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NUKEWATCH is planning to track the January Convoy from Burghfield in Berkshire every inch of the way to Coulport in Scotland. The main purpose is to remind the Ministry of Defence that we remain vigilant and that they cannot expect to move their deadly cargoes without the public knowing about it. They wish the convoys to remain secret. We will not let that happen.

This will need many people to help at different parts of the route, and it is our intention to watch on the M1. As this will probably take place on a week day we shall need transport and extra personnel.

If you can offer transport - and at short notice - will you please leave a message on the answering machine at the office 588586 along with your telephone number so that we can contact you immediately we have information.

LINK UP WITH NEW ZEALAND: On January 28th to 31st there will be a duel protest at Menwith Hill U.S. spy base and Waihopal in New Zealand calling for the closure of secret spying operations.

Menwith is 7 miles west of Harrogate on the A59 Skipton Road. If you are interested again please call the office 588586 and we will arrange transport.

WHITE POPPIES: The sum of £71.14 was collected on November 4th, leading us to expect a bonanza, but alas the Saturday of November 13th was a day of continuous rain and we were unable to go out. As we had received nearly £50 earlier in sales and donations we were able to make a donation of £40 to each of the charities selected at the AGM.

200 Club. At the AGM it was decided to have a special draw for 200 club members who had supported us over the years, but had never had a win, so the following each received the sum of £10.

No. 24 John Mordue No. 46 Bobbie Prime No. 27 Sandy Parker.

The winners of the November draw were -

No. 44 Liz Westaway £25 No. 50 Jill Cross £10. No. 6 Ann Kestenbaum £5.

Votes of thanks given at the AGM to 118, Workshop for providing office space and help, Andy Rodgers for stocking and maintaining the stall and to the few who ploddingly/ tenaciously/ heroically/ tiredly carry on carrying on.

These few thoroughly endorse the thanks to Andy, to the staff of 118 who give considerable help and to the Rainbow Centre for the use of a room for meetings and to you all

A very happy and peaceful Christmas and
more environmentally friendly New Year.

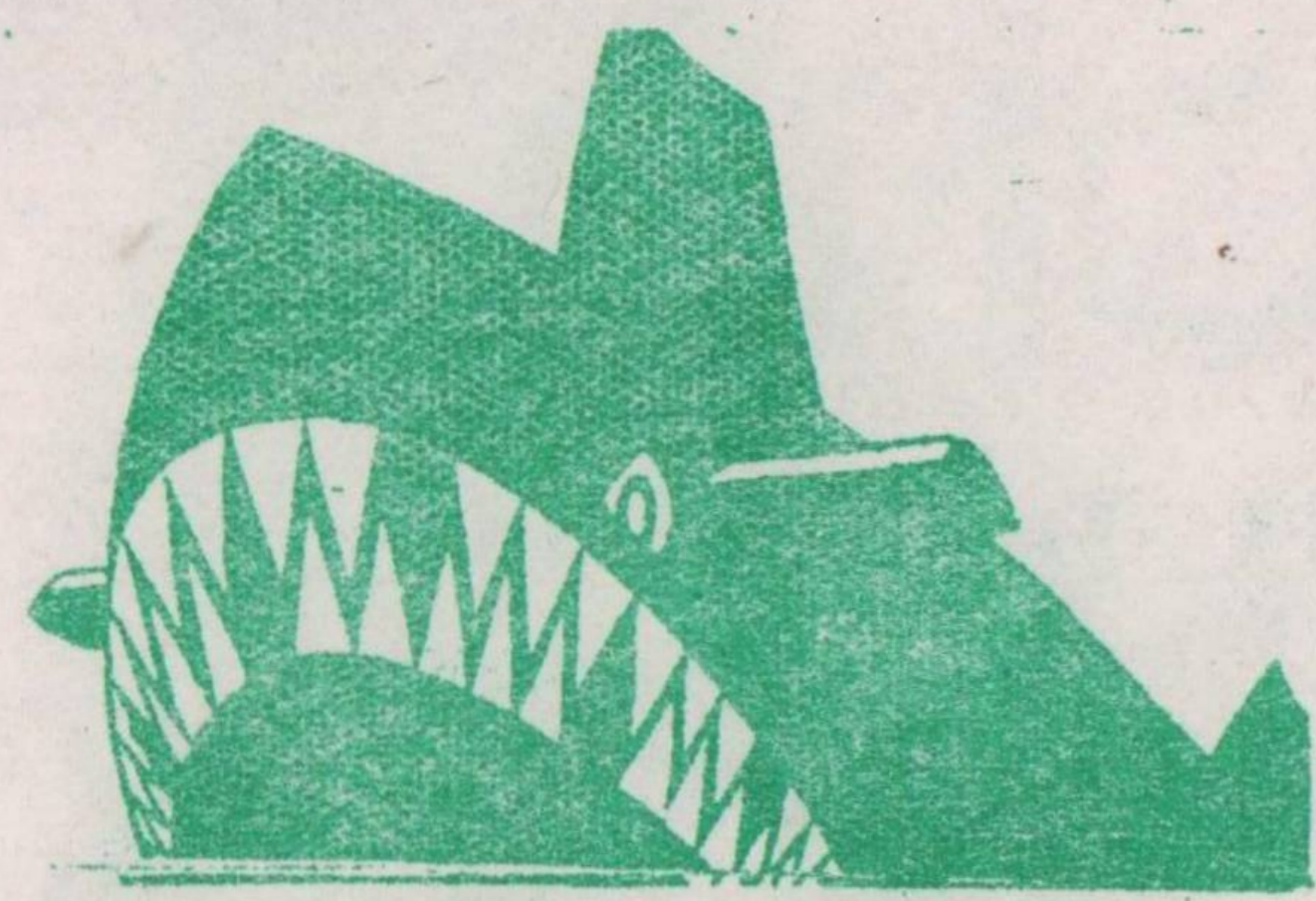
Librarians beware: The Cheadle Post and Times reports developments in the world of libraries "the new database would allow the public access to information at any library in the county at the touch of a bottom".

