

### Non-Proliferation Conference:

The Conference has made little change in the status quo. Power politics and diplomatic extortion controlled the proceedings. Douglas Hurd put off any British participation in nuclear disarmament "until US and Russian nuclear forces have reached 'hundreds instead of thousands'." WHY? CND provided the Mexican delegate, Miguel Martin Bosch, with the information to point out to the conference that US support for the UK Trident programme breaks Article 1 of the NPT which prohibits the transfer of nuclear weapons from nuclear weapon states to other states.

### Nuclear Testing:

China has started and in September France resumes nuclear testing with EIGHT tests in the Pacific. Why eight? why any? who does it intend to make war with? Weapons coldly tested for scientific reasons create the same pollution and kill the same number of fish and animals as those used in the heat of war, while humans are not killed outright but suffer slow death after first being devalued through deprivation of homeland, of native culture and of purpose for living by transference, uninvited, to other lands or islands. We can react by writing to the French Embassy and not buying French goods, but goods which we can get from alternative sources.

### Hiroshima Day Memorial. Sunday, August 6th. Arboretum. 8:00p.m. to 9:30p.m.

This year we have changed the venue to one more easily reached - The ARBORETUM. We have invited other organisations to join with us in the memorial service this year. We cannot use the Arboretum lake but will make more effective use of candles after music by the Clarion Choir and Barbara Lacey's poetry reading. Lets make this 50th anniversary of the dropping of the first bomb really impressive. The bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed Japanese citizens, but have held all the citizens of the world under threat ever since.

### Green Festival. Sunday, September 3rd.

Sorry folks, your editor/factotum/dogbody must have been tired/careless/harrassed when compiling the last newsletter. The Festival is on the 3rd September at the Victoria Embankment. We shall not be hot drinks provider this year so will welcome idease to attract attention and raise money, but involving small numbers of helpers. There have not been any games these last few years...any suggestions?

### Not only the bomb is a threat:

at 2:15a.m. on Monday 26th June a transporter bound for the south coast and carrying radioactive material for use on oil rigs released its steel-lined 3' casing of concrete containing caesium and other ra material at the Priory roundabout on the A52 in Nottingham. The services were called in and the area sealed off until radiation levels returned to normal.

Why was this transporter carrying radio-active material by night when it is only authorised to do so by day?? Why on the way to the south coast did it leave the Motorway to travel through a major city? How many transporters carry such material through our towns and villages? How many more such hazards are we to encounter in our daily lives in addition to direct threats.

### 200 Club Winners:

|             |        |               |     |              |       |               |     |
|-------------|--------|---------------|-----|--------------|-------|---------------|-----|
| <u>May:</u> | No. 20 | G.A. Chalk    | £15 | <u>June:</u> | No. 2 | Eric Jessop   | £15 |
|             | 40     | Rob Raynham   | 10  |              | 11.   | P. Robson     | 10  |
|             | 7      | Tamsin Morris | 5   |              | 7     | Tamsin Morris | 5   |

Connie Ford had to curtail her holiday through illness, but says she is much better now. Get well soon Connie, we love you.

# NOTTINGHAM CND

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July 1995

HIROSHIMA 8:15a.m. 6th AUGUST 1945



50th  
MEMORIAL

sunday

6th AUGUST

8:00p.m.

THE ARBORETUM



# Return of the nuclear nightmare

**O**NCE upon a time there was a peace movement. In the Cold War — less than 10 years ago — as the United States and the Soviet Union deployed a new generation of nuclear missiles, defined as medium range and therefore only intended to obliterate Europe rather than Russia and America, hundreds of thousands of Europeans marched in protest.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world breathed a giant sigh of relief. Not only Europeans but everyone suddenly seemed safe. The peace movement went home and the International Board of Atomic Scientists adjusted the Doomsday Clock which it has maintained since 1947. Its hands were moved back from a nail-biting six minutes to midnight to the calmest time they have ever been, 11.43pm.

So it was not surprising that this week's report that France may resume nuclear testing started a rumpus. Greenpeace immediately prepared a boat to stand guard among the atolls of the Pacific where the French conduct these things. Meanwhile, spokespeople for France's President said he had taken no decision. As the newest member of the top chaps club, the last thing that Jacques Chirac wants is to mark his debut with a nuclear bang. At the Group of Seven's annual meeting next week, he will be quick to assure colleagues that his mind is still open, at least for the time being.

