

# WORK FOR PEACE



# Working for Peace

## TRADE UNION CND ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85

The last twelve months have been challenging and productive, for Trade Union CND. Within the trade union movement there is an increasing knowledge of and support for the work of TUCND, and we believe that we have been largely responsible for an increased understanding among the broader nuclear disarmament campaign of the crucial role of the trade union movement.

We have been able to improve our liaison with both our national and regional affiliates and we believe have been instrumental in placing the whole question of arms conversion on the agenda of both the nuclear disarmament movement and key sections of the trade union movement.

We have made some major advances but we believe that there is a grave need to continue our programme to take the nuclear disarmament campaign out of the conference rooms and into the workplaces. The further development of our regional work must also be a high priority in the forthcoming year.

In 1984 we have laid the foundations for the further expansion of CND's influence and support within the trade union movement. In the next year it is our task to consolidate our influence and ensure that Nuclear Disarmament is seen as Trade Union Business.

### LIAISON WITH AFFILIATES

Three more national unions affiliated to CND in the last year – the Musicians Union, Society of Telecom Executives and the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs Section of the Entertainment Trades Alliance. Due to amalgamations and mergers we lost a number of affiliates, namely AUEW-Constructional and AUEW-Foundry (both of which have amalgamated with the AUEW-Engineering Section which is not affiliated to CND), the NUSMCHDE (which has become the Craft Sector of AUEW-TASS which is formerly associated with CND), and the AACE (which has merged with NATFHE which is not affiliated to CND).

The combined membership of the 26 national unions affiliated to CND is just under six million – the overwhelming majority of trade unionists in Britain. Additionally there are over 500 other trade union organisations affiliated to British CND and

with the introduction of the joint affiliation scheme this number is sure to increase. But there is plenty of scope for increasing this number even further. Indeed it is vital that we do so and thus increase our potential for involving rank and file trade unionists on a continuing basis.

### TAKING THE CASE TO THE RANK AND FILE

It has been a priority of the outgoing Executive to develop closer liaison with our affiliates. The Secretary has met with national officials of 19 affiliates to discuss their relationship with CND.

We have been able to organise for a number of unions to send a letter to all branches offering speakers and urging affiliation. This approach has met with mixed success. A number of national unions have placed standing orders for TUCND News, thus helping to consolidate our links.

Over the year we have tried to regularly provide an article service for union journals and this has resulted in the publication of nuclear disarmament related articles in many journals. This service needs to be placed on more secure footing.

We have assisted with a number of union education programmes but by and large this area remains underdeveloped.

We have also tried to develop links with a number of unions which are not currently affiliated to CND and have been able to involve some of them in some of our activities.

### ARMS CONVERSION

This has been a major area of work for the outgoing Executive. We believe that Trade Union CND has contributed to an increased understanding both within the trade union movement and within CND of the need for a transference of resources from military production to civil production.

In April TUCND assisted with the organisation of the national conference on "A Better Future for Defence Jobs" which was co-sponsored by ASTMS, AUEW-TASS, SCPS and the T&GWU. Over 100 defence industry workers or full-time officials from the defence sector attended this conference and it can be said that many of the developments in the conversion campaign that occurred later in 1984 stemmed from the Bradford Conference.

Directly flowing from Bradford was the formation of the National Trade Union Defence Conversion Committee which has now attracted the support of the following national unions – ASTMS, AUEW-TASS, CPSA, GMBATU, IPCS, SCPS, TGWU and UCATT. TUCND along with CAITS and the Greater London Conversion Council are permanent observers to the Committee. Ron Todd from the T&G is the Chair of the Committee while Andrew Hewett from TUCND is the Secretary.

The first edition of the Committee's newsletter, "The Defence Converter" has been published and the Committee is now





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).

developing a programme of activities. Arising from the Bradford conference, a number of unions in the South-West region, sponsored a conference on the alternatives for aerospace workers. TUCND assisted with this conference which was a very useful initiative.

