



the magazine of CND Cymru

59 years ago the USA dropped nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Over 200,000 people were killed instantly.



British and US Governments have said they will repeat these holocausts with far more horrific results.

We must stop them!



heddwch

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

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

Comment, letters and articles for consideration are welcome.

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Killing machines - made and tested in Wales?

The Welsh Assembly Government, under the auspices of the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) is attempting to attract arms manufacturers to our country. Wales is already peppered with arms and associated manufacturers. The US/multinational company General Dynamics has a brand new factory at Blackwood, Gwent.

The MOD is currently tendering for its 'Watchkeeper' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) programme. This is a £800 million development of military UAVs. Aberporth on the Cardigan Bay coast has been identified as a potential test range under this programme by two companies competing for the contract - Thales and Northrop Grumman. These two companies each hope to build the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Gwent.

Aberporth has been used as a missile testing range for 50 years and is now run by Qinetiq (50% owned by the MoD) as a missile testing range. The technology park currently being developed at Aberporth is the only rural-based Objective 1 priority project for the National Assembly Government. Last month, UAV manufacturers were invited to a 'party' at Aberporth where the possibilities for the site were promoted. The following day a 'presentation' was made to sell the idea of UAV testing to the concerned local community.

The Wales Assembly Government and the WDA, along with the Defence Diversification Agency and Ceredigion County Council are hoping that we will believe that UAVs are developed for 'crop spraying' and 'traffic control' and that the bribe of jobs at any cost will win over hearts, minds and consciences. In a straightforward and honest expression of public feeling, a huge banner made by local people for the public presentation at Aberporth in July said "THE WAR IS OVER - WE WANT OUR LAND BACK". The National Assembly for Wales may be hoping that we will forget or re-evaluate our interpretation of the 'sustainability' tenet in its founding documents. We will neither forget that nor the moral imperative to put Wales at the forefront of building a culture of peace. How can we allow a direct link between something made in Wales and something violent being planned for another community? We will not sell our souls for jobs at any cost.

What is a UAV?

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are small aircraft operated by remote control. They are lighter and can be long range. They are being developed for "conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets". They are a means of killing remotely, like nuclear weapons. Some US companies are working to fuel UAVs with nuclear power to extend flying times. UAVs were celebrated as one of the weaponry 'superstars' in the recent atrocities committed against the Iraqi people.

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More information is needed about the plans for building and testing UAVs. Please contact your MP (House of Commons, London SW1A 1AA) and AMs (National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA) about it, express your dissent for any plans and send copies of any replies you receive to CND Cymru (see Contacts). Please also contact CND Cymru if you are interested in helping build the campaign against UAVs in Wales.



comment: Where there is no vision the people perish

As the US and British Government 'confessions' and finger pointing about misinformation on honesty about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the drive to war seep slowly out of news reports, it is no real consolation to be told that we in the peace movement were right all along.

How is it that we saw so clearly what those in power claim not to have seen?

While inquiries and politicians, all only slightly pink faced and bashful, make their self righteous admissions (while not so subtly blaming others), we don't hear any official voices admitting to the calculated, cold blooded murder or execution of at least 40,000 Iraqi people since March 2003, and over half a million Iraqi children who died as a result of UN sanctions in the previous 10 years. Nor do we hear of the environmental devastation caused by the war.

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Fear, greed, lust for power and a disconnection with the earth results in a blindness to the urgency of environmental issues, abolition of nuclear weapons and the need to actively promote a culture of non-violence, peace and true justice.

Lying and deception are obviously part of everyday life for governments. They even do it to themselves. Our work as individuals as well as more organised pressure groups is to expose the sham of 'representative democracy', to tell the truth as we can discover it and to hold our elected representatives accountable.

Feel powerful. Remember, you and I, with our imaginations and energy can bring about genuine long-term change for the better. Only by doing this can we look our children and grandchildren in the eye.

Jill Stallard

Beaumaris Castle Beseiged!

Beaumaris Castle was built between 1295 and 1298 at the eastern end of the Menai Strait. It was the most deadly military design of its day, a star wars missile, if you like. It cost £6,000 in the first six months of construction alone, the equivalent of many millions of pounds today; Edward I's mania for castle building almost bankrupted England.

The local Welsh population was deported to the new township of Newborough (Niwbwrch) and Beaumaris was settled by English and Gascons. The castle has remained ever since, a symbol of militarism, occupation and imperialism. It was last captured by Parliamentary army in 1646, until the wee hours of 27th June 2004 when the castle was captured again by a group of peace protestors, who proceeded to barricade themselves inside. On a bright sunny Sunday morning the rainbow flag of the international peace movement flew from the highest tower. Across the gatehouse was a large dove of peace. Along the curtain walls were large banners declaring this to be a demilitarised zone, calling for peace and an end to government lies, and a giant Palestinian flag. Police soon ringed the castle and a police helicopter flew overhead. The size and cost of the large police presence came under criticism from local residents. Members of the Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice group gathered outside to support the protestors during the day. The protestors refused to leave and remained in occupation overnight.

The next day, 28th June, the protestors learned that the fake sovereignty offered by the occupiers in Iraq was to be announced today, two days earlier than planned, to avoid more violence. In Beaumaris, more press gathered and were annoyed when the police refused permission to interview the protestors. At last it was agreed that one of those inside, Gwilym Morus, would be allowed to speak to television reporters.

At about 4.30pm the protestors took down their flags and banners and emerged to cheers. They were taken to Caernarfon police station and charged with 'common law nuisance', having not committed any criminal damage. The protest had been brilliantly organised and carried out by Gwilym Morus, Steven Collings, Philip Jones, Jonathan Baines, Paddy, Thomas Pearson, Liz, Alice Grey, and Alan Cowli-Shaw.

Phil Steele Bangor Peace and Justice Group



The peace protestors, students from the University of Wales in Bangor and members of the local community issued this statement:

"We have occupied this castle in the name of Truth, Peace and Justice. This is a peaceful protest at the British Government's actions in the Middle East - actions subservient to U.S. imperialist foreign policy; actions which have destabilised the region causing unnecessary pain and suffering to millions of people. We have been lied to repeatedly by our government about the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq, about the promises to reconstruct Afghanistan, and about the extent of the British Government's continued support for the Israeli State despite its appalling decimation of the Palestinian People. Our government claims to act in the name of democracy but its actions serve only economic interests. It has put financial gain before the safety of people. Its disastrous policies in the Middle East have made us much less secure here at home as well as doing untold damage to the Arab peoples abroad.

As members of the local community and students of the University of Wales, symbolic of a significant proportion of the British public, we assert that this government has acted undemocratically, ignoring our views. It has broken international law and waged a war of lies on the people of this country with words of mass deception.

We ask all those with a conscience to join us in this protest. In honour of the many lives already needlessly lost, and for the sake of the many lives yet to be needlessly sacrificed we must make our voices heard. We undertake to cause no damage to the fabric or structure of this site.

We shall voluntarily and peacefully withdraw from this occupation at 17.00 hrs on Monday 28th of June. We call upon forces of occupation in Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq to do likewise."

Voices from the street: A dove from the Urdd Eisteddfod

Bangor Peace & Justice group recently handed over a giant cardboard dove to local MP Albert Owen. The message written on the dove called for British troops to leave Iraq and was endorsed by signatures collected at the peace tent and on the Maes by members of CND Cymru and Cymdeithas y Cymod, during the Urdd Eisteddfod 2004 on Mona.

The group is also calling upon Albert Owen MP to reject the Government's backing for Ariel Sharon in his appalling destruction of Palestinian lives, and Britain's complicity in the illegal treatment of civilians and prisoners in Iraq, Belmarsh prison, Diego Garcia and Guantanamo Bay.

Contact: Bangor Peace and Justice Group: (01248) 490 715

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Britain's weapons of terror

The blindness of fear

In the 1980 film "The Martian Chronicles" the colonists on the red planet watch the nuclear holocaust that finishes off earth. The disk burns white for a few seconds and then goes dark. Things are different now, of course. There have been cuts in the nuclear arsenals of the US and Russia and Britain is down to a mere 200 Trident warheads. This noble restraint would give a different Martian perspective on our likely denouement – this time we will just go a bit red and blotchy first and then several cute shades of purple before the darkness falls.

The fact that officials can deliver the good news about nuclear cuts with a straight face, and the even more worrying fact that we, the ordinary people, by and large receive the assurances without emitting apocalyptic raspberries, means that great success has been achieved in spinning away this emperor's nakedness. On the one hand it is a matter of public record that the British state actively deploys and threatens others with weapons of mass destruction (WMD) - witness Geoff Hoon's repeated warnings last year that we could use nuclear weapons in Iraq. There is no attempt to disguise what Aldermaston, Faslane and Coulport and Devonport are for. Yet there is a public taboo against mentioning it in contexts that ordinarily would demand it to be referred to. Take Tony Blair's lauding of Libya over its abandonment of WMD, when no media report or comment made the essential link to Britain's terror weapons.

