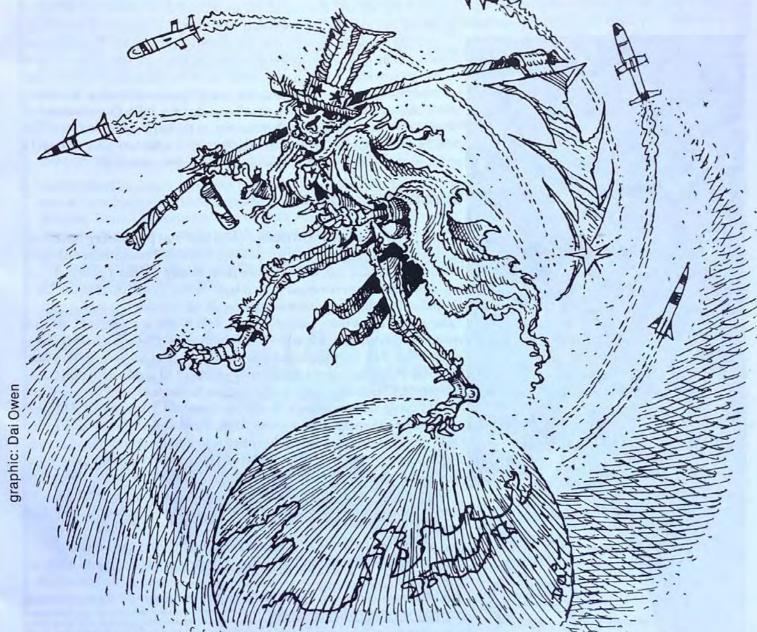
heddwch the magazine of CND Cymru

winter 2000-1

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stop USA's 'star wars' lunacy!



INSIDE: Clinton ducks the decision on US "missile defence" Ray Davies finds joy and happiness at Faslane Hiroshima and Nagasaki : never forgotten from Wales to Yugoslavia - a true story

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

Clinton ducks the issue but war preparations go ahead anyway

The Pentagon has delayed a decision on whether to proceed with the US NMD programme. It could now be a big factor in the forthcoming US presidential elections. Republican George Bush wants to proceed with an even bigger and 'better 'military agenda, while Democrat Gore is more circumspect. Opinion polls show that the American public opposes its deployment. The 2005 target date is pushed back by at least one year. Clinton had said that he would consider technical feasibility, cost, the urgency of the missile threat against the US and the impact on arms control. It is not clear which of these would carry most weight in any decision but he did say that he "lacks absolute confidence" in existing technology.



Pentagon officials are split over the desirability of NMD. Some say that there is a more immediate threat from nuclear weapons fired from ships or carried by terrorists and that concentration on the technology of NMD has ignored political, economic and social factors that could make a threat less likely. An article in 'The Progressive' says that the State Department has "done next to nothing to support the peace process taking place in East Asia. ... The problem is that peace in Korea upsets the Pentagon's apple cart [and destroys] a perfect bogeyman to drum up support for obscene defense spending".

International concern

US Defence Secretary, William Cohen said that persuading NATO allies to embrace the project is a top priority, and that it cannot succeed without them. He said, too, that pressure from **Britain** played a part in delaying the decision (so we must keep it up). Robin Cook has told the US it should not assume Britain's automatic support.

Russia, which has been publicly stating that NMD is a programme intended to give the U.S. a first strike capability, met Clinton's delay decision with a new call for massive elimination of nuclear weapons. President Vladimir Putin has called for new talks on a Start III arms reduction treaty but recently reminded the U.S. that further cuts would only be possible if the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty was honored. And, at the U.N.'s recent Millennium Summit in New York, Putin called for an end to the "militarisation of space." Putin has offered to host an international conference on preventing the militarisation of space in Moscow next year. President Clinton has stressed the importance of persuading Russia that NMD is not a threat to international stability.

Norway has asked for US protection against a possible Russian attack on its radar station.

The Australian Labour Party passed a resolution opposing NMD.

China has used the South East Asian Forum to vent its wrath about US plans.

If NMD were deployed, China, India and Pakistan would almost certainly increase their nuclear armouries.

Greenland wants to hear Russia's point of view and will not break the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The government of Denmark, whose consent to the use of the radar station at Thule in Greenland is crucial for NMD, has also expressed concern about breaching the ABM Treaty. Leading politicians

within Greenland do not want to be involved in NMD. Greenland is less inclined to trust the USA after it was recently revealed that an unexploded US nuclear bomb still lies on the seabed near Thule following the crash of a US B52 nuclear bomber in January 1968.

Despite Clinton deferring the decision on NMD, building work on foundations for the expanded US facilities at Fylingdales in Yorkshire are reported to be going ahead.

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What is US 'National Missile Defence' (NMD)?

The planned US NMD is a radar-controlled, anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system, designed to shoot down long-range, nuclear (or possibly chemical or biological) armed missiles which threaten the USA. Such systems are banned under the 1972 ABM Treaty between the former USSR and the USA. Part of the control system and radar will actually be sited at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales in Yorkshire and at Thule in Greenland.

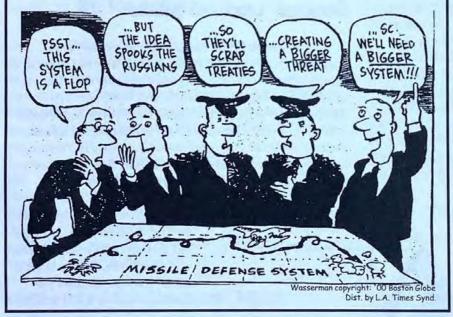
So what's wrong with that?

The fundamental objection is that if a state has both nuclear weapons and an ABM 'shield', it would wrongly believe that it couldn't be hit in retaliation. It would then be tempted to use its own weapons as a first strike and start a nuclear war. Realistically, no system can give full 'defensive' protection.

In addition the most obvious counter to an ABM system is for the 'enemy' state to set out to swamp it by increasing their long range missile capacity, by adding on multiple warheads or 'decoys'. They might also deploy weapons such as cruise missiles or short range missiles which cannot be stopped by an ABM system.

States with the scientific and technological resources to consider setting up an ABM system are those with nuclear weapons already. Therefore any attempt to set up such a system would be seen as hostlie rather than a simple defensive measure, more likely to provoke an arms race and increase international tension.

Such a system would make the radar and control systems in Britain and Greenland first strike targets for any "enemy" to the United States. It also undermines the so-called "principle of deterrence" which nuclear states use to justify their possession of nuclear weapons, saying that possession of such weapons will prevent attack. For more information, or a copy of The Key ABM Treaty Points please contact CND Cymru.



