squeezed from the NWS based on the Canadian theme of "permanence with accountability". Firstly, a programme of action to help achieve a world free of nuclear weapons would be implemented by 2000, which would be promoted and implemented by all NPT member states. Secondly, the treaty's implementation would undergo a five yearly review process.

A combination of reluctance to relinquish possession of nuclear weapons, based on the belief that they provide the ultimate national security, and generally deteriorating international relations has resulted in minimal progress and maximum frustration. In reality, the NWS think that gradualist non-proliferation measures can be equated with nuclear disarmament while the NNWS think that nuclear disarmament is incompatible with nuclear deterrence.

A group of NNWS, the New Agenda Coalition (NAC), have jointly published some serious, practical proposals for global nuclear disarmament. Many campaigners for nuclear disarmament regard the NAC favourably as a practical means of breaking the log jam. The United States, Britain and France have reacted very badly to the NAC resolutions with very un-diplomatic language and political pressure.

In October last year, the New Zealand Representative introduced a draft 'New Agenda Resolution for a Nuclear-Weapon-free World' to the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) at the United Nations. Britain welcomed the willingness of the NAC to discuss and amend the text of the resolution, agreed with much of the content and then said it was going too far and too fast, particularly with reference to de-mating of warheads from delivery vehicles as it incompatible with a 'credible minimum deterrent'. 'Precisely so', campaigners would argue! France denounced many of the measures and considered the overall approach "dangerous" while the US saw no need for a 'new' agenda at all. In the event 13 states led by the US, Britain and France voted against the NAC resolution, with 37 abstentions and 90 votes in favour. There is clearly a developing division in the face of such determined intransigence with most member states of NATO abstaining.

Foreign Office Minister Peter Hain recently made some very positive comments in a back-bench debate on Weapons of Mass Destruction and praised, indirectly, the work of Parliamentary Labour CND. He also said that

heddwch 8

"the main instrument for preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" and that "we shall work hard in the next few months to prepare for the conference of states that are party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in April and May." A senior diplomat from the "majority" (developing) World told me in New York in 1995 that the nuclear weapons states would not make any substantial moves towards nuclear disarmament unless, and until, the ordinary people of those countries made their collective voices heard. Perhaps we could all start with a letter to Peter Hain MP, then letters to our MPs, then...

Nigel Chamberlain CND Press Officer

**heddwch action:** From April 24th - 19th May the NPT Review Conference will take place in New York. CND will be lobbying at all levels of government to encourage Britain to work vigorously for the abolition of nuclear weapons. This lobbying needs to include letters from individuals to MPs, Ministers and the Prime Minister. We are asking the PM to take a hands - on approach to disarmament, not just by repeating the same 'stale' position, by making productive changes in Britain's stance on disarmament. At the NPT conferences there is always huge activity, lobbying and the offering of information to delegates by the international peace movement. CND will be there.

More information on lobbying your MP and Ministers is available from CND, 162, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ. (0171) 700 2393.

#### Useful addresses:

**Your MP**, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA <http://www.parliament.uk>

**Prime Minister Tony Blair MP**, 10, Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA. <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/index.html>

**Geoff Hoon MP**, Secretary of State for Defence, Ministry of Defence,

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

**Robin Cook MP**, Foreign Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth (F&C) Office, London SW1A 2AH <http://www.fco.gov.uk> & Peter Hain (F&C Minister), and Donald Anderson (Chair, Foreign Affairs Select Committee)



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UNSUCCESSFUL MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION  
...PLEASE ACCEPT THIS RETIREMENT GIFT..

## The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

This was first signed in 1969 by the US, USSR and Britain and since by 177 other nations. The original intention of the NPT was to stop the spread of nuclear weapons to other countries by helping states who agreed to give up the idea of obtaining nuclear weapons and assisting them to develop nuclear power programmes. States who already had nuclear weapons agreed not to pass on the technology to anyone else and agreed to make serious efforts to get rid of their nuclear weapons, agreeing to cut down their own weapons and to negotiate a global ban. In 1995 the NPT was extended and reviewed. CND, along with other NGOs and other "developing" countries argued for a limited extension to the Treaty so that nuclear weapons states could be pressured into disarming and agreeing to a global ban. The nuclear weapons states put economic pressure on many poorer countries to vote for an indefinite extension, and got their way. Only a few weeks after this vote, France & China began testing new nuclear weapons.