It's no less than brilliant that the threatened use of nuclear weapons can co-exist in the same frame of reference as the high mural tone with which politicians respond to the threatened proliferation of nuclear weapons. The scam depends on a brazen government and a compliant media. It also depends critically on our inertia. We have seen through the scam but are so often paralysed and incapable of action. Trident is also psychologically hidden, partly because for many people it is too big a concept to take on and something they feel they can do nothing about. Maybe this is the reason that some find it easier to focus exclusively on trying to stop horrible new developments. Of course, we ought to do both, but let us never forget that Trident rumbles on, still

"capable" for another 20 years or so of maintaining its regime of terror and intimidation, its daily threat to the whole planet.

One effective way to break the paralysis, though by no means the only way, is to visit one of the system's sites. See the miles of razor wire at Faslane and the sibs going to and fro. Walk round the vast complex at Aldermaston and remind yourself of its function. See the Trident dock at Devonport and this government's determination to persist with this vile project indefinitely.

There are glimmers of hope. Oddly enough little Scotland can exert a positive influence on this horrific situation that is totally disproportionate to its size and the importance accorded it by Westminster. The opposition there to Trident (among those who are aware of its existence) is strong. A Scotland determined to get rid of Trident could start the whole thing unraveling. Those of us who live there are given tremendous encouragement by those outside Scotland (including people from Scandinavia) who put their energy into the campaign against the Scottish Trident bases.

The pressure to get rid of Trident has to come in many ways and from many directions. In Trident Ploughshares we

are convinced that a significant part can be played by peaceful and nonviolent direct action. In particular the Faslane blockades have very successfully disrupted the work of that WMD base, have helped to put Trident on the agenda and have led to considerable pressure on the Scottish criminal justice system.

Over the past year, you have doubtless heard people question the point of mass protest after millions on the street last February failed to stop the war against Iraq. In fact we don't know what the impact of February 15th 2003 was. As a relative newcomer to the peace movement I am regularly humbled by contact with older people who have been challenging injustice practically all their lives and have no intention of confining themselves to gardening, and who have faced over the years an incredible number of rebuffs and setbacks. You still meet them at the demos, at court vigils, at sit-down protests, inside processing centres.

Join us on 23rd August at Faslane naval base near Glasgow, at the Big Blockade. Whether you join the sit-down, act as a legal observer, take pictures, sing, chant, wave banners, dance, hand round the mugs of tea or whatever, you will be very welcome. Trident

Ploughshares also have a two-week disarmament camp at Coulport from 18th August to 1st September. You are very welcome to come to that for all or part of that time.

David Mackenzie
Trident Ploughshares

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Briefings for the Camp
from (0845) 458 8366 or
davidmc@enterprise.net
Briefings for the Blockade
from (0845) 458 8361 or
big_blockade@hotmail.com



On the streets of Oswestry

Oswestry Coalition for Peace, with an active core of around nine members and a mailing list of up to 100 supporters, attracts members from both sides of the Border. The group was recently joined by campaigners from Llangollen and Wrecsam for a demonstration calling for peace and justice in Iraq. Shoppers and passers-by were invited to sign a giant letter to the Prime Minister. The letter called for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and their replacement by an international force acceptable to the people of Iraq, and for full sovereignty, including control of their own security and economy to be handed back to the Iraqi people.

Oswestry Coalition for Peace have held demonstrations, vigils, bridge/banner protests, an information fair, public meetings and a public debate with invited speakers, they have also written and produced and filmed a play (a few video copies still available).

George Miller, group spokesman says: "like all groups we have the problem of reacting to a changing world situation and the need to come up with new ideas and recharge our energies."



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Contact Oswestry Coalition for Peace:
george.miller@virgin.net. (01691) 658 33010, Upper Church Street, Oswestry Shropshire, SY11 2AE, England.

Welsh peace activist in Iraq

Helen Williams from Newport, has been in Iraq since November 2003. Her work centres on helping the growing number of street children and other young, homeless people – due mainly to the war, subsequent economic collapse and 75% unemployment. Helen also highlights the other, less well reported tragedies of the invasion. Helen lives in a small apartment in Kerrada, Baghdad. Because she lives amongst the Iraqis, she is able to hear the most honest opinions and fears of the Iraqi people. It is these fears and opinions that she relays in her regular reports.

While the siege of Fallujah took place, Helen and others took medical aid into the city to relieve the hospital supplies. She has also exposed the appalling brick factory conditions, where children as young as 5 and 6 work up to 72 hours per week, in blistering heat – for a slaves weekly wage of 80p-£2! While on a smaller, yet equally tragic note, she has highlighted the family tragedy of an innocent father being murdered, by American soldiers, on his way to hospital. Helen sends back regular reports. If you would like to receive such reports, please send an e mail to Welshhumanshields@hotmail.com.

Kevin Williams



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Kevin, also from Newport, will be returning to Iraq in September for 4 weeks. On his return he will be carrying out a speaking tour assisted by a video and photo exhibition. If you are interested in inviting Kevin along to speak to your group please get in touch. (01633) 857 566

Held to Account!

Last month two delegates from Wales attended the 4th Asian-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Youth Dialogue on Sustainable Development in Hanoi, Vietnam. ASEM was created in 1996 to promote greater co-

operation between the two continents. The Youth Dialogues are a chance for younger people to have an input into this process.

David McKnight from Wrecsam and Clare Sain-ley-Berry from Cardiff joined around 60 delegates from EU and ASEAN countries to discuss issues including climate change, bio-diversity, education for sustainable living and corporate accountability. Although there were inevitably some differences of opinion, the issue of corporate responsibility attracted almost universal agreement. In a statement

to be presented to EU and ASEAN leaders, the Youth Dialogue has called for a change in the law so that Directors of corporations are held legally responsible for ensuring that their company's quest for profits is not at the expense of human rights, local communities, the environment, or the dignity of their workers.

Clare Sain-ley-Berry



Clare and David with Thai and Philippino delegates at the ASEM Youth Dialogue 2004

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More details from csbjborg@hotmail.com

Spread the word!

If you know of any shops, libraries, community or environmental centres that could display a few copies of 'heddwch' please contact CND Cymru (contact details page 18)

Fighting the fallout from bad science

The Low Level Radiation Campaign (LLRC) was set up in 1993 to draw attention to the true dangers of radioactive pollution by bringing scientific rigour to a field awash with bad science.

In broad terms, the official stance of successive governments has been to deny the existence of 'clusters' of population with elevated levels of ill-health close to nuclear facilities. This official position has been – and continues to be – propped up by statistical misinterpretation, adherence to the findings of irrelevant studies and a plain disregard for observable facts. In 200, as a result of incessant campaigning to get to the real truth of the effects of internal radiation contamination, the LLRC persuaded Michael Meacher MP to set up a Committee Examining Radiation Risk of Internal Emitters (CERRIE). CERRIE will be delivering its final report to the Government this Autumn. Richard Bramhall of the LLRC points out that this is the first time that any government scientific advisory body has ever been set up on oppositional lines, with two distinct camps. CERRIE includes two representatives from the LLRC and one each from Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth on one side of the argument, and senior figures from the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) on the other. The Committee is completed by four academics from various scientific disciplines.

The Nuclear Laundry – Windscale And After

The existence of afflicted population clusters close to nuclear facilities first entered the public consciousness 20 years ago, when the Yorkshire TV programme 'Windscale – The Nuclear Laundry' discovered that childhood leukaemia in Seascale, near Sellafield – the British nuclear reprocessing plant – was 10-12 times higher than the national average. Earlier this year, HTV did the same thing for the Menai Strait, between Ynys Môn and North Wales. Mud banks in the area are contaminated by discharges from Sellafield. The cluster is more severe than at Seascale. Its statistical strength is far greater. The unearthed data reveals that in Caernarfon, childhood leukaemia (0-4 year-olds) is more than 20 times higher than the British national average and in 34 wards surrounding the Menai Strait, there is an 8-fold excess of leukaemia (under-4's); a 5-fold excess of brain and spinal cancer (under-15's); and a 10-fold excess of retinoblastoma, a rare eye cancer (under-14's).

On the face of it, these figures seem indisputable. However, for the past 20 years, the two official 'watchdogs', set up in the immediate aftermath of the Windscale... broadcast – the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) and the Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU) – have consistently refused to acknowledge the existence of 'clusters'. The LLRC is campaigning for COMARE and SAHSU to be closed down since for two decades these two bodies have signally failed to protect public health; they clearly do not have an independent watchdog role.

