

Diary Dates

- 6 August Hiroshima Day commemoration – see below.
- Sun 5 Sept Nottingham Green Festival at Victoria Embankment, 12.30 - 6pm.
- Sun 26 Sept Nottingham CND Walk/Ramble – a great chance to socialise with other CND members. Venue to be arranged. Phone CND for more details or visit the CND stall at the Green Festival.
- early October Nottingham CND Public Meeting at the ICC featuring a speaker from Trident Ploughshares 2000. See page 3 for more details. Date not yet confirmed – please phone Nottingham CND if interested.



Hiroshima Day August 6th

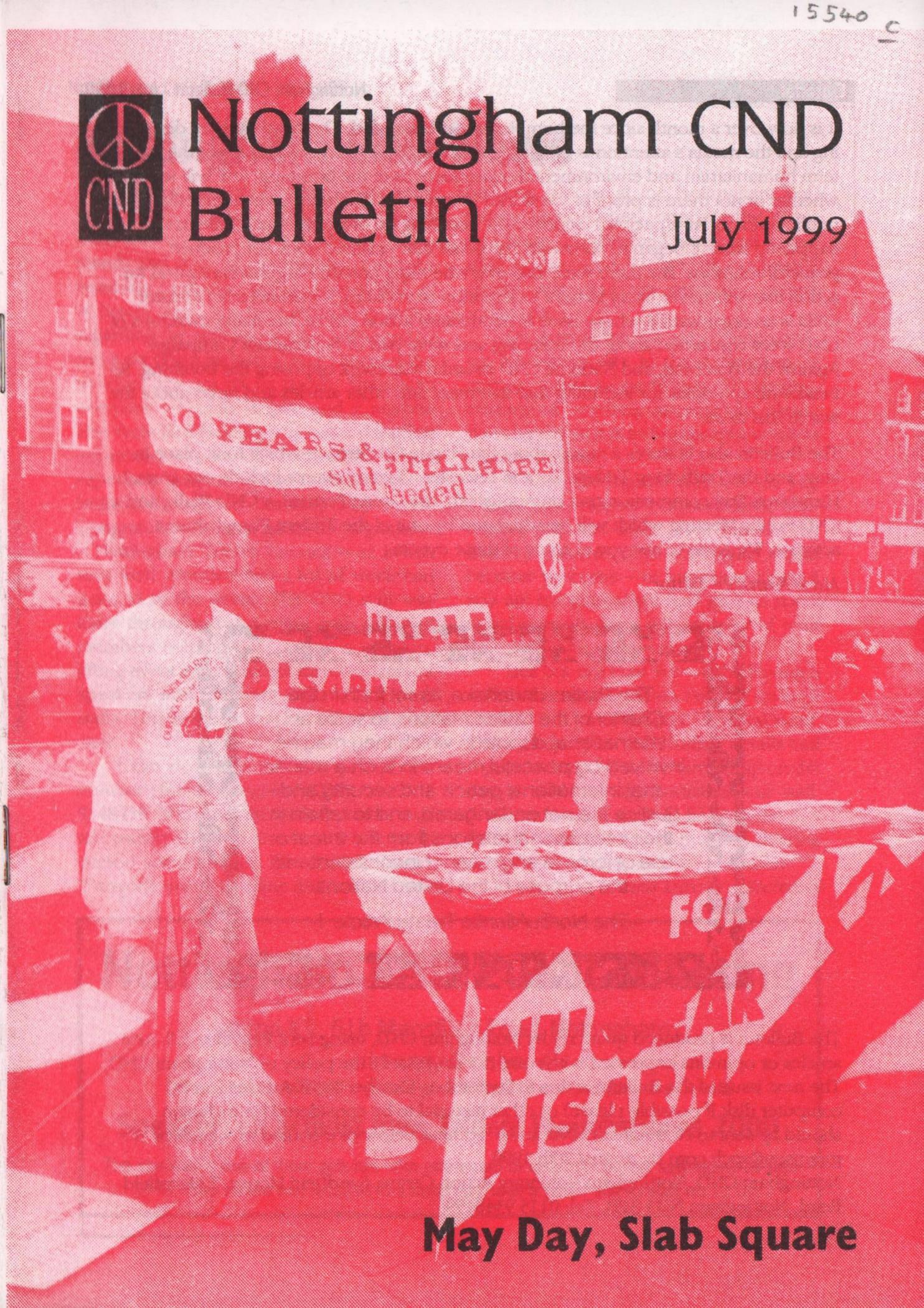
As always, we will hold a commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima 54 years ago, including readings and music.