## UN Resolution 1284 Keeping Iraq in Madeline Albright's box?

International pressure for lifting non-military sanctions against Iraq has increased in recent months because the continuing US/British air strikes on Iraq are opposed by the other three permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Prospects for a quick way out of the impasse on economic sanctions dimmed last September after diplomats at the UN failed to gain a decision on a future policy towards Iraq. Eventually the five veto-wielding members of the Security Council met in London where it was agreed that no vote would be allowed to take place unless the USA and Britain were assured that Russia and China would not exercise their veto powers. This was finally achieved on the 17th December 1999 when UN Resolution 1284 was passed with four abstentions: Russia, China, France and Malaysia.

This new resolution would suspend sanctions on Iraq after 120 days of co-operation with a new weapons inspection body UNMOVIC. However, Britain has fought to keep the definition of "co-operation" deliberately vague.

### France

Alain Dejammet, French representative on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) said that the resolution contained an "unknown" and an "ambiguity", both of which should have been resolved. The "unknown" was that the detail of the financial mechanism had not been specified. The "ambiguity" pertained to the criteria for the suspending and lifting of sanctions, which allowed for different interpretations. He went on to say that there was a refusal to break the isolation of the Iraqi population; that sanctions were targeting the ordinary people of Iraq, and that the Security Council could not abandon its responsibility in the face of this real humanitarian disaster.

### Russia

Sergey Lavrof the Russian UNSC representative said, when talking about the previous weapons inspection programme UNSCOM, that blame for the delay in completing the inspection programme and obtaining Iraqi compliance lay in the actions of the United States and Britain which had circumvented the Council. The Security Council had not authorised the no-fly zones or the subversion against the Iraqi government. Such illegal unilateral actions must be halted; the repetition of the previous situation was unacceptable.

Such illegal unilateral actions must be halted; the repetition of the previous situation was unacceptable.

### China

Qin Huasun of China said during the UNSC debate that UNSCOM, under the leadership of its former executive chairman, had concealed information from the Security



Council, deceived and misled the Council and even acted without Council authorisation.

## US Imperialism

The US Secretary of State Madeline Albright commenting on UN Resolution 1284 in a recent NBC interview said: "I think that we still continue to have the possibility that we've had before of taking unilateral or multilateral action if we need to". "I think we are on the right track in terms of keeping them in the box, of working with the opposition and working towards regime change, and making quite clear to the neighbouring countries and to the rest of the world and our partners at the United Nations that what Saddam Hussein is doing is unacceptable." The Security Council resolutions on Iraq could have suspended non-military sanctions. If Iraq could not see light at the end of the tunnel, why would it comply and co-operate?

In the meantime the US and British Governments continue with the bombing campaign of terror, and the Iraqi children continue to die in their thousands every month from the impact of the economic sanctions.

## Early Day Motion 252

Alan Simpson MP recently tabled the following early day motion (EDM 252). Please write to your MP, enclosing the text of the EDM, and encourage them to add their signature.

"That this house regrets that British and American forces continue to fire over 100 missiles a month at targets inside Iraq and have done so throughout the whole of last year; questions the moral and military value of this approach and of the £4.5 million a month which it costs the UK to pursue it; and urges the Government to end the bombing, lift the sanctions and redirect expenditure towards the tragedy of child mortality in Iraq which has doubled in the nine years since sanctions were imposed."

Dave Rolstone

**heddwch action:** contact Wales Voices in the Wilderness, Dave Rolstone, Hamdden, Efailwen, Clynderwen SA66 7UZ (01994) 419678, CND Cymru Vice Chair Ray Davies (see contacts) or British Voices in the Wilderness: 16b, Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG (01865) 243232 (please note change in address and telephone number).

## Trecwn

At the Nuclear Free Zones 1999 AGM, BNFL's director of Decommissioning called Omega Pacific's plans for the storage of nuclear waste at Trecwn "half-baked". The Nuclear Free Zones received a letter from Omega Pacific which suggested that they had abandoned these plans. Following the Lobby of the National Assembly Members (AMs) with postcards by CND Cymru and Pembrokeshire Anti Nuclear Alliance, 37 AMs have now signed the "Statement of Opinion" opposing the storage of nuclear waste at Trecwn.

