

Fresh Wool from Whitehall

Faced with growing community opposition to their plans for civil defence after nuclear attack, the Government is now attempting to pull a new lot of wool over the eyes of the British people.

The Government's nuclear civil defence plans have been subject to sustained attack from all local government and health service unions, over 170 nuclear-free zone councils, scientists, doctors and nurses and the nuclear disarmament campaign. There was widespread public ridicule at the Government's "Protect and Survive" advice that all that was needed was to whitewash your windows and all would be fine.

Now the Government is trying to change tack in a desperate attempt to convince trade unionists and local authorities to become involved in their plans.

According to a recent circular from the Home Office, the main threat to Britain is judged to be from conventional air attack — thus changing all their previous assessments that nuclear attack is the main threat. But while they make this new assessment, all their plans for civil defence are still based on a possible nuclear attack. They are still operating on the belief that a nuclear war is survivable!

No justification is given for the change in threat



assessment. No changes in NATO or Warsaw Pact strategies which would justify a change are referred to.

Even if a conventional attack is to be regarded as the main threat to this country, the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation — our eyes and ears — cannot distinguish between a nuclear and a conventional air attack!

The shallowness of the Government's new advice is best shown by the complete lack of mention of a possible "Nuclear Winter".

The Home Office is still determined to get local council staff involved in their plans. While stating that they regard it as "inappropriate" to force staff to participate in their exercises, they hope that staff will volunteer and that new staff will be required to participate. Already one District Council is asking job applicants whether they would be willing to undergo civil defence training.

The nuclear-free zone councils have stated their opposition to the Government's new con trick. National trade unions are meeting to co-ordinate their campaign. Trade Union CND will be joining with the unions to once again make the point that there is no defence against nuclear war.

TRADE UNION CND: HINTS FOR ACTION

Trade Union CND is a specialist section of CND. Our role is to promote CND's aims in the trade union movement. TUCND will offer whatever assistance we can to any union and/or CND member who wishes to promote CND in the union movement.

FIRST STEPS

If you're a union member you could consider the following steps:

- Join CND nationally and/or locally.
- Wear a CND badge to work.
- Talk to your workmates about CND and CND activities.
- Display CND posters at work.
- Keep a small stock of literature for people who want more information.

INFLUENCING YOUR UNION

- Suggest that your union branch invite a CND speaker.
- Move a policy resolution opposing the nuclear arms race at your branch. Model resolutions are available from TUCND.
- Urge your branch to affiliate the CND. Details are

available from TUCND.

- Suggest that your branch distribute CND material and sponsor CND activities.
- Persuade your branch to take action itself, appoint a CND liaison officer, produce your own leaflets etc.
- Move resolutions to go to other sections of the union.

If your CND group wishes to increase union involvement in your activities, the following steps could be considered:

- Appoint a Trade Union liaison officer.
- Survey your group's members to find out which unions they're members of.
- Through your members find out the present policies of local unions. Ask them to raise the issue at their local branch meeting.
- Contact local branches and trades councils offering speakers, asking for support for your campaigns.

These are just a few hints: for a full guide contact Andrew Hewett at Trade Union CND.

TUCND News

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No. 7

Oct 24th — The future for Barrow



CND Chair, Joan Ruddock, hands over the first instalment of CND's £12,000 contribution to the Barrow Alternative Work Research Project to Terry McSorely, Chair of the Barrow Trades Council.

Over 25,000 CND supporters swelled the Cumbrian ship-building town, Barrow-in-Furness in late October to demonstrate their opposition to the Trident nuclear missile submarine. The call for alternative work for the 12,000 shipyard workers was a strong theme of the rally.

Trident is Britain's latest one-sided escalation in the nuclear arms race. Costing over £11.5 billion, its cost is growing every day, particularly as the Pound continues to decline against the Dollar.

Critics of Trident regard it as having a destabilising impact on arms control and disarmament negotiations. It's also helping to increase unemployment by diverting scarce funds away from job creating investment and other sections of the conventional defence sector.

CND stresses that like all nuclear weapons, Trident is useless for the defence of Britain, except if our defence policy is that of national suicide.

A feature of the Barrow rally was the handing over of the first instalment of a £12,000 donation from British CND towards an alternative employment project for the Barrow workers. The Research Project is to be

completely under the control of a committee of Barrow Trade unionists.