To be held at the Arboretum, near the bandstand, 7-8.30pm



Nottingham CND Bulletin

July 1999

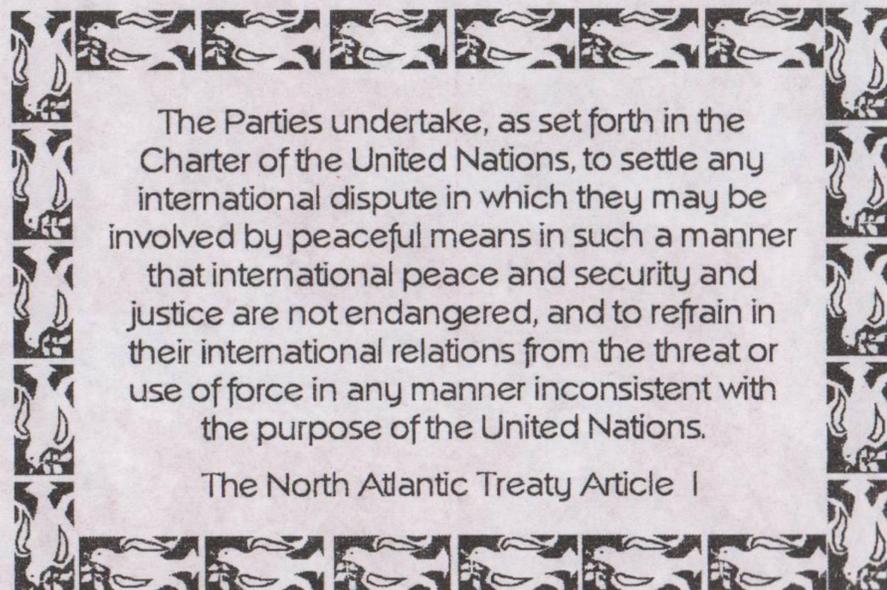


May Day, Slab Square

It is now over a month since the bombing of Serbia ended. The headlines are disappearing and the media's attention is moving elsewhere. Few Britons will learn of the long-term humanitarian and environmental consequences of the bombing; few will learn whether or not there is proof of the stories of atrocities that were used to mobilise public opinion. As a pacifist I opposed the bombing on principle – and little has happened since it began to contradict my belief that violence does not produce peaceful solutions. But there were also overwhelming practical arguments against an action that was never likely to fulfil its intention of avoiding a humanitarian disaster. CND is an organisation whose issue is not military action per se, but many members of CND were concerned about the bombing and were part of Nottingham Campaign Against the Bombing, and National CND issued a statement opposing the bombing. So I make no apologies for including that statement and other articles and news about the war in this issue.

The Bulletin also features a report about the Hague Conference which took place in May, and the Trafficking Trident Tour in Leicester. Coming events include our annual Hiroshima Day commemoration on August 6th, the Green Festival, a CND Walk, and a CND Public Meeting which will be addressed by one of the Trident Ploughshares activists. We hope to see you at some of these events.

Mark Ramsey – Editor



The Bulletin is produced quarterly by Nottingham CND, using Serif PagePlus 5.0. Any articles or opinions expressed within are not necessarily the policy of Nottingham CND. The next issue of the Bulletin is due in September/October 1999. Articles (on PC computer disk if possible please) or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to Nottingham CND at the address below or e-mailed to the editor mramsey@spch.com by August 20th 1999. Nottingham CND, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, Sandfield House, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB. Tel: 0115 9348459

Nottingham CND News

The last three months have been very busy for Nottingham CND as we have been actively involved with the May Day march and rally in Nottingham, the anti-bombing campaign and our usual stall at St Peters Gate. We have been very lucky regarding the stall as we have managed to run it six times including May Day and the weather has not let us down. Thanks to everyone who has helped and if anyone else feels like helping it is not a daunting experience as you don't run it alone. It was especially good to see so many members from CND support the May Day event. Congratulations must go to the organisers – Nottingham Trades Council – as it was very well attended and a lot of work had gone in to the event. The CND stall was there throughout the event with different members helping out. It was a very uplifting event with a decent march, plenty of speakers from different stalls and several stalls. Lets hope it can be repeated next year.

I can now give you the new phone number for Nottingham CND – 0115 9348459. We have an answerphone, and are usually there to answer the phone in person some time on Tuesday afternoon. If anyone wants to come and see the new

building, we are at the Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, opposite the Victoria Centre on Mansfield Road and accessible for everyone. We are still in a bit of a chaotic state but are gradually getting sorted out.

On August 6th we are commemorating Hiroshima day in the Arboretum. If anyone wants to participate by singing, reading or anything appropriate please don't be shy as it is an impromptu event as regards content.

We are having the stall out on July 17th & 31st, August 14th and 28th, September 11th and 25th, at St Peters Gate from 11.15am to 2.15pm. Any help would be most welcome – or just come along if you are in Nottingham and give us some moral support. Even half an hour of your time would be most welcome.

Last but not least we will be having a stall at the annual Green Festival on September 5th at Victoria Embankment. Please ring of you want further details and if you can help either by turning up on the day or offering suggestions for our stall. The organisers also need help on the 3, 4 and 6th September preparing and clearing up the festival. Hope to see you there.

