

THE EUROPEAN UNION KONVER PROGRAMME

The EU has recently given the go-ahead to the Konver programme. This is a system of grant aid designed to give support to those areas having a significant dependence on arms industries which now face problems because of falling demand.

Within the EU there are roughly 1.5 million people employed directly in arms production. Of those about half a million are in Britain. They represent somewhere in the region of 1 in 10 of our manufacturing workforce and account for a disproportionately high level of our exports. Britain has the largest arms industry and the highest dependency on the export of weapons of any European state.

Britain's is also the most vulnerable, both in terms of the things they make and the way they are organised. For instance there are five new Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) designed within NATO. These will be rationalised down to about two. Currently the legislation which insists upon government and local government contracts being opened to tender from companies throughout the EU does not cover the defence industries. This is one of the reasons why France is the strongest, and has the largest number of orders outside the USA. The British, Italian and German industries are, therefore, likely to go under in the not too distant future. The German and Italian companies also have considerable interests in other

non-military areas of the economy. In Britain, however, tank factories only produce tanks.

Partly because of the way in which companies have been shaped by the privatisation process and partly because of the legislation covering investment, etc, companies making arms in Britain tend to be concentrated on defence to a far greater extent than on the continent. It is clear, therefore, that Britain will be affected far more fundamentally.

Grants in the first year of the programme will total some 16 million pounds for Britain, roughly a third coming from the European Social Fund and the balance coming from the European Regional Development Fund. Those applying will have to match the money given through the scheme with an equal amount from their own resources. In Britain the grants are intended for small businesses, to aid them diversify by developing into other areas than defence. However the bulk of applications have come from local authorities and from LECs - TECs. The fund is very small compared to the scale of the industry, but it is a start. It is probable that there will be more money in the coming years.

One problem in the past has been the way in which money was distributed. Agencies have established

schemes with the intention of applying for funds. They were looking for things to do to qualify for money from European funds for their organisation rather than looking for ways of developing relevant initiatives. The phrase 'carpet baggers' could easily be applied to a number of such groups. The net result has been cosmetic exercises rather than a serious attempt to address the needs of the economy.

The British government response has been heavily criticised by a number of people including the EU Commissioner responsible for the Konver programme, Eric Dufeil, who expressed "extreme concern" over the UK's regional sprinkling of the funds available, and our government's lack of any coherent national strategy for dealing with the rapid decline in the defence industry. The government's response can be contrasted with that of the US government. The US is allocating \$20 billion towards conversion, as well as looking at ways of helping industry through a range of other programmes. The UK government has recently turned down a request from the DTI Select Committee for a commission to be established to study how conversion can be assisted.

REGISTER NOW FOR TUCND'S AGM

This will take place at the UCW national office:

Crescent Lane
London
SW4 9RN

on 16th APRIL 1994

The AGM will consider how TUCND have performed over the last year and how we feel we can develop our work in the future, as well as electing a new EC.

Please make a note of the date and raise the possibility of sending a delegate from your trade union organisation.

National unions are entitled to four delegates, regional union bodies two, and branches one delegate.

