

John Edmonds: To speak at TUCND AGM

Working for peace — TUCND to meet

John Edmonds, the newly elected General Secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Workers Union (GMBATU) is to be one of the featured speakers at this year's Trade Union CND Annual General Meeting.

The AGM is to take place in London on Saturday February 15. Joan Ruddock, British CND Vice-Chair, will also be a lead speaker. Mr. Edmond's Union only affiliated to CND in June 1985 and his decision to speak at the TUCND meeting is welcomed by Trade Union CND.

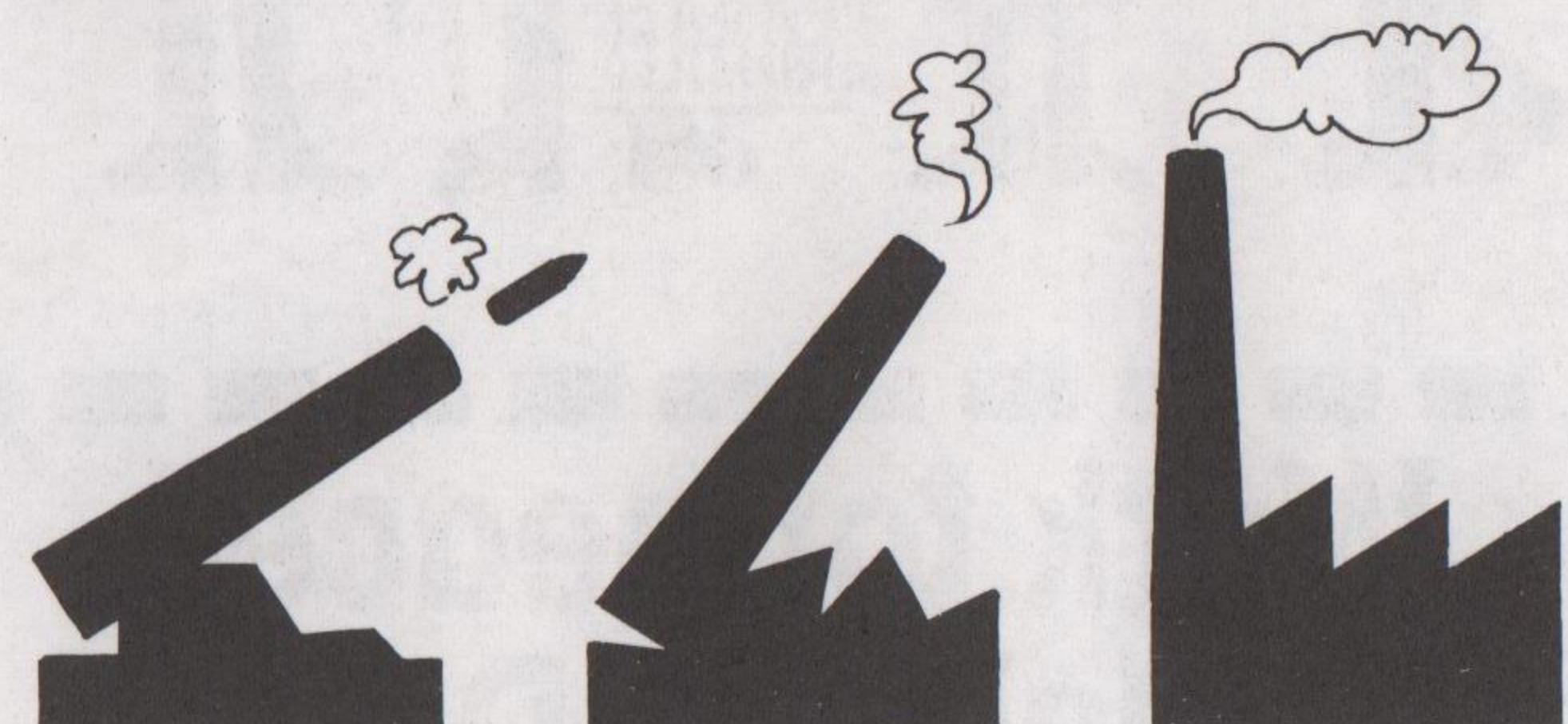
"We always stress of course that affiliation is only the first step — the key task is to marshal the resources of the particular union in support of nuclear disarmament", John Chowcat, the Chair of TUCND told TUCND News.

