

The Tide is Turning

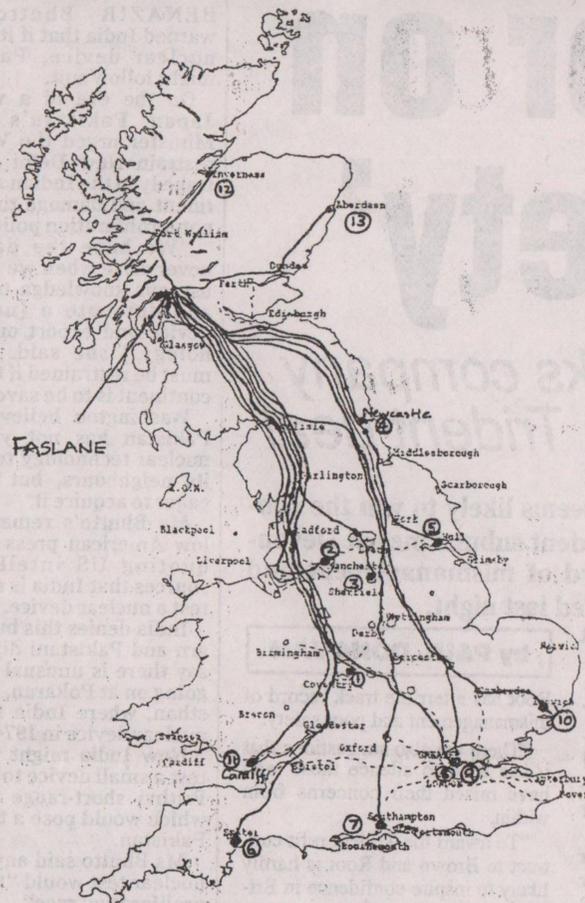
Janet Bloomfield, Chair

1995 has seen a sea change in public opinion about nuclear weapons. Over the last few months opinion poll data has shown at least 50% of British people believe that nuclear weapons are unnecessary. A combination of renewed nuclear testing, the reflection on war and peace relating to the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War Two and an increasing perception of the irrelevance of nuclear weapons to the real problems of the world have produced a profound and subtle shift. It is hard to quantify but I have no doubt that CND's increased profile has played its part in this hugely important change.

The fact that Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans strongly argued the case for the illegality of nuclear weapons at the International Court of Justice in the Hague can be attributed in great part to the strength of public opinion in his country. It can only be a matter of time before politicians in the nuclear states catch up with the fact that a large majority of people are no longer prepared to support the testing, development, possession and potential use of nuclear weapons. The Labour Party has spoken out against nuclear testing because of the strength of popular opinion. Eventually even John Major might notice that being a member of the nuclear mafia is not a vote winner.

We need to intensify our efforts at the cutting edge of the nuclear disarmament movement so that the figure of 50% grows to 60%-70%-80%. It can be done. When it started out the dream of the World Court Project of taking the question of the illegality of nuclear weapons to the Hague was just that. It has become a reality because of the persistence and imagination of the activists involved. Nuclear weapons may well be declared illegal by the beginning of next year. The isolation of the nuclear cartel will intensify - 1999 should be an interesting year.

Trash Trident



All to Faslane! - 15 June '96

Carol Naughton, Vice-Chair

Nuclear testing and the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have challenged complacency and apathy and woken up the world to the immorality of nuclear weapons.

The British government's continuing support for testing - and its determination to go ahead with Trident - continues this nuclear nightmare.

The British public need to wake up, get up and put on some new ideas. They need to challenge this government's nuclear bullying of the third world.

Britain's nuclear arsenal will soon be based only in Faslane in Scotland. We must take our message there - confront the beast in its lair. Come to Faslane and show the people of Britain that this nightmare can be banished. Show them our vision instead, one of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Look at the map and contact your coach organiser. Why not make a weekend of it? There will be accommodation in different settings, including a beautiful youth hostel for all ages on Loch Lomond. There will be actions and activities for everyone: music, dance, food, aerial incursions into the base, boat trips up to the base, a march to North Gate, and a ceilidh in the evening. Hope to see you all there!