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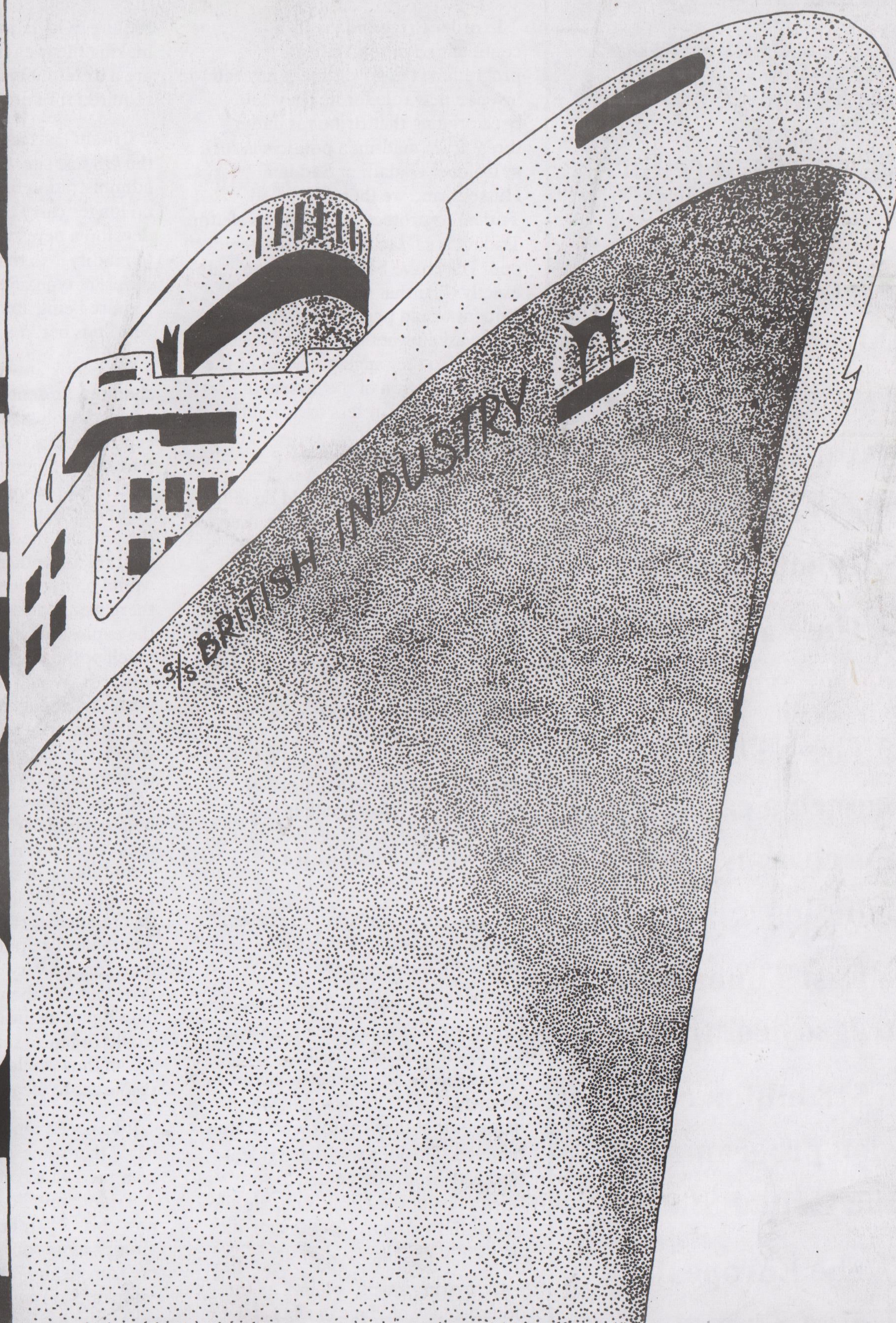
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NEWS

KONVER



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SUB-STRATEGIC ROLE FOR TRIDENT - PURE BUNKUM

In order to try and justify a continuation of the Trident programme the government has had to invent a new role for it. They have been arguing that Britain is under threat from mad-men politicians such as Colonel Gaddafi or Saddam Hussein, and we therefore need Trident to protect us. The new role for Trident is said to be a "sub-strategic" one. They have been reluctant to state exactly what that means, and how Trident would perform this new role. When asked whether sub-strategic referred to the range, the yield or the military function of the system they answered that it refers to its military function.

Despite their coyness it is clear what they envisage Trident would do in the event of a conflict. It would be used to destroy a number of specified targets, such as a communication system, a concentration of armoured vehicles or a particular set of fortifications. It would not be intended to destroy all the military functions of the state with which we were in conflict, to wipe out its population or to destroy its economic and commercial infrastructure. Conventional wars are about damaging such things sufficiently to allow another government to be imposed upon that state, not about destroying it completely.

There are a number of problems, however, with attempting to use Trident in this way.

Trident was designed to penetrate hardened silos containing the Soviet Union's long range missiles. That means a large blast penetrating below ground. This is also why they were made so that they could be accurately targeted. The idea was that Trident warheads would be guided to within a few meters of the USSR's missile silos and blow them up before the missiles were fired at us.