NOTTINGHAM CND

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December 1993.





Q & A

1. With the Cold War over, why does Britain still need nuclear weapons and why is this dangerous?

As long as countries like Britain continue to develop more and more advanced nuclear weapons, other countries are going to feel threatened and some may look for ways of acquiring their own nuclear weapons. Britain's Trident programme is particularly provocative and undermines the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) since Britain is cheating on its commitment to work towards general and complete disarmament.

So nuclear weapons such as Trident increase tension, undermine confidence in arms control and disarmament and actually encourage the spread of nuclear weapons around the world.

Nuclear deterrence is a costly, dangerous strategy which doesn't work: Saddam Hussein was not deterred. Nor do they have any military role in conflicts such as Bosnia or Somalia.

Britain's nuclear weapons are part of the problem, not part of the solution.

Although Rifkind now recognises that nuclear deterrence has no role to play in East-West relations, he has indicated instead an even more chilling role for our nuclear weapons: that role of defending undefined 'British interests' in other parts of the world, ie targeting the third world. Rifkind made it clear that he would not rule out the possible first use of British nuclear weapons.

2. Has Trident's firepower really been drastically reduced?

The public debate on Trident has always been hindered by the lack of official information. Rifkind is deliberately ambiguous and contradictory concerning Trident's future firepower. On the one hand he said that Trident's firepower would be reduced to that of Polaris. In the same breath he added that the maximum number of warheads per submarine would be reduced from 128 to 96. But this is double the maximum capability of Polaris submarines. It is not clear whether Rifkind was referring to the original Polaris programme or Polaris after the Chevaline upgrading. He also failed to consider the qualitative improvements in capability of Trident over Polaris, eg improvements in range, accuracy, speed and targeting.

Trident warheads are independently targetable. Thus, while three Polaris warheads would fall in a cluster, the same number of Trident warheads could strike three widely-separated targets. These could be as far apart as London and Edinburgh.

It is likely that the Government has been planning to deploy less than 128 warheads per submarine for some time. Scottish CND and Faslane Peace Camp have been monitoring the numbers of warheads arriving at Coulport and the frequency of convoys is not expected to decrease as a result of this announcement. Problems at Aldermaston would make it extremely difficult to produce any higher number of warheads. The special A90 building for producing warheads has been beset by

construction problems and is unlikely to start operation for at least a year. This has forced older facilities to struggle on. Rifkind's announcement of lower warhead numbers is not a genuine attempt at disarmament. It merely reflects production problems.

Trident continues to undermine the NPT renewal process with a greater capability than Polaris.

3. Is Britain ever going to get rid of its nuclear weapons?

Rifkind made clear in his speech that he does not believe that a nuclear-free world is a 'practical' or 'realistic' policy goal. This conflicts with Britain's commitment under Article VI of the NPT to work for general and complete disarmament.