The publication of the TUC report on the defence sector, including an examination of the arguments for conversion, should provide another stimulus for the extension of the conversion campaign.

The Vickers Yards at Barrow-in-Furness has been the focus for much of our work on arms conversion. With British CND deciding to hold a major demonstration at Barrow and generally placing greater priority on the Trident campaign, the TUCND Executive considering it necessary to try to avoid any possible confrontation between trade unionists employed on the Trident contract and CND members.

We arranged for Danny Pearson, the AUEW-TASS convenor at Barrow, to address CND National Council in July. Danny explained the viewpoint of the Vickers' workers and helped to change the perspectives of many CND activists. He also helped to ensure that the theme of the Barrow demonstration in October was "Working for Peace" and that CND decided to donate £12,000 to a research project into alternatives to Trident.

TUCND has worked closely with the Barrow Trades Council and helped with the Day School on the employment consequences of Trident held in September. Over the next year TUCND should continue to work closely with the Barrow Trades Council. A indication of the increased understanding of the importance of conversion for the general campaign was the unanimous support at the CND National Conference for the TUCND resolution on the topic. We now have to work with other sections of the campaign to develop even greater

understanding of the arguments for conversion and the best way to campaign.

### CIVIL DEFENCE

This is a major priority area for TUCND. Many of our affiliates have a substantial number of members directly affected by the Government's plans. The campaign also presents the opportunity for us to advance the concept of trade unionists directly intervening against the nuclear war preparations.

We have seen this year as preparation for what we expect to be a crunch year for the civil defence campaign.

We have convened regular meetings of national officials from those unions directly affected by the Government's plans. From those meetings we arranged for the production of the joint trade union leaflet on civil defence which was co-sponsored by NUPE, NALGO, FBU, COHSE and the T&GWU. This leaflet was extremely successful and hundreds of thousands were distributed through the trade union movement and CND groups. In the next few months it is planned to publish another joint unions leaflet, hold a series of day schools (to be held in those parts of the country where there are few nuclear-free zone councils and to prepare a short video on the topic).

### PEACE AND JOBS

The trade union movement is united in viewing with horror the escalating defence budget, currently estimated at £17 billion. With cuts in social services and industry support occurring every day, Trade Union CND has begun preparations for a series of campaigns using the general theme of Peace and Jobs. The TUCND Executive felt that the priority areas for the campaign should be the health service, public transport and construction

industry unions. This campaign holds out great potential for developing close contacts between local CND activists and trade unionists.

### DAY OF ACTION

Trade Union CND participated in the CND "Let's Talk About Trident" week leading up to the national rally in Barrow-in-Furness. The trade union day was Wednesday October 24. In a leaflet and an article by Bruce Kent circulated to all trade union journals, TUCND called for trade union supporters of CND to consider a wide variety of actions, including workplace meetings, leaflet handouts, film and or video screening and token/symbolic actions. The day was picked up in a number of workplaces and we were also able to hold a photo call outside the TUC General Council which was meeting that day.

Our experiences once again emphasised the importance of TUCND continuing to develop workplace and rank and file contacts.

### PUBLICATIONS

TUCND News, our bi-monthly newsletter has appeared regularly over the last year. There are now a large number of standing orders for the newsletter and the circulation is now a steady 12,000. There is no doubt that the newsletter has helped to project the CND message into many trade union branches as well as gaining new members for the campaign.

Early in 1984 we published "Working for Peace", a guide to workplace campaigning. Nearly 3000 copies of this have been sold.

A special leaflet directed towards trade unionists on Trident was also published and this has been received well.

For the October 24 Day of Action an A5 leaflet was prepared and over 130,000 were distributed. Within the next few months it is hoped that a starter pack for local groups explaining how they can involve trade unionists in their campaigns will be ready. TUCND are discussing with CND Publications the preparation of suitable materials on the conversion issue.

