



## Ten years after – Chernobyl never disappears

The tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster has already been targeted by the nuclear industry as an opportunity to reassure the world that the effects of the accident have not been nearly so serious as the "scaremongers" have made out and that such an accident could never happen in the West.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is planning a Conference in Vienna in April at which it will seek to convince everyone that all is well with the nuclear dream. Nothing could be further from the truth and we must plan early to raise public awareness about the hazards of all things nuclear – energy, reprocessing, waste disposal, weapons production and transportation radioactive materials, waste and warheads.

Chernobyl is not just something that happened ten years ago. It is an ongoing catastrophe which will continue to blight the lives of hundreds of thousands of people for years and perhaps generations to come. And it could happen here.

400,000 people have been evacuated from their homes. Hundreds of thousands more still wait to be moved. Where would people be evacuated to if there was an explosion at you nearest nuclear plant or convoy route?

Thyroid cancer has risen by over 100 times because children absorbed radio-iodine in the first few days. What plans are there here to urgently dispense iodine to more than a million children? How would our health service cope with the huge rises in cancer, leukaemia, respiratory diseases, heart problems and birth defects which would arise in Britain if there were a major accident? Where would we turn for help to take our children on clear air holidays?

A report commissioned by Nuclear Free Authorities in 1994 showed that an explosion in the high level waste tanks at Sellafield could release far more radiation than Chernobyl – which itself released several hundred times more radioactivity than the Hiroshima bomb.

Linda Walker, Greater Manchester CND



## Chernobyl Children's Project in South Wales

The newly formed Chernobyl Children's Project South Wales Group is now fund-raising to bring over our first group of children from the contaminated areas of Belarus.

We plan to send at least 2 ambulances and possibly a third to Belarus this Autumn, with medical aid and equipment.

We've written to every school in Mid and South Glamorgan asking them to support the Project and to allow us to give a video presentation and display at their school.

One large comprehensive school in Mid Glamorgan has already agreed to donate one of their minibuses and to fundraise for its refurbishment. We have also written to South Glamorgan

ambulance service with the support of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff requesting their help to acquire an ambulance.

The aims of the Chernobyl Children's Project include an affirmation to campaign against the use of nuclear power, and to ensure that such an accident never happens again.

### # ACTION

We have organised a sponsored walk and fund-raising/information stall at Roath Park Lake on Bank Holiday Monday May 6th commencing 10 am. Anyone wishing to sponsor us or make a donation please use the enclosed form or get in touch with Stuart Eastland (01222) 864793 or Ray Davies (see contacts)



# Love from Wales to the Children of Chernobyl

There were times last year when we thought that we wouldn't reach our target, but finally the amount raised by all of you in CND Cymru and by friends totalled almost £7,000. We were also donated some wonderful medical equipment. Local businesses and individuals gave us invaluable help and support. We left Britain as part of a convoy of 14 ambulances and 3 lorries from the Chernobyl Children's Project in Ireland and Manchester, and a BBC crew.

Part of our precious cargo was about 40 beautiful pictures, drawn, painted and coloured by children from Ysgol Capel Cynfab, Cynghordy. These were to be delivered to a "Home for Children with Sight Difficulties" in Vasilevichi, a small town in the contaminated zones. Our ambulance left Wales heavy with good wishes.

After an amazing 5 day trip across France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Poland, we crossed into Belarus. When the convoy broke up to go its different ways we accompanied another ambulance and a lorry around Minsk then the highly contaminated regions of the South of the country, helping to deliver aid.

What we experienced as we travelled around justified our years of campaigning against nuclear weapons and power. In the wards and corridors of the hospitals and children's homes and in the evacuation centres in Minsk we were confronted with the reality of our arguments. We became very conscious that for years, nuclear weapons in our country had been aimed at these lovely people who were giving us their love with the best of the little they had.

Paediatric departments are overflowing with sick children. In many places we visited, the construction of new hospitals and schools had been halted in 1991 with the break-up of the Soviet Union. Once many of the buildings we visited must have been sound and schools were certainly built with the children's needs in mind. Now, however, there has been little or no maintenance for several years and the buildings were very run down. Despite the efforts of the Staff, some of whom are not paid for long periods, and then

only very little, the institutions are falling into serious disrepair. Even the best funded facilities in Minsk have serious problems. In a children's hospital of three floors of thyroid cases, there was not one toy. Some of our colleagues visited a hospital which appeared to be in good repair, but in that hospital the medicine cupboard was empty. We visited hospitals where there are no pain killers, and no anti-biotics.