EARLY notice

surely we can field a contingent for this?

NOTTINGHAM CND

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Jan

1996

A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Our new banners and the ladies who designed and made them

Published by Nottingham C.N.D. Edited by Doreen Gower Printed at 118 Workshop, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.



EDITORIAL:

A very happy New Year to you all.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if 1996 became the year when nukes were banned and destroyed? Unlikely? maybe but it will never happen if our will to achieve it weakens, so lets fight on.

In future the bulletin/newsletter will only be issued quarterly - January, April, July and October. We hope to produce larger issues than recently, but for this we need your co-operation.

Please send any snippets of information that you think relevant to our aims, news of members past or present and your views on topical events.

Let us try to use the newsletter as a stimulus for discussion and rejuvenation of N.C.N.D.

200 CLUB.

Alas, old friend, you served us well, but the time has come to part. The membership of the club has fallen so low that it is no longer a viable proposition and the last draw took place in December. The banking account will remain open until January 31st 1996 to allow any outstanding winnings to be withdrawn from the account.

Without this fund we would, on many occasions, have been unable to take some of the actions that we did, and so we wish to thank the members who organized the club and the members who have subscribed over the last eight years. You have been very generous and some members did not even cash in their winning cheques.

Due to the luck of the draw some members have won very little over the years, two, who shall be nameless but you can meet them in the office most Thursdays, have only won £5 between them - which shattered their dreams of a Caribbean cruise.

RADCLIFFE ON TRENT PEACE GROUP.

The above-named group displayed their banner during the R-o-t Banner Festival in Radcliffe on Trent Church. The banner was much admired and created a lot of interest, resulting in members of the group being asked to relate their experiences in the advancement of peace to Women's groups in the area.

WHITE POPPIES;

Sales of White poppies during 1995 followed the pattern of the last two years. On the first Saturday when collecting outside St. Peter's Church we took £70 in donations, but we have been rained off on the second Saturday.

The proceeds for 1995 have been equally divided between CAFOD and the British Red Cross to be used for the victims of war.

Anti Nuclear Testing Campaign.

As you are aware we had a great success on the stall, and at other venues some of our members attended, but then our main activists became unable to carry on with their normal vigour, but we have collected almost 2000 signatures. Doreen hopes to be fully mobile again by the end of February.

Report of Nottingham C.N.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING;

The A.G.M. took place on Sunday, November 5th 1995 at the I.C.C. Mansfield Road, with 20 members present.

Members were greeted by the vibrant colours of the new banners, designed and made by Jean Jago and Margaret Tuck. They have made TWO banners, one for display at the stall on St. Peter's Church and a smaller banner for easy carrying on demonstrations.

The Chair was taken by Andy Rogers and the meeting started with a review of the year presented by Jeremy Jago and illustrated by slides. The main activities had been at the stall demonstrating against the testing of nuclear weapons by the French Government, when we had been offering alternative sources of wine, cheese and apples for the boycott of French goods.

The Membership report was very discouraging - the membership now being below 200, which included the two new members in October and complimentary members. The dispiriting factor being the number of aging members, which would discourage younger people to join.

The Treasurers Report revealed that we had a healthy balance in the Deposit Account. This was due to wise investment of the Dorothy Green bequest and the hospitality offered by 118 Workshop of space, light and heat. We had been able to make donation to Nukewatch, World Court Project and other active peace groups throughout the year.

The Treasurer stated that due to high bank charges, she would like to change from the Co-operative Bank to the Unity Trust Bank. After much discussion it was left to Paul Simmons and the Treasurer to investigate the investment policy of Unity Trust and act according to these findings.