The AGM will review the work of TUCND over the last year and plot the future course of TUCND activities. A large number of workshops are due to be held covering issues like arms conversion, civil defence, nuclear power/nuclear weapons, civil liberties and the nuclear state and campaigning for nuclear disarmament in the workplace.

A key theme of the day long conference will be the participation of Trade Union CND in the CND Basic Case campaign — the intergrated campaign due to be launched later this year which will seek to convince the British people that nuclear weapons as such should be banished from British soil.

In their Annual Report the TUCND officers argue that TUCND has further consolidated its standing within the trade union and nuclear disarmament movements. Increased affiliations — there are now 28 national trade unions affiliated to British CND — and a wider spread of activities are among the signs of TUCND's effectiveness. But the officers argue that there is much work still to be done and as their closing words stress, "This could be our last report before a General Election and before this becomes a real possibility nuclear disarmament must become trade union business".

Only delegates from Trade Union organisations affiliated to British CND have voting rights at the AGM, but observers from other trade union organisations and from CND groups are welcome to attend. Registration details can be obtained from Trade Union CND, 22-24 Underwood St. London N1 7JG.



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 groups 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: contact Trade Union CND.

TUCND News

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Banning the bomb — CND's task

The majority of the British population are opposed to Cruise Missiles being stationed on our soil. Most British people want the Trident nuclear missile submarine contracts cancelled. But the majority of the British population do not, as yet, want Britain to get rid of all nuclear weapons from our soil.

That's the dilemma facing CND as we begin the lead-up to the next General Election.

We have to convince those people who are opposed to Cruise and Trident to oppose all nuclear weapons and to support independent nuclear disarmament by Britain.

And beginning this April, CND is setting out on a new campaign with this aim. The campaign which will have the aim of reaching out to the unconverted, will have the theme of the positive benefits of independent nuclear disarmament by this country.

We will be seeking to show that by Britain getting rid of all nuclear weapons from this soil, the world will be a safer place, that Britain will be more secure and that we would be better able to satisfy the real social needs of the community.

CND believes that any defence policy based on the threat to use nuclear weapons is suicidal and in fact threatens rather than protects.

We have become a prime nuclear target as we have so many American nuclear bases on our soil.

If Britain were to get rid of our nuclear weapons, it would be a considerable spur to disarmament efforts internationally.

For as a recent United Nations report argued "there is no either/or choice between unilateral and negotiated measures of disarmament. Both are needed in view of their complementary nature".

During the campaign we will also be trying to show that independent nuclear disarmament by Britain will help the British economy and the living standards of the majority of the British people. While this Government prepares to spend over £12 billion on the Trident nuclear missile submarine, the real social needs of the people are starved of funds —

real needs like the NHS, housing, education and public transport.

And jobs are being lost because of the Government's nuclear obsession. Jobs in the defence sector as well as in the public services. There is a positive alternative to nuclear weaponry — a positive alternative which will help build a peaceful world, and a better standard of living for the majority of people.

Trade Union CND will be playing its part in this campaign. Special publicity material for trade union audiences is to be prepared and we will be seeking to involve all of our affiliates in helping to take the nuclear disarmament message to the workplaces around the country.

Contact Trade Union CND for details and help us to make nuclear disarmament trade union business.

CND supporters are to non-violently blockade the Molesworth Cruise Missile base on Thursday February 6.

The aim of the day — the first anniversary of the military style operation by the then Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. Heseltine — is to stop construction work for the day.

Trade Union CND has been doing its part to mobilise support for the action. Discussions have been held with local trade unionists and the East Anglian Regional TUC, for instance have declared their support for the campaign against Cruise and Molesworth.

A leaflet prepared by Trade Union CND is to be handed out to the workers on the site in the week leading up to the rally.

Full details of the blockade can be obtained either from CND, 22-24 Underwood St. London N1 7JG, Tel: 01-250 4010 or from the February 6 Working Group, 180 Mansfield Rd. Nottingham, Tel: 0602 581178.