### REGIONAL WORK

Devolving our work to the regions is crucial for the continued success of TUCND. It helps to democratise our decision making processes and ensures that our message is reaching many more trade unionists.

We currently have eight regional and area TUCNDs. From the national level we have tried to give them both logistical and

financial support. The reports from some of these committees are included in this report and give an indication of the potential.

Over the next year it will be necessary to continue to give this support and to seek to expand our regional network in areas like the East Midlands, Wales and the Southern Region.

### INTERNATIONAL WORK

Through our activity on conversion we have been able to extend our international links. We arranged for two leading American activists to attend the Bradford conference and for another to attend the Barrow conference.

Two members of the Executive attended the International Economic Conversion Conference held in Boston in June and it is hoped that we can contribute to the growing international conversion network.

Bill Hodgson from the Executive attended the European Nuclear Disarmament Convention in Perugia and made some very useful contacts.

The Executive has agreed in principal to co-ordinate a delegation from North America but due to pressure of events have not been able to proceed as yet.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

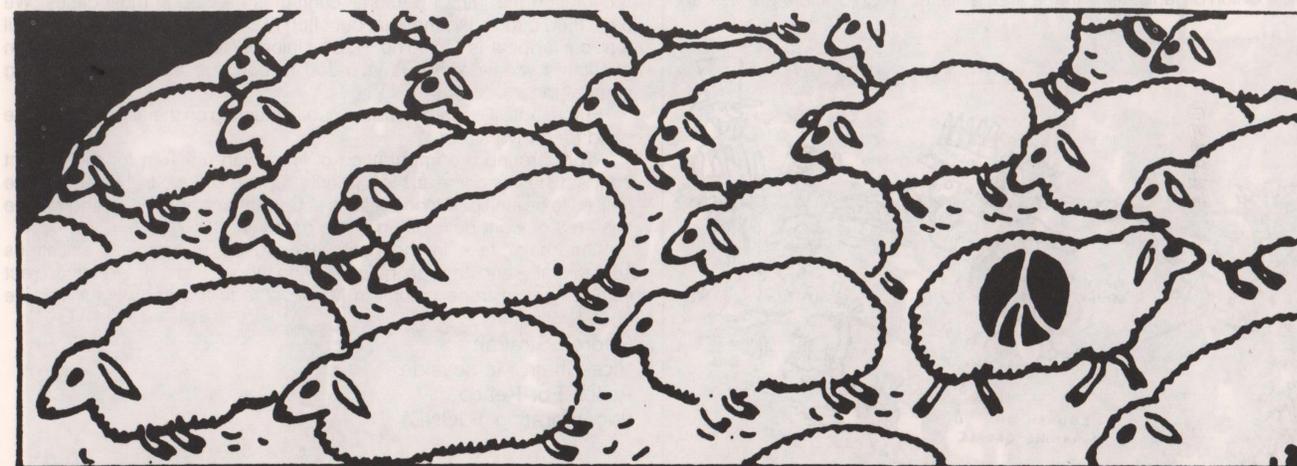
Other areas of work have included: Arranging for the sponsorship of ten coachloads of NUM members to attend the national CND rally held against President Reagan on June 9; participation in the Labour Disarmament Liaison Committee; arranging fringe meetings and other activities at 27 national trade union conferences; arranging for speakers at a considerable number of trade union and CND meetings and generally assisting local CND and trade union activists to take the nuclear disarmament message to trade union members.

### CONCLUSION

Over the last year we contend that we have built the framework for the expansion of CND's influence within the trade union movement. We believe that we have demonstrated that trade unions are crucial for the success of CND.

It is now up to us to continue to extend our work and reach out to more and more trade unionists and their organisations in order that the full weight and power of the trade union movement is brought to bear in support of nuclear disarmament.