The Stall this has not been taken out as frequently this year as in the past. Three factors were involved - the weather, the very small number of volunteers and the difficulty in obtaining 'peace' goods. Anne Mitchell had floated the idea of using crafts to enhance the stall but unfortunately this had met with very little response.

It was hoped that the new banner would attract attention to the stall and more leaflets be available. Well over a thousand signatures had been obtained at the stall for the Anti-Nuclear Testing petition.

The Bulletin. It was decided to reduce issues to quarterly, with the hope that we could make each issue larger.

Future Programme - it was resolved that we 'continue till we drop' and that actions, as and when required, should be arranged by the Executive Committee.

There had not been any nominations for the Executive Committee so the following members were urged to continue for yet a further year:

Andy Rogers, Jeremy Jago, Peggy Westaway, Marguerite Oldham, Anne Mitchell, Mary Ramsey, Dianne Lunzer and Doreen Gower as Treasurer.

Neither had there been any resolutions.

Editors footnote: 'continue till we drop' was very apposite as Doreen did just that with a torn ligament. Peggy and Anne the other office workers are also deeply involved with husbands requiring a great deal of attention. Please bear with us for any delays or errors, but it has not yet been necessary to call for help offered at the AGM, because it is a 'slack' period at present.

WORLD COURT PROJECT UK WORLD COURT PROJECT UK

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NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 1995

This is a very short and simple newsletter. We are putting it out quickly because a lot of you will want to know the latest about the Oral Proceedings at the World Court. *If you want more detailed information about what each country has said to the judges, please get in touch with me*

George Farebrother

AT THE HAGUE

Oral Proceedings were held from 30 October to 15 November. They were witnessed by World Court Project supporters from all over the world, including over 20 from the UK. Events were monitored by the Project office which was set up in The Hague.

The World Health Organisation and 26 states applied to make statements. Four of these, all strongly anti-nuclear, withdrew with no explanation.

The representative of The World Health Organisation gave a neutral

but detailed account of the special nature of nuclear weapons, stressing their radioactive effects which are impossible to contain either in space or in time.

NUCLEAR CARTEL DIGS IN

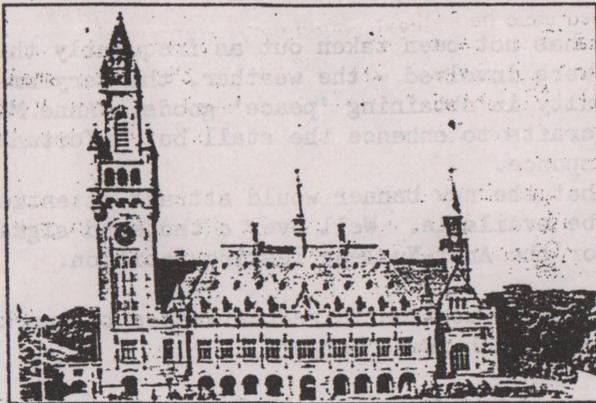
France argued that nuclear weapons are not fundamentally different from other weapons, that when the use of armed force is legal there is no prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons.

Germany and Italy, both members of the NATO nuclear alliance, supported nuclear legality, arguing that disarmament negotiations might be endangered by a Court ruling. As the only negotiations under way at the moment are those about a Test Ban Treaty and the control of fissile materials, it is difficult to see how this argument applies.

Russia followed the other nuclear weapon states, arguing that there are no specific treaties on nuclear weapons and that humanitarian law does not apply to them.

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE CHALLENGED

However, *Egypt, Mexico, Iran, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Australia, New Zealand, San Marino, Marshall Islands, Qatar, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Zimbabwe and the Philippines* produced strong anti-nuclear arguments, presented with great coherence.



Mexico and Iran

warned of their potential withdrawal from the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty should the nuclear weapon states fail to fulfil their disarmament obligations.

Malaysia asked the Court to reject the nuclear domination of the five permanent members of the Security Council and rule in favour of the huge majority of countries supporting the illegality of nuclear weapons.