Star Wars: Selling Britain down the river

This Government has done it again! Not content with following every twist and turn in America foreign policy, not content with supporting every escalation in the nuclear arms race and not content with welcoming American controlled Cruise Missiles to Britain they now seem to have gone a step further.

Late last year the then Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine signed an agreement with his American counter-part, Caspar Weinberger giving the go-ahead for British participation in the American Star Wars programme. Britain became the first country to agree to participate and the Government has ignored the decisions of many other countries who have decided to say no to Star Wars.

Star Wars is a dangerous escalation in the arms race which threatens to scuttle any serious disarmament efforts.

It also threatens to further undermine the British electronics and computing industries. A new Brain-drain is around the corner. British industry is likely through participation in the Star Wars programme to come under new pressures. It is bound to mean that high-technology firms in this country are going to involve themselves even more deeply in the military field at the expense of civilian developments of greater social value.

It could also mean that within the Research and Development field, projects under the Star Wars programme could give rise to highly specialist military-scientific ghettos.

And British industry could become even more tightly intergrated into American demands and concerns.



Star Wars is not only a new dangerous round in the arms race but it also promises to be a major assault on British industry.

Trade Union CND organised a successful briefing session for national trade unions on the full implications of the Star Wars programme.

At the Briefing held in late November, it was agreed that TUCND would initiate preparations for a national trade union campaigning conference on Star Wars. Details can be obtained from TUCND.

Martin Millgate, Yorkshire and Humberside Trade Union CND Secretary, reports on the work of his committee.

In Yorkshire and Humberside, our priority for 1986 is the strengthening of the links between peace groups and trade unions at the local level. Excellent work has already been done by some peace groups in forging productive bonds with trade union branches: Joint meetings, special newsletters and co-ordinated street campaigns have been successfully organised.

The initiatives have by no means always come from peace groups — certain trade union branches have taken up peace issues enthusiastically and done much to educate and motivate both their own members and the wider public, involving local peace activists in the planning and preparation.

We hope to encourage more peace groups and trade union branches to work together in mutually beneficial ways. Such an approach requires the commitment and enthusiasm of individuals who are prepared to take on the initial responsibility for liaison work.

At regional level support and encouragement will be given for any local initiatives which seek to promote debate, publicity and

unionists.

The struggles of trade unionists to protect jobs, services and conditions of employment are indissolubly linked with the campaign to win majority support for unilateral nuclear disarmament and non-nuclear defence policy.

Any trade unionist or peace activist in Yorkshire and Humberside who is interested in furthering TUCND's aims should get in touch with Martin Millgate, Regional TUCND Co-ordinator, 18, Taunton Street, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD18 3NA, (0274) 580853.

Other regional Trade Union CND groups can be contacted at these addresses:

Wales Paul Elliot c/o NUPE 158/9 St. Helens Rd. Swansea

London c/o London Region CND, 6 Endsleigh St. London WC1

Scotland Bill Clarke Scottish CND 420 Sauchiehall St. Glasgow

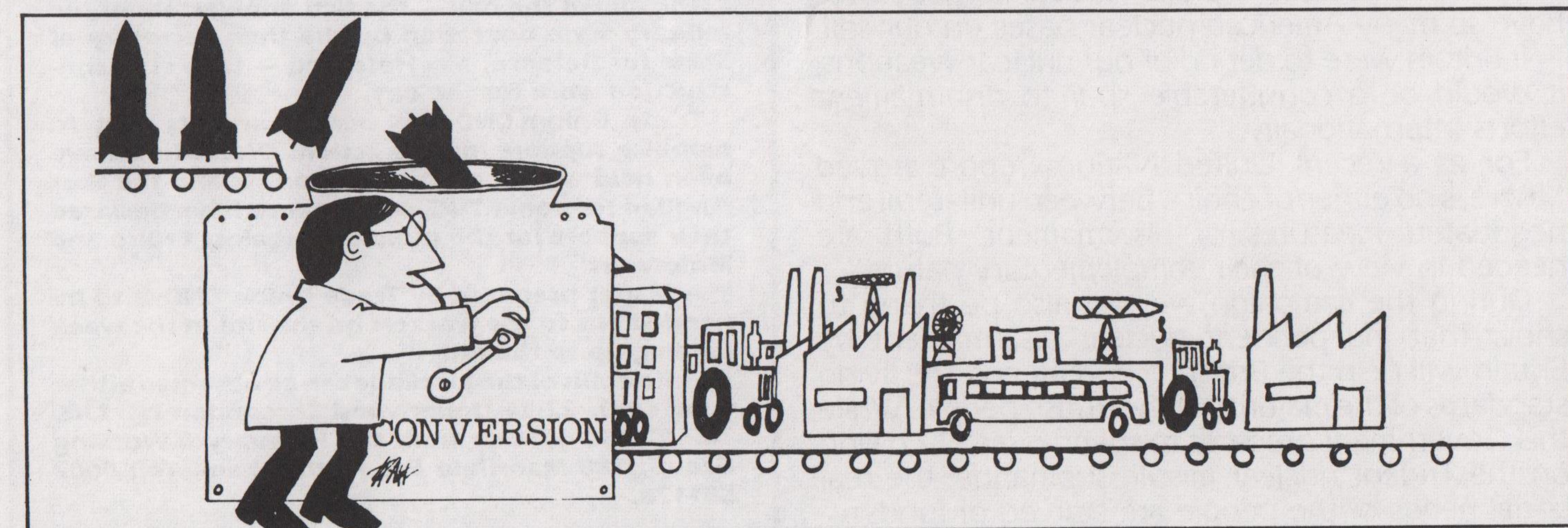
Northern Paul Mellor 29 Linslade Walk Cramlington NE22 8EU

Greater Manchester Robert Twigg 12 Norris Bank Terrace Heaton Norris Stockport

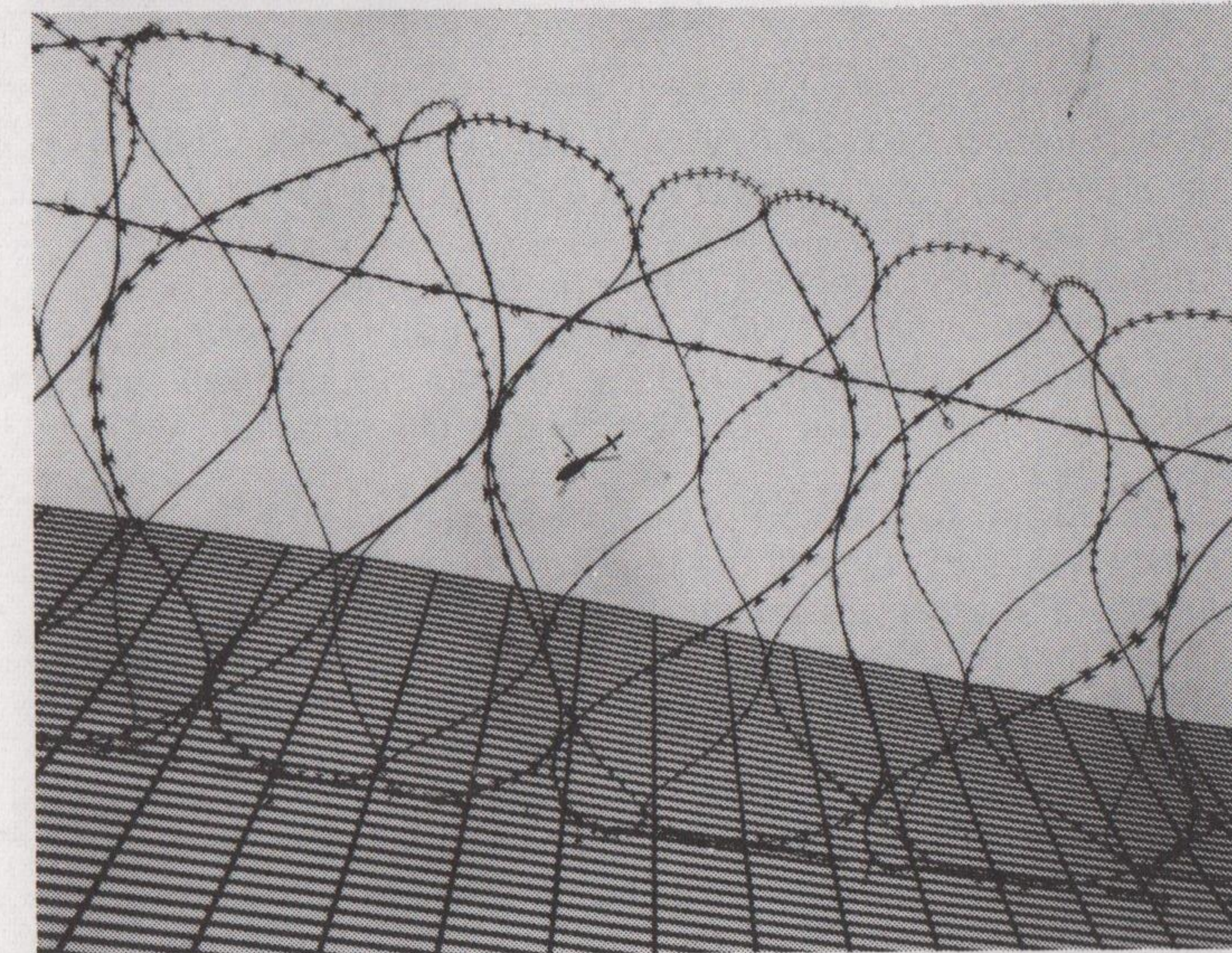
Northern Ireland Brenda Callaghan 56 Glenside Pde. Belfast BT4