Destroying a tank column, on the other hand, would mean a blast on the surface travelling horizontally out from the epicentre. Similarly, destroying urban conurbations would mean exploding the warheads in the air. Attacking fortified positions would

require a high dose of radiation, making the area uninhabitable. These are a different type of explosion to that required for knocking out missile silos.

Britain tests its nuclear weapons in the US test site. Since the US administration brought in a ban we can no longer carry out such tests. To develop a new warhead for Trident, or to modify it so that it produced a different type of explosion would require being able to test it, which Britain is not in a position to do.

If we look at what would happen should a Trident missile be used against, for instance, a communication centre in Iraq. The missile may destroy part of the communication system but, since Iraq put one of them in the middle of Baghdad, it would also level the city and the surrounding area. The military advantages gained by this would be questionable, especially if there were backup systems. Because of the explosion being in the ground much of the blast would be deflected upwards. What travelled horizontally would be enough to kill civilians but not necessarily people in armoured vehicles or in bomb shelters. The military structures may well, therefore, survive. The area would however be uninhabitable and hundreds of thousands of civilians from a wide area would die or need considerable amounts of medical treatment, for severe nuclear radiation injuries are incurable. The political costs would therefore be very considerable indeed. We would be the new international hate figure against whom the world would organise sanctions and from whom they would demand vast resources to clear up the damage

It has been mooted from within the MoD that some Trident missiles may be armed with conventional warheads. A Trident missile, minus the warhead, now costs \$49 million. A Tornado aircraft costs roughly 20 million and the European Fighter Aircraft is estimated at roughly 25 million. In other words for the same price you could use a fighter/bomber which can carry a heavier payload, would be reusable and doesn't require a satellite guidance system.

SUPPOSED REDUCTION IN TRIDENT

Malcom Rifkind announced on the 15th of November 1993 that Britain would reduce the number of warheads to be carried on Britain's Trident submarines. He also intimated that Britain would now work for a comprehensive ban on testing nuclear weapons.

Given the government's history of resistance to any move towards nuclear disarmament this was quite remarkable.

What is clear is that they were reluctant to make this move. They claimed a lot more in their leaks to the press than actually materialised. This would suggest that they were making the claims under pressure from the US to begin to be supportive of the disarmament process rather than to resist it.