Australia argued that the judges should decline to hear the case because they might come to the wrong decision - that nuclear weapons were lawful in some circumstances. However, in a stunning shift away

from his country's previous support of US nuclear policy, foreign minister Gareth Evans argued: "Self-defence is not a justification for genocide, for ordering that there shall be no enemy survivors in combat, or for indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population. Nor is it a justification for the use of nuclear weapons."

He concluded that it is, "illegal not only to use, or to threaten to use, nuclear weapons, but to acquire, develop, test, or possess them." In a direct challenge to the nuclear weapon states he declared that they "must, within a reasonable time, take systematic action to eliminate completely all nuclear weapons."

Paying special tribute to the citizens' groups which had made the hearings possible, the New Zealand Attorney General Paul East said: "The answer to the question put to the Court should be no; the threat or use of nuclear weapons should no longer be permitted under international law."

Arguing a strong, detailed case he concluded: "... a declaration of illegality would serve as a powerful further step to the elimination of nuclear weapons the potential consequences of failure, for all humanity, are too great."

Japan, in spite of heavy US pressure, argued that nuclear weapons are "clearly contrary to the spirit of humanity that gives international law its philosophical foundation", but stopped short of concluding that the weapons are illegal.

The ambassador then presented the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, emphasising that their testimony was independent of the government's view. Hiroshima's mayor, Takashi Hiraoka, reminded the Court that, "the mind-numbing damage these weapons brought shook the foundations of human existence".

He concluded: "It is clear that the use of nuclear weapons, which

causes indiscriminate mass murder, that leave survivors to suffer for decades, is a violation of international law."

Qatar argued that whatever decision the Court came to could only be good for nuclear disarmament. The general trend in international law, with the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and the spread of nuclear-free zones, is clearly against nuclear weapons. Appealing to the judges Dr. Al-Nauimi said: "Qatar views your role as the means to ensure peace for future generations".

In a brief but effective presentation, San Marino said that, "not even the right of self-defence could justify the resort to nuclear weapons", and emphasised the immorality of investing in nuclear arsenals while millions suffered from starvation and disease.

Co-ordinating their presentations, Samoa, and the Marshall and Solomon Islands, voiced their outrage at the suffering caused by nuclear testing. Their detailed legal arguments supported the competence of the WHO to request the Court's opinion.

MORE FROM THE NUCLEAR CARTEL

On the final day the UK and USA insisted that the Court should refuse to answer the questions. Both defended nuclear deterrence by claiming that it had been used to keep the peace for the last half century: and the UK said that calling the system of deterrence into question would be profoundly destabilising.

Both countries asserted that since the nuclear states have built up huge arsenals, and because no treaty specifically prohibits nuclear weapons, the Court cannot rely on an international consensus of illegality.

THE PUBLIC CONSCIENCE

The idea of the "Public Conscience", and the Declarations citizens all over the world have sent in, have been referred to more than once in the evidence. Over 3 million (100,000 from the UK) have been officially received by the Registrar of the Court - a good reminder of the strength of world feeling against nuclear weapons and the work of the World Court Project.

AND NOW?

Peter Weiss, IALANA'S co-president, believes that nothing but good can come from this historic hearing: "If a majority of the Court says that nuclear weapons are not totally illegal, there will be a tremendous push to get a convention outlawing them like the treaties abolishing chemical and biological weapons. If a majority say they are totally illegal, as they should, there will be an equally strong movement for such a convention to implement the Court's opinion."

So now we now wait for two or three months, with hope and patience. We can look forward to World Court Project Part Two - implementing the Court's decision. There is a great deal of work for us. *Meanwhile, please spread the word about what happened at the Court.*

The final deadline for sending UK Declarations to the Court is **January 31st 1996**. There are plenty of unsigned ones left - **PLEASE MAKE A BIG EFFORT TO GET AS MANY SIGNED AS POSSIBLE**

From testing to Trident

In all the furore over the French nuclear tests, there has been one simple, obvious and important question which is never asked.