**"We have half a million children under 14 in Belarus. One third of them are ill. The birth rate has fallen by 50%" (Minister of Health for Belarus October 1995)**

In the Gomel Region which is the area nearest to Chernobyl, people are still living simple lives in their wooden villages tucked between the plains of the collective farms and the great forests. These areas are highly contaminated by radiation. Small towns half the size of Brecon have several children's homes in them. There are terrible social problems, one doctor told us that in some villages every other family has a drink problem. Many babies and small children were abandoned in hospital, their parents unable to cope with their child's deformity or illness.

The sky was blue, the birch trees were yellow, the gardens were full of fat contaminated vegetables. Radiation can not be seen smelled, tasted or heard. "We have no choice" they told us when we asked why they were still there. Every fourth person in Belarus lives on contaminated ground. Produce is distributed throughout the country. One of our deliveries was to an "evacuation centre" – a jungle of high rise flats in the city where evacuees have been ostracised by the local community. There is widespread depression and anxiety, suicide rates have soared.

It was in this evacuation centre that a room was decorated with thousands of paper cranes folded in Japanese magazine paper, and two peace quilts sent from Hiroshima – with messages of "Never Again".



■ Dr. Lichtenstein and Rod Stallard collecting medicines in Llandrindod in October 1995



■ Vasilevichi School for children with sight difficulties. October 13 1995



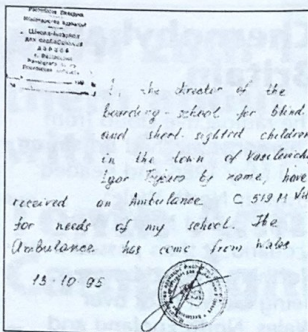
■ Vasilevichi School for children with sight difficulties. Gomel Region. Children stand in front of their gift of pictures sent by children from Ysgol Capel Cynfab, Cynghordy



■ In Korma Hospital, Gomel Region, Belarus. October 1995.

Continued over ...





■ Receipts for our ambulance from Vasilevichi Childrens Home

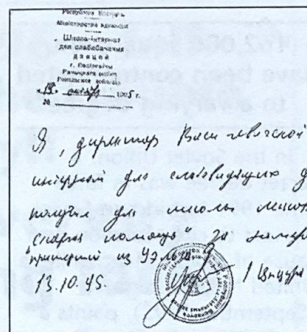
### "Like seeing the beginning of the end of the world"

An Irish journalist who accompanied the convoy, commented that it was "like seeing the beginning of the end of the world". It is difficult not to agree with her.

We left our ambulance to be used by the people at Vasilevichi. Igor, the Director of the Children's Home stuck the pictures from Cyngordy on the walls. Somehow, this small event overwhelmed us all. A crowd of children gathered around the exhibition. A teacher in the school wept, we wept, a old lady in a headscarf on a bench in the corridor wept. The medicines we took will soon have been used up. The ambulance will last for a limited time. The friendship and love that I believe we took from Wales, and from the children here will last lifetimes. The experience, and the love of the people and children of Belarus has certainly profoundly affected our lives.

The infrastructure of the country is in tatters. A United Nations Report published in September last year warns: "A concerted effort needs to be made to alert the international community, and in particular donors, to the fact that Chernobyl is still a major humanitarian tragedy and that the magnitude of its effect will grow over the next 10 years..."

In January we heard that temperatures in the Gomel Region were -40C. People cannot afford fuel. Whole school years of children have been taken into hospital suffering from hypothermia.



We are afraid to imagine what is happening to the people, to the lovely children who received us so generously in Belarus.

Although we may find this difficult to resolve, there will be "Children of Chernobyl" for thousands of years. Our first visit will not be the last. Our work to put an end to this deadly technology will continue. It is the very least we can do.

Jill Stallard

### ✦ ACTION:

See the article about the Chernobyl Children's Project in Cardiff elsewhere in this Heddwch. The difference between ours and other organisations involved in support for victims of Chernobyl is that a large part of our work is aimed at increasing awareness of the dangers of nuclear technology. All the money we raise goes directly for humanitarian aid.

Also, please support any local initiatives to send aid to Belarus/West Russia/The Ukraine.

