

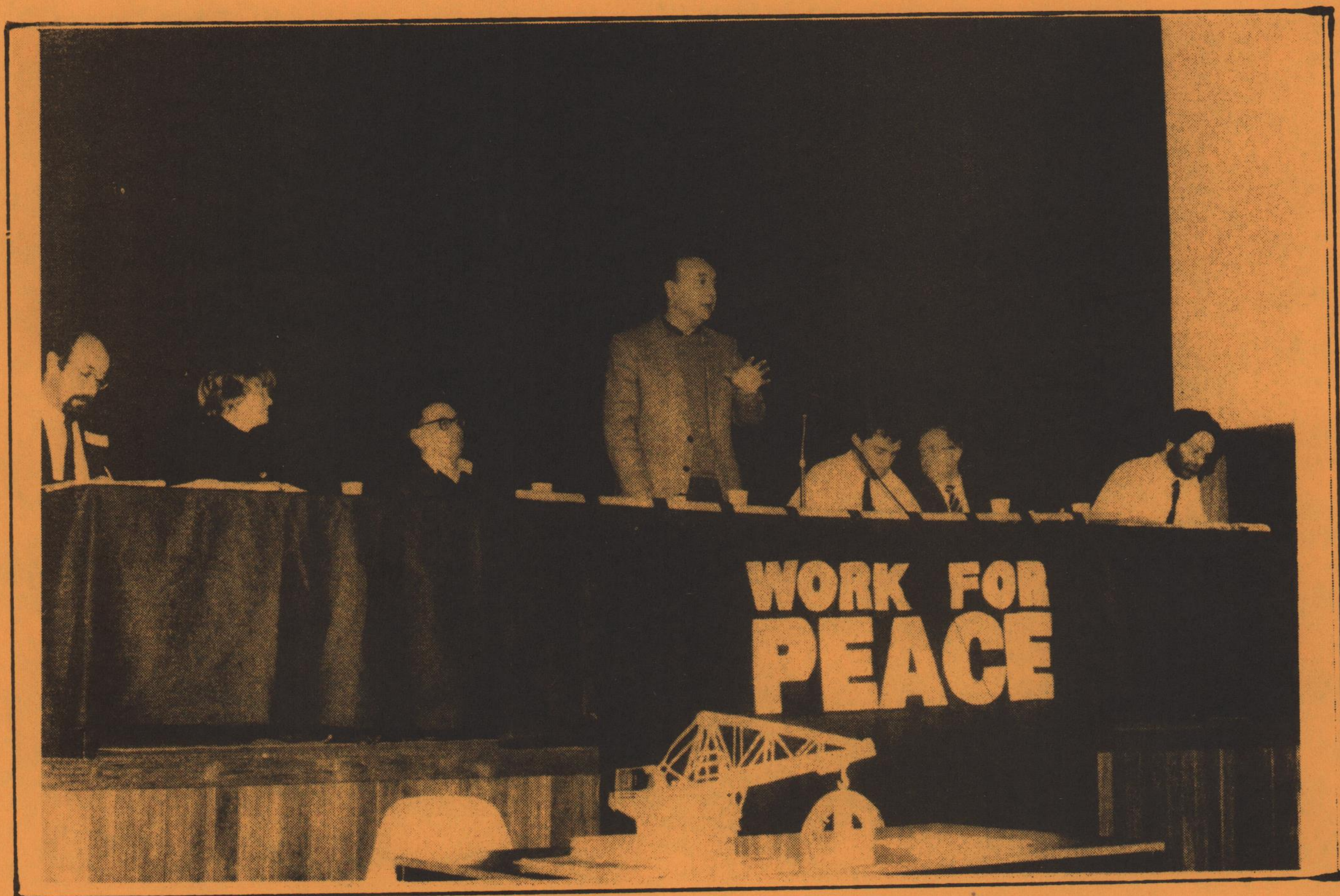
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TRADE UNION CND

AGM

FEBRUARY 27th 1988

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS



REPORT OF TUCND'S AGM
February 27th 1988

This report has been compiled as quickly as possible in order to help delegates report back to the organisations they represented.

There were 9 national unions represented, 18 regional bodies, 2 County Associations of Trades Councils, 11 Trades Councils and 19 unions had branches represented at the AGM.

In general terms the conference was both a lively and bouyant. There was some controversey which was debated and handled in a mature fraternal way. If, in any political organisation, there is no controversey, then it probably means that the participants are trying to warm up a corpse. If, on the other hand, there is too much and it becomes destructively acrimonious it probably means that the organisation is about to become a corpse. There was certainly nothing corpse like about this AGM.