The French scare comes less than a month after more than 170 countries signed an agreement at the UN in New York to make the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty permanent. The

treaty centred on a crude bargain. The world's five nuclear haves promised the suspicious have-nots that they would reach a test ban treaty and make other moves towards disarmament by the end of next year, in return for everyone else continuing to renounce nuclear ambitions.

Three days after the NPT agreement, China detonated an underground nuclear test at Lop Nor in Xinjiang. The timing was an insult — though it could have been worse as the Chinese had originally intended to carry out the test while the NPT conference was in session. It was only at the insistence of the Foreign Ministry in Beijing that the military agreed to delay.

Chinese insensitivity was only part of a much bigger problem: the NPT review conference was supposed to be a unique look at the world's most important arms control agreement in a climate fundamentally different from Cold War confrontation. Everyone agreed that the 25-year-old treaty had its flaws. But the unequal bargain between haves and have-nots had worked surprisingly well. The two dozen nuclear powers John Kennedy had gloomily predicted had not materialised. India and Pakistan had not gone public. And the new rogues — Iran and North Korea — were manageable, though there had been the shock of discovering that Saddam Hussein had run a clandestine weapons programme despite Iraq being an NPT signatory.

Getting agreement was still a nightmare. The US ran into strong resistance from non-aligned countries which balked at the indefinite, unconditional extension sought by the nuclear powers, even though little progress had been made on their long-range commitment to dis-

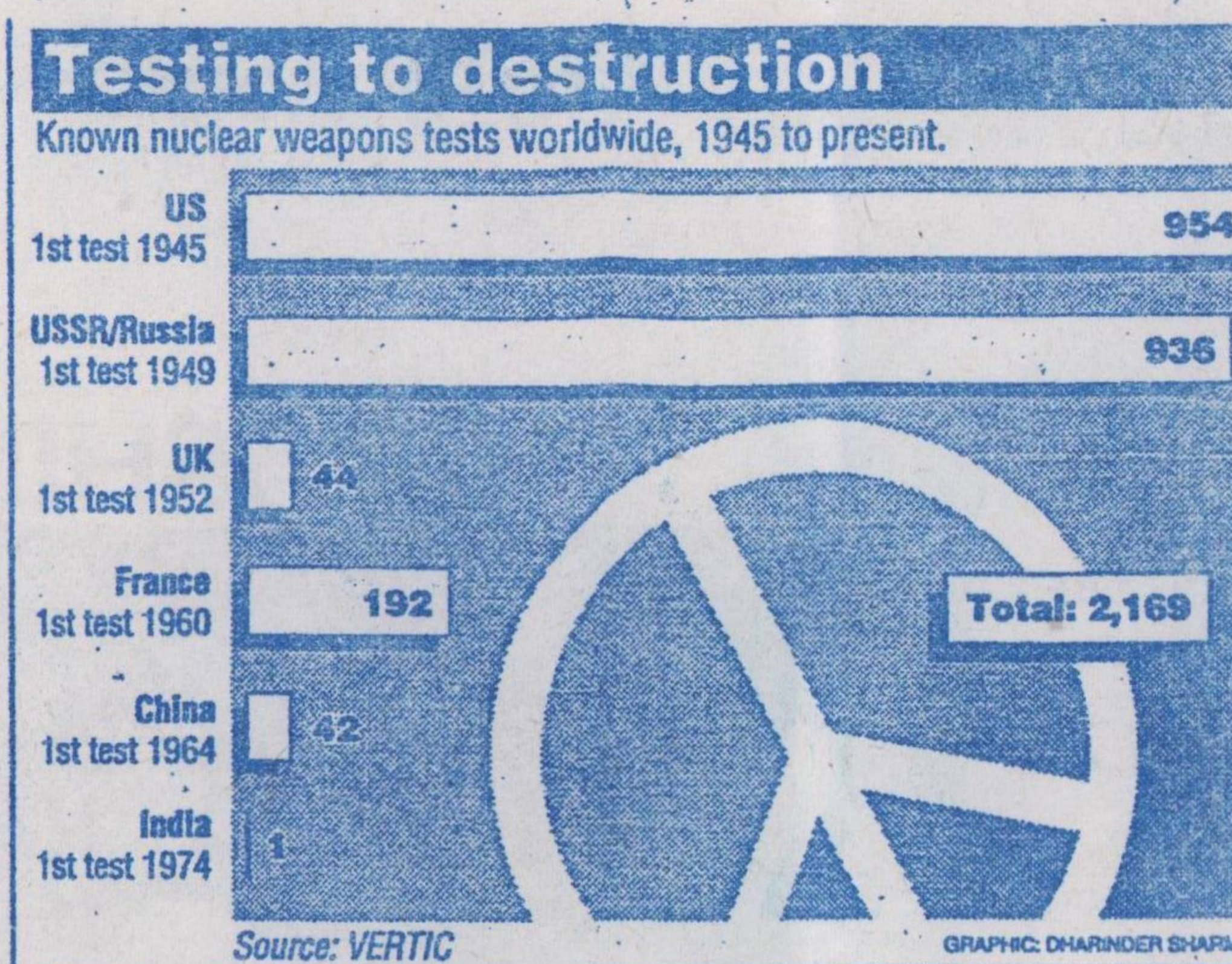
armament under article six of the treaty. The nuclear powers offered symbolic security guarantees, pledged a cut-off of fissile material production, and repeated their promise to work towards a comprehensive test ban (CTB) treaty by 1996.