Helen on NATO

(the "Nuclear American Take Over")

Helen John has been arrested yet again to face charges of criminal damage, after an action earlier this year in which she wrote "No Star Wars," "Do Not Collude With Genocide," "Recognise International Humanitarian Law," "Ban Trident," "Free TP2000 Activists Angie, Ellen and Ulla" and "Ban Uranium Weapons" on the outside of the High Court in Edinburgh and the new parliament's visitors' centre. She is also facing prison for non-payment of fines arising from non-violent direct action at the Faslane and Coulport Trident nuclear bases.

Helen will also come to trial on the 30th and 31st of October with Anne Lee and Angie Zelter, charged with criminal damage at Menwith Hill. As a member of Trident Ploughshares 2000, she has pledged to continue taking non-violent direct action until Britain rids itself of its criminal and immoral nuclear weapons. Over the last ten years, Helen has spent a total of almost two years in prison. In a written address sent to a fringe meeting at the Labour Party Conference where she was to have spoken, Helen called for widespread civil disobedience in the face of preparations for the US "National Missile Defence" system. She said:

"My sincere wish is that events regarding the threat of a new nuclear-powered arms race in space will not be allowed to overtake us and the rest of the world...It is important to be clear about NATO. We must clearly identify it for what it is. In my view, NATO does not represent the best hope we have to implement the Non-proliferation Treaty, but is simply a Nuclear American Take Over.

One final word - we must passionately oppose Jack Straw's plans to remove trial by jury from all individuals who are involved in civil disobedience. If we are left to the mercy of the judges in this land, we will be in the same position the protesters found themselves in Nazi Germany. Our Home Secretary is aptly named - he is a man of straw. I think we the people can make him a broken reed."

heddwch aution! Helen John can be contacted c/oCat Euler (01943) 468 593

Comment

Recent blockades by road haulage companies and their supporters has illustrated the power of direct action (albeit with the compliance of big business and the police). However, the support these actions generated from the general public is an illustration of the social deficit in our society. People endorse these actions because any reduction in the price of fuel helps them personally. It suits Government and Big Business that generally people will think of themselves and their pockets and not of themselves as part of society and a wider world and its environment.

How do we convince people that mass support for direct action against nuclear weapons and militarism also helps them personally?

Rod Stallard

news round up

French call for a nuclear weapon for the European Union

It is of very serious concern that the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine has called for a joint nuclear weapons system for the European Union. Monsieur Vedrine stated that nuclear weapons were an "extreme guarantee of survival" and that "to assure the credibilty of dissuasion, there is need for a 'single' dissuader" (a euphemism for a Euro-bomb).

Commonwealth Office, London SW1A 2AH and ask for the British Government position on this statement.

Signs that the USA is preparing for war (and that Britain is to be its nuclear aircraft carrier again)

Nuclear bomb carrying "Stealth" aircraft described as "the most secretive, expensive and feared aircraft in the American airforce's arsenal" are to be based in Britain from next year. This first permanent increase in US military presence in Britain since the end of the Cold War has not been discussed in Cabinet or Parliament yet has been confirmed by the Ministry of Defence. Several Labour MPs including Peter Kilfoyle (Liverpool Walton), Ian Gibson (Norwich North) and Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow) have all expressed concern at the proposed presence of the bombers and the by-passing of parliamentary debate. Russian MPs are set to protest at the decision which will increase tension between Russia and the 'West'. US B52 bomber sorties from Fairford during the bombing of Yugoslavia last year. accounted for 45% of the bombs and missiles dropped by NATO. The US admits that Fairford has been favoured as a base for the Stealth bombers because of "its closeness to likely targets in the Balkans and the Middle East". The move is provocative and outrageous.

Downing Street London SW1A 2AA. Direct actions will be planned for Fairford, if you are interested please contact CND Cymru.

More signs of US war preparations

The US Senate has included a provision for fiscal year 2001 that would authorise research into a "mininuke" capable of burrowing up to 1,000 feet underground before exploding. Such a development would contravene both the Comprehensive Test Ban and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The weapon would be for use in 'conventionally' armed conflicts and against non-nuclear adversaries.

The Los Angeles Times expresses its concern that this is a major step in abandoning "all pretence that US nuclear forces exist only to deter war".

Martin Butcher of the Physicians for Social Responsibility and Theresa Hitchens commented:

"How can the world take seriously Washington's pledge, made during the May Non-Proliferation Treaty 2000 Review Conference, to make an "unequivocal undertaking" to work toward eliminating nuclear weapons, when at the same time U.S. officials are promoting new, more usable bombs?

Moreover, the United States has signed so-called negative security assurances — promising not to launch a nuclear attack on non-nuclear countries. Doesn't the development of a "mini-nuke" make a mockery of those promises?

Is the U.S. government really ready to overthrow the international consensus that nuclear war would be the ultimate disaster, just for the chance to drop a bomb on Saddam Hussein? Does such a policy make strategic sense for a peaceful 21st century?"

Ethical millstone dropped

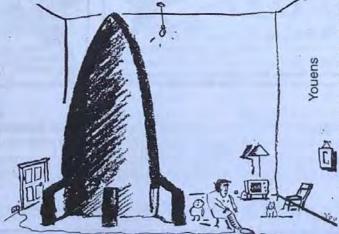
The Labour Party has decided to drop all references to an ethical foreign policy from its next general election manifesto because it has become a 'millstone' around the Government's neck. "It is an embarrassment as we could not live up to it", said one source. The phrase was coined within days of the Labour taking office in 1997, when Foreign Secretary Robin Cook announced that the Government would "make Britain once again a force for good in the world". More abandoned principles by Labour.

Target

Depleted uranium debate

Disagreements about the dangers of depleted uranium (DU) continue. While the Ministry of Defence (MoD) believes that it is extremely unlikely that there is any link between the use of DU and "Gulf war Syndrome", new evidence produced this September reveals that the opposite is true. Dr. Asaf Durakovic, a professor of nuclear medicine at Georgetown University in Washington has presented evidence, verified by four independent experts, suggesting that units who would have been exposed to DU particles have suffered most from the syndrome. This includes engineers who moved tanks hit

by DU, medical orderlies who cut clothes from Iraqi casualties and mechanics. Dr. Durakovic said:" I doubt whether the Pentagon or the MoD will have the audacity to challenge these results. I can't say that this is the solitary cause of Gulf War Syndrome, but we now have clear evidence that it is a leading factor ... I hope the US and UK governments finally realise that, by continuing to use this ammunition, they are



effectively poisoning their own soldiers as well as civilian populations".

