

## CALLING ALL EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



On Saturday, 13th September 1986, Ex-Services CND will be commemorating the outbreak of the Second World War with a march from the Gordon Statue on the Victoria Embankment to the Cenotaph in Whitehall. The march will assemble at 11.30 and move off about 12.00 noon. There will be a Meeting-cum-Social at the Westminster Cathedral Hall following the laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph.

There will be many people who are relatives or friends of people in the Trade Union movement. It was after all the working class of

## TRIBUTE TO FRANK COUSINS

It is perhaps difficult to appreciate the effect that Frank Cousins had upon the T&GWU and upon the politics of the Trade Union movement. He was of special significance, however, for those of us who are active in the peace movement. Frank Cousins during his period of office as General Secretary between 1956 to 1969 passionately struggled against government policies on nuclear weapons. The Trade Union movement is now a potent and powerful influence for peace and one of the formative influences who brought this about was Frank Cousins. Ron Todd saw Frank Cousins as having 'brought the Union from the twilight into the light'.

His immediate successor, Jack Jones, said of him: 'With the passing of Frank Cousins our Union has lost one of its finest sons. His election to General Secretary marked a significant change in the history of the Union and his period of office helped many members to renew their faith in the Trade Union Movement and labour movement. We can best pay tribute to his memory by strengthening our efforts to build the union. Without strong trade unionism there is little prospect of counter-acting the injustices in industry and society and ensuring peace in the world — aims to which Frank was so profoundly devoted. I salute his memory.'

Europe who peopled the armies of Europe during the war against fascism; and rank and file of the services has been drawn from the working class ever since. It would be useful therefore if any ex-service personnel could be put into contact with Ex-Services CND and if they could be encouraged to participate in this event.

Ex-Services CND are also planning something for the Conservative Party Conference on October 8th.

The Secretary of Ex-Services CND is Bob Lawrence, c/o 16 Lanchester Rd, London N6.

**Trade Union CND is a specialist section within CND. Our role is to promote CND's aims in the Trade Union movement. TUCND will offer whatever assistance we can to any Union body and/or CND group who wish to promote CND in the Trade Union movement. We are a campaigning organisation.**

**In order to help us you could consider the following.**

- \* **Joining CND**
- \* **Urging your branch, district committee, Trades Council, Shop Stewards Committee to affiliate to CND**
- \* **Urge your branch, or other Trade Union body to take a speaker from TUCND**
- \* **Urge your local Trade Union body to appoint a CND liaison officer**

**\* Make sure that your union organisation distributes TUCND's material and participates in the campaigns we organise.**

**Affiliation to CND costs depending on the number of members.**

Over 800,000	100
100,000 to 800,000	75
50,000 to 100,000	50
10,000 to 50,000	35
5,000 to 10,000	30
1,000 to 5,000	20
300 to 1,000	15
less than 300	10

## Work for peace. Join CND.

**Yes, I'll join 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, 22-24 Underwood St., London N1 7JQ.  
Telephone: 01-250 4010.



# TUCND News

August/September

No. 17

## Unemployment and the Peace Movement

'There's a link between Britain's industrial decline and high defence spending. On present trends Britain will, just after the turn of the century, be the poorest nation in the whole of Europe apart from Albania. But at least, on present policy, it will have Trident to defend its increasingly run down and divided society.'

This is how Clive Ponting, the civil servant dismissed for leaking information on the Belgrano Affair, opened an article recently in the *New Statesman* on defence spending and the economy. His argument is simple and one which many Trade Unionists will readily recognise. 'A number of econometric studies in recent years have demonstrated that it is no coincidence that economic failure and high defence spending go together. In particular, high defence spending and low investment are closely related and it is low investment that is at the heart of Britain's economic difficulties.' The problem is that the money taken out of the economy by this spending on defence is not available to reinvest in our industry. One of the reasons why our defence spending is so high is that Nuclear Weapons imply a very expensive form of defence policy.