But the Americans played hard to get their way in a campaign, well-planned and more coherent than most of what the Clinton administration has managed in foreign policy. Arm-twisting was used. How could Egypt, the world's second largest recipient of US foreign aid, oppose Washington, even when it had strong concerns about Israel? Or Mexico, just bailed out during the peso crisis?

According to Miguel Marin Bosch, Mexico's ambassador, his country changed its view once the Americans had mastered a majority for indefinite extension. After that "it would have been political suicide to oppose it," Marin said. "We used to play in the stadium of the Cold War. Now we are playing in Yankee Stadium."

**V**ENEZUELA'S ambassador agreed. "Many countries have been submitted to these pressures," said Adolfo Taylhardat, who resigned in protest when his government defected to the US camp. "If all the conference countries had the opportunity to express their views, the indefinite extension would never have won."

US tactics succeeded in dividing the non-aligned movement. The job was finished, ironically, by a South African proposal, mightily boosted by the credibility of Nelson Mandela. This cleverly combined support for a permanent treaty with a tougher mechanism to monitor



progress towards disarmament. "In South Africa, we consider that we are all winners," said Abdul Minty. "We did not want there to be any losers at this conference." The final decision was taken by consensus and without a vote. So the nuclear powers got their way.

After China's blast, the prospect of French back-sliding would mean two out of five recognised nuclear powers were apparently thumbing their noses at the rest of the world. The nuclear powers have maintained a moratorium on testing for several years: Russia since 1990; Britain and France since 1991, and the US since 1992. A breach by France would have more than symbolic value.

China and France are the most conspicuous defendants in the dock, but even more alarming noises are emerging from US hawks. Spurred on by the Republican right's victory in the Congressional elections last autumn, a faction in the Pentagon has an idea which would punch a lethal hole in the long

negotiations going on quietly in Geneva for the test ban treaty.

Diplomats have long assumed that China would not risk being the only country standing in the way of a permanent ban. It has often said that its current series of tests would finish by the end of next year, and there is no special reason to doubt it. The French military also claims that, if Chirac gives the go-ahead for new tests, they need "less than 10" to be happy, and then stop for ever. Like smokers pleading for a final drag before giving up, one may suspect their will-power. At least their intentions are on record.

The new twist comes from Pentagon experts who want to modify the CTB. They suggest that it should allow bombs to be exploded underground up to a limit of 500 tons. "Instead of a comprehensive ban, you would only have a threshold ban. It's horribly cynical," says Patricia Lewis of the London-based Verification Technology Information Centre (VERTIC). "With CTB being an integral part of

the non-proliferation treaty, I don't think we would do anything that silly," hopes John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists. "A lot of countries would say you tricked us into signing the NPT."

The previous American position had been that the US only needed to conduct minuscule tests of up to four pounds of TNT. These involve implosion and compression in a laboratory either without a chain reaction, or with a reaction where the explosion blows the device apart before much nuclear energy has been released.

Forty nations are negotiating the CTB at Geneva. The non-nuclear powers had been willing to turn a blind eye to these small tests. But the prospect of an American demand for 500-ton tests is causing fury. Nations like Austria, Sweden, Canada, Australia and Ireland are joining forces with the non-aligned movement against the new trend. They are warning that, if the Pentagon view becomes the official US position, the negotiation for a CTB may collapse.