Diane Lunzer – Secretary

Nottingham CND Public Meeting

at the ICC, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

in early October

(date not yet confirmed – please phone Nottingham CND for more details)

Speaker: an activist from Trident Ploughshares 2000

The speaker is one of three activists who attempted to disarm a Trident submarine in Sept 1998. Their recent trial resulted in a hung jury, with a retrial due to start on 11 Oct.

CND Balkan Crisis Statement

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament shares the general revulsion at the ethnic cleansing of Kosova by the Serbs and strongly condemns the atrocities committed as part of that policy. CND is also strongly opposed to the bombing of Serbia and Montenegro by NATO. This has been counter-productive. It has accelerated rather than halted the process of ethnic cleansing. The previously strong internal opposition to Slobodan Milosevic has been silenced as the population of Serbia feel themselves to be the target of the bombing. By ignoring the United Nations not only has Russia been angered but all attempts at a solution made much

Direct nuclear concerns

Although there are no **nuclear power** plants in Serbia, there is a now-closed **research reactor** at the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, 15km south-east of Belgrade. Any bomb damage could result in an explosion involving radioactive materials since there are thirty aluminium canisters of irradiated uranium fuel and 300 corroding fuel pins stored in an on-site cooling pond. Both the pond and the hall in which it is housed are already dangerously radioactive.

Bombing of **oil refineries** on the banks of the River Danube has resulted in huge oil slicks drifting down stream. When these reach the cooling water intakes of the Bulgarian **nuclear power station** at Kozloduy, the water filters could become clogged or let oil into the cooling system. Damage or failure of the reactors' cooling system would necessitate the emergency shut down of the plant.

The Kozloduy 1-4 reactors are of the old Soviet type 440/230. These are already regarded as highly dangerous and should

more difficult. NATO is a military alliance and does not have the machinery to negotiate.

CND supports the Committee for Peace in the Balkans and is working actively with the National Peace Council in all efforts to promote practical non-military and individual efforts to help the victims and to bring about a peaceful solution to a very complex problem that has been made worse by the bombing.

CND also has a number of specific nuclear-related concerns regarding possible bombing targets and accidents as well as the use of Depleted Uranium by NATO forces.

be decommissioned. However Bulgaria has recently signed electricity supply contracts with both Turkey and Macedonia which could prolong the reactors' economic life. There are large quantities of irradiated nuclear fuel in cooling ponds on the site. Any accidental missile strike (as has already happened in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital) could lead to a disaster. *[May 20th update: in response to environmental protests, NATO has agreed to a no-fly zone over Kozloduy. Also, Bulgarian Atomic Energy Commission has placed booms in the Danube to protect the power station water intakes.]*

The Bulgarian military airport at Gorbvovnica, 50 km from Kozloduy is used for deliveries of fresh nuclear fuel and has been designated as an emergency landing ground for both NATO or Serbian planes. Damaged planes are highly likely to crash while trying to land. The dangers of a nuclear disaster are uncomfortably high.

Lest we forget: 26 April was the thirteenth anniversary of the Chernobyl

CND Balkan Crisis Statement - continued from page 4

(Ukraine) nuclear power station disaster. Children are still dying of cancer and land is still contaminated as far away as Cumbria and North Wales.

Depleted uranium (DU): the US Department of Defense has now confirmed that DU is deployed with and has been used by NATO forces in the Balkans. DU is extremely hard and heavy. It is becoming standard issue for use in armour piercing shells fired by tanks, anti-tank guns and ground attack aircraft such as the USAF A10 Warthog. DU is not used on cruise missiles, but is also used in the armour of some US tanks and as counter-

Indirect nuclear threats

By choosing NATO as the instrument of its policy and bypassing the United Nations, the West excluded Russia from an area in which it has historical, ethnic, religious and geographical interests.

Already angered by the expansion of NATO eastwards to include former Warsaw Pact countries and by United States' threats to wreck the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, Russia reacted by announcing that it would not ratify the Second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START 2).

This in turn stops any progress towards a START 3 treaty. **So a major casualty of NATO's bombing of Kosova/Serbia has been the East/West nuclear disarmament process.**

Russia then threatened both to re-target its strategic (long-range) nuclear missiles on the NATO countries - including Britain - taking part in the bombing of Serbia/Kosova, and to move tactical (short-range) nuclear weapons westwards into Belarus. These weapons were originally withdrawn at the end of the Cold

This statement was taken (and slightly edited) from the CND website www.cnduk.org

balancing ballast in commercial airliners.

On impact, the DU in an armour-piercing shell burns, producing an aerosol-like substance which dries out as dust. This dust is both toxic and radioactive and may be inhaled, swallowed or get into wounds. It may settle locally or be blown by the wind. It remains radioactive indefinitely and therefore endangers anyone either at the time or subsequently who disturbs the dust.

DU projectiles have been categorised by a UN Human Rights Commission sub-committee as 'weapons of mass or indiscriminate destruction.'

War - short range weapons had become militarily useless since they no longer had the range to reach the opposition. With the eastward expansion of NATO, this is no longer the case. Although many have been scrapped, Russia still has over a thousand tactical weapons available.