Contamination – Not Just A Coastal Phenomenon

The radioactive contamination of Welsh communities along the Irish Sea coast, then, is a fact. However, man-made radiation in the environment is ubiquitous, albeit at lower levels, and its effects can be observed and measured throughout Wales. Climatic factors seem to be closely linked to the statistics. For example, cancer rates throughout Wales

are higher than those in England, primarily due to our higher rainfall; variations in breast cancer rates correlate with Strontium-90 irradiation, a result of the disproportionately large fall-out on Wales from atom bomb tests in the 1950's and 60's and from the Chernobyl catastrophe. Globally, too, there are several demographic clusters that can be attributed to the proximity of nuclear-derived activity, generally due to the usage of depleted uranium weaponry which discharges particles into the atmosphere: peace-keeping troops in Kosovo, especially those in the Italian Army, display more than 7 times the level of lymphoma; birth defects in Iraqi children are way above average and there has been a 20-fold increase in breast cancers in the wake of the Balkan campaign.

Cancer Recycling Centres

The LLRC regards hospitals as 'cancer recycling centres'. The preparation of radioisotopes for cancer treatment, the direct incineration of clinical waste, followed by its disposal to sewers and the subsequent incineration of sewage sludge throws particles into the atmosphere to be inhaled and ingested by everybody.

Concerns

The LLRC has amassed an enormous – and still growing – database of statistics which, it is hoped, will be fairly represented and acted upon when CERRIE publishes its report. The LLRC needs to overcome the long-established scientific orthodoxy and methodology which has been effectively propped up by a phenomenally powerful and influential lobby – the military/industrial axis which has worked closely with successive Governments and their agencies and fed directly through into national policies. Encouragingly, the LLRC has proved that by consistently drawing the latest evidence into the public domain, it is possible to bring about changes of viewpoint in influential quarters. Marion Hill, formerly of the NRPB, now says that the Government is not obtaining the best scientific evidence and in a letter to her local MP – reproduced on the LLRC website, says that official 'watchdogs' have failed and should be replaced.

In the words of Richard Bramhall, "we must stop fudging and looking with our eyes shut. Does the jury find for or against? If they find 'for', then this industry has to be dismantled, both morally and from a health perspective".

For the sake of the Hibakusha, the children of the Menai Strait, the people in both Iraq and our own local uplands, all people throughout the world alive today and suffering from health defects due to internal radioactive contamination and future generations, we must continue to campaign to shut down the nuclear industry.



The original version of this article appeared in the July 2004 edition of the 'Free Flyer'. Thanks to editor Joe E. Mellor for permission to reproduce it in edited form.

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To find out more about the work of the Low Level Radiation Campaign, contact: (01597) 824 771
email: info@llrc.org, website: www.llrc.org.

"Songs for Mahmud"

The new album from David Rovics reviewed by Lotte Reimer

On the 18th of June David Rovics and Attila the Stockbroker played Aberystwyth. The gig, organised by Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network, raised funds for the Guantanamo Human Rights Commission and their quest to end internment without trial. While Attila is well known to UK audiences, David Rovics will be new to many. The accomplished US singer took Aberystwyth by storm and his "songs of social significance" deserve to be heard by the widest audience. Dubbed by Andy Kershaw as the rightful inheritor of the mantle of protest singing legend Phil Ochs, David is a heartfelt critic of globalisation, war and injustice. He uses a spellbinding combination of humour, satire and moving lyrics to express his disenchantment. David's words inspire people to action, making his audience by turns laugh, cry and sing along.

On his latest CD, 'Songs for Mahmud', David Rovics asks deceptively simple questions such as "Who would Jesus bomb?", questioning at the deepest level the righteous Christian fervour claimed by Bush Americans. David becomes a small Palestinian boy, Mahmud, slain by Israeli occupation forces for the crime of catching

songbirds in the Gaza strip (Song the Songbird Sings). He is one of many young people of the world slaughtered in innumerable conflicts (All Of The Ghosts That Walk This Earth). He is a homeless Palestinian (I Wanna Go Home). He plants gardens in the city (More Gardens Song), and sings out on behalf of the dying planet (Here At The End Of The World). He states the obvious about G W Bush (Moron), and sings of the triumph of communities taking action (Song For



The SOA 2).

These and many more compelling tracks make 'Songs for Mahmud' a great addition to David's catalogue: a must buy. Our magnate-owned media ensures that you won't see him on Top of the Pops, read a review in the mainstream press, find him on the megastore shelves or hear him on national radio (unless it's Andy Kershaw). So, do yourself a massive musical favour and visit David's website - www.davidrovics.com - and order 'Songs for Mahmud' now!

(David Rovics other CD releases include Hang a Flag in the Window, Living in These Times, and Return. Give yourself a real treat and listen to them all.)

US military and intelligence bases in Britain

A new briefing by Quaker Peace & Social Witness Peace Campaigning and Networking Group, June 2004 - GET A FREE COPY NOW.

A worldwide network of military bases provides the United States with a global platform for warfare and espionage. Around 16,500 US personnel are stationed at 35 sites in Britain and on two island territories in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

This briefing discusses the history and status of US bases on British territory and examines their purposes within the US strategic agenda. The paper explores the ways in which US bases and their status largely escape public scrutiny. While affirming the cultural friendship between the two countries, the briefing argues that strategic alliance with the US implicates Britain in an agenda with manifold costs to the world.

Major US bases on British territory are described in an appendix with a special focus on those at Lakenheath and Menwith Hill and the joint British-US base at Fylingdales. The paper also offers pointers for action.

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Alternatively, for a free, hard copy (24 pages), write to David Gee, Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ phone: (020) 7663 1067 email: davidg@quaker.org.uk

International Peace Bureau Conference calls for Iraqi Independence

Meeting at the Barcelona Forum 2004, the leaders of the International Peace Bureau and the new Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity issued the following statement:

- * The continued presence of occupying forces will only perpetuate and escalate the cycle of violence in Iraq;
- * Complete sovereignty is the only basis of democracy, We call for the Iraqi people's control of their own country;
- * We share with pride the initiative of Iraqi civil society which has organized regional and national congresses for independence and democracy in order to influence the preparation of a democratically representative government;
- * We look forward to an exchange of contacts between our member organisations to support the growth of democratic institutions in Iraq.

Cora Weiss - President, International Peace Bureau
Fakhri Karim Ahmad - President, Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity
CND Cymru is a member of the International Peace Bureau



Guantanamo Human Rights Appeal



The Guantanamo Human Rights Commission seeks justice for those held in Guantanamo Bay, including the Britons. Long term, their objective is to end all forms of internment without trial. In concord with CND Cymru, Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network are appealing for funds to aid the Commission's work. As Azmat Begg, father of detainee Moazzam pleads: "If there are charges against my son, let them be heard. Let him be tried in a court of law here in his own country, Britain. If he is found guilty let him be punished. Otherwise he should go free."

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Please make cheques payable to "Guantanamo Human Rights Commission" and send to GHRC, PO Box 9497, Birmingham B24 9ZY, Including a note specifying 'Heddwch Appeal'. Find out more on www.guantanamohrc.org

Bush's space policy

Why you should be worried

In January 2004 George W Bush announced his vision for U.S. Space Exploration. The key points were:

- To complete the International Space Station by 2010 (after which the US will withdraw from the project).
- Development of a new manned exploration vehicle to explore beyond Earth.
- To return to moon exploration no later than 2020 in order to use it as a stepping stone for further human space exploration beginning with Mars.

In February 2004 President Bush announced that the NASA budget for 2005 would be increased by 5.6% to \$16.2 billion. The timing of these announcements is probably related to the November US elections. Bush may well be looking for some 'big themes' to guide his re-election efforts. The US states with most to benefit from space exploration are Florida and California. Both states could be pivotal in the re-elections.

So – why should I worry?

Nuclear Power in Space

NASA claims that the enormous distances between Earth, Mars and beyond mean that the only viable source of power is Nuclear Power. A nuclear reactor of any size in space is a recipe for disaster. Accidents do happen. There have been twelve known accidents between 1964 and 1996. These incidents have definitely resulted in increased cancers in humans

who have inhaled or ingested plutonium or uranium particles. Having polluted earth with permanently damaging radionuclides, humans seem hell bent on spreading their filthy radioactive pollution across the universe.

Space exploration as a Trojan Horse to maintain the US military advantage

A moon base would prove useful to the US military. Without space based technology, the US military's ability to 'respond' quickly to world-wide situations would be seriously diminished. As more and more countries develop their own space capabilities, the US is becoming increasingly worried that their technological advantage in space is diminishing and that their space based systems are becoming more susceptible to interference from those who threaten its economic and military dominance. The US believes that China may have ambitions to use space for military purposes. Bush's interest in space may be a response to this, especially since military domination of space is a key part of the US Missile Defence plans.