Although the government has recently cancelled the Tactical Air Surface Missile (TASM), it is not giving up on the search for a smaller, more flexible, 'substrategic' nuclear weapon. The cancellation of TASM came about as a result of pressure from the Treasury to cut defence spending rather than from a change in thinking on nuclear weapons.

Rifkind refers to the possibility of using Trident as a vehicle for substrategic nuclear weapons and he indicates that the need for a new substrategic nuclear weapon will be kept under review - in other words it is possible that Britain may yet announce a new substrategic nuclear weapon.

Despite some cuts to maritime nuclear depth charges and nuclear

artillery, Britain is still holding on to its WE-177 free-fall bombs which are based at RAF Honnington and carried by RAF Tornados. It also retains its submarine-launched nuclear weapons with Polaris and Trident.

4. What action is Britain taking to control proliferation and make the world a safer place.

Rifkind pays lip service to controlling proliferation. However he sees the problem of proliferation as that of other countries getting nuclear weapons. He refuses to accept Britain's role as a proliferator and excludes Britain's nuclear weapons from the proliferation debate. His message appears to be 'Do as I say. Don't do as I do'.

Whilst Rifkind calls for an end to production of fissile materials, he refuses to acknowledge that THORP's role in producing plutonium directly conflicts with this aim.

5. How is Britain undermining the NPT?

Trident, as an escalation in Britain's firepower, breaks article VI of the NPT, Britain has consistently refused to enter Trident into disarmament negotiations such as the START talks.

Sales of machine tools to Iraq exposed in the Matrix Churchill case contravene Article I of the NPT.

If the government allows THORP to go ahead it will be increasing the worldwide supply of plutonium and thus encouraging proliferation. In addition Dounreay's continued commerce in weapons grade uranium undermines US efforts to stop this proliferation hazard.

Britain is failing in its commitment to negotiate a Comprehensive Test Ban treaty (CTBT) by not joining France, Russia and the US in announcing a testing moratorium.

6. Has Britain agreed not to carry out any more nuclear tests.

Although Rifkind has at long last indicated that Britain is ready to join a CTBT, he has not announced that Britain will join France, Russia and the US in a moratorium on nuclear testing. Britain and some other nuclear weapons states would like to carry out more nuclear tests before joining a CTBT in order to develop new weapons and update computer simulation. This could undermine the NPT renewal process as countries without nuclear weapons see the nuclear powers pushing ahead with their own nuclear weapons programmes yet again.

C.N.D. NATIONAL CONFERENCE. Bradford 1993.

The Annual Conference, held in November, elected Janet Bloomfield as Chair, to replace Margory Thompson. Jenny Maxwell was re-elected as Treasurer.

Conference debated a wide range of issues including nuclear proliferation and Britain's role as a proliferator; the basic case against nuclear weapons; the World Court project; the UN and Mordechai Vanunu as well as emergency resolutions on THORP and North Korea.

Conference committed itself to campaigning for the renewal and strengthening of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and is now working to translate this and other policy decisions into a workable campaign strategy.

A draft will go before the British CND Council in January and a final draft should be ready for the March issue of Campaign.

NOTTINGHAM AGM. Held on November 4th 1993.

Fourteen members attended and were given the depressing news that our membership has fallen to about 200. Discussions on the reasons were given as

- financial reasons due to the continued economic condition nationally
- that the nuclear threat was seen as having receded, so
- active members had transferred their energies to more personal or urgent issues.
- part of the trend of disillusionment in society as a whole and falling off of membership in most voluntary organisations.

and that the remaining 200 would be stable and committed members.

It was decided that

- that executive continue in a caretaker role ready to activate membership when needed - as it will be - in the future.
- a monthly donation be made to Nukewatch for their active campaign.
- the money from the sale of White Poppies be donated to Tibet Support Project, British Red Cross Aid to Bosnia and the Indian Earthquake Appeal in equal amounts.
- the stall should continue to be taken out fortnightly, as at present, with thanks to the members who staff it regularly to make this possible.

Trident vs Polaris: a massive qualitative escalation.

	Targets hit	Range	Accuracy	Speed
Polarissystem (4boats)	64	2500miles	1000-1500yards	15minutes to Moscow
Tridentsystem (4boats)	384	6000-7000miles	within 200yards	5-12minutes to Moscow