Over 700,000 DU shells were fired during the "Gulf War". DU shells are tested on training grounds in Galloway where the area around the Dundrennan MoD ranges has one of the highest child cancer rates in Scotland. The Galloway Gazette commented:" Unfortunately, and in full sympathy with those veterans who have contracted the syndrome, the danger does not end on the battlefield. A government which has bombarded its own countryside with this deadly ammunition in the name of testing has inadvertently put civilians on the danger list too ".

headwar aution: the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU) International Conference on Depleted Uranium 4th - 5th November 2000 to be held in Manchester, is looking like it will be an extremely useful and informative meeting.

Contributors already confirmed include: Ray Bristow (British Gulf War Veteran), Dr Doug Rokke (US Army Radiation specialist), Dr Huda Ammash (geneticist, University of Baghdad), a representative of Vinca Nuclear Institute in Serbia, Dr. Rosalie Bertell (renowned epidemiologist), a representative of Vieques Libre!, Puerto Rico, Dr. Chris Busby, Jack Cohen Joppa (BAN DU), and Professor Malcolm Hooper (Chief Scientific Advisor to the British Gulf War veterans).

More information from Cat Euler, CADU, One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS, Tel: 0161 834 8176 Fax: 0161 834 8187, email: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

Nuclear submarines wasting life for nothing

The stricken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk was powered by a nuclear reactor and also carried nuclear warheads. Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov said a plan to raise at least the nuclear reactors, if not the entire submarine, could be undertaken within a year. Currently the reactor is shut down. Radioactive pollution is inevitable.

The Kursk is the fifth Russian nuclear submarine to sink. The US has lost two nuclear submarines. On April 10, 1963 an American nuclear submarine, the Thresher, sank in the North Atlantic, killing all 129 crewmen and on May 21, 1968 the American nuclear submarine, Scorpion, sank in the Atlantic near the Azores, killing 99 crewmen. What hapened to their nuclear reactors?

Final victory for Aleksandr Nikitin

The Presidium of the Russian Supreme Court dismissed the attempt to reverse the acquittal of environmentalist and whistleblower Aleksandr Nikitin on treason and espionage charges. The decision, reached on September 13th is final.

This is the first time in the history of the Russian Security Police (FSB), the successor of the KGB, that a person charged with high treason has been fully acquitted. The Nikitin case is over for good.

Nikitin is a nuclear engineer and retired submarine captain who helped write The Russian Northern Fleet:
Sources of Radioactive Contamination, a 1995 report produced by the Norwegian environmental group Bellona Foundation. The report warned that Russia's ageing nuclear submarines contain used nuclear fuel that could leak or explode.

On February 6th, 1996, the secret police arrested Nikitin, who had to spend the next 10 months in an FSB prison in St. Petersburg. Nikitin met the verdict with heartfelt relief: "Now I can focus on environmental work. The five-year ordeal is finally over." Frederic Hauge, president of the Bellona Environmental Foundation commented: "The victory is final. The clean-up work in the Russian Northern Fleet, which has been severely hampered by this process should now move on at a much faster pace, this task seems almost easy in comparison to fighting down the successor to the KGB. I think we will cope with it".

Thanks to Bellona

Sellafield: a government blind to the facts?

Tony Blair lobbied for new reprocessing business at Sellafield reprocessing plants on his visit to the G8 meeting in Japan, even though many European countries have condemned British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) and demanded an end to nuclear reprocessing at Sellafield. Government support for BNFL continues unabated, despite Department of Trade and Industry Select Committee criticism of the government's lack of understanding of BNFL's finances . Labour's 'Policy Forum' has also produced a blueprint for the next party manifesto, calling for reprocessing to end and BNFL to move into waste management.

Meanwhile, problems of dismantling the Windscale 1 Pile at Sellafield, which was damaged by fire in 1957, are increasing. BNFL engineers suspect that some of the fuel in the pile could ignite in the presence of oxygen, threatening another huge fire. An Irish Times comment in August said that the prospect of BNFL becoming involved in improving nuclear safety in Russia "is enough to make one's hair stand on end".

Diego Garcians: people, or pawns in a nuclear game?

In July a group of Ilois islanders from the former British colony of Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, came to the High Court in Britain to ask that they should be allowed to return to their island. In "the shoddiest deal of the sixties" between Harold Wilson's Government and the United States of America, the islanders of Diego Garcia were evicted to Mauritius without compensation and have lived in poverty ever since. Diego Garcia was then 'given' to the US as a naval and nuclear weapons base. Part of the deal at the time was an £11 million "discount" on US-made Polaris nuclear missiles. In 1975, when the shady deal was revealed, a young Robin Cook expressed his outrage and in 1984, a Labour continued overleaf

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Party Information Paper on the issue concluded:"As a first step, the USA should be compelled to remove all nuclear weapons. The aim should be to close down Diego Garcia as a naval base". In 2000 it is Robin Cook's Foreign Office which is contesting the case brought by the islanders! Another 'about-turn' for Cook.

The US Air Force's Chief of Staff announced this summer that they are now considering basing some of their deadly nuclear "Stealth" bombers on the island.

It is time for justice for the Ilois people of Diego Garcia, and time that we expressed our sorrow and anger at the treatment meted out by our government .

heddwch aution.) Please write to Robin Cook, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London SW1A 2AH asking for his present position on the matter (please

copy replies to CND Cymru). Financial Support is needed for the Ilois campaigners. Please contact Sylvia Boyes: (0161) 789 2128

Nuclear procedures - conventional weapons

Professor Thomas J. Nagy of the US University of George Washington has obtained a detailed and shameful document prepared by the US Intelligence Agency entitled "Iraq Treatment Vulnerabilities" which was issued the day after the bombing of Iraq began in 1990. This document proves that the "allied" forces intended to target the civilian population of Iraq by destroying their water system. The Pentagon document concluded that since Iraq had a sophisticated water purification system for its population, destroying the system would be a useful aim for the US and British bombers as it would "result in a shortage of pure drinking water for much of the population. This could lead to increased incidence, if not epidemics, of disease."

During bombing raids, dams were deliberately hit, wrecking water and hydroelectric power supplies and flood controls. Professor Nagy told the Glasgow Sunday Herald

(17th September 2000):

"Those who saw nothing wrong (in producing the plan), those who ordered its production and those who knew about it and have remained silent for 10 years would seem to be in violation of Federal Statute and perhaps even conspired to commit genocide." Chlorine and essential equipment parts needed to repair and clear the water system have been banned from entering the country under the UN "hold" system. Diahorreal diseases in Iraq are of epidemic proportions and are the prime killer of children under 5.