- Newport, Gwent: A Convoy of medical aid is leaving for Minsk in the Autumn organised by volunteers from the Welsh Association of Youth Clubs, South & East Wales Ambulance Trust. For more information about this 'phone J J Cowley 01633 272292 or Phil James 01495 352490.

- Gwynedd County Council Flood Support Group are taking some aid to a children's home in Minsk in February as part of an on-going project. contact Peter O'Brien (01492) 573646

- Chernobyl Children's Group in Gwynedd: Dr. Rhoda Jones (01766) 762739

- Swansea Chernobyl Children's Appeal: sends aid & hosts children: Annette and Barry Jones (01792) 466784

# Chernobyl: The slow and terrible motion of a nuclear disaster

The Chernobyl nuclear power complex is situated on the Pripyat River in the Ukraine, 125 km. North of Kiev. In 1986 it housed four RBMK 1,000MW reactors with a further two under construction.

## The accident

Unit 4 at Chernobyl had opened in December 1983. It had been brought fully on stream before all safety checks and commissioning procedures had been carried out, probably for political reasons.

### ..the emergency core cooling system was switched off...

On the afternoon of 25th April 1986, operators began a test to see how low the reactor could be run whilst still being able to trigger the emergency generators. Similar tests had been done before but there had been recent modifications to the electrics of the operating system. The test was, in effect, one of the last in the series that should have been carried out in 1983.

To enable the test to proceed without interruption, the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) was switched off and the output reduced to 50% of normal. At this point, 14.00hrs. on 25th April, the Grid Controller in Kiev requested continued power supply until 23.00hrs.. The test was, therefore, delayed but the ECCS was not switched back on.

### ...some staff had been on shift for over 13 hours ...

This was the first major error made by the operators, who, at 23.10hrs resumed the test. Some staff involved had now been on shift for over 13 hours whilst the new night shift was less experienced. Several operating faults occurred over the next two hours including first, the reduction of power to a level far below that required by the test and then a complete withdrawal of the control rods in an attempt to boost power. Several safety systems, in addition to the ECCS were also neutralised.

### ..it was 10 days before the fire was brought under control...

By 01.23hrs on 26th April, the reactor was in an extremely dangerous state; a catastrophic surge in heat output from 6% to 50% occurred in 10 seconds. A scram was ordered, but the fully withdrawn control rods could not be reinserted in time. The fuel rods burst and a thermal explosion blew the top off of the reactor and breached the containment building. A second explosion threw radioactive debris and radionuclides thousands of feet into the air. It was 10 days before the fire was brought under control and 6 months before the stricken reactor was finally entombed in its sarcophagus.

Continued over ...



## Radioactive contamination

**"New areas of contamination appeared every time it rained"**

The radioactive plume that moved towards Finland and Sweden and later contaminated other parts of Western Europe came from the first three days' releases from Chernobyl. After 29th April the radioactive cloud moved South towards Kiev : this cloud later contaminated Greece and Turkey. The radionuclides discharged in the last three days of the fire were blown to Eastern parts of the Soviet Union.

Although the releases declined dramatically after the fire was put out they were still significant and only stopped when the reactor was finally entombed six months later. (Cracks and holes have since appeared in the sarcophagus which is now leaking once again.)

An initial exclusion zone of 10km. radius was quickly extended to 30km. on 2nd May. Much larger areas were also heavily contaminated. Official Soviet documents include an area of more than 5,000 square kilometres and indicate that radioactivity was transferred in different altitudes. Local rain washed down radioactive particles in several areas far from the exclusion zone. It was only in 1989 that it was admitted that large areas of Belarus and Russia had been heavily contaminated as well as the Ukraine. The most serious of these were in the Gomel, Mogilev and Bryansk Regions some 100 - 300km north east of Chernobyl.

New areas of contamination appeared outside the initial exclusion zone throughout the summer of 1986 every time it rained. The borders of the exclusion zone were altered several times and a 'restricted zone' covering 30,000 square kilometres was set up : all children and pregnant women were evacuated from this zone.

The main source off contamination in Western

Europe was first radioactive iodine and then radioactive caesium. Plutonium was not a major problem in Europe as it was in the Soviet Union. Around 3% of the core inventory of plutonium was released. The soil near the reactor was so contaminated that it had to be buried as nuclear waste. There are now some 800 primitive nuclear waste disposal sites around the Chernobyl Plant and radioactivity from these continues to contaminate the groundwater.