The research project will be building upon the work of the local Trades Council's Alternative Use Committee. This committee which has been meeting for the best part of a year, has been investigating alternative products that the shipyards could build instead of Trident. Along with a wide range of regional and local trade union bodies and Trade Union CND, the Trades Council sponsored a very successful day conference in late September. Leading speakers outlined the impact that Trident would have on jobs and suggested the way forward to secure jobs for the Barrow workers.

The Barrow demonstration showed that British CND is prepared to put its money where its mouth is by tackling the dual problems of the threat of nuclear war and the massive dole queues.

TRADE UNIONISTS TAKE A STAND FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT



Members of the TUC General Council "work for peace" on Wednesday October 24. Pictured outside the General Council meeting are among others Rodney Bickerstaffe (NUPE General Secretary), Walt Greendale and Brian Nicholson (both T&GWU) and Ray Alderson (CPSA).

Trade unionists around Britain took a stand for nuclear disarmament on Wednesday October 24. Their actions were part of CND's "Let's Talk About Trident Week". Sponsored by a large number of national trade unions and regional TUC's, the Trade Unionists Day of Action provided the opportunity to take the nuclear disarmament campaign out into the workplace. Workplace meetings, film and video screenings and leaflet handouts were some of the events that occurred.

In London, the Greater London Regional TUCND held a successful public meeting featuring Tony Benn

MP, Ken Cameron from the Fire Brigades Union and Jack Collins from the NUM.

A new TUCND leaflet on the horrors of Trident was widely distributed while in a number of workplaces CND supporters collected signatures and donations for the TUCND Declaration. Money raised will go towards the Research Project into alternative work at the Vickers Yards in Barrow-in-Furness.

Copies of the TUCND Trident leaflet are available from the CND shop for 80p per 100 plus postage and Declaration forms can be obtained from TUCND.

NORTHERN IRELAND TUCND LAUNCHED

Northern Ireland Trade Union CND was officially launched at a meeting of some 200 trade unionists in the Belfast head office of the TGWU in late September.

Uniquely among regional TUCND's the new body has the full support of the regional TUC — the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Council of Trade Unions. Speakers at the first meeting include Ron Todd, General-Secretary-elect of the T&GWU and Terry Carlin, ICTU Northern Ireland officer.

In an impassioned speech, Ron Todd argued that it was a "myth" that defence spending created jobs. "The money poured into military should be spent on housing for the homeless, jobs for the jobless, hospitals for the sick and disabled, homes for the elderly, schools for the children and investment for industries to revitalise and expand." The choice was "needs before profits".

Terry Carlin told the meeting that when the ICTU had presented its alternative economic strategy to the then Northern Ireland Secretary, Jim Prior, Prior had responded to the call for increased public sector spending with the comment that money did not grow on trees. But as Mr. Carlin said "After the bomb, nothing grows on trees."

He called for the redirection of funds "wasted" on nuclear weapons towards the implementation of the union's plans.

Representatives of AUEW-TASS, NIPSA, APEX, AUEW, TGWU, Belfast Trades Council and the Tailor and Garment workers all spoke to the meeting. The NUPE regional officer sent her apologies as she was participating in the Greenham Common "Ten Million Women" action.

Since the inaugural meeting plans have been laid for campaigns to increase affiliations to CND, educational work within the trade union movement, research on alternative employment for aerospace workers at the Shorts factory in Belfast and support for peace studies in schools.

For further information contact: Tommy Campbell c/o Ulster People's College, 30 Adelaide Park, Belfast 9.