The giant Turkish Ilusu Dam Project (to which the British Government is expected to contribute £200 million in export credit guarantees) will exacerbate the problem of limited clean water. This project will give Turkey entire control of the water flow to Iraq and Syria. The contractors, Balfour Beatty have reported that for the 3 years of construction of the dam, water flow to Iraq will be reduced by 40%. Iraq has also been suffering a drought. The Tigris is at the lowest level in living memory.

headwan aution! contact and support the Ilusu Dam Campaign, Box 210, 266, Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DL email: ilusu@gn.apc.org

Scottish Nationalist Leader says "Trident out"

The newly elected leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP), John Swinney, announced in his inaugural speech at the SNP Conference this September that nuclear disarmament was a cause close to the hearts of the SNP and that and it was committed to seeing

nuclear weapons off Scottish soil. Roseanna Cunningham the new deputy leader has already signed the Trident Ploughshares petition of support.

Jane Tallents Vice Chair of Scottish CND commented: "I'm sure most SNP members don't want nuclear weapons anywhere, but as their case for independence relies on the right of Scottish self-determination they would not feel it

was their place to tell England that they should be nuclear-free!"

A vision for Trecwn

Plans by the company 'Omega-Pacific' to store nuclear waste on this ex-MOD site in Pembrokeshire generated an unprecedented wave of protest across the county. It seems that Omega's plans have been stalled, although as yet nuclear waste storage has not been ruled out. Pembrokeshire Anti-Nuclear Alliance (PANA) has kept up pressure and vigilance, but the outcome is still uncertain.

Meanwhile, a new, optimistic 'grassroots' organisation, the Innovative Concepts Group (ICG) is developing a Community Buy Out plan for the site if and when Omega Pacific decides to give up its idea of nuclear waste storage.

The plan is that the local community would become the owners of the site."200,000 people owning £1 shares is very, very powerful" says (ex National Park Chairman) Robin Pratt, representing ICG at a recent public meeting. He believes in transparent management with a vision of environmental sustainability and hopes that initially, sensitively chosen sustainable businesses will only be required to pay 'pepper-corn rents' to get started. Organic food processing has been given as an example of the business IGC would like to attract. The railway from Fishguard to Trecwn is seen as essential to the plan to reduce the risk of increased road traffic in a beautiful wildlife valley. IGC would also like to see plans for community recreational and cultural use of Trecwn.

First we must see off any plans to store nuclear waste at the site which embraces 500 acres of woods, mostly oak, on the steep sided valley. There are 58 tunnels, some of them caverns of up to 6000 square feet, and 80 other buildings. This resource was originally put on the market for £8 mil-

lion by MoD. Having rejected an offer of heddwch action £5 million, they finally sold it for a mere £380,000 and the false promise of 500 jobs to recondition and silence jet engines.

Interested? contact ICG (01348) 875006 or for news of the continuing campaign to keep Pembrokeshire nuclear free contact PANA (01348) 87 3483.

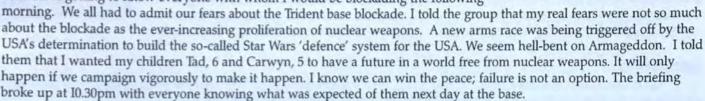
This report is an edited version of one which first appeared in "Vision in Action" Volume 3 no. 1 (£10 p.a.) available from Vision in Action, Fachongle Farmhouse, Trefdraeth, Pembrokeshire SA42 0QR (01239) 820 971. email:vickymoller@ukonline.co.uk

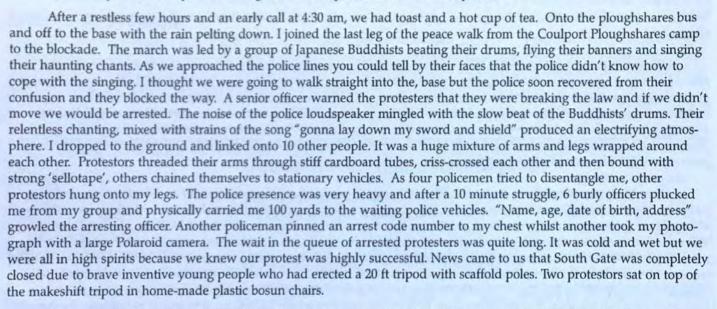
trident ploughshares 2000

Blockade of Faslane August 1st 2000

8 protesters and a tripod blockading South Gate + 120 singing protestors blocking North Gate = joy and happiness!

I got out of the train, it Glasgow Central and looked at the overcast skies. Visions of Faslane last February crossed my mind: driving rain, below freezing temperatures. I had been hoping that the weather might he kinder to us on this occasion. At the Quaker Meeting House, Elm St Crescent, we had our usual briefing and role-play which was a good method of getting to know everyone with whom I would be blockading the following





What madness to base such wicked illegal nuclear weapons at such a picturesque location! It took one and a half hours, for the bus to arrive at the Mary Hill Police Station, Glasgow. As usual the police officers in charge of the van came from a very wide area and simply got lost, but one of the local protestors showed them the way to the station. We were very quickly processed and placed in solitary cells for I2 hours. The only event to break the monotony was a trip to the fingerprint and photography rooms. Later I was served a small meal of macaroni and a cup of thick strong black tea with no sugar. For my own entertainment I sang the songs of peace and freedom from Côr Cochion. I also thought of the many political prisoners, who rot in jail month after month, many of them innocent. After I2 hours, into the public waiting room where there was a loud cheer from our waiting supporters, but before we could catch our breath in came the 9 tripod protesters who had blockaded the South Gate until 7p.m, before being arrested. We were able to give them a warm peace-loving welcome before they were hauled up to take our places in the vacated cells, We were told that over 80 arrests were made at the base that day.

After I had phoned Wendy we had hot tea and toast at the Quaker Meeting House, and then to bed, but not before reading the evening papers and receiving the news that the blockade had wide press coverage. As I sunk into my sleeping bag, a nice warm feeling came over me - another very successful blockade against nuclear weapons. Another bold step towards a safer nuclear free world. For my children; for all our children, with so many young people and campaigners from all over the world, we are bound to win. It's Aldermaston in November and back to Faslane in February. Ray Davies To find out more, or to join in with Trident Ploughshares please contact Ray Davies, CND Cymru Vice Chair and Caerffili Councillor (029 20) 889514 or Trident Ploughshares (0141) 423 1222. Shared transport may be possible.