The exclusion zone contains large amounts of long lived radionuclides - mainly Caesium137, Strontium90 and Plutonium. Only about 10 square kilometres of land near the plant and population centres has been actively contaminated. To rehabilitate the exclusion zone completely some 600 million tonnes of topsoil would need to be removed. This is considered impossible, and in 1988 an area of 10 km. radius from Chernobyl was designated an ecological reserve where scientific studies of the impact of the radiation on the natural environment could be carried out.

## Casualties

Officially, 31 people died during the accident or soon afterwards, from burns and radiation. The total death toll stands at 42.

Other reports suggest that up to 300 people died combating the fire and perhaps as many as 7000 of the 'liquidators' (drafted in to douse the fire, build the sarcophagus and clean up the contamination (1986 - 88) have since died.

In their quaint way, the nuclear industry in the West states that the accident "may be responsible for 1 in every 12,500 of the predicted 500 million cancer deaths from all causes world-wide during the next 70 years!" Baldly put, this equates to 40,000 deaths, but even this figure is regarded as a serious underestimate by many independent experts.

**162,000 square km. have been contaminated to a varying degree**

In the Soviet Union, a secret decree was in force until 1991 forbidding Soviet doctors to cite radiation as a cause of death. Meanwhile, a United Nations report (September 1995), paints a bleak picture for the populations of Belarus, the Ukraine and nearby parts of Western Russia. Here, overall, at least 9 million people have been affected. Belarus spends around 20% of its national budget addressing Chernobyl's consequences. The Ukraine devotes 4% of its budget but says that 20% would be needed to fully deal with the situation. Between the three countries, it is estimated that 162,000 square kilometres of land have been contaminated to varying degrees.

Almost 400,000 people have been evacuated in three countries. Many relocated in cities which are totally alien to their previous lives. Because of this, many have returned to their former villages and farms, even though they are located in contaminated areas.

Children, especially those born between 1981 and 1987, are most susceptible to develop Chernobyl caused diseases. In total, some 3 million children are living in contaminated zones and there has been a worrying increase in thyroid cancer in children in all three countries. Meanwhile, many other forms of cancer, affecting both children and adults, are still in their latency period.

## Chernobyl and Britain

The radioactive cloud from Chernobyl reached Britain on 2nd May 1986 and headed towards North Wales, Cumbria and North West Scotland. It then passed over Northern Ireland before being blown back over Wales, North England and Scotland from May 6th - 8th. At this time there was heavy rain in all these areas.

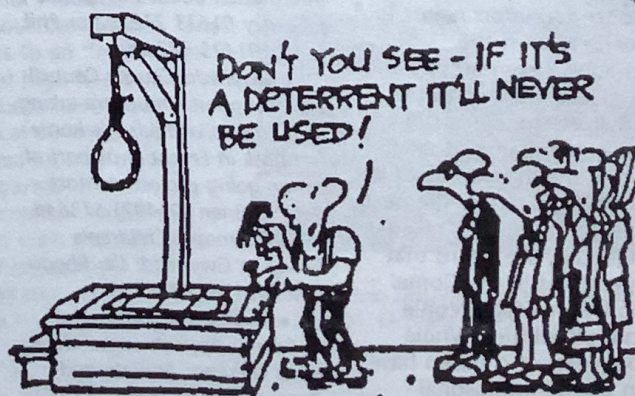
On May 8th, Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment said: "The effects of the cloud have already been assessed and none presents a risk to the U.K.". On 13th May he said "I can confirm that no special precautions are needed."

**...in Wales, 200,000 sheep are still affected**

At the end of June, restrictions were placed on the movement of sheep in North Wales and Cumbria because of contamination with Caesium137. In July, August and September these restrictions were extended and also applied to Scotland. Today, 10 years later, 200,000 sheep on 390 farms in Wales are still affected by restrictions.

Chernobyl demonstrated that radiation knows no boundaries: over 20 countries were affected by the fallout. The possibility of another "Chernobyl" at any reactor is ever present.

Dave Andrews





## April 26th 1996 – tell them about the trouble with Chernobyl!

### Tenth Anniversary Campaigning Ideas

Leaflets, facts, figures and pictures will be available from CND Cymru.

#### Direct Action

We are planning some non-violent Direct Actions during the week at all nuclear installations in Wales (Trawsfynydd, Wylfa and Llanishen), as well as excursions to the nuclear power industry Headquarters at Gloucester and to Hinkley Point in Somerset.