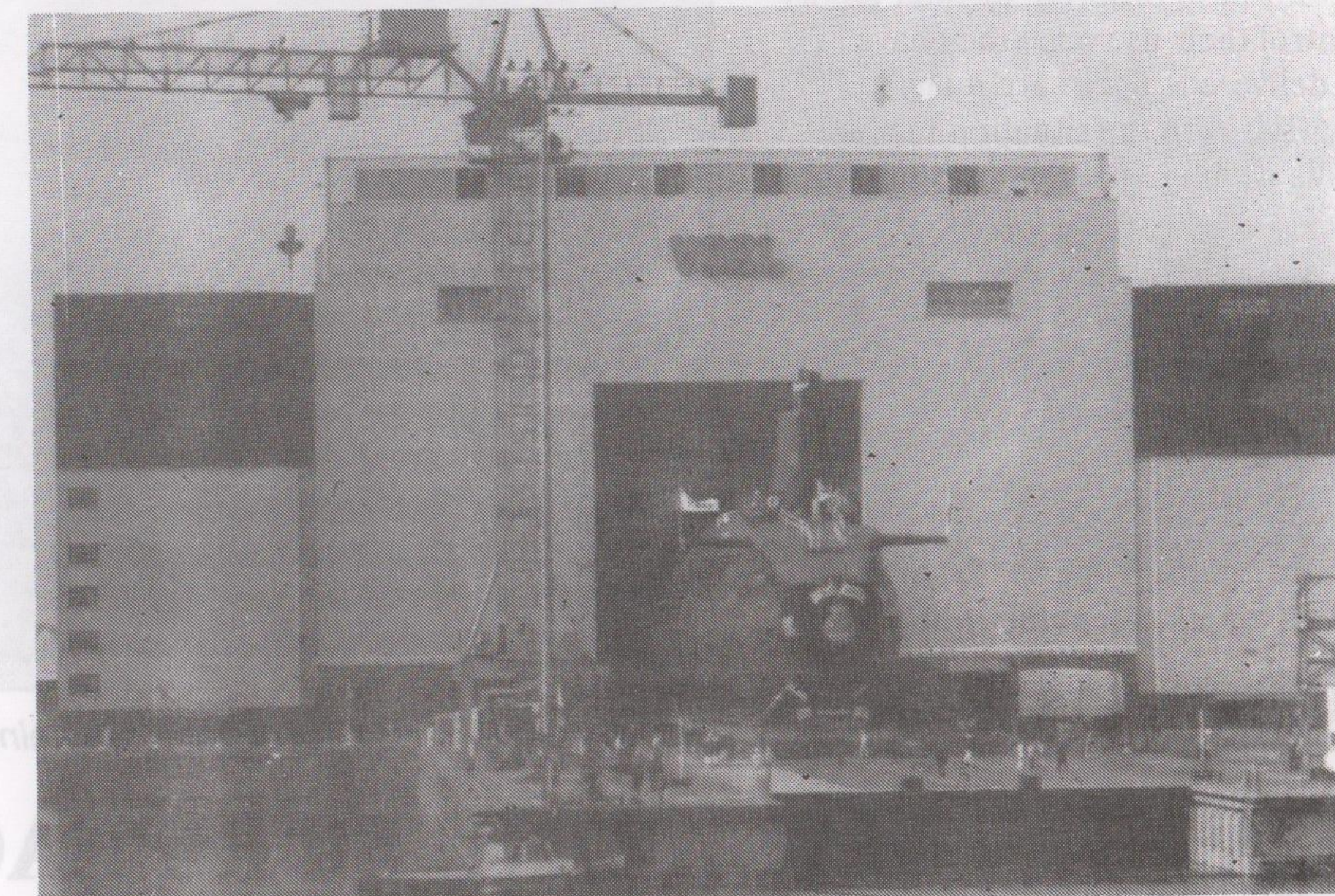
The government leaked a story to the Financial Times saying that Trident was to be cut back to the equivalent explosive power of Polaris. The original article speculated that the 44 missiles already acquired from the US would suffice and there would be no need to buy more. At that point David Clark, the Labour Party front bench spokesperson on Defence welcomed the news. It was later revealed, that there would be much fewer cuts than had originally been suggested and David Clark withdrew his support for the statement. The final statement is vague. Rifkind announced that each Trident submarine would carry no more than 96 warheads - a cut of 32 on the original order. He also said that there will be little change to the original order for missiles from the US. The current assessment is thought to be a total of 67, including spares and test missiles for a duration of 30 years.

The government has never officially released the details of the numbers of missiles they intend to buy. If we are to buy 67, that will mean that there would only be enough for each of the four submarines and none for test purposes or for spares. 67 is almost certainly a cut on the original order.

The leak made it look as though Britain would join the moratorium on the testing of Nuclear Weapons. Since our tests were carried out in the American test site we depend on the US for us to be able to test. when the

US administration said they were to carry out no further tests Britain complained, calling the move "misguided". Now it would seem that the US have been putting pressure on the British government to make concessions in favour of a test ban. Rifkind's statement did not say we would be joining the moratorium, but that we would work for a full test ban in 1995 when the test ban treaty is up for renewal. Politically, however, this is important. The British government have up till now been doing everything

control station. There was an attempt to do this secretly some years ago but this had to be dropped when Duncan Campbell revealed the details. Parliament had not been informed of the programme, called Zircon, which was to cost £500 million. However, to perform the role described by Rifkind would require about five such satellites. Britain does not have the capacity to launch satellites, which would mean we would either have to hire such a capacity from the US, Russia or perhaps China, or develop



Britain's first Trident submarine rolls out of its shed

they can to undermine the moratorium. This move means that activity will cease and, in public at least, we will be putting out diplomatic resources in the opposite direction.

TRIDENT IN CRISIS

What Rifkind's statement does point out is that the Trident programme is in a crisis. Setting up the facilities to produce the warheads has been a catalogue of catastrophes. The US are upping the cost of the missiles and are even discussing closing the production line altogether.

Trident depends on the US for targeting and guidance systems and the US administration is no longer sympathetic to the type of warmongering its previous regime was keen on. Trident uses American satellites and the US decides and controls the flightpath and the destination. To make it independent would mean Britain would have to launch missiles of its own and set up a

that capacity ourselves. The costs of this would be prohibitive.