Last year the central office of TUCND put quite a lot of energy into trying to get as many people as possible to attend the AGM. This year, because of our campaigning commitments there simply was not the spare capacity to be able to do this and yet there were roughly the same number of delegates as there were last year. This year, however, we had the largest number of nominations for our EC that we have ever had. The incoming EC will be considering co-options at its first EC meeting, because there was simply too much talent amongst the people standing for us to lose.

One of the things that I stressed when I spoke to the Annual report at the AGM was the fact that our work load is expanding and in order to cope with that expansion TUCND's EC and regional organisations will have to take an increasingly large part of the work. The other consequences of this growth was the fact that we now far outstrip the finances we are allocated by CND. Any further growth will have therefore to be self financing.

Below is the list of people elected to our EC. TUCND's constitution requires that at least one third of the people elected at the AGM be women.

EC Members:-

Ms E Broad FTAT
M Broomfeild NGA
Ms A Clarke NUPE
S Evans NUM
K Hopkins NALGO
R Lynch APEX
M Malina T&GWU
Ms A Morgan MSF
T Rowlands T&GWU
R Rushton AEU
P Skyte MSF
Ms G Squires NALGO
Ms S Wilkins NAPO
G Wilson T&GWU

Officers:-

Chair - J Geleit NGA
Treasurer - P Tuck T&GWU
Vice Chairs - A Milburn MSF
J Chowcatt MSF

The conference had Francis Khoo who is the General Secretary of War on Want, Margery Thompson one of CND's Vice Chairs, Allan Sapper from ACTT and Roni Press from SACTU. It would be simply impossible to summarise the speeches which they made to the conference. If you would like any further information on their contributions please contact me at CND's office.

There were three 'workshops' in the morning session which dealt with SDI, with the poverty campaign and with conversion. The notes taken at these workshops will be written up and made available.

Motions:-

There was a general motion put by the outgoing EC, a motion linking the cuts in the NHS with nuclear weapons which was put by GLATC, a motion on Trident put by an ASTMS branch and two emergency motions. These dealt with the attempts to substitute new weapons for those removed through the INF deal and a one covering the banning of progressive organisations in South Africa.

Two motions were, however, ruled out of order because they were not put by organisations affiliated to CND. They were being put by organisations which are part of CND rather than affiliated to it. Although they were out of order the EC was asked to consider them at their next meeting.

The motion put by the outgoing EC was as follows but had added to it the section following it. The adendum which referred to nuclear power was debated quite closely with a number of delegates. Several sections which referred to specific campaigns were taken out of the adendum before it was voted upon with the agreement of the movers of the motion.

With the exception of the adendum on nuclear power all of the motions were passed without a great deal of descent.

TRADE UNION CND - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTION TO AGM

This Annual General Meeting welcomes the reduction in American and Soviet nuclear arms which was agreed last year and looks forward to even greater reductions being agreed in 1988, leading to the elimination of all nuclear arms by the end of this century.

We are pleased that the British Government has welcomed the INF Treaty and US/Soviet proposals to cut strategic nuclear arms, but we condemn in the strongest terms its refusal to consider any reduction in Britain's arsenals, which are continuing to grow in size and destructiveness. We particularly condemn growing military expenditure (which is now approaching £20 billion a year), the proposed increase in Britain's nuclear capability through the introduction of Trident and plans to develop new nuclear weapons jointly with the French Government. These developments endanger world peace and make moves towards world disarmament more difficult.

The Trade Union Movement and Trade Union CND have a vital role to play in the struggle for peace and disarmament. We must not only make clear to working people the threat which nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction pose to the future of the human race, and work for the elimination of such weapons, we must also expose and resist the spending of vast sums on arms when resources should instead be spent on regenerating industry, putting the unemployed back to work and on providing adequate funding for the National Health Service and other vital services.

Trade Union CND and the entire Trade Union Movement must step up the campaign for peace and disarmament in the coming year and must pay particular attention to transforming good policies into practice and to mobilising large numbers of members and their families in the struggle for peace. We must work closely with national CND and all supporters of peace to halt British arms escalation, to support world moves towards disarmament and to increase spending on socially useful products and services, at the expense of the military.

Our priorities over the coming year must be:

1. To build up irresistible pressure for a halt to British military escalation, to enforce reductions in this country's armaments and to oppose all attempts to reverse or dilute the Trade Union & Labour Movement's commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

2. To step up the campaign to prevent the deployment of the Trident nuclear weapons system which will greatly increase Britain's nuclear capability at a time when the US and Soviet Union are sitting down to discuss a 50% reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. We must expose the Conservative Government's hypocrisy in claiming to support multi-lateral disarmament while promoting an eight-fold increase in Britain's nuclear targeting capacity through the introduction of Trident.