We have been told at great length, quite rightly, what the effects of the tests may be, on the environment, on local peoples, even sometimes on non-proliferation, but we are never told what the cause of the tests is. What exactly are the French testing? What is it that is so important to them?

One answer is the answer that the French themselves give publicly: to develop an independent 'simulation' capability - to be able to develop new nuclear weapons in the laboratory without having to carry out nuclear tests. The French government could buy this knowledge off the United States, but does not want to be dependent on Washington for this vital technology.

Another, equally important reason for the tests is that they are being used to develop new nuclear weapons for a new phase in the arms race. One of the weapons being tested is a submarine-launched missile somewhat like Trident. The other warhead being tested is destined for the air-launched cruise missile that Paris calls the 'ASLP' (Air-Sol Longue Portée).

In November 1993, Jacques Baumel, a Gaullist hawk and the Vice-Chair of the French National Assembly's Committee on National Defence and the Armed Services, called for the urgent resumption of French nuclear testing in order to develop the TN100 warhead for the ASLP. Baumel argued that the ASLP was needed in order to carry out 'surgical strikes' against enemies who might not heed the 'established rule of rationality', in other words enemies in the Third World, in North Africa or the Middle East. This is the capability which President Chirac is so desperate to acquire, and which he is now testing in Polynesia.

The curious thing is that at the very moment Jacques Baumel was issuing his clarion call for a new nuclear weapon targeted at the Third World, our very own Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind (now Foreign Secretary) was making a very similar declaration. Rifkind announced that a new British nuclear weapon was to be deployed, with a new rationale. The new weapon was 'Tactical Trident', a single-warhead version of Trident; and its new mission was to defend Britain's 'vital interests'. These interests, as the 1995 Defence White Paper makes clear, are spread around the world, and include raw materials and British investments in other countries.

When France re-started nuclear testing, governments from all over the world spoke out against them. All except one. As U.K. protesters begin to ask 'Why the Major Silence?!', MILAN RAI explains the link between the Pacific tests and Britain's 'Tactical Trident'.

As far as we know, the warhead used for Tactical Trident will be the same as for 'strategic Trident'. It will have an explosive power of 100 kilotons, or, roughly speaking, eight Hiroshimas. So we will, as of this December, be defending, for example, \$300 billion worth of (private) foreign investment by threatening to inflict eight

Hiroshimas on any country that endangers this 'vital interest'.

The MOD would prefer to deploy a smaller warhead on Tactical Trident, one that would look less like 'overkill' against a non-nuclear Third World enemy, and that would therefore be a more credible threat. However, the programme for perfecting such a lower-yield warhead was aborted by the US moratorium on nuclear tests. But the MOD appears to still be hoping for a few tests before the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is signed next year, in order to acquire a credible Tactical Trident warhead. In other words, they want to do what the French are currently doing. This is one of the reasons for Major's silent acquiescence in Chirac's criminality.

Similar anti-Third World strategies and weapons are being developed in the United States, under the guise of 'counter-proliferation'. This is where the nuclear arms race is now heading. The French tests, the TN100 warhead, the ASLP, these are all just the tip of the iceberg. It is the duty of the international peace movements to winch the entire mass into public view: what the French are testing; what they want to use it for; how Britain is following a similar path; how the US is also going down the same road of targeting the South; and, perhaps, after all that; how these policies are rooted in a long history of nuclear threats against non-nuclear enemies.

US firm 'poor on safety'

CND attacks company likely to win Trident deal

THE US company that seems likely to win the contract to refit nuclear Trident submarines at Devonport has "a track record of mismanagement and poor safety," CND claimed last night.

by PAUL DONOVAN

In 1992, Brown and Root was fined US \$750 (£482) million for mismanaging the construction of a Texan nuclear plant. The completed work included 59 construction and planning errors as well as unacceptable welding on a major water system.