Andrew Hewett  
Secretary,  
Trade Union CND



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

# REGIONAL TUCND REPORTS

## BRISTOL TRADE UNION CND

1984 was an active year for Bristol Trade Union CND. We have improved our contact with local and regional trade union activists at virtually all levels. Our major achievement was the initiation of and involvement in a joint trade union working party which organised the Day Conference on arms conversion and the aerospace industry. This conference successfully brought together aerospace workers from a large number of works and from a wide variety of unions. A report of the conference is now circulating among the various unions and local Trades Councils and further campaigning is planned with the aim being to establish a continuing committee under the auspices of the South-West Regional TUC. The Hour for Peace campaign was officially launched at the Bristol May Day rally, and Trade Union CND spoke to the Bristol Trades Council in May. CND was invited to speak at an early meeting in support of the miners and TUCND was instrumental in arranging for a CND delegation to visit a NUM picket at a nearby power station.

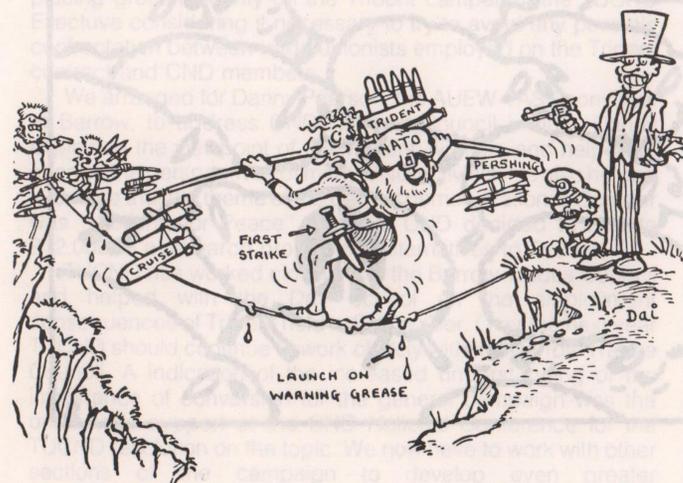
TUCND has offered itself as an educational resource to local trade union branches but we have had a poor response. We were able to show the nuclear winter video and display an exhibition at a meeting of the local ASTMS division. It is intended that work with local government and health service trade unions around the civil defence campaign will be a high priority in the next twelve months.

All in all it has been an encouraging year-work with trade unions is once again seen as an important and legitimate area of work for CND in Bristol and simultaneously CND has been able to establish itself as a strong and credible force in the local labour movement.

Alison Gilchrist  
Convenor, Bristol TUCND

## GREATER MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT

1984 was somewhat of a mixed year for us. On the bright side, a few more Trade Union organisations in the area affiliated to CND and there was a



fair amount of Trade Union support for national and local CND events in the year. CND information is now widely distributed to Trade Unionists in the area, including over 5,000 copies of our own quarterly Newsletter.

In September, five Health Service Trade Unions joined the TUCC in campaigning on the theme 'Health Care Not Warfare', to highlight the link between cutbacks in the health services and high spending on the Arms Race. Whilst their support was somewhat 'passive', they did, however, pay for around 40,000 leaflets distributed to their members and the general public. Although the campaign gave the TUCC many problems, we are counting it as a success.

But we also had to face some severe organisational problems. A number of active supporters were permanently or temporarily lost during the year - for various reasons, but the Miners' strike was obviously a major factor. The importance of this struggle for all who oppose the present Governments' attitude to life was not lost on the TUCC and we made clear our support for the NUM in our publicity to Trade Unions in the area and within CND.

1985 promises to be another busy year, with 'Arms Conversion' high on the TUCC's Agenda. The fear of unemployment is undoubtedly a factor in the involvement of working people in the Greater Manchester area in the UK's War Machine. If we can change that fear into a demand for an *alternative*, we can start to break the Machine.

Robert Twigg,  
Convenor, Trade Union  
Co-ordinating Committee,  
Greater Manchester  
and District CND

## MERSEYSIDE TUCND

1984 has been an active year for Merseyside TUCND.