The dream of young Yugoslavs: a world without borders, a world at peace

I spent the last two weeks of August in Yugoslavia as the guest of a couple living in Novi Sad, the main urban centre in Vojvodina. Whilst with them I had the opportunity of travelling to other areas of the country, notably Kraljevo in southern Serbia and Novi Pazar, the main town in the Sandzak region, which is very close to the Kosovo border. We also included a visit to Belgrade.

At the National Eisteddfod in Llanelli in August, a fringe meeting in the Peace Tent concerned the Balkans. As a result of this I was able to take to Yugoslavia a message of goodwill from peace loving people in Wales. The message was a quotation from Gandhi: "I object to violence because the good that it appears to do is only temporary but the evil that it does is permanent." The people I had the privilege of meeting in Yugoslavia warmed to these sentiments because this is what they deeply believe themselves. The message, with a short explanation of the signatories, appeared in Vojvodina's independent media. They wanted their readers to have the opportunity of knowing that they have friends in Wales, and that these friends share the same insights and commitment to peace as themselves.

Sanctions

Sanctions as first applied against Yugoslavia in 1993, are unjust because they result in great hardship for ordinary citizens and fail to touch those who have responsibility for war crimes or other atrocities. Everyone agrees that the first winter was the hardest, since it took time for what they term the 'grey economy' to take shape.

Obvious effects of sanctions are the crowds of people queuing up for basic supplies. People are also worrying about heating arrangements for the winter. Last winter enough supplies got through from Russia, but this year there is a question mark over this. Last winter many people cut down their heating costs by moving their beds into their living quarters and managing in just one room. Despite this there was definitely a much higher mortality rate, particularly among older people. Roads are not being maintained and long distance bus journeys are complicated and infrequent. The prospect of getting anywhere by train is treated as a kind of joke. We drove alongside railway lines on much of our journey and nowhere did I observe a train!

More hidden are the effects on health. The embargo affects food, medical equipment and medication, clothing, paper and books. Nutrition suffers, as there is little that poorer families can afford besides bread. Medication is obtainable only on prescription, but there is no guarantee that any of the pharmacies will have it in stock. Medical treatment is still available, in theory, through a national health service, into which national insurance contributions continue to be paid. In practice, however, it has become a private system, since direct payment is the only way to come off a seemingly never ending waiting list for operations or any other form of hospital treatment. Hospital buildings are in dire need of renovation and there are shortages of basic medical supplies. In the list of hidden effects of sanctions it would be misleading if I did not mention mental depression. Behind the courage which people are displaying in the face of adversity there is evidence of stress, anxiety and severe depression.

NATO bombing

It was part of my credentials that I had opposed the NATO bombing, however ineffectual that protest proved to be. I did not meet a single person in Yugoslavia, most of whom were highly critical of their own government, who believes that the NATO bombing did any good at all. In fact, they would all go much further than that and say that it did a lot of harm. Being bombed was a terrifying experience. Novi Sad, because of its large oil refinery, was one of the targets selected for bombardment nearly every night. Residential areas in the city were also hit by missiles during the day. The relief that people felt when they were informed that there had been a 'peace agreement' on June 7th last year was quickly shattered on the night of June 9th when more bombs were dropped on the refinery complex. The description I was given suggested 'carpet bombing'. When I heard about the same experience in Pancevo last year, they said they felt that NATO wanted to empty the rest of its arsenal and had decided to let the whole lot drop on Pancevo! Novi Sad must have had the same experience. Cluster bombs were also dropped, resulting in death and many injuries.

I think there's a feeling that if we in the West actually knew about the terrorising of the Serbs and Roma people, we'd challenge our government about its policies and something would change because Britain is a democracy! It's obvious to people in Yugoslavia that NATO's intervention has merely reversed the process of 'ethnic cleansing', by legitimising extremist aspirations from within the Albanian community. Everyone believes that the bombing, no less

than the sanctions, far from weakening the regime, has strengthened it. The propaganda encourages Serbs to take pride in the fact that they stood up to the West and were victorious! Party broadcasts for the September elections were designed to persuade people that the opposition candidates, as lackeys of the West, are directly responsible for the bombing.

Last year people were very worried about the pollution of the soil, resulting from the bombing. The UN report on the environmental effects of the bombing included Novi Sad as one the 'hot-spots', requiring urgent attention. As far as anyone is aware, nothing has been done.

There is an unexploded bomb lying beside the Danube very close to where people go fishing. There is a picture of it in the local paper. It has been identified by its mark, MK-84 as a laser guided missile produced in 1979. The additional information includes the fact that it cost \$200-300,000 to produce. In Lake Palic, there is a 'Tomahawk' missile embedded deep under the water. Kralievo, which used to be a famous beauty spot, noted for its clean air and delicate eco-system and Fruska Gora National Park are now thought to be littered with cluster bombs. It was pointed out that the main victims of the cluster bombs are Albanian children in Kosovo, who live in small villages and are often on the mountains playing or looking after sheep. There seem to be no warnings to prevent them from picking up something that is orange coloured and then a whole group of them getting killed or very seriously injured in the explosion.

US Imperialism

NATO now has one of its largest American bases (Camp Bondsteel) inside Kosovo. Naturally, the Yugoslav government wishes to keep a strong military presence as a counterbalance to this situation. People in Novi Pazar, which is very near the Kosovo border, are only too aware of the military presence around them. They feel that the Army deliberately chooses not to use a bypass but takes tanks and other military vehicles through the narrow streets of the old town to intimidate people.

Multicultural vision

I met some young people in Novi Pazar who have a vision. These young people, living close to the Kosovo border, have gone beyond even the multi-cultural traditions of which people in Yugoslavia have reason to be proud. They see differences not as difficult divisions to be overcome, but as something that attracts and complements the other. Their dream being the recognition that the world does not need borders.

Rachael Sweeting

Pact

This is my child; That is yours. Let Peace be between them When they grow up.

They are far off Now; let it not Be through war they are brought Near. Their languages

Are different. Let them both Learn it is peace In the hand is the translation Of peace in the mind.