The United States aims to put sensors, radars and missile systems into space to detect, track and destroy hostile missiles. In February 2004, budget papers sent to the US congress showed an unspecified amount for "advanced, lightweight, space-based (missile) interceptor components." and \$47 million to start "technology development of such weapons and others that could be phased into a multi

layered US missile shield starting in January 2012".

This could be the start of a new space race between the US and China. What originally motivated the space

race between the US and Soviet Union was a desire for nuclear weapons in space pointing at each other's cities. In fact both sides went on to sign (along with around 90 other countries) the 1968 'Outer Space Treaty' which prevents the stationing of nuclear weapons in space. The USA now seems set on abandoning this treaty. The US missile defence plans are encouraging China to further develop its nuclear capability to overcome the US missile shield. In turn this is pushing China's neighbours, India and Pakistan to enhance their nuclear arsenals.

Claiming ownership of the Moon's resources

Another reason for the Bush administration's interest in space could be that the extended human presence on the moon would enable the United States to harness the abundant resources beyond the earth. Scientists have discovered Helium-3, a scarce isotope of normal Helium on the moon. Helium-3 is a nuclear fusion fuel that is regarded as a potential replacement for the dwindling supply of fossil fuels back here on Earth. It is estimated that the Moon contains enough Helium-3 to power the Earth for thousands of years. Lawrence Joseph, writing in the New York Times in 1995 said that "If we ignore the potential of this remarkable fuel; the nation could slip behind in the race for control of the global economy". He suggests that if the US can get a monopoly on Helium-3 it wouldn't have to worry about the Gulf States and their oil.

Plenty to be worried about.

edited from a briefing by Shahid Khan in co-operation with Yorkshire CND



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For more information see:

Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Space website <http://cndyorks.gn.apc.org/> or contact them: Yorkshire CND, 22 Edmund Street, Bradford, West Yorks, BD5 0BH
(01274) 730 795 e-mail: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp 2004

The Greenham Common protest of the 1980s against the basing of US Cruise Missiles in Britain, created a massive problem for the authorities both here and within the USA and as such is frequently referred to on public anti-war and protest platforms. Twenty years on and there are still US nuclear weapons based on British soil, but now once again US missiles may be stationed in Britain as part of the US 'Star Wars' programme.

At Greenham Common, women confronted 'the men of war' face to face, and defied their INSANITY. Women are needed once again to use their particular talents to oppose, and defy this continued military madness. Menwith Hill and Fylingdales, are two modern day concentration camps here in the heart of Yorkshire, the only difference is that all the innocent people they plan to kill, are outside the perimeter fences, are worldwide and are vulnerable to Weapons from Space.

Blockade! Blockade! Blockade!

We need to show permanent opposition to preparation for war at all military bases in Britain. there is unlimited opportunity for all to protest. We ask for women only protest to keep the Spirit of Greenham alive. UN Resolution 1325 passed in October 2000 calls for women to be involved in peace keeping roles in post conflict situations.

In Sisterhood, Helen John

The Menwith Hill spy base near Harrogate in North Yorkshire, England, is the largest electronic monitoring station in the world. Run by the National Security Agency (NSA) of the United States, it is one of a global network of Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) bases, which monitors the world's communications and relays information to NSA HQ at Fort Meade in Maryland, USA. The NSA was set up by Presidential decree in 1952 without any debate in the US Congress. Until a few years ago, the existence of the NSA was a secret and its charter and any mention of its duties are still classified. The American people know very little about it - and they know even less about Menwith Hill. More information about Menwith Hill Spy base from Yorkshire CND (01274)730 795 email: cndyorks@gn.apc.org <http://cndyorks.gn.apc.org/mhs/>

heddwch action

We are calling for many more women to be involved in stopping the killing and plans for killing. We want existing military treaties with the USA to be revoked and for all US bases to be removed from British soil! Greenham Common sprang from Wales. Women, come and repeat *Herstory* at Menwith!

Three of the Menwith Hill Women's Peace Campaign large banners are missing, donations to help replace them would be great.

Women's Peace camp at Menwith Hill: The third weekend of each month and December 11-13th 2004. We look forward to your support. Contact: Helen John (01943) 468 593 helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk

Welsh Campaigners call for Independence from America

On July 4th, American Independence Day, peace activists from Wrecsam and mid-Wales took part in a demonstration at Menwith Hill USAF Base, North Yorkshire organised by CAAB (Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases).

This beautiful piece of North Yorkshire was handed over to the Americans after 1945 and is now the largest electronic monitoring station in the world. US civilians and servicemen are employed to intercept and analyse all telecommunications traffic to and from Europe and Britain at the base This includes private telephone calls, faxes, emails (yes, maybe yours) and other communications. A great deal of this information is tracked by spy satellites which transmit to satellite receiving dishes at the base. New developments at Menwith Hill are linked with America's "Star Wars" programme.

On-going expansion at Menwith will help US Space Command in its mission to 'see and hear' everything on the planet and enable laser weapons to be able to reach any target on the earth within a target of about six feet. The base plays a crucial role in any global conflict and as such is a prime target for attack.

MEPs have expressed concern that Menwith Hill is undermining European jobs and businesses by selling European trade secrets to US companies. The American authorities largely refuse to answer questions, give out information or allow reporters, MPs or MEPs into the base. Answers are refused to many of the questions asked in the House of Commons about Menwith.

Genny Bove, of Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum, said:

"I took part in this peaceful demonstration to raise awareness that Menwith Hill is a small piece of America on British soil, and to demand that Britain should assert its independence from America and close this Spy Base, returning the land to the British people. We should not be supporting the U.S.'s ongoing military

expansion but should be doing all we can to stop this process since it is abundantly clear that the U.S. is a rogue state guilty of all the crimes it uses itself as excuses to invade other countries or undermine their governments."

heddwch action

For more information about CAAB see www.caab.org.uk. For more information about Menwith Hill, see

<http://cndyorks.gn.apc.org/mhs/index.htm>.

For more information about Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum, contact

wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com or (0845) 330 4505.



Star Wars starts wars

www.greenpeace.org.uk

Showing some respect at Bangor (USA)

Fourteen people were arrested at the US Bangor Trident submarine base during a nonviolent direct action in honour of mothers' day. Demonstrators blocked the highway entrance into the base with a long banner that stated, "the earth is our mother—treat her with respect."

Too tender

Demonstrators read the Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870 by Julia Ward Howe which calls for women around the world to put an end to war. The Proclamation states, "*Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience... We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.*"

Non-violence succeeds

If those arrested are formally charged, it would be the first attempt to prosecute nonviolent demonstrators since February 2000. Kitsap County prosecutors have been unable to get convictions against nonviolent activists arrested at Bangor the last three times they have tried. Juries and judges have found that people arrested at Bangor protests have the legal right to redress grievances under International and US law with nonviolent direct action.

Certificates of appreciation

This year for Mother's Day, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action formally made the obvious connection between peace and anti-war rallies and rapidly growing conscientious objector and counter-recruitment efforts. Ground Zero issued numerous certificates of appreciation to women and men of draft age who attended the event. The purpose is to help young people document their conscientious objection to war.

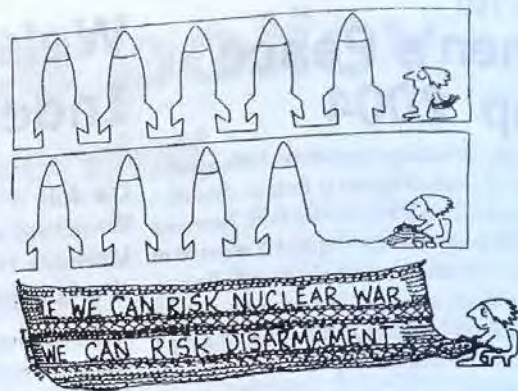
The next planned direct action at Bangor will be held on the 59th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9th.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor is the last active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast of the USA and is the place of deployment for approximately 1,760 nuclear warheads. The base has been recently rebuilt for the deployment of the larger and the more accurate Trident D-5 missile system. Each of the 24 D-5 missiles on a Trident submarine is capable of carrying eight of the larger 475 kiloton W-88 warheads. Four older Trident submarines at Bangor are being refitted for the deployment of Tomahawk cruise missiles. Each of the older submarines will be able to launch 154 cruise missiles within a six minute period.

heddwch action

Send messages of support: Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159, Clear Creek Road, NW Poulsbo, WA 98370 USA Phone: +1-360-779-4672 e-mail: info@gzcenter.org
Website: www.gzcenter.org

heddwch10



Calculating Disaster

US Trident accidents

There is no weapon system in the US arsenal with the operational risks of a Trident submarine. No weapon has as much explosive material, in the form of solid rocket propellant, and the number of nuclear warheads tightly packed in a confined vessel.