This is why Trade Union CND has decided to have this day of action to get across to as many people as our resources allow the message that the steady rise of unemployment and the frightening steady decline in the standard of living in this country are neither inevitable or

necessary. One of the primary causes of this happening is that this country possesses nuclear weapons.

### THE DAY OF ACTION

TUCND are asking as many Trade Councils as we can to distribute the leaflets we are producing for the Day of Action on October 25th. We shall also be producing a poster and a broadsheet to support the argument. We need local groups to take responsibility for distributing the leaflets and for having the posters displayed. We are trying to arrange for some of the leaflets to be available free to groups through the Regional TUCND organisation.

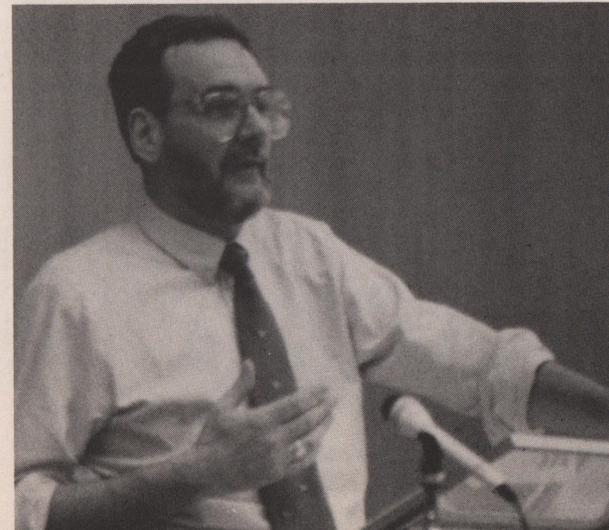
We would like you to

**\* Ask your union branch to support this event.**

**\* Contact your trades council and ask them to support this event.** TUCND as yet only have a limited number of Trades Councils on its lists. It would be very useful therefore if you could send the address of your Trades Council to TUCND to make sure that we have them on our contact list.

**\* Contact your local peace group to ensure that they too participate.**

This is a vitally important issue. It is the first time that TUCND have requested the grass-roots of the Trade Union movement to participate in this way. It is something which has a tremendous amount of potential, but only if you respond and help organise it.



Tom Sawyer (Dept Gen. Sec. of NUPE)

## TRADE UNION SDI CONFERENCE

This conference was held on 21st June with the participation of Trade Union CND by a group of Trade Unions. It was a great success and there are further meetings planned of the group of union representatives who organised the conference to work out possible further campaign activity.

Denzil Davies opened the conference with an assurance that a future Labour Government would 'abrogate the memorandum of understanding' with the United States on the SDI programme.

The conference was organised because a large number of trade unionists are becoming increasingly disturbed by the concentration of our research and development facilities on military research and that the SDI programme will considerably exacerbate this problem. The viability of any industry in a competitive market is heavily dependent upon the quality of the research and development which is channelled into both the design of its product and into production techniques. If we channel our

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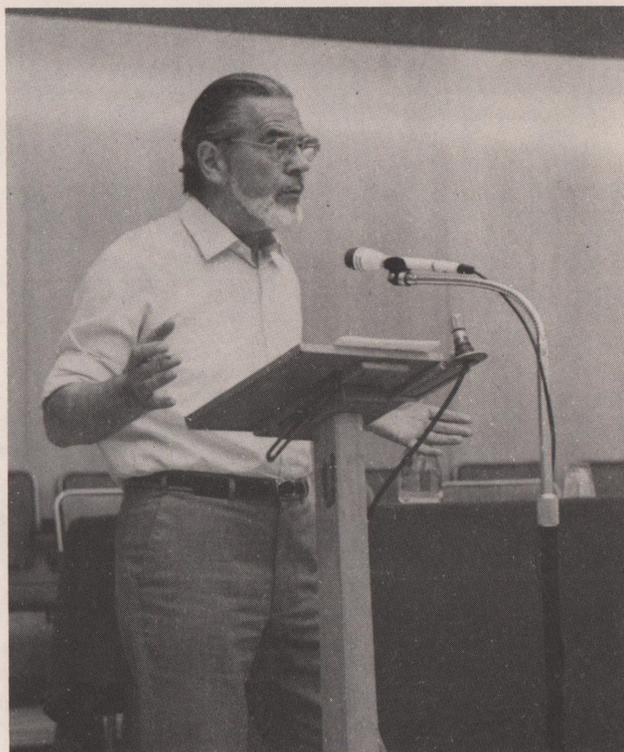
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resources into other things we shall inevitably be swamped by competitors with better, cheaper production. Another aspect of the SDI programme which was stressed was the control of the use of technology which the American Government exercise through the way they fund research. The effect is to restrict the use of new technology to American military products. This means that not only will British industry have its future threatened by this programme the future of scientific research itself will be restricted.