The Russian leadership - which is basically pro-Western unlike some of the violently nationalistic politicians behind them - has been deeply angered by being ignored. President Yeltsin has stated: "The stakes are very high now. Either international law and order will be restored or the world will be ruled by violent chaos."

Rather late in the day, the US, Britain and NATO show signs of realising that a mistake has been made and that Russia has to be part of the solution. But damage has been done. **It is not sensible politics to needlessly anger a major nuclear power - especially one that is in a state of social and economic chaos.** Nuclear issues, direct and indirect, are too closely involved in the NATO Balkan campaign for comfort.

They call this 'victory'? by Mark Ramsey

If there is one thing that has been annoying me in the weeks since the 'peace' agreement over Kosovo, it is those MPs and columnists who keep claiming that NATO's 'victory' has proven that the NATO action was right and that those opposing it were totally wrong and should apologise. How can they claim that?

The bombing campaign has failed to achieve the target set for it. In March, before the bombing campaign began, Tony Blair told the House of Commons that its aim was "primarily to avert what would otherwise be a humanitarian disaster in Kosovo" and "to save thousands of innocent men, women and children from humanitarian catastrophe, from death, barbarism and ethnic cleansing by a brutal dictatorship". Rather than halt the ethnic cleansing it massively increased it. Like the police in a hostage situation, Nato should have acted to minimise the risk to the 'hostages', but instead it acted in such a way as to escalate the conflict.

It is surely incumbent on a force claiming moral right and a "humanitarian war" to conduct it in a humanitarian way. But NATO explicitly and implicitly targeted civilians, destroyed much of the infrastructure of Serbia, and used cluster bombs each of which leaves 10% of unexploded 'bomblets' lying around like the landmines which the government has rightly banned.

NATO governments have talked much about War Crimes but they don't seem to appreciate that such rules apply to all sides. At the Nuremberg Tribunal Robert Jackson, the head of the American prosecution staff, declared that "if certain acts in violation of treaties are crimes, they are crimes whether the United States does them or whether Germany does them"

The Nuremberg Judgement and the UN charter both view aggressive war as a crime - articles 2(4) and (7) of the UN charter prohibit interventions in the domestic jurisdiction of any country and the UN General Assembly has ruled it as a crime without justification. Unrestricted air bombing is in itself a crime under international law - bombing the infrastructure of a country (eg waterworks, electricity plants, bridges, factories, television and radio locations) is not an attack limited to legitimate military objectives.

The impact of the war on the environment has led a UN official to say "Under different circumstances, no one would have the slightest hesitation in talking about an environmental disaster", and a recent UN report said that it has had "a devastating impact" on the environment, industry, employment and essential services. Bombing oil refineries and chemical plants has caused the release of toxic substances into the atmosphere and polluted the River Danube. Meanwhile US forces used depleted uranium (DU) tipped ammunition in Kosovo: DU is described by the US Army Environmental Policy Institute as inherently toxic

The peace deal which ended the bombing constituted largely the same provisions as those the Serbian parliament had indicated it could accept at the time of the Rambouillet ultimatum - the main concessions (overall UN command rather than NATO, no referendum on independence, no right of NATO forces to go anywhere in former Yugoslavia) were made by NATO in the end making its claims of victory irrelevant. Earlier willingness to compromise might have prevented eleven weeks of bombing and thousands of deaths.

Nottm Campaign Against the Bombing

Following the start of NATO's brutal and illegal attack in Yugoslavia, in common with many other cities and towns across the country Nottingham was swift to form "Nottingham Campaign Against the Bombing", an umbrella organisation with which Nottingham CND was involved from its early days. The group met at the International Community Centre on Mansfield Road each Tuesday night to plan the campaign. One or more Nottingham CND members was usually present at these meetings.

The first public meeting was held in Market Square on 24th April addressed by various speakers with loudhailers which attracted some interest. Members of Nottingham CND who had come straight from a committee meeting were in the audience.

Throughout the period of the bombing there were small protest demonstrations at Listergate on most Saturdays but as by now Nottingham CND had drawn up its own protest petition to the Prime Minister we used that petition on our own stall in Listergate.

The first really effective demonstration was on 15th May - Nottingham CND was involved in the planning and a credible contingent of members attended the event. In solidarity with Yugoslav citizens spending nights guarding their bridges and factories we had a large demonstration on Trent Bridge which stretched almost the whole length of the bridge, carrying placards and wearing the by now famous "NATO target" symbols. Later the demonstration moved to the BBC offices to demand unbiased coverage of the war.

29th May saw another very successful demonstration in Market Square which took the form of street theatre. Someone laid on the pavement as if injured and

dead, surrounded by cardboard replicas of a NATO cluster bomb while a number of speakers addressed the considerable crowd of onlookers. Our own CND petition was used at this event.