It has been rumoured that a Government Department is seriously considering that Trecwn is to be used as the British Nuclear Waste Store. The campaign is not over.

**heddwch action:** thanks to all who sent postcards to their AMs at the end of last year. Please send copies of your replies to Paul Hawkes, Hafan Deg, Penrhiw, Llandudoch SA43 3HH (01239) 614 856





# news round-up

## BNFL losses too great to meter at Wylfa

As we go to press, both reactors at Wylfa nuclear power station on Ynys Mon remains closed and offline, losing BNFL £2.5million a week. In January, a mechanical grab inside one of the reactors 'became disengaged from the fuel element it was carrying', followed by an electrical fault in the second reactor's control instruments. The company admitted spending millions of pounds in recent years on the nuclear power plant. BNFL, who own the power station, were very keen to emphasise that there was no danger to the public and that 500 people were employed at Wylfa.

## Coming soon to a quiet afternoon in Wales near you: new low flying bombers

A £1 billion upgrade to the Tornado aircraft will allegedly allow the enemy to be approached without detection at 8 miles a minute. The new aircraft has been described as a "far deadlier and stealthier bomber".

Those of us in rural Wales regularly overflowed by these monstrous killing machines can be fairly sure that we will be able to detect their presence - whether we feel they are friend or foe. It may not give us ground-lubbers much confidence to know that the aircraft upgrade is to lengthen the life of Tornado aircraft from 20 to 40 years. Even more chilling to those of us terrorised by the tricks of the obscene low flying military aircraft, there are plans to replace these Tornado aircraft in 2020 by unmanned (yes folks, look no pilot) aircraft. Those of us living in areas of Britain overflowed by such horrors are also dreading the advent of the Eurofighter (Typhoon) within the next 3 years. Quite apart from the terror these aircraft inflict upon their enemies and those of us coping with living under their playgrounds, the new Tornado is reported to burn half a ton of fuel before it even leaves the ground. This makes the ordinary citizen's puny efforts to conserve energy and reduce pollution seem a bit of a joke. Oh yes, the windows shake and our brains scream with the noise, the animals bolt and how the MoD are laughing at us! (Please keep complaining: MoD Low Flying Complaints (0171)218 6020)

## BNFL: uneconomic, dangerous and economic with the truth

BNFL is currently awaiting Government permission to proceed with the plutonium commissioning and full operation of the £300m Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP). SMP is designed to take plutonium recovered in THORP and combine it with fresh uranium to form mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel. BNFL is seeking to develop markets for this fuel world-wide, but especially in Japan and Germany. The plutonium in MOX, however, is relatively easy to separate from the fuel, requiring only reasonably well equipped laboratories rather than complicated and expensive plants used to reprocess spent fuel, such as THORP. Thus any trade in MOX poses serious risks of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

It would obviously make sense for BNFL to stop reprocessing as soon as possible and thereby cease adding to the plutonium stockpile held at Sellafield and currently standing at over 55 tonnes. However, something has to be done with this

stockpile and one possible way forward is to immobilise it in glass, perhaps along with high level waste (HLW) to further hamper recovery of the plutonium. SMP could be adapted to undertake this role. Moreover, last October it was found that BNFL employees had falsified quality control sheets for MOX

fuel produced in the small MOX Demonstration Facility (MDF) at Sellafield and destined for Japan. This scandal makes it highly unlikely that BNFL will now be able to develop the MOX market they

need in Japan, which is central to the economic viability of SMP. SMP is thus highly vulnerable.

Dave Andrews

**heddwch action:** A number of MPs are sponsoring an early day motion (EDM 323) urging the Government to undertake a comprehensive review of immobilisation options prior to public consultation on the issue. Please ask your MP to support EDM323: Nuclear safety and the need for Plutonium immobilisation alternatives. For

the full text of the EDM please contact Nigel Chamberlain, CND, 162, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ (0171) 700 2393

## Camp Bondsteel - the USA in Yugoslavia

As NATO's ambitions extend further and further eastward, a huge US military base is under construction in the Balkans. Up to 52,000 people are involved in the construction of "Camp Bondsteel", situated between Ferizaje and Gjlane in southern Kosova. The base is being built by the US company, Brown and Root, a subsidiary of the US company, Halliburton Industries, well known for their association with the US military.