In November last year, a missile handling crew at Bangor, Washington State USA hoisted a Trident C-4 missile into a ladder that was left inside the launch tube. A nine-inch hole was made in the nose cone as the ladder came within inches of a live nuclear warhead. All missile handling operations at the Strategic Weapons Facility were stopped for nine weeks until Bangor could be re-certified for handling nuclear weapons. The top three commanders were dismissed.

When the accident became public in March this year, many acknowledged the Navy's concern for safety but failed to recognize one critical fact—the design of the missile is inherently flawed. Lockheed Martin and the Navy consider the Trident propellant to be 1.25 percent more explosive than conventional TNT. Some tests show it to be twice as volatile at TNT. The propellant is capable of detonating upon impact. Had the ladder struck the third stage rocket motor with sufficient force, the resultant explosion would have detonated the much larger first and second stage rocket motors and spread plutonium across Puget Sound.

In July 2003, a federal lawsuit, Milner v. US Department of the Navy [of which the writer is the plaintiff], brought the public release of the Navy's Trident missile accident review and propellant hazard analysis. While issues such as tornadoes and crane failure were considered in the safety reviews, no mention was made of missile technicians leaving for coffee break and forgetting the ladder in the missile launch tube. A number of other causative events, such as falling objects and electrical fires, were not studied because the chances of such an event at the Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor were considered too remote.

One Trident submarine, loaded with the newer D-5 missile, has enough solid rocket propellant to equal 3.7 million pounds of TNT. This explosive is equal to the explosive force of a 1.8 kiloton nuclear bomb. Add to this the nuclear reactor and up to 192 nuclear warheads on one Trident submarine. In June 2001, a coalition of two environmental and three peace organizations filed a federal lawsuit against the D-5 missile upgrade at Bangor. The case, focusing on the risks involved in missile handling operations at Bangor, is now in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The risks of a catastrophic accident at Bangor are enormous. The Navy could lose the operational base for approximately 25 percent of our nation's deployed nuclear arsenal. Citizens of Puget Sound could lose their homes and their lives and large numbers of people could suffer horrific illness and genetic damage.
Edited from an article by Glen Milner who lives in Seattle and is a member of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, Washington. Please see www.gzcenter.org.

a mystery of westminster explained

What is an Early Day Motion ?

An Early Day Motion (EDM) is a short written statement of facts, beliefs or opinion, which is put out by an MP asking the government to take a position on a matter of policy, practice or procedure.

EDMs exist to allow Members to put on record their opinion on a subject and canvass support for it from fellow Members. The tabling of an EDM is a device to draw attention to an issue and to elicit support for it by inviting other MPs to add their signatures. In effect, the primary function of an EDM is to form a kind of petition that MPs can sign. The more MPs sign an EDM, the more effective it is in attracting press interest and stimulating public opinion and may ultimately compel the government to act.

An MP would not expect their EDM to be debated. MPs can also table amendments to existing EDMs. However, the group of EDMs known as 'prayers' may be debated. Prayers are motions to annul or revoke Statutory Instruments, and include the form of words 'that an Humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that the [title of legislation], a copy of which was laid before this House on [date], be annulled.' Many MPs welcome having their attention drawn by constituents, to tabled EDMs.

**Sam Akaki British CND
Parliamentary Worker**

heddwch action

There are currently three Early Day Motions that are particularly relevant to our campaigns that we are urging you to encourage your MP to sign. Copy the EDM, send it to your MP at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA with a short covering letter. You can also fax your MP www.faxyourmp.co.uk; phone them via the House of Commons (tel 020 7219 3000); or email through <http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolists/almc.cfm>.

EDM 1407

US-UK Mutual Defense Agreement renewal and the NPT
24.06.04 Lew Smith (Blaenau Gwent)

That this House notes the proposed 10-year extension to the 1958 United Kingdom-United States Agreement for Cooperation on the uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence purposes, as amended, suggested in Cm 6261 as presented to Parliament on 21st June; believes that the extension of this bilateral treaty undermines United Kingdom and

United States' commitments under Article 1 of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), for which they are depository states, which states each nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; is concerned that the Government does not see a potential conflict of interest between the MDA and the United Kingdom commitment to the NPT as stated by Lord Bach in the House of Lords on 22nd June, at column 1119; recalls the comment by the NPT review conference, Main Committee on 8th May 1995 that among states parties there are variations in the interpretation of certain aspects of Articles I and II which need clarification, especially regarding the obligations of nuclear-weapon states parties among themselves... which may have resulted in transfer of nuclear weapons in violation of the spirit and objective of [NPT] Article I; and therefore calls for a debate in Government time in advance of possible ratification of the treaty, as amended.

EDM 1023

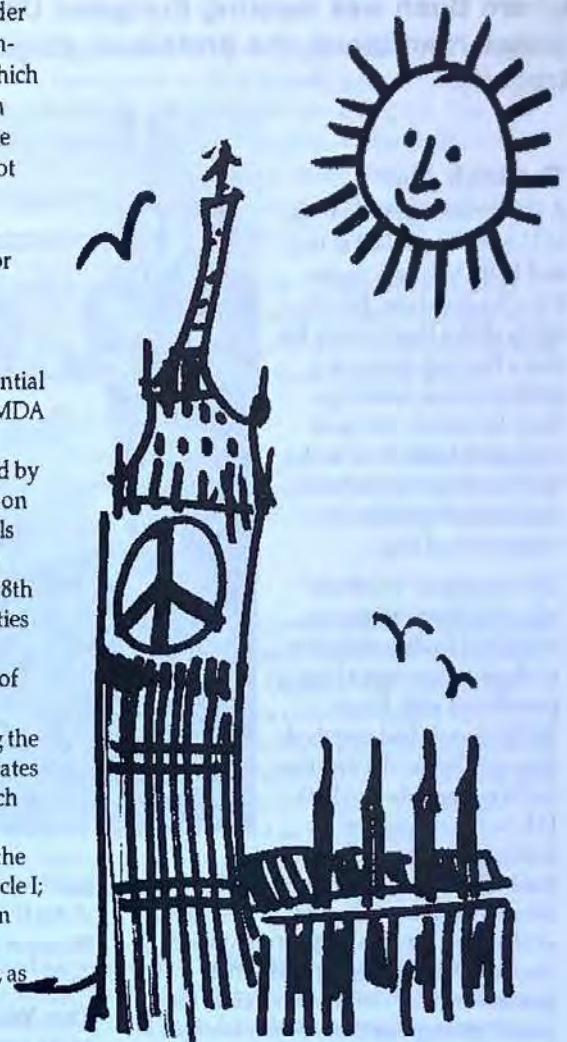
VANUNU AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
21.04.04 Lew Smith (Blaenau Gwent)

That this House welcomes the release from 18 years in prison of Mordechai Vanunu, the original inspector of nuclear weapons of mass destruction in Israel, on 21st April; deplores the further restrictions on his freedom of speech and movement being applied by the Israeli Government; fully supports his statement on release from prison 'Israel doesn't need nuclear arms. My message today to the world is: Open Dimona reactor for inspections'; supports his further call for all nuclear weapons worldwide to be dismantled; and calls upon the United Kingdom Government to take the first step by decommissioning Trident.

EDM 1355

CHAGOS ISLANDERS
15.06.04 (Jeremy Corbyn)

That this House recognises the historical injustice of the removal of all the inhabitants from Diego Garcia and the Chagos Islands in order to make way for a US base on Diego Garcia; notes that under the terms of the British Overseas Territories Act 2002, British citizenship was granted to the inhabitants and their right of return was enshrined in the Court Order of 2000; is therefore astonished at the publication of the British Indian Ocean Territory (Legislation) Order 2004 and the British Indian Ocean Territory (Constitution) Order 2004; and calls for the Government to rescind both.



All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten Bush's dirty hand

On June 26th hundreds of peace protestors marched on Dromoland Castle in West Ireland where Bush was meeting European Union leaders for an EU-U.S 'summit'. When stopped at a police road block, the protestors staged their own version of Shakespeare's bloody Scottish tragedy.

The Irish play

A ghost read out the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq and Lady Macbeth read a list of Iraqi victims. Finally, a witch with a black pointy hat and a flowing cape cast a spell on a man wearing a Bush facemask. The man crumpled to the floor as the witch ordered him to leave Ireland and end the occupation of Iraq.