Please contact Jill Stallard if you have ideas and/or wish to be involved.

#### Letter write-in:

Invite some friends or a local group together for an afternoon or evening of letter writing. Write to British Energy (Nuclear Electric), Your MP, Your Local Councillor, the Health Authority, the Prime Minister, Minister for Trade and industry. Point out the terrible dangers of nuclear technology as illustrated by Chernobyl, ask your local authority what provisions have they made in the case of a nuclear accident within a 100 mile radius of your home, ask those involved with Government and/or the nuclear industry for a halt to all nuclear – related production and transportation in Britain. Facts and figures and ideas available in March from CND Cymru.

#### Public Meetings / Coffee Mornings

Show Black Wind/ White Land (film about the effects of Chernobyl) to groups. Invite a speaker.

#### Churches

Ask your church or place of worship to include a prayer for the victims of the nuclear age on the weekend of 27/28 April – ask if the collection could go towards the Chernobyl Children's Project, c/o Jill Stallard.

#### Candlelit Vigil

There has been a call for people around the world to hold a candlelit vigil as part of a world day of mourning for the victims of Chernobyl.

#### Set up a Mock Signpost in Your Town

– with signs pointing at different nuclear installations including Chernobyl showing how far they are away.

#### Distribute leaflets

– which will be available from CND Cymru

#### Exhibition –

CND Cymru can supply a small black and white exhibition for your local library – or anywhere else!

#### Make a Giant postcard

– or print ordinary sized ones – set up a stall and ask people to sign a postcard to the Prime Minister/Secretary of State for Wales asking for a halt to the nuclear menace in Wales.

Contact us if you'd like to be put in touch with others who are campaigning.

## Nuclear Free Pacific?

A British Government publication just received by CND Cymru states "that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland... believes that internationally recognised Nuclear Weapon Free Zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, can contribute to international Peace and Security. The NPT Conference, also recognised that the co-operation of all the nuclear – weapon States and their respect and support for all the relevant protocols is necessary for the maximum effectiveness of such nuclear weapon free zones." This year Britain is signing the Treaty of Rarotonga – which declares the South Pacific a Nuclear Free Zone. Last year they supported French Nuclear tests in the South Pacific. The Hypocrisy is blood curdling!



#### # ACTION:

The New Zealand Nuclear Free Peacemaking Association campaigns and lobbies to keep New Zealand Nuclear Free and to change national policy to allow withdrawal from nuclear weapons based alliances such as ANZUS. They have campaigned vigorously against French nuclear tests. A quarterly journal and a wonderful range of stickers and other material is available from them. Why not send them a letter of support: New Zealand Nuclear Free Peacemaking Association, PO Box 18-541, Christchurch 9, New Zealand.

## The World Court Project

Remember the World Court Project? It is a non – governmental organisation set up to seek a judgement from the UN International Court of Justice (World Court), for an advisory opinion on the question of:

"Would the use of nuclear weapons violate international law in view of their health and environmental effects and

"whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons in any circumstances would be permitted under international law."

In October the World Court heard two and a half weeks of oral submissions from scientists, Doctors, mothers and people's representatives – such as the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – from 23 countries and the World Health Organisation. The Court also considered written submissions from 43 countries.

The Japan Council against A & H bombs submitted 51 million signatures for nuclear disarmament to the President of the UN General Assembly. World Court Project Declarations were finally submitted.

The UK Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell submitted:

"To call into question the system of deterrence...could have a profoundly destabilising effect. It is nonsense to suggest that states which have relied on nuclear weapons for fifty years have implicitly agreed to a ban on them by agreeing to nuclear disarmament under the terms of the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty."

3.5 million declarations World Court Project have been submitted worldwide. 125,000 declarations from Britain.

No decision is expected until April, and then it will probably not just be a "yes or no" decision but a detailed opinion, perhaps with decisions about what situations nuclear weapons could be used in.

The declarations themselves will be looking for storage in an archive.

#### # ACTION:

more information from George Farebrother, 67, Summerheath Road, Hailsham, Sussex, BN27 3DR.



## French nuclear tests

**"... her end is as bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two edged sword"**

**C**ND Cymru received the announcement of the end of the French Nuclear tests on January 29th, with contempt, accusing Jacques Chirac, and his friend John Major as having been responsible for untold damage to the environment and global stability.