Arising from this war the use by NATO of depleted uranium shells presents CND with a fresh challenge. These radioactive weapons were first used in the Gulf War and have been linked to Gulf War Syndrome. They are now polluting Yugoslavia and Kosovo. Where next, if we don't make our campaign loud enough and strong enough?

Report by Marguerite Oldham



Nottingham CND member Lila Boden wearing a "NATO Target" symbol at the demonstration on Trent Bridge

Violence is the victor

The mission of mercy morphs into ever-escalating mayhem, as we send out an air force to do an angel's job

By Barbara Ehrenreich, Thursday April 22, 1999

Here's a paradigmatic image of the Nato effort to-date, thanks to Fox TV News. A US transport helicopter lands somewhere in Albania and a Marine, in full combat gear, leaps out. Assuming the ritual half-crouching position, he duly points his automatic weapon in various directions, although there is no one around, not even a shrub. His form is admirable, his mien menacing. And his mission, according to the voiceover? He has come to build houses for the Kosovan refugees.

Nato's mission in the Balkans started with the noblest of aims. Faced with scenes of mass misery afflicting telegenic white people by the hundreds of thousands, European socialists, social democrats – even the formerly pacifistic Greens – dropped all their customary objections to heavy-handed, US-led military interventions.

So what if Nato is a zombie kept alive largely as a market for US-made weapons? If your spouse is being molested and screaming for help, you intervene with whatever tools lie at hand, rusty and imperfect as they may be, and leave the debates over Lenin's theory of imperialism for later.

As for the argument that intervention in a civil war constitutes a gross violation of 'national sovereignty': tell that to the Rwandan Tutsis, if you can find any of them around to listen.

But this mission of mercy – heralded by some commentators as a 'just and necessary', even 'moral' war – quickly took a nasty turn. Nato bombs have already

killed about 150 Serbian civilians, including children and, no doubt, a few anti-Milosevic peaceniks as well.

Innocent people do, regrettably, die in wars, as the Nato spokesmen continually remind us. But since when was Operation Allied Force a 'war'? In a war it may be all right to kill the enemy and anyone who looks like him, but in a mission of mercy, the most urgent priority is to rescue the enemy's victims.

To go back to the case where that intruder is menacing your spouse, would your first reaction be to run over to the intruder's house, and strangle his wife and child? If so, you might as well blow your own spouse a last fervent kiss goodbye.

What is happening with Nato is known technically as 'mission creep' – you start out doing, or claiming to do, one thing and end up doing quite another. While the bombs rain down on Serbia, the 'humanitarian crisis' which originally inspired the whole operation has been relegated to playing a purely propaganda role. The US, for example, has budgeted only \$58.5 million for humanitarian aid, which is less than the cost of a single day's bombing sorties.

As for the ethnic Albanians still playing hide and seek with the Serb ethnic cleansers within Kosovo, Nato has nothing to offer them but shrapnel. Asked why Nato doesn't airlift these desperate people food and other supplies, the answer is always that the requisite low-flying transport planes would be too vulnerable to Serb anti-aircraft fire.

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Violence is the Victor

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Although unable to drop food and medicine from its planes, Nato spokesmen assure us that they will, of course, continue to drop bombs wherever possible, as weather permits.

In the week of April 12, the mission had crept so far that it began to look as if Nato and Milosevic were undergoing some weird kind of role reversal. First, Nato demonstrated its efficiency at Milosevic's old job of ethnic cleansing by killing approximately 100 ethnic Albanian civilians in a bombing raid. Then Nato commander General Wesley Clark hinted that Milosevic will be expected to take over Nato's former mission of succouring the ethnic Albanians remaining within Kosovo.

At least when asked about whether Nato might be able to aid these people with air-dropped relief supplies, he referred the problem to Milosevic: 'Our view on this is that, frankly, this is a problem that's caused by President Milosevic. He needs to address this problem.'

So the mission of mercy morphs into ever-escalating mayhem, which is perhaps what should be expected whenever one sends an air force out to do an angel's job. Remember Somalia, where the starving victims were treated to tens of thousands of well-fed – though no doubt potentially tasty – Marines.

There is a problem with all these efforts to contain our species' genocidal tendencies. When we want to make peace, we send the weapons of war. Where we want to save lives, we deploy trained killers. Which is, from a purely logical perspective, a little like recruiting your local arsonists into the volunteer fire department.

War-making, as opposed to peace-

keeping or rescue missions, operates according to a simple binary logic: there are good guys and bad guys, and the latter have to die or be otherwise subdued. But the logic of ethnic conflict is not so simple. Instead of good people and evil people, think of a chain of atrocity and revenge, with each act of vengeance constituting a fresh atrocity.

As the great literary scholar René Girard has written, the chain of violence-and-revenge propagates itself as if it were a living thing. Over time, the chain grows, entangling millions and stretching on for generations. The Serbs may be the most atrocious of the Balkan lot, but they are caught in the chain themselves, reacting to thousands of ancient and newly-inflicted hurts including, now, the Nato bombs.