Merseyside George Strattan 26 Trevor Drive Liverpool L23

West Midlands c/o 54 Allison St. Birmingham B5



Dounreay Dangerous Waste



Yet another part of Britain is to become involved in the nuclear arms race, if the Government gets its way. Plans for the European Demonstration Reprocessing Plant (EDRP) at Dounreay in Northern Scotland would plunge this country even further into the nuclear arms race.

The Government is rushing through approval for the plant at breakneck speed, trampling over democratic processes in the way. Planning enquiries are to be severely limited, only focusing on strictly defined local concerns.

Under the proposed plans highly radioactive spent plutonium fuel is to be shipped across the already congested North Sea more than once a week. The recovered plutonium oxide powder will then be flown back to the continent directly from Dounreay.

Weapons grade plutonium recovered from the plant could be used in nuclear weapons; particularly French. French fast reactors are incorporated into their country's nuclear weapons cycle. There can be no real and effective assurance that material from Dounreay will not directly or indirectly add to the French nuclear weapons stockpile.

But Britain also needs plutonium from its fast breeder reactors for its expanding nuclear weapons arsenal.

And the whole Dounreay project could lay the basis for a joint European nuclear weapons programme.

the proposed plant could also assist presently non-nuclear states to gain weapons usable material. West Germany, Italy and Belgium are all participating in Fast Breeder collaboration and will own plutonium separated by Dounreay.

All these dangers and with little economic benefit! Nuclear power is highly capital intensive and ties up capital for long periods. More jobs could be created if an extensive energy conservation programme was launched, for instance.

Other industries in the Highlands area could suffer badly from the proposed plant. Farming, fishing and tourism could all suffer, resulting in a net loss in jobs.

CND is opposed to the proposed plant — we see it tying Britain even more tightly into the nuclear arms race. The haste in which the British Government is pursuing the project adds to our suspicion and points out once again the secretive nature of the nuclear industry.



What's On

February 6 CND National Non-Violent Blockade of the Molesworth Cruise Missile Base. Details CND 01-250 4010/ Feb 6 Working Group 0602-581178

February 15 Trade Union CND Annual General Meeting. London. Speakers Joan Ruddock and John Edmonds. Details TUCND 01-250 4010

March 15 Trident — a campaigners school Details: Janet Convery CND 01-250 4010

March 22 Oxford Arms Conversion Conference. Speakers include Harry Siddall (Barrow), Mary Kaldor. Details Andy Gibbons 0865 64777 x472

April 12 Wales TUCND Conference. Details: Paul Elliot, NUPE 158/9 St. Helens Rd. Swansea

May 10 Scottish TUCND Conference, Volunteer Centre, Elmbank St. Glasgow Details: Scottish TUCND, 420 Sauchiehall St. Glasgow.

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, 22-24 Underwood St., London N1 7JQ. Telephone: 01-250 4010.