Camp Bondsteel is said to be the largest US military facility the US has built from the ground-up since Vietnam. Local people working there have been sworn to secrecy and virtual isolation from the outside world. It is gigantic, covering 775 acres, costing US \$36.6 million, and has every convenience and facility needed for its 6,300 US soldiers, including two chapels and a mobile *Burger King*. The way the base is being constructed is said to be indicative of a multi-year engagement with wider-than-Kosovo aims.

What is the US interest in Kosova? What long term strategic aims does this huge investment serve? How is it possible to build such a facility on territory, which, according to concurrent legal judgement - and all UN resolutions, belongs to the sovereign, recognised state of Yugoslavia?

**heddwch action:** find out more: contact: Committee for Peace in the Balkans c/o Alice Mahon MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA phone: 0171 275 0164 email [committee@peaceinbalkans.freemove.co.uk](mailto:committee@peaceinbalkans.freemove.co.uk) web site [www.peaceinbalkans.freemove.co.uk](http://www.peaceinbalkans.freemove.co.uk)

## Acting President of Russia - posturing?

The Kremlin, with its new acting President Vladimir Putin, has underscored its darkening view of the West by lowering the nuclear threshold, making the first use of nuclear weapons more likely in any military engagement. The new strategy can only be seen as a response to the actions of an expansionist Europe and United States. The strategy document states that Russia would contemplate the use of nuclear weapons in war "if other means of resolving the crisis have been exhausted." The revised language governing





nuclear weapons is a subtle but unmistakable stiffening of the previous strategy, issued in 1997, which allowed the use of nuclear arms "only in case of a threat to the existence of the Russian Federation." During the Cold War, the policy of the United States was never to renounce the first use of nuclear arms, but to counter a Russian invasion of Europe with nuclear force, if necessary. Russia had renounced the first use of nuclear missiles for some years but, worried about China, abandoned the pledge in 1993. By then, however, it viewed itself as an ally of the West.

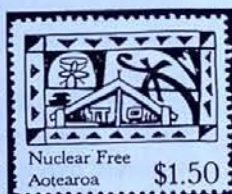
International military experts have warned that Russia is forced to rely more and more on its nuclear force to 'deter' threats because its conventional forces are no longer able to repel an outsider. That requires keeping nuclear arms on high alert, and that invites mistakes. Russia's early-warning system is so decayed that Moscow is allegedly now unable to detect United States intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launches for at least seven hours a day and can no longer spot missiles fired from US submarines at all. Observers of Moscow's space program believe that at most, only four of Russia's 21 early-warning satellites are still working. With elections in view, the politicians may be posturing for their electorate.

It is rumoured that Russia could be prepared to cut back the number of its strategic nuclear war heads from 4,000 to 1,500, provided the United States drop its plans for a national missile defence system. Yet, President Putin has promised to raise defence spending by 57% and Russia is currently producing new Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missiles. President Clinton has promised a defence budget increase of \$112 billion over the next 6 years and Britain and the US are developing new Trident nuclear warheads.

Meanwhile, no progress has been made on international arms control discussions since 1995 and the NPT Review Conference in New York in April may well collapse under these pressures. It is urgent that nuclear disarmament be pursued in good faith as agreed under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as originally signed in 1969 and reviewed and extended in 1995.

## Nuclear Free New Zealand - an anti-nuclear Prime Minister

Helen Clark has been elected as second woman Prime Minister of Aotearoa/New Zealand. As a long-time proponent of nuclear abolition, with commitment to the New Zealand Labour Party policy of promoting a Nuclear Weapons Convention, the New Agenda Coalition and the goals of Abolition 2000, she is keen to take an active part in the NPT talks in April. New Zealand's new Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Matt Robson, affirmed the intention of Prime Minister Helen Clark's administration to vigorously pursue the cause of nuclear disarmament and expressed concern over the current stalemate on nuclear disarmament, partly brought about by nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, delays in negotiations over US-Russian reductions, and foot-dragging by the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. The new government is now seeking to cancel a deal with the US to lease F16 jet fighters. Congratulations to the wise voters of nuclear free New Zealand!