When you use violence to end a chain of violence, Girard explained, 'the real victor is always violence itself. Clearly, the 'international community' – meaning the US and its allies du jour – needs a whole new technology of intervention. Former UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali once proposed the creation of a special UN army – restrained, self-sacrificing, and trained, one would hope, for just this kind of work. Short of that, the only thing to do is to stop the bombing and concentrate all resources on helping the victims of ethnic cleansing, living now in terror and mud.

Airlift supplies into Kosovo, using fighter jets to protect the transport planes. Dry out Yeltsin and flatter him with a major peacemaking role.

As a last resort, bring in ground troops to carve out safe havens within Kosovo. And when you send someone to build houses, remember to give them a hammer as well as a gun.

Ceasefire in Yugoslavia

The title of the gathering had been set weeks in advance, but turned out to be prophetic for the meeting of July 7th in Nottingham. Convened by Ken Coates, it was addressed by Bruce Kent, Ken himself and Mark Steel, the politically conscious comedian and recent Guardian columnist.

Mark saw 'gloating matches' as a disgrace of parliament. Bombs were 'laser precision guided' yet at least one fell in Bulgaria. "Call me an old perfectionist," he said, "but I do ask at least for the right country." NATO's avowed intention to 'weaken' Milosevic is a fallacy - Drascovic, a genuine fascist, may replace him. After 74 days of bombing, the deal Milosevic got was actually better than that proposed before the action. The cost? £37 million pounds, says an official source 'not including munitions...'

Bruce Kent apologised for a worn out voice, blaming the Balkans War. He looked back a century, when the Hague Peace Conference had been wrecked by war. Campaigns for the first pensions began in 1899: an objective soon officially dismissed as impracticable. Reason: cost of the Boer War. Bruce recalled that the cost of the recent Balkans campaign - \$1000 billion - is fifty times the annual budget of the United Nations. We could have followed a bloc-free Europe, he said, on the model of E.P. Thompson. Under the terms of the 1949 NATO agreement, we operate within UN treaty terms (article 51 et al states that military action is strictly under UN leadership). Instead, NATO has sought to usurp UN's European role.

Now ByeloRussia and the Ukraine seek to regain nuclear weapons. Small



Mark Steel, Ken Coates and Bruce Kent

wonder, Bruce felt, that small countries will conclude 'This is the world of the big stick!' Where is the peace movement? asked journalist Peter Kellner. 8000 ordinary citizens recently gathered in the Hague, at which Peace Conference 400 workshops were held. No major journalist thought it worth reporting.

The UN is not perfect but can be changed: it has done great work so far. Progress demands a pan-European peace and civil rights agreement, and a World Criminal Court.

Ken Coates saw a Europe that has lost its way: the war shows its divisions. Greece has refused to toe the line; in Italy transport workers intercepted arms travel. NATO feared a Russian and Chinese veto from the very start. Without a UN resolution, impossible without Russian and Chinese support, an overall settlement is as remote as ever. Armed hostilities end - no political objectives achieved - needless refugees and deaths being the only tangible result. Amid a divided Europe, unity is needed. Ken pledged to work, in or out of government, for a cross-frontier alliance for peace.

Report by Jeremy Jago

National Trafficking Trident Tour

On Friday 11th June myself and my dog Jake went by train to support the Trafficking Trident Tour in Leicester (we couldn't have the event in Nottingham as market square was already booked). The lorry carrying half the lifesize model of Trident hit you straight away especially as they had displayed lots of posters, banners and balloons around it. They also had an information stall in front of the lorry but, unfortunately, no license for selling goods. However, they were allowed to distribute leaflets and collect signatures for the petition on scrapping Trident. Although we turned up fairly late there seemed a lot of activity around the stall and with Leicester CND's Anna Cheetham speaking loud and clear into a hand megaphone it did attract a lot of attention.

At the stall I managed to get a lot of postcards for Nottingham together with petitions, posters and leaflets so it was well worth supporting. The frightening fact that stood out for me was exactly how uninformed the general British public are on Trident with quite a large number never having heard of it. I thought the visual display that was shown in Leicester was excellent and I felt quite saddened that we couldn't repeat the event in Nottingham where it has become very apparent when trying to get people to sign a petition on Trident that they hadn't a clue what we were talking about. Still, the event went ahead in Leicester and was very successful.

Report by Diane Lunzer

Stop Cassini

Maybe Nostradamus was right, but one month early

According to some people, Nostradamus predicted that the world would come to an end on 4th July 1999. It hasn't - but perhaps he was a month out.

The Cassini space probe launched by NASA in October 1997 is carrying 73.2lbs of plutonium - the largest amount ever taken into space. On August 18th 1999 it will come back to Earth for a 'slingshot' or 'gravity assist' manoeuvre to send it towards Saturn.

There is a small chance of an accident with Cassini crashing in to the earth's atmosphere. If this happens, NASA's research indicates that five billion of the world's population would be affected by the plutonium released. Plutonium is so deadly that, in theory, just one pound of plutonium is enough to give everyone on Earth a lethal dose.