By using these tests to develop highly sophisticated new weapons, France is giving the green light to countries like India to carry out nuclear tests and develop their own bombs. This could herald a new nuclear nightmare. It also shows the hypocrisy of the "nuclear club" who tell countries like India not to build bombs while building new ones of their own.

Good could still come out of the test programme, since they have reminded people of the presence of the thousands of nuclear weapons around the world with the power to destroy the earth. During our campaigning in Wales we have met many, many people who genuinely cannot understand why countries like France and Britain are developing new nuclear weapons systems in today's world.

From this raised consciousness should arise a new determination to abolish all nuclear weapons everywhere. They are unwanted, unneeded, and pose a pointless threat to all life on earth.

In December, the United Nations voted in favour of a treaty which would ban all nuclear weapons over a fixed period, and Australian Prime

Minister Paul Keating has set up a commission to investigate how this could be done. After his disastrous policy of supporting the French tests, John Major could make some amends by throwing his weight behind a global disarmament treaty.

### Comprehensive Test Ban?

Negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban which have been going on since January 1994, are slow. The Treaty should be signed this year. A truly comprehensive test ban treaty would eventually lead to nuclear disarmament. The truth is that nuclear states are not being true to the spirit of the Treaty so long as they claim the right to modernise their nuclear arsenals. Testing by computer simulation is not included in the Treaty

and therefore it is not truly "comprehensive". In referring to a Comprehensive Test Ban, Michael Weston, head of the British Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament has said that "Comprehensive does not mean total.."

Although the environmental and health effects of nuclear testing are horrendous, it is important that we appreciate the terrible dangers of nuclear powers being able to simulate tests in secret.

**# ACTION:** Use the information above to write letters to paper, or to urge your MP, Michael Portillo and/or John Major to press for real measures which will lead to Nuclear Disarmament. It may be said that now that the French tests have ended all is well - you know that this isn't true!

## Getting the message to Chirac

**A** week after 9 year old Emily Freeman - a young member of CND Cymru - and Cynog Dafis MP presented the French Embassy with 25,000 petitions to Chirac on January 23rd, the French announced an end to French Nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Some say that Emily should have written to Chirac earlier! Emily also wrote a letter to the French President in French and English, and gave a bunch of daffodils to the Ambassador.

After each French Nuclear Test, the Wales Alliance Against Nuclear Testing held vigils outside Cardiff Castle supported by a wide range of environmental, religious and political groups and individuals. They displayed the "No Testing!" banner made by hundreds of children to the Urdd Eisteddfod last year.

Despite the obvious immediate environmental and health benefits of "Secret" computer simulation of nuclear explosions, they will make protests more difficult and will lull the population of the world into a false and dangerous sense of security.



January 22 94

Heddwch, yr Gyhoeddi Llywodraethol Dyfed SWSOCC  
Cymru  
Tel: 01499 6000 100 000

Dear Ffiliwr Chirac

I am very worried that you are testing  
new nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons and  
nuclear tests could badly hurt my family  
and all the families of all the children in the  
world. They are also dangerous for the  
environment.

Please stop even though it may be harder  
to get rid of your nuclear weapons.

I don't want nuclear tests.  
I don't want nuclear weapons.  
I love living things  
and I want to grow up in a nuclear free  
world.

Love from  
Emily Freeman  
13 1/2 yrs. 9 years old

## International Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

This was set up in January by the Australian Government. Its 17 members include Joseph Rotblat (1995 Nobel Peace prize winner). It is considered that the Commission is in readiness to move further than the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which will not, in itself, eliminate nuclear weapons. Australia's message seems to be bridging gaps by warning that "disarmament cannot wait forever."

### BNFL Capenhurst

Capenhurst, just over the border in Cheshire, is receiving orders for enriched uranium from the USA, Russia and Asia. Uranium Hexafluoride is already leaving Liverpool Docks weekly as part of the enrichment process for BNFL from Capenhurst. This is probably for use in missiles on Trident submarines. Merseyside

CND are asking for help in tracking convoys. please contact: Trev (0151) 709 7488.

## MOX in the sky

It is reported that the USA is the only country trying to prevent highly radioactive materials such as plutonium-uranium mixed oxide (MOX) in powder form being exempt from a new type of packaging intended to prevent the release of toxic plutonium in the case of an aircraft accident. The new type of packaging is designed to withstand an impact of 324kph, but some European States, backed by Britain, France and Belgium want to transport MOX by air in existing packaging that can withstand an impact of only 48kph. MOX consignments fly from Carlisle airport to Switzerland, and exports are set to increase to 120 tonnes annually.