## Nuclear legacies In the Pacific

France is pulling out of Mururoa and Fangatufa after 37 years during which it exploded 193 nuclear bombs, severely contaminating the atolls and compromising the fragility of the atoll ecology. Environmental campaigners welcomed the decision of the military to leave but warned that the 193 nuclear tests between 1963 and 1996 had left a legacy of fractures which could cause a major tsunami (tidal wave). French nuclear officials declared last year that no long-term damage had been caused by testing. Yet, in a statement described by Greenpeace as an "extraordinary admission", Admiral Jean Moulin, commander of French forces in Polynesia, expressed a lack of confidence in the research findings and admitted that he was afraid that the cracks could collapse, causing tidal waves. Rod Donald, a leading protester against French nuclear testing, said he wished this was "the final chapter in a very bad story". "But I'm afraid the legacy of French irresponsibility will live on," he said. "Typically, the people who pay the price and will continue to do so live half a world away from Paris."

## Bactrians not bombs at Lop Nor



China's nuclear test site at Lop Nor has been officially shut down and turned into a sanctuary for the rare Bactrian camel. Lop Nor is a desolate and barren area the size of Germany, situated to the north of Tibet. The chief inhabitants of the area are 400 wild Bactrian camels, which had survived nuclear explosions, only to be threatened by hunters. It is the first such reserve ever to be set up on an atomic bomb test site. The two-humped wild Bactrians are thought to be the last representatives of the herds from which all the world's camels are descended. They live on salt water, dry grass and tamarisks growing around the salt springs. The one-humped dromedaries of North Africa and the Middle East are believed to have evolved from them. A single hump equips them better to withstand extreme heat. At least 45 atmospheric explosions are known to have been carried out over the area, before the tests went underground. Testing stopped completely in 1996. The desert is highly contaminated, and our fears are for the camels and their very limited diet. The setting up of the sanctuary is partly the result of a long campaign by John Hare, a retired British civil servant.

## The tragedy continues at Tokaimura

Thirty-five year old Hisashi Ouchi, a worker involved in Japan's worst nuclear accident at the Tokaimura nuclear reprocessing plant, has died in hospital. He had remained in a critical condition since his exposure to 17,000 times the permitted annual dose of radiation on September 30th 1999. Another worker, Masato Shinohara, 39, remains in hospital. An investigation found that the men broke regulations when they mixed dangerously large amounts of treated uranium in metal buckets, setting off a nuclear reaction. This is only the tip of the iceberg, it will take years for radiation linked cancers and genetic damage to show; many victims of the accident will not yet have been born. In January, the residents of Tokaimura, where one-third of jobs are related to the nuclear industry, appointed an anti-nuclear activist to the town assembly.



# A letter to Wales from Mordechai Vanunu

Dear Robin Attfield,

Thank you very much for your supportive post-card of August 7, 1999. I have been receiving a few letters from Wales, and others from all over the British Isles. I very much appreciate this support and interest in my case. I hope that my case is also helping British citizens to be more active in the cause of achieving, the abolition of nuclear weapons in Britain and NATO. [At this point a censor has helpfully inserted a red exclamation mark in the margin.] What matters is not only my suffering here in prison for 13 years, and in solitary; the main issue is that nuclear weapons still exist in Israel, plus the crime of the government of Israel in kidnapping me.

It is interesting to hear from you about the subject of "environmental philosophy", and what philosophers have to say on environmental problems. It is clear that the main global problem for all world citizens now, in the age of "the End of History", comprises environmental problems exclusively. It has become one Earth for all the citizens of the planet, and all the citizens have become one race of human beings, with one single ideology: belief in democracy, liberty and freedom. So what is left for people is seemingly to protect this earth with all its resources; even nuclear weapons are not, supposedly, threatening the world, because there are no enemies and there will be no future wars. Yet we cannot live or co-exist when nuclear weapons are still here. Meanwhile the new huge development industries right across the world will have to deal with all the environmental problems.

So my view is that Israel first of all needs to abolish all nuclear weapons and to open the Dimona reactor. The same is needed in Britain and all the world before we can start dealing with environmental problems, we should end the danger of nuclear weapons; because nuclear weapons are in our hands, we can abolish or stop producing them. Environmental problems come after that. They are the results of human living and working and producing: needs for life, all of them. But nuclear weapons are not necessary at all.

So, many thanks to the people of Wales, and good wishes for a successful campaign to end nuclear weapons in Britain and Israel, just as they were ended in South Africa. Thank you, Yours sincerely, *Mordechai Vanunu* 17th August 1999 (Vanunu's letter was postmarked 'Tel-Aviv, 30/9/99'. The text has been slightly edited by the recipient.)