3. To increase resistance to Star Wars (SDI), which is a major obstacle to an agreement on reducing strategic nuclear weapons, and to work for increased

spending on civilian research and development. This is an area of greater relevance to the Trade Union Movement than many others since inadequate investment in civilian research and development is destroying British industry and undermining our ability to compete economically with our industrial competitors. As we move towards the 21st century our ability to operate in a high tech world becomes more and more significant and the key route to being able to do so is through greatly increased civilian R & D and greatly reduced reduced spending on military R & D.

4. To continue and step up our campaign against poverty, low pay, homelessness and deprivation, and to continually expose the links between these evils and the arms spending which prevents action to eradicate them.

5. To strongly resist attacks on the NHS and other vital services and to demand spending on healthcare rather than warfare.

6. To further develop understanding of the need for conversion from arms production to socially-useful production and to plan for such conversion as an important solution to Britain's economic ills.

7. To improve liaison with local authority trade unions and help resist attacks on nuclear-free zones, and develop opposition to the sham of civil defence in a nuclear age.

Trade Union CND has been increasingly successful in helping develop the campaigning work of the Trade Union Movement on disarmament and related issues. However, much more needs to be done in this area and we call on all unions and all union units of organisation to increase affiliations to CND and play a fuller and more active part in the work of Trade Union CND.

From T&GWU 1/369 Branch

This branch wishes to make the following ammendment to the EC's campaigning resolution (which this branch fully supports).

TUCND will maintain its campaign to win the Trade union movement over to a non-nuclear energy policy. on the basis of:-

- i) The links between Nuclear Power and nuclear weapons;
- vi) To maintain jobs in the changeover to a non nuclear energy policy;

GLATC MOTION FOR TRADE UNION CND AGM

This Annual General Meeting condemns the savage cuts in the National Health Service which are causing widespread hardship, suffering and death at a time when record sums are being squandered on Trident and other weapons of mass destruction.

We recognise that massive spending on an arms industry which is facing no real cuts or restrictions is a direct cause of inadequate funding in the NHS and in other vital services and industries. We also recognise that it is a major cause of poverty, unemployment and other social and economic ills.

This AGM calls on the entire trade union and peace movement to throw its full weight behind health workers demands for greatly increased funding for the NHS and to step up campaigning for an immediate and substantial switch from arms spending to socially-useful spending. We call on the Executive Committee of TUCND and on CND nationally to raise demands for Healthcare Not Warfare, and Treatment Not Trident to new levels in 1988 and to work with all appropriate organisations to win these demands.

We also call on the trade union movement to throw its weight behind CND's national campaign against Trident and to give full backing to CND's Easter activities, including the rally to see off the Aldermaston marchers from Hyde Park on Friday 1st April and the encirclement of this nuclear weapons research and production establishment on Monday 4th April.

The INF agreement between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev presents new and exciting possibilities for nuclear disarmament; for a world free of nuclear weapons. In sharp contrast the Conservative Government plans to deploy Trident with 512 new first strike nuclear warheads. Trident is an expensive escalation of nuclear armaments that we can ill afford especially when money for the Health Service, Housing, Education and many other social services, is being cut. The Trident programme will cost £30,000 per day for the next 1000 years and 500 new hospitals could be built for the same money.

This AGM congratulates TUCND for their excellent poverty campaign and instructs TUCND to campaign against the Trident programme by linking the terrible waste of human resources on nuclear weapons with the urgent need for greater expenditure on social services.

Emergency motion 1:-

This conference opposes all attempts to substitute replacements in Europe for weapons due to be destroyed under the INF agreement between the US and the USSR.

Such attempts are now being made through use of air and sea launched missiles, nuclear and neutron war heads on howitzers, and weapons with a range below 300 miles. Furthermore, the US government has just sanctioned the production of binary chemical weapons while growing attempts are being made to proceed with a Eurobomb.

All such measures, if they are not prevented, will nullify the INF agreement, prevent a 50% cut in strategic missiles and lead to an escalation, not reduction, of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons.

TUCND therefore pledges to do all possible to expose and oppose such dangerous developments in which the British government is playing a leading role. We further pledge to intensify our activities in support of disarmament and development, for conversion and the switching of resources from military to social needs at home and assistance to the poverty stricken and grossly deprived Third World countries.

Emergency motion 2:-

This TUCND AGM unreservedly condemns the South African Government for its latest attempt to Crush all opposition to its oppressive, racist policies by suppressing 19 organisations which include many engaged in charitable and counselling work. It calls on the British Government to cease its obstruction to mandatory sanctions and to promote measures that will effectively undermine the brutal apartheid regime in South Africa.

This conference recognises the danger of a world holocaust arising from conflicts and injustice in South Africa and the Middle East and from the misuse of the worlds resources on military expenditure. It resolves to make international links and solidarity an important area of its work in the coming year.