Aldermaston was supposed to have two new units to deal with the increased workload Trident implied; the A90 unit which was where the warheads were to be manufactured and the A91 unit which would deal with the increased amount of liquid radioactive waste - coolant from the machine tool plant discharge from the laundry, etc. The A90 unit is 7 years behind schedule and has had many major catastrophes in building it. The A91 unit was finished and ready to go when someone flushed out the systems with tap water instead of distilled water and made it unworkable.

Senior figures in the Navy are quietly indicating that they would rather have a larger conventional navy that four Trident submarines. One of them referred to Trident as "the Moss Bros deterrent".

CIVIL WAR LOOMS FOR NIGERIA - BRITAIN SUPPLIES THE TANKS

A number of observers have commented that Nigeria is lurching towards a civil war on a scale equivalent to that which occurred over Biafra. Over a million people lost their lives in that conflict, but while central government authority is crumbling Britain appears to have agreed to supply an extra 80 tanks, on top of the 70 currently being despatched to the Nigerian government. recent reports in the press have raised considerable doubts over their ability to pay for the arms they have ordered, or their ability to control their use once they have been delivered. There are many similarities with the situation in Somalia which led to the current crisis there.

General Ibrahim Badangida took power from another military junta in 1985. Last June an election was held for a president which Badangida declared null and void, and the UK government announced some sanctions against Nigeria. Training facilities for a small number of officers

in Britain was withdrawn, but the order for 70 Mark v tanks from Vickers Defence System was not interfered with. Protests and demonstrations followed the annulment of the election, and Badangida stood down in August in favour of an acting civilian president - Chief Shonekan. However the army seized power again in November and

the Defence Minister General Abacha, has replaced Shonekan.

Douglas Hurd has publicly roundly condemned the Nigerian military for not accepting the election which observers considered to be free and fair. The tank order, however, quietly remains unchallenged.



VDS where the tanks for Nigeria are being built

A NEW MAGAZINE FOR PEACE AND TU ACTIVISTS

The end of the Cold War had massive implications for peace in the world and for the possibility of a decent life for ordinary people. In spite of all the Cold war rhetoric about the Soviet Union being the principal threat to peace in the world it would still be clear that the demise of the Warsaw Pact created a tremendous opportunity for developing peace throughout the world. What has been happening since has not been encouraging. That opportunity is being ignored, and international politics is not developing in a progressive way. Britain faces bankruptcy, which means escalating poverty and deprivation because of our government's policies, and throughout the world a billion people face the treat of starvation. Our government consistently does thing which make this situation worse. The treat to peace now is somewhat different to that which existed five years ago but it is still very real. We no

longer face the treat of full scale nuclear war, but for many the world has become a far more dangerous place.

To help activists understand these changes TUCND are participating in setting up a new journal called Peace and Society, or P&S for short. It will carry articles on a wide range of different issues including racism, gender, Northern Ireland, the situation in Bosnia, Somalia the Sahara, South Africa, THORP, and issues relating to the trade union movement directly as well as those which would traditionally be dealt with by CND, such as the transportation of nuclear warheads.

It isn't intended that the journal will promote a particular political line or point of view. There will be articles which argue against others. On some issues there will be a series of articles covering different aspects. We feel this is a healthy approach.

The magazine is aimed principally at peace movement and trade union activists, but hopefully will be of interest to a broader range of people. The long term aim is to produce it monthly but this may not be achievable for some time yet. It is being produced by TUCND on their in-house equipment, and could therefore possibly break even on a comparatively low subscription base. Doing it this way also means that the journal will be able to "find its own level" in terms of the number of readers. It will not have to meet a subscription target before it becomes viable.

TUCND believe this is potentially a very important initiative which could lead to a very influential journal.

The subscription rate is 10 for 12 issues. For sample copies and a subscription form contact TUCND, c/o 65 Bishops Rd, Newcastle NE15 6RY.

THE SAHARA'S FORGOTTEN WAR

In May this year Polisario held their twentieth anniversary rallies in the Sahara desert near Tindouf in Algeria, an area which is close to the borders of Mauritania, the Western Sahara and Morocco. A member of the National Communication Union's Executive, Donald McDonald, was one of the eight Britons who attended.