NASA is risking the whole planet. And if this mission is successful there will be further launches of nuclear materials into space.

Join the campaign to Keep Space for Peace. Contact:

Yorkshire CND, 22 Edmund Street, Bradford, BD5 0BH.

Tel: 01274 730795 Fax: 01274 414413

email: cndyorks@gn.apc.org website: <http://www.gn.apc.org/cndyorks/yspace>

The Hague Peace Conference

A report by Nottingham CND member David Lane

Probably the most inspiring and exciting event for peace and justice in which I have ever taken part. There were upwards of eight thousand participants, with a large number of young people. Some two hundred went from Britain. The delegates dominated the life of the city, bringing the colours of their exotic national costumes to the streets and The Hague's excellent bus and tram system. From North, South, East and West they came - every race, religion, country and continent, all mingling happily together in this microcosm of world peace.

The programme of the five days was an incredibly packed one, including more than 400 debates, workshops, seminars, plenary sessions and special sessions for young people - not to speak of film shows, videos, exhibitions, plays and concerts - both formal and informal. At times up to twenty-five meetings were going on at the same time in the various halls and committee rooms. Naturally, the subject of Kosova and the NATO bombings was discussed extensively, but the many conflicts going on in other parts of the world were not forgotten.

Performances were given by Judy Collins, the Sarajevo Drum Orchestra, the Rotterdam Ballet and many more.

The great Prince William Alexander Hall, holding over 2,000, was packed to the roof for the closing ceremony, and thousands more who could not be accommodated in the hall watched the proceedings on video screens. It was a most inspiring occasion. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, made a memorable speech and got a standing ovation. Other speakers included Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan; The Prime

Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat and Jody Williams, the International Ambassador for the Campaign to Ban Landmines; Judge Weeramantry of Sri Lanka, Vice president of the International Court of Justice; Bruce Kent of CND; the leader of the Pakistani Peace Movement; the Ambassador to the United Nations of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Director of the Women Lawyers of Kenya; the Netherlands Prime Minister.

Despite feeling somewhat exhausted by the experience, I would not have missed it for anything, and I am sure that everyone who was lucky enough to go to The Hague from so many countries, will be inspired to work even harder for a peaceful, nuclear-free world in the 21st century.

One final point - it is incredible to me that despite the importance of this world conference and the number of highly distinguished participants, it has been almost completely ignored by our media.

Stephen Hancock adds: The richest times for me were conversations in queues. I'd just turn to someone next to me and a whole new world and political struggle would be opened up. I was particularly impressed meeting a psycho-therapist from Mozambique who was growing tired of 'patching up' traumatised child soldiers only to see them conscripted back into another, this time 'adult', army. He'd come to find ways of strategically politicising his work.

The Hague Appeal for Peace conference took place 11-15 May at The Hague. David's report appears in the forthcoming issue of 'New Leaves', the magazine of the Movement for Compassionate Living.

Nuclear Disarmament - little progress

After almost four months of negotiation, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva has still failed to agree a work programme for its current session and, as a result, has failed to begin negotiation of a Fissile Material Treaty (FMT) ie a treaty to ban the production and use of the plutonium and highly enriched uranium which make up nuclear weapons.

The sticking point is finding a means to satisfy all CD members for discussing steps towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Five proposals are on the table but none are acceptable to all delegates and none have the support of the US or Britain. Unless a means is found to discuss what is felt by most delegates to be a very important issue the CD will remain deadlocked with little prospect of any substantive work being carried out in 1999.

The most notable proposal is tabled by Belgium, on behalf of five NATO countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Norway), to establish an Ad-Hoc Working Group 'to study ways and means of establishing an exchange of information and views within the CD on endeavours towards nuclear disarmament'.

It is seen as very significant that it is five NATO countries making this pro-

posal. This is not something that happens every day. But when you remember that many NATO countries abstained rather than vote against the New Agenda Coalition resolution at the UN General Assembly, perhaps attitudes may be changing, albeit slowly.

This proposal is potentially amenable to almost everyone except Britain, the US and France. An alternative South African proposal for an Ad-Hoc Committee to 'deliberate upon practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons as well as to identify if and when one or more such steps should be the subject of negotiations in the CD' has much support but is not amenable to the NATO countries.

Following the two previous years when nothing was achieved at the CD except agreement that negotiations could begin on an FMT in 1999 it is vital that agreement is reached now so that progress can be made. The CD is the only UN body with a mandate to negotiate and agree multilateral international arms control agreements. With the current impasse on other disarmament treaties - START II, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty - there is a danger that the whole nuclear disarmament process could just fall apart.

What you can do:

Write expressing your concern at the lack of progress at the CD and emphasise the fact that for the Government to carry out their manifesto pledges they must support proposals for nuclear disarmament.

Write to: Tony Lloyd MP, Minister of State, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AL.