## Israel has 200-300 nuclear weapons

Mordechai Vanunu is serving his 14th year in an Israeli prison as a prisoner of conscience. In 1986 he was kidnapped and imprisoned for telling the world about Israel's nuclear arsenal. His trial was conducted in secret. His sentence: 18 years, for challenging the barriers of secrecy and deceit surrounding the Israeli Government. On November 24th 1999, portions of the 1988 trial transcript finally became public, due to a petition filed by one of Israel's largest-selling newspapers, Yediot Ahronot. These articles have touched off a furore in Israel, and have finally sparked a public debate about Israel's policy of nuclear secrecy. The first ever debate in the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) on the issue of Israel's nuclear policy took place in February this year. A Member of the Knesset revealed that Israel has between 200 and 300 nuclear weapons and is currently buying submarines from Germany from which to launch them. Israel has refused to sign the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, because enforcement would require international inspection of its Dimona reactor, where, as Vanunu revealed in 1986, weapons grade plutonium has been secretly produced since the 1960s.

**heddwch action:** Messages of support are always very welcome to Mordechai. Please keep writing to Mordechai Vanunu at Ashkelon Prison, Ashkelon, Israel. As we go to press Vanunu is expecting a Parole hearing. For news of this contact CND Cymru or The Campaign for Vanunu and a Nuclear Free Middle East, (89, Borough High Street, London SE11NL (0171) 378 9324 email: Vanunu@innocent.com)

## My nuclear nightmares continue

### Nuclear expansion

The Czech Republic is about to commission a new nuclear power station 40 miles from the Austrian border. Work on this power plant, started in 1980 with Soviet designed reactors, has been completed with EU financial and technical encouragement. This is the only new nuclear power plant being opened in Europe within the foreseeable future. However, Westinghouse, a US company owned by British Nuclear Fuels is currently bidding for the contract to build a nuclear power station at Akkuyu Bay, on the Mediterranean coast of earthquake-prone Turkey.

### Nuclear decommissioning

Other EU countries are looking towards the decommissioning of their nuclear industries. Lithuania is closing one of its large reactors by 2005 and is deciding on the future of a second in 2004. Bulgaria has announced that it is to negotiate the closure of its nuclear power plants. In Sweden, one reactor was shut down in November 1999 before its design life had expired. It is expected that Ger-

many will soon announce a programme for the closure of its 19 nuclear power reactors.

### Nuclear legacy

The demise of the nuclear power industry is all too evident in Europe at least. However, the legacy left by these power plants will give nightmares to our children and our children's children for centuries to come. The engineers and environmentalists of the future will be tearing their hair out to try and solve the problems created by dry stored nuclear waste, buried nuclear waste, radioactive isotopes in our seas and lakes and the continual movement and redeposition of radionucleides through the air, and in plant and animal tissues.

In the future, the people of our world will be asking themselves "What madness made our ancestors create an environment that is so very dangerous and who did they imagine would have to try and contain the lethal human made radionucleides?"

That is - if there will be humans alive in the next century.

Rod Stallard



# "Studying war no more" on Mynydd Epynt

Not many Welsh people know about the Welsh agricultural community that was uprooted from Cwm Cilieni on Mynydd Epynt in 1940; that the War Office took over 36,000 acres of mountain and that this part of Mynydd Epynt is still a military training area.

Since 1980, members of Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales) and others have been on an annual pilgrimage to Capel y Babell in Cwm Cilieni, even though the chapel was destroyed by the military a number of years ago. The cemetery around the chapel remains, and the site of the chapel is suitable to hold an open-air service.

Three years ago, a tourist-type notice board was erected on the site of the chapel with a statement in English only. Many of the pilgrims were uncomfortable with the words on the sign and made an application to the military authorities to change the message. It was felt that the message should be bilingual with Welsh being prominent. A statement on the notice which said "...benefited those who came here early in the 1940s" was considered to be inaccurate because many soldiers who trained there later died in conflict. A reference to the 'Falklands war' is unacceptable because no church or chapel has been erected anywhere in Wales to celebrate military victory. After 3 years of correspondence, a message was received from the military chaplain to the "Sennybridge Training Range" that the new Commandant, Colonel Butler was prepared to receive a deputation from Cymdeithas y Cymod to discuss the possibility of changing the message on the site of Capel Babell.