Earlier efforts to buy another company with the required nuclear expertise to conduct the work on the plant were blocked by the US government.

However, Brown and Root decided that "it would go ahead anyway and take the gamble" on building the plant, CND claimed.

At another work plant called Comanche Peak, several Brown and Root employees took the company to court for victimisation and unfair dismissal.

The employees complained that they were sacked after highlighting alleged poor construction and safety.

CND chairwoman Janet Bloomfield said: "There is substantial evidence to suggest that Brown and

Root has a terrible track record of mismanagement and poor safety.

"There are also suggestions that it has tried to silence those who have raised their concerns from within.

"To award the Trident refit contract to Brown and Root is hardly likely to inspire confidence in Britain's nuclear arsenal or raise morale at Devonport.

"It raises serious questions, not just about about the safety standards and accountability of those responsible carrying out the refit work, but also of the political judgement of those responsible for awarding the contract," she said.

Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport David Jamieson has also raised the question as to whether the servicing of Britain's nuclear deterrent should be in the hands of a company that could be open to hostile stock market bids.

The company was last night unavailable for comment.

I must be going woolley-minded.

I'm sure that after the cold war ended we were assured that we still required to retain arms manufacture and Trident bases in order to maintain employment for British citizens.

OH, silly, silly me!!

Bhutto warns India over bomb test

By Ahmed Rashid
In Lahore

BENAZIR Bhutto has warned India that if it tests a nuclear device, Pakistan might follow suit.

On the eve of a visit to Japan, Pakistan's Prime Minister urged the West to restrain New Delhi or risk tragedy in the Indian subcontinent and damage to global non-proliferation policies.

"We hope the day will never arise when we have to use our knowledge to make and detonate a [nuclear] device and export our technology," she said. "India must be restrained if the subcontinent is to be saved."

Washington believes that Pakistan has not yet sold nuclear technology to any of its neighbours, but Iran is eager to acquire it.

Ms Bhutto's remarks follow American press reports quoting US intelligence sources that India is about to test a nuclear device.

India denies this but Western and Pakistani diplomats say there is unusual activity going on at Pokaran, in Rajasthan, where India tested a nuclear device in 1974.

Now India might want to test a small device to fit to its Prithvi short-range missile, which would pose a threat to Pakistan.

Ms Bhutto said any Indian nuclear test would "trigger a proliferation race".

India and Pakistan deny that they have nuclear weapons, although Western intelligence believes they have.

Western diplomats fear the consequences of a nuclear testing free-for-all.

One said that it would "destroy the delicate ambiguity that each country maintains about its nuclear programme, but which has kept the nuclear peace in the subcontinent".

Closer to home Ms Bhutto faces continued violence in Karachi.

More than 35 people have died since the New Year in the port city bringing the number killed since January 1995 to more than 2,000.

A strike called by the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement, after the killing of four of its militants paralysed economic activity in the city.

Pakistan has long accused India of backing the MQM while India has accused Pakistan of backing Kashmiri separatists.

Nuclear firm broke 100 water rules

By Charles Clover
Environment Editor

MORE than 100 breaches of drinking water by-laws have been discovered at Hinkley Point nuclear power station in an investigation by Wessex Water.

The company said the violations were minor and did not involve any radioactive contamination of water near the Somerset plant. The infringements were found during a routine investigation.

The company said the most serious breaches could have led to insects or dirt entering water supplies to Nuclear Electric staff at the plant. Others involved failures of valves and the failure to lag pipes.

A spokesman said: "Nuclear Electric are giving us full co-operation. They are working towards putting these breaches right."

A spokesman for Nuclear Electric said: "There is no risk of cross contamination by radioactive substances. Nor is there any consumption of food or drinking water in controlled areas."

We will fill this space with what must be the worst Christmas cracker joke:

Why couldn't the butterfly go to the dance?

Because it was a both ball

If you know any worse than this we'll publish those also.