Trident Ploughshares 2000

Jury ignore judge

A jury in Preston failed to agree with the judge that three people who had attempted to disarm a Trident nuclear submarine were guilty. After eight days they could not reach even a majority verdict and the judge declared a hung jury. This means the three defendants were neither found guilty nor not guilty. There will be a retrial starting on 11 October.

The three Swedish activists from the Bread not Bombs Ploughshares group had gone into the shipyard at Barrow last September in an attempt to disarm HMS Vengeance a week before its launch. In defence they argued that they were trying to prevent a crime under international law. They explained that all other methods to stop Trident had been tried and that they felt compelled to take direct action. The judge argued that nuclear weapons were not illegal and that whether they are right and wrong was not the issue. He

indicated that the jury had no option but to find the three guilty as they had agreed that they had intended to damage the submarine or other equipment in the shipyard. Some of the jury evidently disagreed.

One of the defendants, Stellan Vinthagen said, "We are really impressed that a jury of ordinary citizens from a town so dependent on weapons production refused to find us guilty, in spite of them being told by the judge that that was their only option".

The three had already spent six months in prison on remand. They were released on bail providing that they did not go within 1/4 mile of Barrow shipyards - the Trident submarine is now at Faslane. They are free to return to Sweden.

One of the people who took part in this action will be speaking at a Nottingham CND Public Meeting in October. See page 3 for more details.

Local Heroes Arrested

Seven Scottish Trident Ploughshares activists were arrested on 22 April after blockading the north gate of Faslane Naval Base on the Clyde, where the UK's Trident nuclear weapons submarines are based. At 7.45am they attached themselves to a steel wire which they slung across the gateway and displayed a banner and placards reading: "Trident = Genocide". It took MOD police more than half an hour to remove them, while the queue of base workers' cars tailed back for quite a distance. Included in this traffic were the escort vehicles for the nuclear warhead convoy, which was in Coulpport at the time.

One of the seven, Jane Tallents, said: "When words and phrases such as 'genocide' and 'ethnic cleansing' are on everyone's lips because of the war in Yugoslavia it is vital to remind people that Trident has been made specifically to threaten and commit genocide. Nuclear war means millions of dead, millions of injured with no hope of medical attention and many millions of refugees who will have no safe zone to go to, no rescue services. As local people we have to do something about this outrage on our doorstep."

The activists are members of the Local Heroes affinity group, one of the many new Trident 2000 Ploughshares affinity groups that are emerging all the time.

Nottingham Green Festival 1999

Now in its umpteenth (16th?) year, under one name or another, this event once again colonises Victoria Embankment on Sunday 5th September, aiming for a day of fun, frolics, food and deep thought.

Nottingham CND members again hope to help, both as stallholders and taking part in the organising team, who are all volunteers. "People, Planet, Peace" is the slogan still, the efforts of mystery lobbyists having failed to have it changed to "a smile, a song and a petition to central government".

Things change over the years. Musical acts now need no pleading to keep the stage free of blood and dead sheep's heads (as was necessary around 1985 -

honest). Other things stay the same. Grant aid is as tight, publicity as expensive and helpers as warmly appreciated as ever.

There now follows a request ... not for huge numbers of people, but for a few people at specific times before and after the event. Friday Sep 3rd, daytime ... Saturday Sep 4th, daytime ... Sunday, evening afterwards, 6.30 to 9pm ... Monday Sep 6th, daytime. These are just the times when help is most vital, yet least available up to now. phone me

Also, if you are able to distribute posters in your area, that would be extremely helpful. Posters are just about the only form of publicity we can afford.

Jeremy Jago

Campaign Against Arms Trade

Here is part of a recent report from CAAT News about the protest outside and inside this years British Aerospace (BAe) AGM. BAe is targeted by CAAT for being the UK's largest arms exporter, selling arms to various unsavoury regimes including Indonesia. Recently BAe won a US army contract to supply the explosive RDX which is a constituent of landmines - this may be a breach of the Landmines Act 1998 which makes it an offence to supply or enter into contract to supply any component part of anti-personnel mines.

We always seem to have the weather on our side for the protests outside BAe AGM. The sun shone, the skies were blue, and the people were smiling. The Kurdish protesters sang and danced and spoke passionately against the sale of weapons to Turkey - a regime carrying out a violent repression against the Kurds. Amongst the crowds of supporters were also protesters from East Timor, Pakistan, India, Chile, and all over the UK.

Two extremely pregnant women painted slogans on their bellies and posed for the the paparazzi, who were also busy snapping away when around fifteen pro-

testers staged a very effective die-in. Speakers included the inspired Mark Thomas, Nick Harvey MP, and many of the token shareholders as they were ejected from the meeting inside. Dividend cheques were burnt.

It was a really positive protest, great fun, and delivered a very clear message to the 'men in suits' as well as passers-by.

Inside the AGM, Dick Evans, Chair of the Board of Directors of BAe, side stepped most of the moral and ethical questions asked by CAAT members. Such considerations seemed beyond his comprehension.