R.S.Thomas March 1913 - September 2000

from Poems for Peace: Glas Nos (CND Cymru 1987)

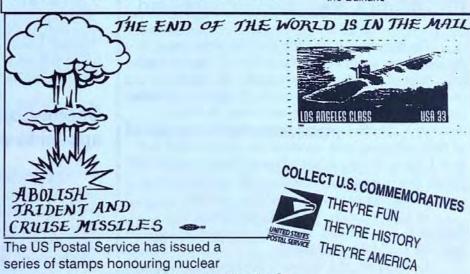
Neither legal nor moral

By Mark Littman QC Introduction by Alice Mahon MP

Available from The Committee for Peace in the Balkans, c/o Alice Mahon MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 1AA

How NATO's war against Yugoslavia breached international law

Price £3 + 50 pence p&p cheques payable to "Committee for Peace in the Balkans"



The US Postal Service has issued a series of stamps honouring nuclear submarines. To protest at this absurdity, the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Community (Hartford, Connecticut USA) has created envelopes with text designed with ethical balance in mind.

campaign updates

Calls from Hiroshima August 2000

"Let us call on all nuclear weapon states to abandon nuclear weapons, cancel the NMD and TMD programs and ban all kinds of nuclear tests, including subcritical tests. Let us progress campaigns for expanding and implementing nuclear weapon-free zones; campaigns for the removal of all nuclear weapons deployed in foreign territorial land/seas and high seas; campaigns to obligate foreign vessels and military aircraft to submit a certificate that they are not carrying nuclear weapons; and campaigns to make countries, municipalities, ports and airports nuclear free. By combining these movements with the trend calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, let us encircle and isolate the pro-nuclear forces."

"We appeal to the people of the world. We can change the world. This is our firm conviction, which is growing stronger every day. Let us bring together all our decisive efforts and actions to build a decisive momentum towards the earliest possible realisation of a nuclear-free 21st century."

From the Declaration of the 2000 World Conference against A & H-Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Tad and Carwyn in Roath Park, Nagasaki Day 2000

Hiroshima & Nagasaki remembered

On August 6th and 9th, the 55th anniversary of the deliberate dropping of nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima & Nagasaki was solemnly commemorated around the world. As a result of those attacks, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were absolutely destroyed; 200,000 Japanese people had died by the end of 1945 and many who survived the initial period lost their lives in the years that followed. Even now, 300,000 people live in agony as a consequence of these bombs and the radioactive environment they created.

In Wales, commemorations took place in Trefdraeth, Llandrindod, Swansea, Newport, and at the National Eisteddfod in Llanelli.

In Newport, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, joined by MP Paul Flynn and his wife celebrated a memorial at Tredegar Park Lake with readings and poems and silence as posies were thrown on to the calm water. A letter to Tony Blair, urging him not to grant the US the right to use either Menwith or Fylingdales for the proposed US "Missile Defence" System was signed by all present. At Cardiff, in a wet and windy Roath Park, a candle lit vigil was held and flower petals were scattered on the lake.

Estimates of missile capabilities in terms of nuclear warheads, 55 years after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki massacres:

Former USSR: 20,000 USA: 10,000 Britain: 185 France: 450 Israel: 250 China: 450 India: 65 Pakistan: 15 - 25

Total: over 40,000

CND makes a fine point at Fylingdales, Aldermaston and Downing Street

CND took its protests to military bases at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales in Yorkshire this summer as part of a "Point the Finger" season of campaigns.

On 6th August, the bombing of Hiroshima was remebered by a CND protest against the ongoing collaboration with the US on a nuclear weapon enhancement programme.

Large 'Point the Finger' hands with 'No to Star Wars' written across the wrists were displayed at the gates of Downing Street on Nagasaki day. A delegation led by CND Chair Dave Knight and CND Vice-President Bruce Kent delivered a Declaration of Protest and hundreds of petitions calling on the Government to abide by its Non-Proliferation Treaty commitment to engage in nuclear disarmament.

The delegation then made a similar protest and presentation at the US Embassy.

"It is simply indefensible for the Government to continue to sit on the fence and refuse to even discuss the issue of missile defence for the USA, particularly as the US must request permission for the use of bases in Britain for the United States' "National Missile Defence," said Dave Knight. "It will be too late for that debate when the formal request arrives and it is unlikely, to say the least, that it will be rejected at that stage."

Caernarfon Mayor signs international appeal to scrap nuclear weapons

Ioan Thomas, Mayor of Caernarfon, has joined an international appeal by mayors calling on the presidents of the US and Russia to scrap their nuclear weapons. Almost 100 mayors world-wide, of cities as far apart as Yerevan (Armenia) and Mexico City; Cairo and Dublin, including 35 mayors from the United States and 6 from Britain all express concern at the dangers of nuclear weapons and the huge waste of resources. They write:

photo: Wendy Lewis

"Two of us, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, speak from experience. For the rest of us, the fate of those cities is an indelible reminder of the infinite dangers we all face...to the American and Russian Presidents we say this...

"We thank you for what you have done to advance treaties intended to prevent proliferation, to ban test explosions, and to control, limit and reduce nuclear weapons. We ask you now to declare your firm commitment to the task of eliminating nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. We ask you to launch the process by leading the world in steps designed to achieve that goal with all deliberate speed. There is no greater legacy you can leave in your time for all time, for our generation and for all generations to come."

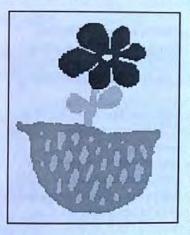
please contact CND Cymru or Tyler Stevenson, Statement by International Mayors, Global Security Institute, Post Office Box 475160, San Francisco, CA 94147 USA. www.gsinstitute.org Tel/Fax: +1 415 561 6686/6687

review

Time for Peace

Janet Ganguli.

Small World Publications 1999.



Here is a book which gives children a realistic and true picture of peace issues and aims to make them think seriously about alternative ways of solving problems. It begins with a study of the causes and effects of war and proceeds to illustrate the alternatives - using examples of famous people such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King

to show how non-violence can overturn systems and institutions. It also reflects on other peace champions who aren't as well-known but is careful to use examples of different religions and nationalities.

There are also examples of communities and countries who have taken a non-violent stand and attention is drawn to campaigns and groups who stand for different peace issues.

The book has a good balance of information which will surely strike a chord with young people. It has examples from the past and present and succeeds in making non-violence a contemporary and relevant option. It is well and attractively illustrated. It can undoubtedly be used in a classroom as well as in a home and the more who read it and act upon it, the better.

Anna Jane Evans

£4.40 inc. p&p from Small World Publications, 31, Caxton End, Bourn, Cambridge, CB3 7SS England



Trident Ploughshares trials Mand

Manchester September 2000

Trials continue for those who have taken part in non-violent direct action to disarm the British Trident nuclear weapons system. Courts are bemused, impressed and exasperated in turn by the honesty and integrity of the disarmers.