Patricia Lewis says the American hawks' new demand has one perverse benefit. It shows that countries do need tests to develop new weapons, as well as to test the link between delivery systems and bombs. So a CTB would cap the arms race. Some cynics had argued that the ban was a pointless luxury, since countries could do all the testing they needed in computer labs. In other words, we were already too late.

The Pentagon's demand for new tests raises a wider question. What are the weapons for? Six years after the Cold War ended, who is the enemy? The danger of Mafia-driven plutonium leaks and nuclear material falling into the hands of in-

dividual terrorists or rogue states is real. The bigger danger is still the military procurement momentum of the major powers. This growing stockpile is a threat but also sets a miserable example to regional powers, encouraging them to accept the concept of deterrence and to develop weapons in secret.

There has been much talk of a "peace dividend" since the collapse of the USSR, yet Britain and France are still "modernising" their nuclear arsenals, as are Russia and the United States, as though the Cold War were still on. President Clinton has continued the procurement programmes set in motion by Ronald Reagan and George Bush almost unchanged. US experts can point to only one weapons development programme he has stopped, the relatively minor air-to-ground attack missile, TSSAM.

**F**AR more worrying are the billions of dollars being spent on an anti-missile system, THAAD (Theatre High-Altitude Area Defence). The programme is a spin-off from Reagan's Star Wars system, scaled down because even for the US it was wildly expensive and unreliable, with its plans for space-based lasers and orbiting mirrors. THAAD will be ground-launched missiles designed to hit incoming rockets, even those fired high enough to travel through space before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. The required accuracy of this "more modest" system is almost unimaginable, especially now that it is known how poorly an earlier US system, the Patriot, performed during the Gulf War. Hyped as having shot down several Iraqi SCUD mis-

siles, experts now accept that it hit only one or two, and probably missed them all.

At his recent summit with Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, Clinton achieved a singular and little-noticed victory. He persuaded Yeltsin to accept that deployment of THAAD would not breach the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty signed in 1972. The Russians have also developed an ABM, though less advanced than THAAD, and both powers were colluding in another step in the arms race.

Two things are needed to make a nuclear weapon dangerous — the bomb and the delivery system. Concern over nuclear terrorists and rogue states tends to focus on the bomb. You do not need THAAD to deal with a man with a bomb in a lorry. As for potential nuclear states, none except Israel could mount a bomb on a missile and realistically expect it would work. It requires a level of testing none has achieved. When India made its only public test of a nuclear bomb in 1974, it was dropped from a plane.

This means that rogue states can only use aircraft. Just to deal with an incoming bomber, THAAD is absurdly advanced. This is why the comprehensive test ban under negotiation at Geneva is so crucial. It is a reliable way of stopping nuclear powers becoming nuclear deliverers. Even if they are trying to use civilian nuclear programmes to acquire a weapons-making capacity, states cannot contemplate using it unless they have conducted tests.

The poor example being set by the Big Five in upgrading their own delivery systems, and the new attempts to undermine the CTB, are the major danger to our safety. Come back the peace movement.

As the above article in the Guardian; the disappointment at the result of the Non-Proliferation Treat Conference and the resuming of nuclear testing prove we need to get into the action again.

Heseldine thought that he had eliminated CND - lets prove him wrong!!

We can start by showing support for the July 16th Rally - called to coincide with the testing of the first nuclear bomb.

As London is easily reached by coach or train, which allows more flexibility of travel time we have not hired a coach for this rally, but we will refund some of the travel expenditure. The refund will be standard and based on the cheapest fare.

You can claim the refund either on the 09:10 coach from Nottingham or when you rally round the Nottm. N.C.D. Banner at Trafalgar Square. Please inform us on the answerphone before noon on Thursday 13th July to ensure that the Treasurer takes sufficient money to meet the outlay,

Coach Travel: Coach times.

| Nottm to London: | London to Nottm. |
|------------------|------------------|
| 0645             | 0955             |
| 0910             | 1155             |
| 1055             | 1340             |

Fares: £19;00 (£17;00 if booked a week in advance)  
£13.75 Pensioner with card.

Rail Travel: Train Times.

| Nottm. to London. | London to Nottm. |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 0823              | 1059             |
| 1123              | 1353             |
|                   | 1530             |
|                   | 1615             |
|                   | 1750             |
|                   | 1728             |
|                   | 1839             |
|                   | 1859             |

Fare: £28 return, though there is a reduction operating at present for advance booking - at least a week in advance.