The staging of "MacBush" was one of several events organised by demonstrators to show their anger at the president's visit. Some 10,000 people had marched through Dublin the previous night in opposition to both U.S. policy in Iraq and Ireland's decision to host Bush. They were also protesting the decision to allow U.S. military jets to refuel at Shannon (civilian) airport en route to the Gulf. The Irish government has transformed the civilian airport into the major 'pit stop' for the U.S. war machine's invasion, occupation and plunder of Iraq. According to official figures, 125,855 U.S. troops travelled via Shannon to the Middle

East last year. For the last 18 months, 10,000 U.S. troops per month have used Shannon as a transit centre to the Middle East.

The Welsh protest

At the same time protests were held at Irish Embassies and Consulates around the world. CND Cymru, Côr Cochion and other peace activists held a peace vigil outside the Irish consulate at Brunel House, Cardiff drawing particular attention to the violation of Irish neutrality by the Irish Government. The Cardiff vigil was held at the request of Irish CND and 'Pit Stop Ploughshares'. A letter from CND Cymru was handed to the consulate for Irish Taoiseach

Bertie Aherne, calling on him to respect Ireland's proud record of neutrality and to close Shannon Airport to military use. Ray Davies, Vice Chair of CND Cymru, said while handing in the letter, "The West has impoverished and devastated Iraq for 12 years with sanctions, and now further ravaged it with invasion and occupation. Who is paying the price? Innocent Iraqis, young Allied soldiers coerced into the military by seductive advertising and promise of employment, and the British taxpayer."

In calling for the demilitarisation of Shannon Airport we are also calling for an end to the illegal occupation of Iraq, and for British troops to be brought home now."

heddwch action

More information:
Pitstop Ploughshares Claron O Reilly : +353 1 492 6100
 (www.freewebs.com/mary_kelly/) and (www.ploughsharesireland.org)



Wendy Lewis



heddwch12

Diego Garcia

Use of Diego Garcia, the largest island of the British Indian Ocean Territory, was given over to the US in 1966 to site a naval communications and support facility and airbase. As part of a deal enabling Britain to purchase the Polaris nuclear weapons system from the US at a reduced cost, at least 3,000 Chagos islanders were forcibly evicted.

The islanders, dismissed by one British official at the time as '...some few Tarzans and Men Fridays, whose origins are obscure...' were literally dumped on the docks in Mauritius and left to face lives of poverty and discrimination. Although more than 30 years later in 2000 the British High Court ruled the 'wholesale removal' of the islanders an 'abject legal failure', the islanders have not been allowed to return. The Government has always claimed that the islanders' return would not be feasible, explaining with brazen honesty that its position on the future of the island is determined by 'our strategic and other interests and our treaty commitments to the USA'.

Today, Diego Garcia is a US military base that has played major roles in attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq. It is also a station for tracking satellites in space. The island is strategically extremely significant to the United States. Like the US base at 'RAF Fairford' in Britain, it is one of three airbases outside the US designed for the long-range B2 'stealth' nuclear-capable bombers.

New government bombshell hits Chagos islanders

Having won a historic Judgment from the High Court which meant the right to return to their homeland following 30 years of exile a new immigration law was passed permitting those born on the islands and their children to return to all islands of the Archipelago *except* to Diego Garcia. Apart from some preliminary investigations on the "feasibility" of return, nothing has been done to restore the Chagossians to their homeland.

In June this year, the Islanders' solicitor, Richard Gifford was told that the British Government had now passed a new law totally

banning all Chagossians from even setting foot on their homeland. Moreover the ban applied to all 65 islands, despite the fact that only one has ever been occupied by Britain or the US. This new development takes away the advantage gained in 2000 which proved that their removal 30 years ago was unlawful. Reasons given for the decision were cost (because of the expected effects global warming!) and "defence interests".

There is no evidence whatever that the US airbase, which has a population of 4,000 at any one time, is proposing to pack up and leave. On the contrary the Americans have recently spent millions of dollars building special shelters for their stealth bombers.

The solicitor for the islanders said:

'There can hardly be a more shameful history of mistreatment of a population in modern times. It is impossible to reconcile the Government's keenness on applying Human Rights in the Overseas Territories with this cavalier disregard of basic human values.'

Torture Scandal

It has been revealed that the British Government has allowed the CIA and the US Department of Defence to operate a top-secret anti-terrorist interrogation centre on Diego Garcia. None of the prisoners are protected by the Geneva Convention and FBI director Robert Mueller has said the interrogation techniques used by the CIA interrogators "violate all American anti-torture laws and would be prohibited in criminal cases of the most serious kind". The techniques used are included in a secret CIA manual on coercive questioning. It contains sections headed "Threats and Fear", "Pain", "Narcosis" and "Heightened Suggestibility and Hypnosis".

Both MI6 and Mossad agents are known to have visited Diego Garcia to question "high value" suspected terrorists. Both Amnesty and the International Red Cross have been refused permission to visit the island under a secret deal made between London and Washington.

A key US ruling states violations of American statutes that prohibit torture, degrading treatment or the Geneva Convention will not apply "if it can be argued that the detainees are formally in the custody of another country". As Diego Garcia is a British colony, it could mean that the prisoners there are entitled to British protection.

The prisoners on Diego Garcia are part of more than 9,000 other detainees who are held in US military controlled prisons specially set up for the purpose. Only what the CIA manual denotes as "the most difficult" are sent to Diego Garcia.



heddwch action

More information from:

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space,

PO Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011, + (207) 729-0517

<http://www.space4peace.org> globalnet@mindspring.com

AWE Aldermaston gets go-ahead for new laser

Councils in the Nuclear Free network have called for a public inquiry into Government plans to construct a massive laser facility at the Aldermaston nuclear weapons' plant in Berkshire.

The British Government says the laser is needed to "ensure that the UK's current strategic nuclear weapon "Trident" is reliable without resort to physical testing (and be able to) build a new nuclear warhead to replace Trident."

The laser facility could also be used to design and test a new generation of more useable 'mini-nukes' with smaller warheads. Such developments are underway in the USA. Many analysts fear that developing and deploying smaller nuclear weapons brings us closer to the day when they are used again. Even small nuclear weapons would inflict devastation not seen since two atomic bombs levelled the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 killing over 200,000 people.

The Ministry of Defence notified West Berkshire Council of its proposal but because it is not yet bound by planning laws, council officers advised the Council that it had no power to withhold any planning permission for the laser. As a result, on 23rd June, the Council decided to raise no formal objection and declined to recommend that the new developments at AWE be the subject of a non-statutory public inquiry. This was despite receiving over 300 written objections and petitions and the fact that the controlling group on the Council oppose nuclear weapons.

Alternative investment

A reply from the Chairman of West Berkshire Council, Councillor Keith Lock, to an objection from the Mayor of Hiroshima, Dr Tadatoshi Akiba, said:
"Our view is that our Government should not maintain a Trident submarine force and money would be better spent on conventional weapons or other things."

Speaking for the Nuclear Free Local Authorities, their Acting Chair, Bury Councillor Alan Matthews, said:
"Opinion in the country is divided on the need to continue as a nuclear power. Now is the time to openly consider the costs and benefits of spending so much on a weapons programme when our public services are in need of more support."

Meanwhile AWE continue to service the current British Trident nuclear weapons system.

Throwing out the treaties

Those opposing the proposed development consider that it would represent a breach of Britain's obligations under international treaties. Britain has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: banning nuclear tests and so reducing the likelihood of nuclear weapons proliferation. The Treaty is not yet in force as some other states have yet to ratify, but Britain is rightly 'observing' a moratorium on testing. However, simulating testing by computer and laboratory means as proposed at Aldermaston - while not formally a breach of the Treaty, is a deliberate bypassing of the purposes of the Treaty and as such a breach of the spirit if not the letter of the treaty.

Britain is also a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Under Article VI of this Treaty, the nuclear weapon states undertake to work for nuclear disarmament by negotiation - interpreted in 1996, by the International Court of Justice as an obligation to achieve nuclear disarmament at an early date. Any work preparing for a successor to Trident or facilitating the production of new nuclear weapons is accordingly a clear breach of Britain's NPT undertakings (as confirmed in 2000 at the NPT Review Conference).
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>



Ben Freeman

heddwch action

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (aigyn) (AWPC) with the support of other groups, is launching the "Block the Builders" pledge, and asking people to sign up to a massive nonviolent blockade of Aldermaston on the first Monday after work starts on site. People are also needed in support roles.

Future camps at Aldermaston
27th-30th August: Reclaim the Bases summer camp Contact:
info@thed10group.org.uk or 07887 585721
<http://www.reclaimthebases.org.uk>
AWPC regular monthly women's camps
6th-9th August - Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp (aigyn) 57, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing, W Sussex BN11, Britain
mobile: 07969 739 812
email: info@aldermaston.net
web: <http://www.aldermaston.net>

Hate military low flying?