Amongst these was the trial of Sylvia Boyes for Fence Cutting (Aug 99) Swimming into Faslane Base (Aug 99) and Locking-on to a bus at Coulport (Nov 99). Sylvia, a grandmother and a Quaker from Manchester, gave a powerful speech justifying her reasons for acting. She talked about the horror of the Dunblane massacre and the Omagh bomb and held up a book about Hiroshima and asked for the court not to ignore the crime against humanity that is Trident. She read out the UN Charter and told the court how our Government breaks laws while demanding that others keep them.

The magistrate said he had listened patiently but he wasn't there to judge the legality of Trident. He found her guilty and fined her £100 and in anticipation of what she would say gave her 28 days to pay.

A serious dilemma for the jury at the Trash Trident 'trial

A Manchester Jury found Rachel Wenham and Rosie James, charged with two counts of criminal damage to Trident Submarine Vengeance, 'Not Guilty' of spray-painting "Death machine" and "Illegal" on the vessel, and were unable to reach a verdict on the first count of hammering test equipment. A decision on how to continue has yet to be reached by the Crown Prosecution Service.

AMs support Faslane blockade

Members of the National Assembly of Wales supported the August 1st Blockade of Faslane Trident nuclear weapons base. John Griffiths (Labour, Newport East), Richard Edwards (Labour Preseli Pembrokeshire), Karen Sinclair (Labour, Clwyd South) Kirsty Williams (Liberal Democrat Brecon & Radnorshire), Geraint Davies (Plaid Cymru, Rhondda) and Elin Jones (Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion) all sent messages of support for the action and for welsh activists. Richard Edwards and Karen Sinclair also apologised for not being able to attend the action in Scotland.

Support for arrested councillors

The Paisley North branch of the Scottish Nationalist Party have supported Renfrewshire Councillors Derek Mackay and Lorraine Cameron who were arrested during a protest at Faslane in August.

Members of their constituency association have passed a motion of confidence in the Councillors praising their stance on nuclear weapons. George Adam, convenor of the constituency said: "We are pleased to have councillors in our party that put principles before self-gain. Most people object to the waste that is nuclear weapons so we are happy to have hard working councillors that are willing to do something about the issue. ..They, along with the many hundreds that have been arrested at peaceful demonstrations across Scotland, have ensured that the removal of nuclear weapons from Scotland remains on the political agenda."

Iraq protest halts Whitehall

Over 300 people, from nonagenerians to children took part in an August 7th demonstration in London, calling for the lifting of sanctions against Iraq. These sanctions have now been in place for 10 years. A mass 'die-in' was staged outside the Foreign Office in Whitehall which was brought to a standstill for half an hour. Only 4 activists were arrested.

The event was followed by a minute of silence near the cenotaph for the victims of sanctions. UN agencies have estimated that 5,000 children under the age of 5 die needlessly each month as the result of the economic sanctions inflicted upon Iraq by the Security Council. In Washington D.C., 104 people were arrested at the White House during a similar action. The number of people willing to risk prosecution over this issue is an indictment of the immorality of the sanctions policy, or "infanticide masquerading as policy", as one US congressman so aptly put it.

Pembrokeshire protestor stops the Millenium Wheel

On August 6th, Hiroshima Day, Dave Rolstone of Efailwen scaled the "Big Wheel" on the bank of the Thames in Central London to protest at the continuing sanctions against the people of Iraq. No charges have been brought against Dave. He said "This Government's policy is a crime against humanity".

Trade Unions join CND in rejecting "Star Wars"

Eleven general secretaries of leading British trade unions including Bill Morris of the TGWU and Rodney Bickerstaffe of UNISON have united in a campaign to urge the British Government not to support the US plan for a US "National Missile Defence" (NMD) system. In an open letter to Prime Minister Blair they warned that NMD would tear up the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty and encourage other states to develop nuclear weapons. NMD

would also provide the US with a defence "shield" which may be used to intimidate other states to do its bidding. Trade Unions CND, led by Jimmy Barnes will be urging its affiliates to persuade their sponsored MPs to back an Early Day Motion condemning NMD, in the Westminster Parliament this Autumn.

No to NATO

On October
10th and 11th, CND
Cymru supported the
CND demonstration
at the NATO Defence
Ministers meeting in
Birmingham to let
them know that
leaders of the North
Atlantic Treaty Organisation, a nuclear



alliance, are not welcome here. "No to NATO" banners and "Point the Finger" placards took the message as near to the International Convention Centre as possible, activists leafletted passers by in the streets and a vigil with speakers was held in the evening. NATO spends £10,000 per second on "defence".

Gibraltar protests

Despite continuing protests by local Gibraltar people against the MoD's plans to repair the nuclear reactor on a broken down nuclear submarine in Gibraltar Harbour, the submarine remains berthed near Coaling Island.

Protestors include the organisations Voice of Gibraltar, Federation of Small Business, Self Determination Group and the United Nations Association.

Not enough information about the dangers has been given to the people of Gibraltar. There are no specialist facilities for such repairs in Gibraltar and the work would be carried out close to tourist beaches in the area. A hearing of "experts" has concluded that it would however be safe to continue with the work without resorting to the embarrassment of towing the submarine back to Devonport. All options carry risks of radioactive pollution.

Charges against US ELF disarmers dropped

A Wisconsin District Attorney has chosen not to prosecute peace activists who felled wooden poles supporting

the antenna lines for the U.S. Trident Project Extra Low Frequency (ELF) transmitter in Wisconsin. A charge of intentional damage to property had originally been brought against Bonnie Urfer and Michael Sprong. A federal



prosecution in this matter is still possible.

As "an act of nonviolent direct nuclear disarmament and crime prevention," Bonnie and Michael used ordinary bow saws to cut down three poles supporting the antenna for the controversial Project ELF transmitter, taking it offline for more than 24 hours. The transmitter acts as a communication system for US Trident submarines. Urfer and Sprong attached documents to the downed poles explaining that the Trident submarine system stands in violation of domestic and international laws against threats of genocide and prohibiting poisoned weapons and is a first strike weapon.

The June disarmament action was the fifth time that peace activists in Wisconsin have downed ELF poles in protest and either waited for authorities or turned themselves in to police. Each time, the activists explained that their action was excusable as "crime prevention." In 1987 and again in 1996, protesters were acquitted of felony sabotage charges by juries in Ashland County. Experts at the two trials testified that nuclear weapons are illegal-because of being indiscriminate in their destructive power-and that deterrence is an outlawed means of coercion.