# A new role for Trident

The second British Trident submarine slipped away from its Faslane base without fanfare on Sunday 7th January 1996, on its first operational deployment. HMS Victorious is carrying the first operational "Tactical Trident" missiles – specially modified Trident missiles designed to be used against Third World enemies.

## Misinformation

David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent of The Guardian, noted the deployment of Tactical Trident, and described the 'new nuclear deterrent' as "intended to strike fear into any Third World dictator tempted to try nuclear blackmail". This is misleading.

True, the new weapon is quite definitely aimed at Third World enemies, but it is not accurate to state that Tactical Trident is for use only against nuclear-armed enemies (or only against 'dictators').

Malcolm Rifkind, then Defence Secretary, explained the thinking behind Tactical Trident in November 1993. He hinted that the new weapon could be used against enemies who have either chemical or biological weapons.

In September 1994, an article in the authoritative journal International Defence Review made the point clearly by stating that tactical Trident could be used

against non-nuclear enemies with chemical or biological but not nuclear weapons. The article also implied that even a country without any weapons of mass destruction could be targeted.

## Vital Interests

In his November 1993 speech, Rifkind said that the ferocious power of Tactical Trident would be used to give "an unmistakable message of our willingness to defend our vital interests to the utmost". Not to defend 'our country' or 'our allies', but to protect "our vital interests". What are these 'interests'?

According to the 1995 Defence White paper: "We have global interests and responsibilities...As a nation we live by trade and investment...The bulk of our trade...is transported by sea...Our manufacturing industry is dependent on raw materials from overseas. Our global investments are estimated to be worth around \$300 billion.

Britain's 'vital national interests' seem to be trade, the sea routes that carry trade, raw materials overseas, and British investments in the rest of the world. These interests are now protected by a 100 kiloton Tactical Trident nuclear warhead on board a Trident submarine somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

## The Four Distinctions

Most people, according to the polls available, seem to have four erroneous beliefs about Britain's nuclear weapons:

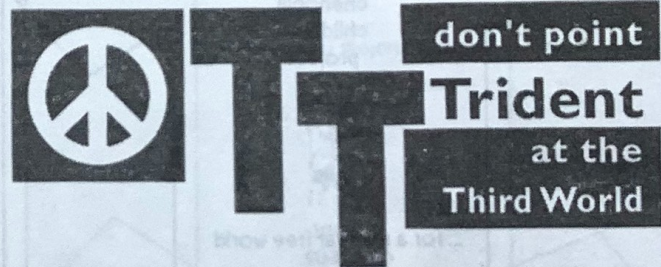
- 1) that they are for defence only;
- 2) that they are for defending Britain;
- 3) that they would only be used in retaliation after a nuclear attack;
- 4) and that they are only for use against enemies who possess nuclear weapons.

Tactical Trident:

- 1) is not just for defence;
- 2) is not for defending Britain;
- 3) may well be used first;
- 4) may be used against "enemies" who do not have nuclear weapons.

Mil Rai

- A book "Tactical Trident" price £4.50 post free & a Newsletter "TT" – £2.00 for at least 4 mailings are available from: TTAG, 102 Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4PX. Phone (01865) 793820. Please make cheques payable to "Drava Papers".



## Saturday June 15: Come to Faslane

With snowdrops barely out and the frost on the ground June seems but a delightful dream – but it's time for you to plan a trip to CND's demonstration of the year at Faslane.

Britain's nuclear arsenal will soon be based only at Faslane in Scotland. We must take our message there and confront the beast in its lair.

CND Cymru will be taking a minibus (or more) to Faslane from Cardiff for the weekend. It will be very enjoyable weekend – accommodation will be

available (if booked now) at a variety of different locations – at the Peace Camp, or at a Youth Hostel on Loch Lomond. There will be actions and activities for all, music, dance, food, visits by land and sea to the base, a march to the North gate and a Ceilidh in the evening.

If you want to come from Cardiff or to be picked up on the way (we will travel via Newport (Gwent), Monmouth, Ross and Worcester, please help us, and book your seat now! If

# Tragh TRIDENT

you are unable to come with us, please sponsor someone else to go in your place.