"During my few days there I saw first hand the effects of the war on the lives of all Saharawi citizens. Many had lost loved ones during the invasion and subsequent war. I met civilians whose makeshift camps had been strafed and napalmed while trying to escape the advancing Moroccan forces. I spoke to a man who had been tortured and held for 15 years in a secret Moroccan prison. I was also able to visit Moroccan prisoners of the war held by Polisario. Some had been prisoners for fourteen or fifteen years - but at least there was some international supervision of these camps; Morocco does not even admit to the existence of their prisons, let alone allow inspection!"

The Saharawi people have been irrevocably changed by the war from a largely pastoral nomadic life to life in a highly organised war economy. But it has not all been bad;

"Polisario has united the people and made huge strides forward even in the life of exile in the camps. Clean fresh water is available from wells, an with humanitarian aid from groups like One world Action, they have been able to set up large vegetable farms even in what appear to be very arid parts of the desert. Universal health care and education is available to all. Polisario, albeit during a war, has achieved a literacy level and a standard of health for their people which is probably second to none in Africa".

Women are accorded not only equal rights but additional rights under the SADR constitution; torture and the abuse of prisoners is outlawed and the death penalty is forbidden.

Many British visitors were able to meet the Polisario General Secretary and SADR President, Mohammed Abdelaziz, as well as the Polisario number two, Bashir Mustapha Said. While not being openly critical of the British government, both expressed concern that Britain was allowing France to dictate the European agenda.

Mohammed Abdelaziz made the point: "The United States, Spain and



A Polisario desert patrol return to their base

Germany have more positive attitude than Britain. We only ask that Morocco respects UN resolutions and the peace process. We cannot understand the British stance; French policy is clear - they support the King of Morocco who likes to pretend to be a friend of Britain and the United States. The Moroccan King shares the same territorial plans as France, which can achieve its aims through Morocco. Fish and minerals! If the Western Sahara falls to Morocco, then France will be able to exercise power over Mauritania, Mali, Senegal - right to the borders of Nigeria! So they can't accept another force in the region. France is acting out of selfish interests. We want Britain to respect the rights of other people; but Britain keeps quiet while the Moroccan king kills the saharawi people. Sometimes we hear british statements about costs. With all the international problems facing the UN our problems are clearer and cheaper to solve. They have thousands in Somalia; they've been in lebanon for 17 years; Yugoslavia will be the same. Our problem is clear according to international law; it is simply one country trying to colonise another. Unlike other countries, our problem is not civil war, but one of self

determination." Polisario have no illusions about the economic and political forces ranged against them. The Western Sahara is rich in phosphates, and the whole of the North West African coast is heaving with fish. With the decline of the North Sea fishing stocks, the European fleets are looking further afield.

Supporters of the Western Sahara Campaign are currently considering legal action against the European Union for reinstating aid to Morocco and establishing a new fishing agreement. While the EU Commission ignores them, EU registered trawlers are fishing in Western Saharan waters.

France in particular is using Morocco as its client state in an effort to expand its political and economic influence in the region.

Donald McDonald hopes that his report to the NCU will help stimulate trade union action in support of Saharawi people;

"The war in the Western Sahara is essentially one of national liberation of that country against a much-stronger, land grabbing neighbour. it is a struggle which should be more actively supported by British trade unionists."

THE NTUDCC LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN FOR CIVILIAN SHIPBUILDING

The shipbuilding industry is in crisis. The National Trade Union Defence Conversion Committee is campaigning for a set of measures which will allow the warship building industry to function in the expanding international market for merchant ships and allow our shipping industry to expand.

The employers in the industry estimated that because of cuts outlined in "Options for Change", the government review of defence procurement in 1990, the number of people employed in the industry would decrease from 25,000 to somewhere in the region of 7,000 over a period of five years. The probabilities are, however, that there will be an open market in defence equipment within the EC in the not too distant future. This will mean any company within the EC can bid for defence contracts, so there is no reason at all why any of our current warship building industry should survive.

that was three years ago and the shake-out of people working in the industry, thanks to a rearguard action by the unions involved, is happening slower than was originally estimated. It is, however, happening and our government is doing nothing to stop the haemorrhaging of jobs.