Several public meetings have been organised during the on a wide range of topics including, Civil Defence, El Salvador and Nicaragua. We have also supported regional initiatives such as the Barrow Trident conference in September. Working in close co-operation with the Merseyside CND Co-ordinating Committee, we have been able to hold a number of joint activities such as a public meeting during the week of action in October.

We are in direct contact with over 50 trade union organisations. It is our hope to increase the number of unions affiliated to CND but recognised that direct personal contact is needed in most cases. We have tried circulating material but often branches receive so much mail that our appeal is lost. The Trade Union CND Declaration has been circulated widely and it is intended to continue this as an on-going campaign.

Future activities will include a public meeting on the arms bill and the need for conversion.

Work around the importation of Namibian uranium for the Trident contract has become a high priority for the group. In November we helped to organise demonstrations at Capenhurst and Risley and we see this area of work developing in the next year.

Our major task in the next year will be to increase affiliations substantially and thus to help to bring about a much greater direct involvement of trade unions in Merseyside in the campaigns that lie ahead.

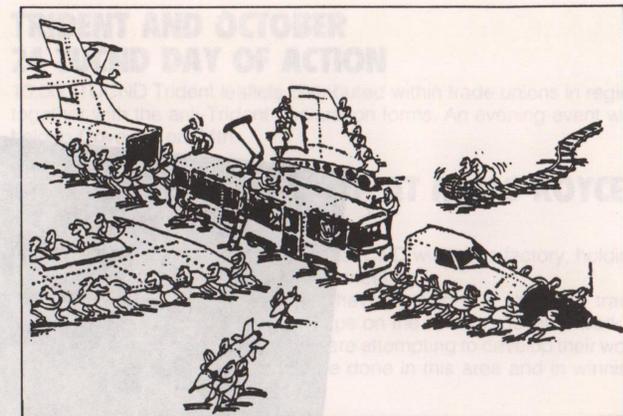
George Strattan,  
Vice-Chair, Merseyside  
Action For Peace  
(Incorporating TUCND)

## NORTHERN REGION TRADE UNION CND

1984 has been a year of consolidating our successes of 1983. The emphasis in our campaigning work has been on taking nuclear disarmament into as many workplaces as possible in the Northern Region. We have done this by ensuring a regular supply of information to branches and shop steward committees. We have published a quarterly bulletin with news and views about the campaign. 10,000 of each issue were printed.

On Hiroshima Day we tried a more direct means of publicising CND's message. We arranged for a leaflet to be published on arms conversion. It was sponsored by unions with members in the defence industry and was circulated to branches etc. In addition, we arranged for CND groups at selected sites in the North East to hand the leaflets out to defence workers at their factory gates. Besides the media attention we attracted the campaign was successful in that it brought CND members into direct liaison work with unions. We will be building on this approach in 1985 when we are planning a campaign on nuclear waste transportation involving the publication of a union sponsored leaflet to be given out along the route of nuclear waste trains by CND groups.

Perhaps the most optimistic work of 1984 has involved Barrow. Since 1983 we have working regularly with Barrow Trades Council to organise a conference in the town on arms conversion. When it finally came about in September, the conference - Jobs at risk? Trident and Employment - was very successful. It was attended by 100 people and helped lay the basis for interest in the yard about arms conversion. Since then, we have continued our involvement and are currently helping with the organisation of the Barrow Alternative Employment Committee and its soon to be appointed full time research worker. The work that we have put into



developing strong links with a group of trade unionists in the town has borne ample fruit.

There are many lessons to be learned from the Barrow work. If we could have put those same resources into campaigning with other trade union members in a similar intensive way, we feel that we would have received similar active support. As it much of our work has entailed distribution of publicity in union mailings, the outcome of which has been a rather deafening silence. Our attempts to gain more union affiliates, for example, by writing directly to union branches in a few key unions have so far led to only 2 new affiliations. In 1985 as well as general publicity work, therefore, we will be seeking to involve CND groups in working with a few specific unions to develop support for CND.



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