At that meeting which took place on 11th October 1999, the statement below, with the Welsh version first, followed by a religious quotation was discussed. The Colonel said that he'd need more time to consider the inclusion of "and they shall study war no more", but after agreeing that every chapel and church, and every Christian symbol, wherever it is, signifies the ideal of reconciliation and peace, he agreed that it should stand. Colonel Butler then accepted our request that the sign should be permanent, stating a preference for Welsh slate. He offered to take the responsibility of obtaining estimates for engraving the slate, and arranging and paying for the installation of the inscribed slate in its place. The only difficulty was that he could not provide the resources to pay the estimated £400 for the work of the stone mason. However, the working party of Cymdeithas y Cymod have agreed to accept responsibility for this and it is very likely that many readers and others will be keen to contribute to this worthy cause. We hope that the work will be completed in the near future and we expect no opposition. The Colonel stated that, as the officer responsible for the safety of visitors, he would like notice of the intention of Cymdeithas y Cymod to make official visits to Cilieni, and the committee has agreed to respect this request. The bilingual message is as follows:

*The site of Capel y Babell, built by the Calvinistic Methodists in 1857 and which became the religious, cultural and social centre of the Welsh-speaking community of over 200 people dwelling in Cwm Cilieni until 1940, when the War Office took possession of this part of Mynydd Epynt to become a training area for the army.*

*...and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Isaiah 2.4*

Dewi W. Thomas. (Canon) Rhydaman (01269) 594 986



## Memories of a newly nuclear free Wales February 23rd 1982

Clwyd, being the last county to cast its councillors' votes, a crowd of us went to Mold to make sure that the councillors did the right thing - they did! It was a bitterly cold day. Someone passed a message round that we could get reviving hot coffee in Theatre Clwyd, and Gwen (Robson) and I passed this on to R.S.Thomas who was quite near us. He said lugubriously "I wish I could put my feet in it!"

After the announcement of the nuclear free zone vote, Gwen and I volunteered to take 'road signs' out to essential 'border' points. David (Robson) had made a splendid and rather heavy board, with Peter Lord's *Nuclear Free Wales/Cymru Ddi-Niwclear* on it, for us to put up on Chirk Bank. There's a road sign halfway up on the right hand side - so we tied our nuclear free sign to that initially. Then we started to worry a bit because it would mean drivers looking across the road as they entered Wales, and given the twistiness of the Chirk Bank road, and the heavy traffic, we decided this was a bit dangerous. So we undid the knots, with great difficulty because David had mounted the Nuclear Free Wales poster on good, heavy pressed board, used strong card and strong brass eyehole screws! The passing traffic, especially the lorry drivers had an

amusing few seconds seeing two elderly women struggling on the side of the road in the freezing cold.

Eventually, we took the sign and attached it to the usual inartistic ironwork "Welcome to Wales/Croeso i Gymru" sign on the left hand side. At least it was safe there and remained in position for a short period. Later someone produced a publication with a photograph of our Nuclear Free Wales sign, which had appeared in a Japanese newspaper!

Lib Rowland Hughes

**heddwch action:** the 18th Anniversary of the first Declaration of Nuclear Free Wales may have been celebrated on

February 23rd, but it's never too late to send a postcard to your County Councillor or County Council Chairperson to congratulate them on their wisdom of belonging to the Nuclear Free Zones Forum. If you live in Conwy, Wreccsam, Blaenau Gwent or Monmouth please write and urge your council to affiliate to the Nuclear Free Zones Forum. More information from Nuclear Free Local Authorities c/o Nuclear Policy & Information Unit, Town Hall, Manchester M60 2LA (0161) 234 3244 or Wales Nuclear Free Forum, Keith Davies, Emergency Planning, Municipal Building, Llewellyn Street, Pentre CF41 7XW or CND Cymru.





## Diary Dates

March 24th Public Meeting to mark 1st anniversary of NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. Committee for Peace in the Balkans, contact in Wales: Steve Bell, 186, Channel View Road, Cardiff CF1 7HW (01222) 222978 or (0171) 275 0164

April 3rd 7pm Public Memorial Meeting to commemorate Henry Richard A Great Welsh Peace-maker and Parliamentarian. House of Lords, Westminster, London As part of the Decade to promote a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. Chair: Myriel Davies, British UNA ; Speakers: David Morris, CND Cymru; Rev. Ben Rees, Liverpool. Contact: Bruce Kent (0181) 340 6639

April 24th - May 19th Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) talks in New York (see story page 8 - and act!)