Phone Jill (01550) 750 260 or Ray (01222) 889 514



**CONTACTS**

THE PEACE SHOP  
56 MACKINTOSH PLACE, ROATH,

CND CYMRU

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

**Jill Stallard.** Nantgaredig,  
Cynghordy, Llanymddyfri,  
Dyfed SA20 OLR (01550)  
750260

**MEMBERSHIP**

**c/o The Peace Shop**

**AFFILIATIONS**

**Rhoda Jones** (01766) 762739

**CHAIRPERSON**

**David Morris MEP (01792)  
643542**

**TRADING**

**Jan Henderson** (01792) 830330

**NORTH WALES**

**Dave Andrews** (01978) 310491

**TREASURER**

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

**MID WALES**

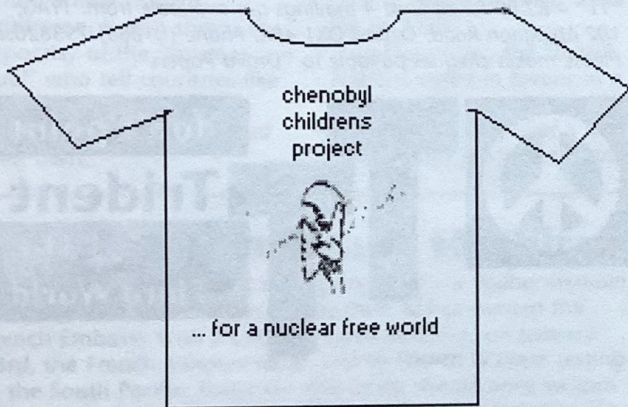
**Olwen Davies** (01970) 611994  
**Rod Stallard** (015505) 750260

**More Information, Ideas or  
offers of help? Please get in  
touch with your nearest  
CND Cymru Vice-Chair.**

**SOUTH WALES**

**Ray Davies** (01222) 889514

## Chernobyl Children's Project T-Shirts for Sale



Support the cause, wear the T-Shirt.  
White design on black. As above Extra  
Large only £10 each inc. postage from  
**Jill Stallard 01550 750 260**

### I want to join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose a cheque/PO for £ \_\_\_\_\_

payable to CND Cymru. Couple £15; Adult £10; Unwaged, pensioners,  
youth £3. Return to CND Cymru, Membership, 3 Millbrook Court, Magor,  
Gwent NP6 3JN

## Hinkley 'C'

In December 1995 British Energy (Nuclear Electric) announced it's withdrawal from any nuclear construction in the foreseeable future. This means in effect that Wylfa 'B', Sizewell 'C' and Hinkley 'C' are cancelled since a privatised industry would have to be insane to construct such liabilities.

## "Public protection" 'for all'?

People living within a small radius of Hinkley Point have been issued with "iodine pills" in case of an accident at the nuclear power plant. This will protect those people against contamination by Iodine 131. However this does not protect them from other sources of radiation. In the event of an accident the Iodine 131 will not contain itself within that small area, and, since parts of South Wales are only a few miles from the power station, Welsh people should be asking their local authorities about protection.

In October Nuclear Electric were fined £13,000 with £9,000 costs when a rusty pipe leaked two tonnes of radioactive iodine contaminated gas at Hinkley.

## Iodine 131 at Muroroa

France insisted that there was "more background radiation in New Zealand than at Muroroa", and that "contaminated material was safely contained in the vitrified rock". Yet, Iodine 131 was detected near Muroroa after one of the earlier tests last year. After making the disclosure at an informal meeting last October, the French "expert" asked the meeting participants to "forget what they had just heard as the data was extremely confidential."

Only tiny amounts of Iodine 131 can cause thyroid cancer and are especially dangerous for children and babies.

The testing in the Pacific has created huge, unconfined nuclear waste dumps which will remain dangerous for thousands of years.

## Bringing the Pacific nearer to home

Vast quantities of radioactive waste from a nuclear test on Christmas island was taken to Cumbria, burned and dumped on the fields near the village of Etterby. The site is guarded by the RAF. Since 1974, of the 50 people living in Etterby, 28 have died of or are suffering from Cancer. It is estimated that would cost £18 million to make the site safe.

## Heddwch

- The next issue of Heddwch will appear in April 1996.
- Please send contributions to Jill Stallard (see above for address); Phone Jill for the next issue's copy deadline
- Contributions on computer disc are welcome. Please contact Jill, or Mike Southern (01222 222782) for details.
- All help with editorial gratefully received.