Not only are the jobs very important to the communities involved, but the effect of the loss of such an important heavy engineering capacity within the economy overall will be devastating.

This should not be happening. There is a massive market for merchant ships internationally. The world merchant fleets have not been rebuilt over the past ten to fifteen years which means that the age profile of the world's ships has grown dramatically. A large number are what can only be described as decrepid. The use of unsafe ships has been helped, by the growth of flags of convenience, something our government has done nothing to curb.

The shipbuilding and shipping industries are interdependent. The two thrive or crumble together. In Britain all our major industries have been distributed by the nationalisation/privatisation process,

and the maritime industries are no exception. The shippers and the builders do not work effectively together. In contrast in Japan they are encompassed within the same company.

The Shipping Employers Federation estimate that it is likely that within five years there will be no ships registered in Britain. That means that we shall be importing the services and exporting the capital for all trade which is sent by ship (90%). If they were British registered vessels then the service would count as an export and we would be making money for our economy. This has, therefore, serious implications for our balance of trade. There are big advantages to shipowners in re-flagging their vessels under flags of convenience. They can use poorly paid crews, unprotected by trade unions, and can find ways round safety regulations so reducing the cost of maintaining their vessels. Some even avoid providing insurance. Although there is no necessary link between flags of convenience and rusting death traps it is difficult to avoid safety regulations, insurance and adequate wages for the crew with ships registered in Britain.

Shipping and shipbuilding in Britain are blighted by financial regulations which undermine industry. In Britain profit is taxed at 27% if it's ploughed back into the company; but if it's given out in dividend then it's taxed at 16%. In all other successful industrial nations capital investment is tax exempted. That is why in the big Japanese shipyards 85% of the steel is cut and 65% of the welding is done by computer controlled machines.

Like all major maritime nations Denmark subsidises its shipping industry by exempting the employers from claiming tax and NI from seafarers. To some extent this subsidy finds its way back to Danish shipbuilders. When Norway implemented a similar scheme their fleet trebled in five years. In Britain the seafarers unions and the shipping employers are campaigning for the same measures to be introduced, but have faced intractable opposition from a government clinging to rigidly entrenched dogmas.

After the second world war Britain had 25% of the world's shipbuilding orders and Japan had virtually nothing. Now we have less than 1% and Japan has 40%. 15 years ago South Korea had very little shipbuilding. They now have about 25% of world orders. If it was cheap labour that made the difference Britain would be dominating the market because we now have a low wage economy. This has been achieved by the careful framing of financial and industrial legislation in a way which nurtures, protects and encourages cost cutting, sometimes against industry's own wishes.

The potential for massive expansion of this industry is clear. The value of a heavy engineering base to a manufacturing economy is clear. It is clear how every successful maritime nation has achieved its dominant position. What isn't clear is the thinking behind the reluctance of our government to follow their example. We could be using the declining warship building industry as a springboard for a substantial expansion. In general terms, if it takes 20,000 people to build 1% of the world's orders, 15% could employ 200,000 people directly (and a large number of others in service and ancillary industries) as well as provide technical know how which could benefit the rest of our economy.

The CBI, the Engineering Employers Federation, the Shipping employers and the trade unions in both the shipbuilding and shipping industries are calling for the radical action of the type outlined by the NTUDCC, but the government remains intransigent. An Early Day Motion has been put down in the House of Commons urging the implementation of the series of measures which the NTUDCC advocate. The NTUDCC have written to peace groups, trade unions, and trade union councils asking them to lobby their MPs to sign this. They are using the campaign to raise people's awareness of these issues so that pressure can be put on the government for change.

EAST TIMOR - THE TRAGEDY CONTINUES

With covert and tacit support from the British Government Indonesia invaded the small former Portuguese colony of East Timor. Since then the Indonesian regime have killed over a third of the population - 200,000 people. They have also moved a number of East Timorese people to Indonesia and are settling large numbers of Indonesians in East Timor. This in addition to a million people killed by the regime in Indonesia itself.

On 12th of November 1991 273 mourners at a funeral were killed by the Indonesian Army. TV cameras were present and pictures of the massacre were screened in a number of countries. Soldiers were shown clubbing to death wounded people. Disappearances, rape and torture are commonplace. The Indonesian regime is clearly carrying out systematic genocide upon any group or person who even mildly opposes it.