April 25th Abolition 2000 Statement 5th Anniversary Abolition 2000 is expected to announce that it now has 2000 organisations in the Abolition 2000 Global Network for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention have not begun despite repeated calls from the International Community, the United Nations General Assembly and the European Parliament. On the second day of the Nuclear Non proliferation talks in New York, activists will remind those assembled of their obligation to disarmament under that Treaty.

April 26th Chernobyl accident 14th Anniversary: Spoof Twinning Ceremony between Hinkley Point and Chernobyl & Evening Public Meeting .Speakers: Patrick Van Den Bulck, Chris Busby and Greenpeace. Details: for further information: Stop Hinkley, Jim Duffy (01984) 632109 or Val Davey (01460) 240241.

May 6th Day for the People of Iraq -Mariam Appeal contact Trish Meehan (0207) 8725451

May 13th, 2pm Public Meeting with Alan Jones of the Balkan Peace Team .At Capel y Graig, Machynlleth everybody welcome. (Alan is available to speak at other events contact Awel Irene (01766) 771 100)

May 18th - 25th Trident Ploughshares 2000 Camp at Aldermaston, England Contact TP2000: (01324) 880 744

May : 11.am date yet to be finalised - CND Cymru Cyngor Friends Meeting House, Temple Street, Llandrindod all members and delegates very welcome .For more information contact Sarah Isaacs see contacts

August 2000 National Eisteddfod, Llanelli -Welsh speaking (and learning) help needed in the CND Cymru tent for more information please contact Rod Stallard (see contacts).

### I want to join CND Cymru

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to CND Cymru  
waged couple: £16; adult: £12. Unwaged , pensioners and  
youth: £4 Please return to: CND Cymru Membership, 72, Heol  
Gwyn, Yr Alltwn, Pontardawe SA8 3AN

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## CND Cymru Contacts

heddwch Editor and General Enquiries  
Jill Stallard, Nantgaredig, Cyngorhdy, Llanymddyfri SA20 0LR  
(01550) 750 260 heddwch@fdn.co.uk



### Chair

David Morris, (01792) 206968

### Vice Chairs:

#### North Wales

Dave Andrews (01978) 310 491

#### Mid Wales

Olwen Davies (01970) 611994

Rod Stallard (01550) 750 260

#### South Wales

Ray Davies (01222) 889514

### Membership

Brian Jones, 72, Heol Gwyn, Yr  
Alltwn, Pontardawe SA8 3AN

### Affiliations:

Rhoda Jones (01766) 762739

### Trading

Jan Henderson (01792) 830 330

### Treasurer:

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

### Parliamentary Worker:

Sarah Isaacs, Bridgend Cottage,  
Llangammarch, Powys LD44ED

More information, ideas or  
offers of help?

Please contact your nearest  
CND Cymru Vice Chair.

Complaints about low level  
military flying : 'phone the  
MoD (0171) 218 6020

## An Apology

You may recently have been sent a letter from British CND asking you to renew your membership, even though you have a regular banker's order to CND Cymru. We would like to apologise for this mix up. On behalf of some CND Cymru members, British CND administer some long standing Bankers Orders all of which were due to expire in December 1999. They have recently introduced a new sophisticated membership database which highlighted that they did not have some of your banking details. We have now taken remedial steps to ensure this does not happen again and will adjust all of our records accordingly. If you did receive such a renewal letter, please ignore it. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in our aim to completely rid the world of all weapons of mass destruction.



heddwch (Heddwch is the Welsh for Peace)

The magazine of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Wales (CND Cymru). CND Cymru campaigns alongside many organisations both within Wales and internationally to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction, for peace and human and environmental justice. Comments, letters, articles are welcome - please contact the editor.

Edited and typeset by Jill Stallard (01550) 750260 (heddwch@fdn.co.uk)

Translated by Sian Edwards (sian@derwen.demon.co.uk)

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Packed by volunteers in Cardiff - to join this happy group, one afternoon every 23 months, please contact Brian Jones (01792) 830330.