This summer's dismissal of state charges is unprecedented in over 20 years of civil protest against Project ELF, a nuclear weapon support system. Since 1991, about 554 trespass citations have been issued to anti-war activists who charge that the ELF and Trident complex is a relic of the cold war, an electromagnetic danger to the local environment and enables the Trident submariness to threaten a nuclear first-strike.

More US Plowshares charges dropped "our security is neither in wealth nor in war"

Charges have also been dropped against the five nuns calling themselves The Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares. Liz, Carol, Ardeth, Jackie and Ann range in age from 52 to 73. After entering Peterson (HQ of the U.S. Space Command), they had poured their blood on a Milstar warfighting satellite. Similar to Hitler's slogan "Germany over all," the U.S. Space Command's motto today is "Master of Space". The women stated that they "reject the Space Command's Vision for 2020" and its call to "control and dominate space".



Chelyabinsk authorities speak out against nuclear waste imports

A Russian anti-nuclear camp held at Chelyabinsk this summer was organized by ECODEFENSE!, Anti-nuclear campaign of the Socio-Ecological Union and several Chelyabinsk environmental groups. Campers from dozens of Russian cities organised a non-violent direct action on

3rd August to protest against the importation of nuclear waste into Russia. The non-violent action included blockading the entrance to the Chelyabinsk governor's office, during which demonstrators were violently attacked by the police. As a result of the action, however, authorities agreed to a meeting with environmentalists on 7th August.

A quick result may have been obtained as leaders of the four environmental groups have announced positive results of a meeting with Vice-Governor of the Chelyabinsk region, Andrey Kosilov. Environmentalists and Kosilov have now agreed that no nuclear waste should be imported to Russia for storing at the Mayak facility. The Vice-Governor also stated that he had already ordered an expert group to look into the proposals given by the anti-nuclear camp organisers to improve the 'social protection' of citizens living in radioactively contaminated areas of Chelyabinsk region.

Vladimir Slivyak, an anti-nuclear campaigner, and director of ECODEFENSE stated, "We are welcoming the position of vice-governor of Chelyabinsk. Storing of the foreign nuclear waste in Russia is the craziest idea of the Minatom businessman."

Vladimir Slivyak Tel: +7(095)7766281 Email: ecodefense@glasnet.ru

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom



WILPF has been active in South Wales raising money for their work on human rights, women's rights, work against racism, economic justice, opposition to Globalisation, peace making & disarma-

ment; organising a Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration and consulting with Assembly Secretary for Education and Children Rosemary Butler AM who is also a member of WILPF. The news that a Commissioner for Children in Wales is to be appointed was applauded by WILPF and seen as an opportunity to further the cause of children's rights in Wales and the world.

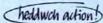
heddwch aution Contact WILPF in South Wales: Ruth Osborn, 10, Melbourne Way, Newport NP20 3RE (01633) 251 548

The tooth fairy looks for the truth about nuclear pollution

The Low Level Radiation Campaign are calling for people to send them their children's baby teeth for research

graphic: nuclear resister

into the effects of radioactivity on public health.



If you can help, or would like more information, contact the Campaign: The Knoll, Montpellier Park, Llandrindod, LD1 5LW Powys (01597) 824 771

diary dates

Saturday 28 October 2000 Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, CARDIFF 10.30am - 1pm CYNEFIN Y WERIN PEACE FESTIVAL Celebrating the International Year for a Culture of Peace and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non - violence for Children of the World (2001- 2010). DANCE, MUSIC & POETRY and guest speakers BRUCE KENT & SAM PERLO FREEMAN For further details contact Richard G Jones Tel (029) 2022 8549 / 2039 5664 e-mail richardjones@wcia.org.uk

November 4th- 5th Manchester. International Conference against Depleted Uranium Weapons See page 5.

November 11th 10.30am Temple of Peace, Cardiff Seminar "Developing a Culture of Peace" with Rowan Williams, 'Radical' Archbishop of Wales, and others. Everyone Welcome contact Richard Jones Tel (029) 2022 8549 / 2039 5664 e-mail richardjones@wcia.org.uk

December 1st Prisoners for Peace Day contact War Resisters International / Peace News (020 7278 3344) for more information.

December 6th 2.30 onwards Peace Lobby of Parliament organised by Action for UN Renewal. Participate! Contact Anna Rehin (01273) 476 358.

December 12th 7pm Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff Public Meeting STOP THE MILITARISATION OF SPACE STOP THE US 'NATIONAL' MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM" with Bruce Gagnon, Co-ordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and Helen John, British peace and anti-nuclear activist. Contact CND Cymru see below.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS!

New [academic] year, new term - new BLOOD! No, Youthe and Student CND hasn't turned into a bunch of vampires, but we ARE launching a new Student CND Network, specifically aimed at making nuclear disarmament an issue in universities and colleges around Britain by setting up campaigning groups. Already several universities have new groups. This autumn sees the "official" launch of the Student CND Network in Sheffield and hot plans are being hatched for the coming months. To get involved and formore details, contact the office on 0207 607 3616 or email studentcnd@yahoo.com

Greenham sculpture for Cardiff - your comments, please.

The maquette for a possible Greenham March Commemorative, as reported in the previous *Heddwch*, is well travelled and has attracted a great deal of comment and instigated a discussion about appropriate presentations of such an image.

While Rhondda Cynon Tâf Council have created a display to publicise the Greenham March sculpture project, and the maquette of a woman carrying a child, designed by the Maltese sculptor Anton Agius is to be temporarily displayed in the public foyer of the National Assembly, suggestions have been made for an alternative memorial. These range from a representation of a barbed wire fence festooned with peace messages, a bender with a group of women round a camp fire, to an abstract design involving peace doves or women dancing.

Undoubtedly the Greenham March should be remembered and celebrated in Wales. Following discussions, it is intended to set up a group of people who were involved with Greenham, and anyone else interested, with the specific aim of deciding what sort of lasting visual display/art-form we would like to see in Wales to celebrate our historic peace march and camp. If you are interested, have any comments or ideas, or would like to get involved, please contact Sonia Hancock 01970 615168. For more information about the maquette as described in *Heddwch* number 23, contact Thalia Campbell, Glangors Ynyslas Borth, Ceredigion SY24 5JU

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more information, ideas or offers of help? please contact your nearest cnd cymru vice chair. membership

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complaints about low level military flying ? 'phone the MoD :020 7 218 6020

heddwch (Heddwch : 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.

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Packed by volunteers in Cardiff - to join this happy group, one afternoon every 2-3 months, please contact Brian Jones (01792) 830330.

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