This was the message that Tom Sawyer gave the conference in a moving speech to the 100 or so delegates. They were drawn from a wide range of industries representing twenty different Unions and six Trades Councils.



Suzan Gordon, American Conversion Activists



George Stratton TASS

Copies of the background paper which was sent to the delegates before the conference and a fuller report of the conference, including Tom Sawyer's speech, are available from Jimmy Barnes at the CND National office.

## Unions launch arms conversion committee

# JOBS FOR A CHANGE

**A BOLD new initiative to save jobs was unveiled by two regional trade unions last month. The Northern Trade Union Defence Conversion Committee was launched by GMBATU General Secretary John Edmonds and TGWU Deputy General Secretary Bill Morris in Newcastle at a meeting of Northern defence workers in Newcastle.**

The Committee aims to save jobs in the North's defence industry by campaigning for diversification to the production of new civilian products. The North's defence industry is estimated to employ up to 100,000 people. Major companies include Swan Hunters, the Royal Ordnance Factory, Marconi and Vickers on Tyneside and RCA Systems in Cleveland. Jobs in these companies are in rapid decline. At the Birtley ROF, for example, employment has halved in just five years to under 1,000 as foreign imports, privatisation and the squeeze placed on conventional weaponry by the £12 billion nuclear Trident system have taken their toll.

### Employment disaster

John Edmonds pointed out at the launch that the government's recent Defence White Paper announces cuts of almost 20% in the military equipment budget. He stressed that this cut could mean thousands of job losses in the North unless an alternative was found in advance. 'We are trying to avoid the next

employment disaster in the region by stimulating work that is socially useful' he said.

### Workers' forum

Both Bill Morris and John Edmonds reminded the audience of local defence workers that

there were plenty of ideas around for what could be made instead of arms. Joe Mills, regional secretary of the TGWU, said that the new Committee 'will bring together the workers who are on the sharp end of change to consult them about new things that they could make'. Tom Burlison of the GMBATU believes that the Northern Committee will 'provide a forum for workers in the defence industry to pull together to secure their future'.

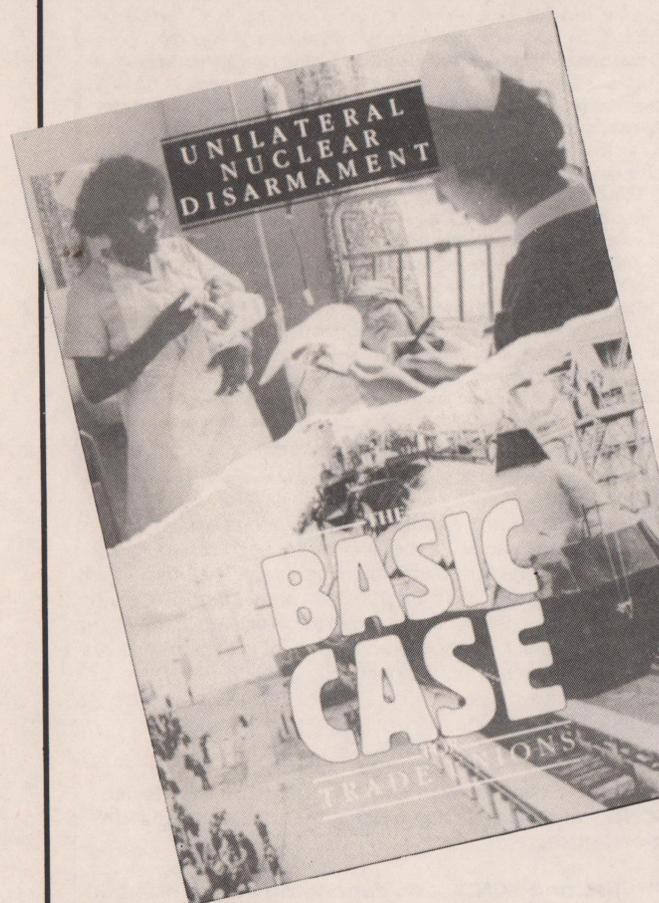
The Northern Trade Union Defence Conversion Committee can be contacted c/o TUSIU, Southend, Fernwood Road, Newcastle 2.