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



graphic: charlotte turtle

Hazards of the deep Changes to Llyn Trawsfynydd

A nuclear power station was built on the shores of Llyn Trawsfynydd in the 1960s and the water from the lake was used to cool the reactors. This water became contaminated with radionuclides, which were subsequently deposited in the lake, sediments and surrounding areas.

The Environment Agency has decided to commission a study into the possible impacts that might result from a future reduction in water level on Llyn Trawsfynydd in Gwynedd. The study is being carried out by 'Enviros Consulting Ltd.' and the study asks 'what if' questions in considering the effect of reduced water levels or even complete draining of the lake. Possible future uses being considered are a return to agricultural land or even for housing development.

A confidential Central Electricity Generating Board report: "A Survey of the Distribution of Radioactivity in Llyn Trawsfynydd" produced in 1988 warned of the dangers of the silts under the water of the lake becoming exposed and released into the atmosphere. The reason for the danger was the presence of a highly significant amount of radionuclides in the top 300mm of the silt and also the likely migration of these radionuclides into lower levels.

Llyn Trawsfynydd is a radioactive hazard and public access should be stopped. It should be treated as a nuclear waste store.

heddwch action

Send your comments on these 'what if' proposals to:

Duncan Jackson, Consulting Group manager, Enviros Consulting, 61, The Shore, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6RA, Scotland

duncan.jackson@enviros.com (0131) 555 9536 For further details contact Rod Stallard (contacts page 18).



No new nuclear submarines

In 2000 the MoD commissioned Lancaster University to suggest a publically acceptable means of fully decommissioning the 'laid-up' nuclear submarines in Britain. The British navy has 27 nuclear powered submarines - 11 have been taken out of service and are stored afloat, 7 of these are at Rosyth in Scotland and 4 at Devonport in England. There are 3 new 'Astute Class' nuclear powered submarines on order and are being built at Barrow, England.

Waste

Since the laid-up submarines have been de-fuelled, the radioactive waste involved is classified as 'intermediate level waste' and 'low level waste'.

Following the initial study by Lancaster University the MoD invited proposals from private contractors to submit plans for the 'management' of the radioactive waste involved. The consultation process rejected all of these proposals.

Recommendations

The final report from Lancaster University which was published in May 2004, had 50 recommendations including:

- *No new nuclear powered submarines should be built until a full decommissioning policy is available.
- *The transport of radioactive material should be minimised and must be justified to the public.
- *Existing contaminated sites should be used for dismantling and storing the submarine reactors.
- *Any proposals to deal with the problem must be subject to civil planning procedures.
- *All sites being considered should have social and environmental assessments made and disclosed to the public.
- *Local communities must be allowed to participate in discussions on the proposals and their agreement must be obtained.

CND Cymru was involved in this consultation and some of our suggestions seem to have been incorporated (albeit with some dilution) in the final recommendation.

An infinite problem

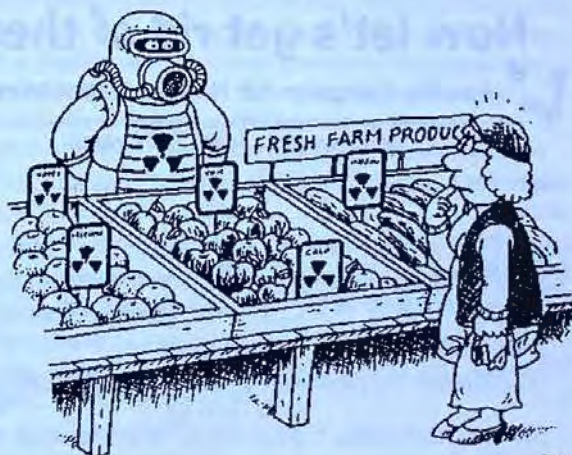
However, the report ignores:

- *The strong possibility that no national (i.e. British) central nuclear waste store will be built because of expected local opposition.
- *That any sort of existing nuclear site could become a long term radioactive waste store.

Any site in which radioactive material is stored should have provision for safe, long term (i.e. forever) storage and for the monitoring and repackaging of the waste.

heddwch action

The report of the individual consultations is available at www.isolus.org.uk or from Dr. Jane Hunt, Lancaster University (01524) 592 658 email: csec@lancaster.ac.uk



ETB

Sellafield

'The dirty thirty' in trouble

"Making bombs will only destroy us. It doesn't matter whether or not we use them, they will destroy us either way."

Arundhati Roy

The European Commission could be taking the British Government to court for failing to fully account for its nuclear material. The 44 year-old leaking B30 storage ponds at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria (nicknamed by Sellafield workers 'the dirty thirty') 'contain' nuclear waste from, amongst other nuclear sites, Trawsfynydd and Wylfa nuclear power stations in Wales. The ground around the ponds is also highly contaminated.

Disregard for regulations

The European Commission (EC) have described as "untenable" a situation in which highly radioactive conditions at the facility are preventing it from carrying out inspection activities under Euratom safeguards. This problem has been known for a long time and the EC watchdog Euratom has described the situation as 'unsatisfactory', but no initiative had been taken by British Nuclear Fuels to rectify it. European Commissioner for Energy & Transport Loyola de Palacio had called on the British Government to submit an action plan by June 1st to end the situation. The failure to do could end in Court Action against the British Government.

Do as I do

The EC is concerned that it will be difficult to hold new member states of the EU to account for the conditions of their nuclear sites if Britain disregards environmental and health regulations. The storage ponds emit such high levels of radiation that each worker is only permitted to work near it for an hour each day.

Filthy business

It is estimated that the storage ponds hold 1.3 tonnes of military and civil plutonium and between 300 and 450 tonnes of uranium metal. It takes only a few kilogram of plutonium to make a nuclear bomb capable of devastating a city. Plutonium 239 alone has a half-life of 24,400 years and when ingested by animals, including humans lodges in the blood, bones, lungs and reproductive organs. Uranium is both radiologically and chemically toxic and poses a health hazard as a heavy metal as well as a radioisotope.

FOUND! weapons of mass destruction*

USA: 10,640

Russia: 8,600

China: 400

France: 350

Britain: 200

Israel: 100 - 200

India: 30 - 35

Pakistan: 24 - 48

**and that's only the nuclear weapons*

Now let's get rid of them!



Join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Yes, I want to join CND Cymru.

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



I enclose a cheque/PO for £ payable to CND Cymru

waged couple: £16 ; adult £12;

low/unwaged and pensioners :£4; youth and students £4

Please return to:

CND Cymru Membership, 7, Brook Terrace, Mochdre, Newtown SY16 4JG

Website: www.cndcymru.org

Phone: (01550) 750 260

heddwch16

Vanunu – not so free... yet

Nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu, kidnapped and jailed by the Israeli authorities for revealing the truth about Israel's secret nuclear weapons programme was released from prison on 21st April. He is, however, still subject to many restrictions and is unable to leave Israel. An Anglican bishop has granted Vanunu 'sanctuary' in St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem and has urged Tony Blair to put pressure on the government of Ariel Sharon to let the former technician leave the country.

On May 9th Mordechai wrote:

"Dear friends, this is my first email to all my friends, my supporters, around the world. I would like to thank all of you for your support and for the campaign work for my release. Thank you very much for walking with me all these years. It was great and wonderful to meet some of you here, on the day of my release, the end of 17.5 years of isolation. Now it is a new beginning, I hope, soon I will be able to meet all of you. Thank you for all your prayers. I am staying at St. Georges Cathedral Close, and my thanks for being able to stay here. You are welcome to send me messages, my email is vanunumvjc@hotmail.com

For a Nuclear Weapons Free World. - Vanunu - MVJC

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Although Mordechai Vanunu has completed his lengthy prison sentence and there are no further charges against him he is still being punished. It is, therefore crucial that we do not let the present restrictions become entrenched, thereby creating another form of lengthy imprisonment.

Write to Vanunu at St. George's Cathedral, PO Box 19018, 20 Nablus Road, Jerusalem, Israel, or e-mail him at one of two addresses: ediosces@netvision.net.il or vanunumvjc@hotmail.com (He is very keen to keep up his widespread correspondence, particularly while his movements are so restricted.)

For more information about Vanunu contact Campaign to Free Vanunu and for a Nuclear Free Middle East, 185, New Kent Road, London SE1 4AG (020)7378 9324

campaign@vanunu.freeserve.co.uk www.vanunu.freeserve.co.uk

Peace Tax Seven

Judicial Review Group

Are we still innocent if we do not go to war ourselves, but give money so that others go in our place ?

7-10% of our taxes are spent on military expenses. £31 billion per year are spent on the military, over eight times the amount spent on international development. In an age of sophisticated military technology, financial conscription to war has replaced the conscription of human beings. The right to conscientious objection has been recognised in Britain since 1916. No provisions are currently made for conscientious objectors to war to redirect the military part of their taxes to peaceful purposes.