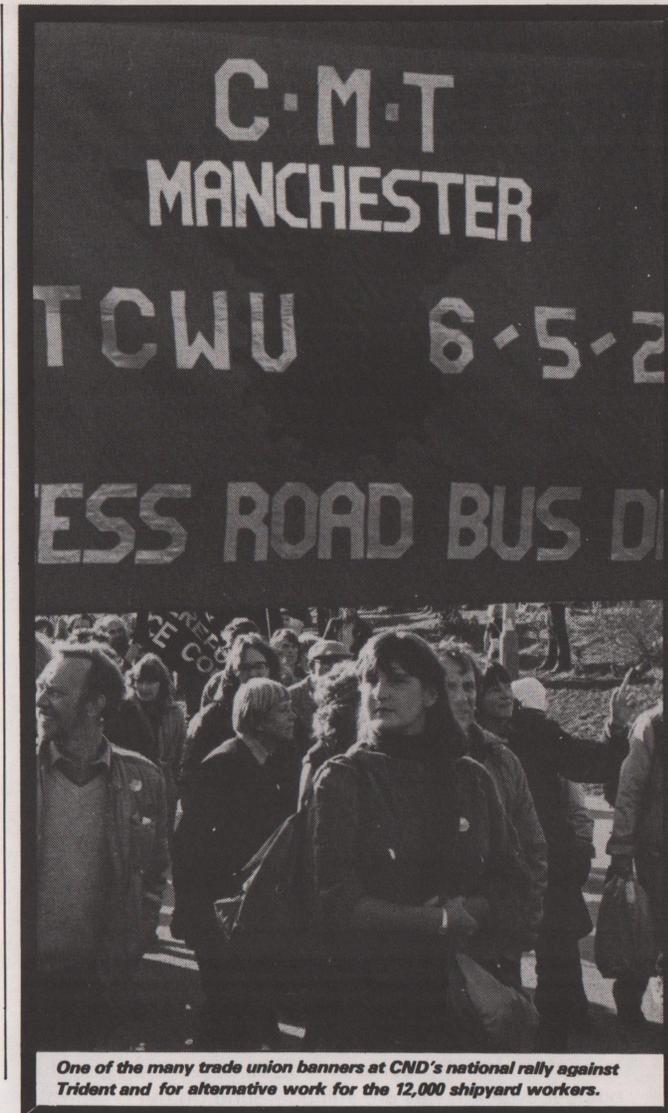
Christmas Greetings across the Borders

CND is to launch a special Christmastime effort to try to directly reach hundreds of Soviet, East German and Czechoslovakian citizens stating our opposition to the Soviet Union's deployment of SS21s, 22s and 23s in the two East European countries.

Following the first deployments of Cruise and Pershing Missiles in late 1983, the Soviet Union announced "counter" deployments. CND opposed this action, arguing that with the massive overkill that already existed on both sides, all new nuclear weapons were both unnecessary and dangerous.

This Christmas, CND members will be sending thousands of Christmas and New Year messages to organisations and individuals in the Soviet Union, GDR and Czechoslovakia explaining our opposition to all new nuclear weapons. At the same time we hope to open up dialogue between the British Peace Movement and people — both officials and ordinary citizens — in the East.

A mass posting of Christmas cards will take place outside the Soviet and Czech Embassies on Bayswater Road from 2.30pm. This will be followed by a torchlit procession from the Soviet and Czech Embassies, past the GDR Embassy in Belgrave Square, and end with a short rally near Victoria. Delegations will hand in giant Christmas messages on behalf of the peace movement to all three Embassies.



One of the many trade union banners at CND's national rally against Trident and for alternative work for the 12,000 shipyard workers.

WHAT'S ON

November 23-25 British CND Conference. Open to all affiliated organisations. Sheffield. Details 01-263 0977

December 8 Operation Christmas Card. Oppose Soviet missiles in GDR and Czechoslovakia. Assemble near Nottinghill Gate Tube Station. London, 2pm. Details 01-263 0977

January 3-6 International Nuclear Warfare Tribunal. London. Details NWT c/o 11 Goodwin St., London N4 3HQ.

February 23 Trade Union CND Annual General Meeting. Speakers include Ron Todd. Open to delegates from union organisations affiliated to British CND. Details: Andrew Hewett, 11 Goodwin St., London N4 3HQ.

Work for peace. Join CND.

Yes, I'll join the CND

Name _____ (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address _____

Post Code _____ (IMPORTANT)

MEMBERSHIP
RATES Adult £9 Two people at same address £12 Student £3
Unwaged & Pensioner £2 Youth CND (21 and under) £1 (tick one)

Please find enclosed £ _____ for membership
£ _____ donation (tick for donation receipt).

I'd like more information about CND and the Trade Unions.

My Trade Union is _____

Please send me details of how to affiliate my Union organisation to CND.

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to CND and send with completed form to TUCND, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ. Phone (01) 263 0977.