Alan Milburn



John Edmonds & Tom Burlison, GMBATU, Bill Morris & Joe Mills, T&EWU

## BASIC CASE MATERIAL FOR TRADE UNIONISTS



**This material has only just been produced and there is already a tremendous demand for it. It is simple, straightforward and to the point. We designed it to present the case for unilateral disarmament to Trade Unionists in a way that was both readily accessible and wasn't an oversimplification of our case.**

**The material consists of an A5 leaflet for circulation as generally as possible, an A4 size folder which gives a further in-depth explanation of TUCND's position and an A3 poster for your union noticeboard. All this material has basically the same front with slight variations. We hope you will use this material as widely as you possibly can.**

**This material costs  
A5 Leaflet £10 per 1,000  
A4 Folded broadsheet 3½p each  
A3 Poster 2p each  
Please include SAE.**

Please supply	Amount	Cost
A5 leaflets		
A4 folded broadsheets		
A3 posters		
I enclose a cheque for		Total

Cheques made payable to:  
TUCND,  
22-24 Underwood St,  
London N1

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

## FROM KINDERSCOUT TO COULPORT — 1896 TO 1986

The idea that what has come to be known as Nonviolent Direction Action (NVDA) is something new that only the modern peace movement has used effectively is quite a commonly held misconception. For instance CND have planned a major national demonstration this year against the closure to the public of a large tract of extremely beautiful moorland by the Ministry of Defence. It is being closed to extend the Coulport submarine base in order to accommodate the Trident warheads.

Yet this sort of 'Mass Trespass' demonstration is something which has been used to great effect before. As long ago as 1896 a very similar demonstration took place on Winter Hill near Boulton, where more than ten thousand people marched onto the moors in order to prevent the usurping of their common law rights to use the moor. In the 1930s there were several such demonstrations organised by amongst others the

Ramblers Association, then very much a working class organisation. The most famous of these was the Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932.

Another mass trespass took place in London at the beginning of the Blitz. When the government refused to allow the use of underground stations as air-raid shelters a large, organised mass trespass took place and the government were forced to recant. This was organised by ordinary working class people, many of whom were trade unionists.

It may be true that this form of demonstration hasn't been used much recently, if you discount occupations like the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders dispute in 1971, but it certainly is a method which is well within a working class tradition.

The demonstration planned by CND for October the 4th this year falls very much into this format of demonstration. Local CND groups throughout the country are organis-

ing transport to Helensburgh and to Garelochhead, north of Glasgow, and from there people will move to occupy the moors. This is a wild and dramatic place, so don't forget to take an anorak and some strong shoes.

This demonstration is against the Trident programme. Trident may have a role in some lunatic concept of world domination. It certainly bears no relation to our defence needs. That this government should consider taking away from us this moorland is bad, that it should do so because of the Trident programme is nothing less than an obscenity.

What we are asking Trade Unionists to do is to contact your local peace group to

**\* Get details of transport from your local peace group**

**\* Contact your local union branch or district and trades council to urge them to publicise and take part in this demonstration.**