The Peace Tax 7 are a group of seven taxpaying citizens opposed to the compulsory use of individual tax contributions for military expenditure. They are calling for the right of conscientious objectors to have the military part of their taxes directed towards non-violent conflict resolution and are seeking a judicial review of British tax laws to introduce alternative provisions for conscientious objectors.

History of war tax resistance

The Peace Tax 7 are following the example of many others. The most famous war tax resister was the writer Henry David Thoreau. He refused to pay the poll tax levied for the Mexican War in the 1840s and was imprisoned as a result. During the Indochina War, war tax resistance regained strength in the United States. In 1964 the singer Joan Baez announced her refusal to pay a proportion of her taxes because of the war in Vietnam. Many others joined her. In Britain, Quakers have been at the forefront of war tax resistance. Several people, Quakers and others, have been prosecuted and forfeited money and possessions for opposing war taxation. A few have been imprisoned. A change in the law is necessary to restore conscientious objectors' human right to freedom of conscience.

The Legal Case

The right of conscientious objection to conscription to military service has been recognised in most democracies, including in Britain in the Military Service Act (1916). The right not to pay taxes for military purposes is a logical extension of the right to refuse to take part in active military service. Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) recognises freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The ECHR is part of British law under the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998, which came into force in October 2000. Since that date it has been unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with the ECHR. Compelling conscientious objectors to contribute to military expenditure constitutes a disproportionate interference with these basic human rights, and is therefore unlawful.

What would change if the case were won?

If they win, the law will not change immediately, but the British government would be under obligation to consider the incompatibility between British tax law and human rights law. It is hoped that the outcome of such a review would be to allow conscientious objectors the right to redirect the military proportion of their taxes to a peaceful purpose.

The Peace Tax 7 legal representative is Phil Shiner from Public Interest Lawyers. The case is likely to take up to 12 months to go through the courts and may entail costs of up to £50,000. The seven war tax resisters, are personally liable for these costs.



The Peace Tax 7

Brenda Boughton *retired teacher*

"I'm a pacifist but I didn't start life as one, but as you learn more about the world you realise it's the way to go, we have to learn to get on with other people. We have to learn that wars are not heroic, they are something to be ashamed of, a sign of weakness and failure."

Roy Prockter *Chartered Management Accountant*

"For all of my adult life I have held a strong conviction that all war, and all preparation for war, is wrong and contrary to the spirit of God, as experienced by many people of many different faiths and cultures, but most pertinently, as I have experienced it personally. I can no longer pay taxes for others to kill or prepare to kill in my name."

Dr Birgit Völlm *psychiatrist & university lecturer*

"I am a doctor and I chose this profession to help people and to alleviate suffering. Contributing to war directly or indirectly by giving money for it, is not compatible with my professional values as a health care professional."

Robin Brookes *traditional toy designer*

"A non-violent conflict resolution programme is urgently needed. If a fraction of the money spent on military preparations was spent on this we would go far along the road of making war a thing of the past."

Siân Cwper *Buddhist*

"The purpose of my Buddhist practice is to benefit all sentient beings. Killing and wounding people is the opposite, and I do not wish to pay for it. I want my taxes to go towards something beneficial."

Simon Heywood *university lecturer*

"If any UK government tries to spend a penny of my tax undermining international law, then as a citizen of the world I have the legal right to forbid this use of my money. And if any UK government tries to spend a penny of my tax destroying innocent lives, then as a human being I have the moral duty to exercise that right."

Joe Jenkins *author/film maker*

"This government knows full well that even where the British give general consent to the process of taxation it is always a tentative consent, a fragile consent that must be nursed and safeguarded by positive public relations. Today there exists among taxpayers a reservoir of grievance and hurt that a British government has committed our armed forces into a misguided, mismanaged and illegal war. Increasingly it seems that there exists too, a potential of sympathy for war tax resisters."

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To raise the resources for this landmark case the Peace Tax 7 need your help!

Send donations payable to 'Peace Tax 7' to The Treasurer, Peace Tax 7, Woodlands, Ledge Hill, Market Lavington, Wiltshire SN10 4NW

email: info@peacetaxseven.com

www.peacetaxseven.com

diary dates

August 6th - 9th Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, Berkshire, England. Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki Contact: AWPC, 157, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing, W. Sussex BN11
info@aldermston.net <http://www.aldermaston.net>

August 6th - 9th Lakenheath 'RAF' USAF Base Suffolk, England. Peace Camp to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings. 'RAF' Lakenheath. Contact: Lakenheath Action Group <http://www.motherearth.org/lakenheathaction/>
thepeaceforce@theatreofwar.org (0116) 270 6436

August 6th Newport National Eisteddfod (July 31st - August 7th) Pabell Heddwch Hiroshima Commemorative event contact: (01446) 760 383

August 6th 7:30pm Swansea Dove Tree, Singleton Park, (through the gate behind Taliesin Theatre, Swansea University) Hiroshima Commemorative Ceremony Poetry & other readings, songs, all people & contributions are welcome. Contact: Lopyy Garrard (01792) 561 229

August 6th 8.00pm Chester, The Groves, Hiroshima & Nagasaki Flower Memorial Meet at the bandstand for readings, the dropping of flowers on the river and a short silence. Please bring white flowers if you wish. Everyone welcome. Contact: (01244) 679 051

August 7th 10.00am-1.00pm Chester Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street Peace Festival - Peace cafe and information/goods stalls representing Peace and Justice organisations
7.30-9.30pm An Evening of Words and Music for Peace all welcome contact: The Warden (01244) 316 554 chesterwarden@lineone.net

August 7th 7.30pm Cardiff Roath Park sailing paper boats, readings and songs. Contact: Ray Davies (02920) 889 514

8th August 12 pm onwards Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (Tan-y-bryn, Waterfall Road) Peace Picnic to remember Hiroshima at the 'Wildlife Garden' which includes the Hilda Murrell Memorial Birch Grove. Bring and buy stalls and Live music. Contact: Borders Peace & Justice Network, 4, Old School Cottages, St. Martins, SY11 3AS Marnie (0845) 458 2981 or Diane (01691) 777 672 gery_doe@hotmail.com

August 23rd Faslane The Big Blockade 2004. Scottish CND: (0845) 458 8361. <http://www.banthebomb.org/>

August 27th - 30th Aldermaston, Berkshire England Reclaim the Bases summer camp. Contact: info@thed10group.org.uk phone: 07887 585 721 <http://www.reclaimthebases.org.uk>

August 28th Cardiff National Museum Steps 12pm - 1pm Women in Black Vigil Contact: Fernfire@aol.com

September 11th - 12th London British CND Annual Conference. City Hall, The Queen's Walk, SE1. www.cnduk.org 020 7700 2393.

September 12th Everywhere Racial Justice Sunday: "One Race, the Human Race". Free packs, prayer leaflets, flyers from Catholic Association for Racial Justice, 9 Henry Road, Manor House, London, N4 2LH (020) 8802 8080 email: info@carj.co.uk

September 18th - 21st Couplport Disarmament Camp, Scotland (and convenient for Faslane). <http://www.tridentploughshares.org/couplport/index.php>

September 18th CND Cymru Cyngor all paid up members and delegates welcome. Get involved! Contact CND Cymru National Secretary for further information (see Contacts)

September 25th to October 2nd Universally Keep Space for Peace Week <http://cndyorks.gn.apc.org/> or Yorkshire CND, 22 Edmund Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD5 0BH (01274) 730 795 e-mail: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

New Membership Secretary for CND Cymru

At CND Cymru's 2004 Annual Meeting in Rhaeadr, officers elected were - Chair: Jill Evans MEP, Vice Chairs: Olwen Davies, Ray Davies, David Bradley and Rod Stallard. Heartfelt thanks were given to Membership Secretary Brian Jones who stands down after 10 years in the post. A warm welcome was offered to new Membership Secretary Monica Bradley of Newtown, already well known in the peace movement as a brilliant Mid Wales campaigner. Monica is also a CND Cymru representative on British CND Council along with John Cox and David Bradley. National Secretary, Treasurer, and Trading officer were also thanked for their continued hard work and commitment over the year.

The Annual Meeting also heard financial, membership and trading reports and an overview of CND Cymru's campaigning year.

Jill Stallard, National Secretary thanked to everyone who has persisted in coming to meetings. She said "We should feel proud of the important work that we do."

Copies of Annual Reports are available to CND Cymru members. All offers of active participation are welcome. Contact Jill Stallard (see contacts).

cnd cymru contacts

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If you have any queries or ideas or want information please contact your nearest vice chair.

For more information about joining CND Cymru, or how to receive 'heddwch' regularly please contact the CND Cymru Membership Secretary.