Yet the Indonesian regime enjoys systematic support from the British government. The Netherlands and Portugal, the two former colonial powers in the area protested vigorously when the Santa Cruz massacre came to light and withdrew

all aid from Indonesia. Britain, on the other hand, made a weak public statement condemning the massacre. At the time our government were negotiating the sale of a former Royal Navy support ship, the Green Rover, to Indonesia and the announcement of the sale was delayed for a short while to allow the public outrage against Indonesia to die down. At the same time they put considerably behind the scenes pressure on the Netherlands and on Portugal to have them cease their criticism and restart aid.

The sale of the Green Rover gives and indication of the nature of the support which Indonesia enjoys from the British government. The ship extended the range of operation for the Indonesian Navy making it considerably easier for them to operate in and outside the waters off East Timor. Britain has also agreed to the sale of 200 millions pounds worth of Hawk fighter aircraft with technical support from British Aerospace.

In giving this support to an arms build up by Indonesia our government are forcing other countries in the region to arm themselves to the teeth to defend themselves from Indonesia.

The net effect is that a considerable strain is put on their respective economies and the military gains a considerable influence on internal politics.

Indonesia is a belligerent, dangerous regime. It has unresolved border disputes with most of its neighbours and continues to ignore several United Nations resolutions calling on them to leave East Timor. A number of observers designate the region as a potential flashpoint for conflict. At best it can only be described as irresponsible of our government to continue its support. It could also be said, however, that our government is complicit in the genocide inflicted on the people of East Timor by the Indonesians and complicit in the destabilisation of that whole region.

East Timor is a tiny nation. The opposition in the country have very little in terms of resources and very little to campaign with publicly abroad. They need all the help they can get. Support for them is channelled through the Coalition for East Timor, PO Box 2349, London E1 3HX. Phone/fax number: 071 639 4700

\$18 BILLION CONVERSION PROGRAMME IN THE UNITED STATES

The Clinton administration have outlined plans for some \$18 billion worth of support to industries affected by the decline in defence orders. In addition the administration are looking at ways of framing legislation so that their industries can be supported. The cornerstone of what is evolving into a comprehensive approach to conversion is the Defence Conversion, Reinvestment and Transition Assistance Act. Consecutive US government's have seen conversion as a way of protecting those industries upon which defence depends. Thus in order for the US to maintain the capacity to produce tank ammunition, the government would encourage tank ammunition makers to diversify into other areas when there was little demand for ammunition. That way the factories and the skill base are there in the event of the government needing such ammunition. The current programme has some of these elements within it. Some in the current administration, however, see conversion as a way of using the DoD resources to help regenerate the civil

manufacturing base. One of the pieces of legislation, for instance, states that "Economic security has been declared an official mission of the DoD". Some in the current administration, however, see this as a way of using the DoD resources to regenerate the civil manufacturing base.

\$70 million has been allocated to communities blighted by the closure of bases. Out of the \$3,054 million budget last year \$238 million was allocated to assistance programmes for finding and providing work for civilian and military personnel displaced by the cutback in military spending.

As in Britain shipbuilding in the US has concentrated on the production of military ships and now faces a serious crisis. The administration has launched a very substantial programme aimed at regenerating the merchant shipbuilding capacity using the yards

currently building warships. This is based on the belief that there is massive international market opening up for merchant vessels. It is called the

National Shipbuilding Initiative. The initiative involves a range of measures including \$200 million in loan guarantees to shipyards for modernisation programmes.

\$2,200 million has been allocated to one of the most important measures in this package: The Defence Industry Technology programme is intended to stimulate technology. Within this is the Technology Reinvestment Project under the leadership of the DoD's Advanced Research Project Agency, set up to put "technology to work creating growth markets for new jobs". The TRP budget itself will be allocated \$575 million for next year. The transfer of technology developed for military purposes to civilian products has been a long standing commitment of Clinton's.

The US Secretary of Labour said recently "I don't think there is any question we have to convert, and in the long term it will be good for our country. It will mean a different way of viewing the national purpose and our national community and our obligation to each other".