



DIARY Events

Early September

Arrest the Convoy. In view of the World Court decision help to uphold the law by joining Faslane Peace Camp and Scottish CND in arresting the next Trident Convoy.
Contact: Scottish CND 0141 423 1222

Monday 2 September

9.00am: Stop The Farnborough Arms Fair. Assemble at end of Reading Rd adjoining the main Farnborough Rd (A325). Silent march to blockade.

Contact: Campaign Against Arms Trade 0171 281 0297

Wednesday 4 September

7.00pm: London Region CND Council meeting at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1 (near Holborn tube). Speaker: from the Campaign to Free Vanunu.

Contact: London Region CND 0171 607 2302

Saturday 21 September

10.30am-5.30pm Stop the Arms Fairs! A one day conference on the roll arms fairs play in the promotion of UK weapons sales and what you can do to close them down. At Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston on Thames.

Contact: Kingston Peace Council/CND 0181 399 2547.

Saturday 28 September

2.30pm -6.30pm World Court welcoming party at the Battle Bridge Centre, Battle Bridge Rd, London NW1 (behind King's Cross station) for the 4 million signatures for the Declaration of Public Conscience coming from The Hague after a five-nation tour.

Contact: George Farebrother 01323 844269

Saturday 28 September

7.30pm-10.30pm: Vanunu Benefit Concert at the Camden Centre, Camden Town Hall, Euston Rd, London NW1. With Arnold Brown, Arthur Smith, Mark Steel, Susannah York, Bruce Kent and others. Tickets £8/£4.

Contact: 0171 378 9324

Monday 7 October

7.00pm: Launch of London Chernobyl Children's Project at Friends' Meeting House, Euston Rd, London NW1 with Elfyn Llwyd MP, Frank Blackaby and Linda Walker. Chair: Bruce Kent.

Contact: 0181 533 5838

Sunday 13 October

2.00pm-4.00pm: Towards A Nuclear-Free World public meeting with Commander Rob Green (RN (rtd.) UK Chair, World Court Project) and Danny Thompson (Project co-ordinator for Abolition 2000).

Contact: 01372 727462

Regular Events

First Tuesday of the month

7.30am-9.30am: Vigil outside AWE Burghfield

Contact: Wokingham Peace Group 01734 341069

First Saturday of the month

Quaker mixed gathering for peace at Menwith Hill

Contact: Anni 01943 466405

Last weekend of every other month

Sellafeld Women's Peace Camp, outside the Visitor's Centre. Dates: 27-29 Sept.

Contact: 34 Byron Street, Todmorden OL14 5HS. Tel: 01706 814404

Constant

Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp, Kettlesing Lay-By, A59 Harrogate-Skipton Rd, 7 miles west of Harrogate.

Contact: Helen 01943 468593

Faslane Peace Camp, A814 near Shandon, Helensburgh

Contact: 01436 820901

Street Poll

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the Street Poll over the summer. We are in the process of collating the results and will release them shortly. If you still haven't sent in the results then please do so as soon as possible. Send them to: Tony Myers, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.

Art Exhibition

The fourth national art exhibition and sale took place earlier this summer and, as usual, was a roaring success. Enormous thanks go mainly to Victor Tesser, the organiser (pictured), for all his hard work, and to Betty West, Stuart Minto and all the volunteers who helped to staff the Exhibition.



A selection of limited edition prints, donated by well known artists is available. Contact Victor Tesser on 0181 883 4351.

NOTTS. UNISON

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SEPTEMBER

Issue 5

1996



Photo: Tim Ridley

ILLEGAL!

Carol Naughton, Vice-Chair

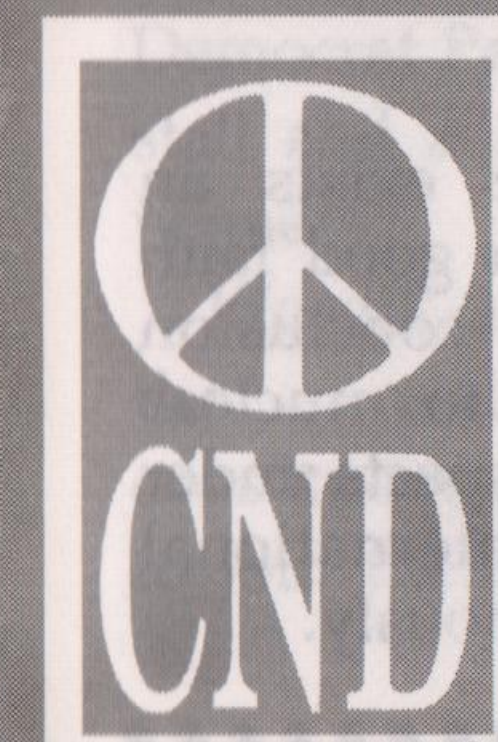
"Is the threat or use of nuclear weapons in any circumstances permitted under International Law?". The International Court of Justice (known as The World Court) answered "NO!".

The consequences for the nuclear weapons states are enormous, their legal status is now challenged. The ruling from The Hague was quite clear that nuclear weapons are illegal, with the only possible exception being "in an extreme circumstance of self-defence, in which the very survival of a state would be at stake".

The implication is that NATO's insistence on the first-strike option (to use nuclear weapons first) is now illegal. Illegal too is the UK's sub-strategic "deterrence" doctrine, that we have come to know as the Rifkind Doctrine. This states that in order to keep the UK "deterrence" policy credible we need to possess "the capability to undertake a more limited nuclear strike in order to induce a political decision to halt aggression by delivering an unmistakable message of our willingness to defend our vital interests to the utmost".

The court cited the Nuremburg Principles in the body of customary International Law to which it is now confirmed nuclear weapons are to be subject. All military professionals must now review their attitude to nuclear weapons, knowing they could be indicted for war crimes.

This is a huge push towards the abolition of all nuclear weapons and a real tribute to those of the World Court Project who worked so hard to pull us all together to keep the pressure on delegates from all over the world. It was through their effort that, for the first time, the court accepted "citizens' evidence" in support of a case, in this instance 3.7 million individually signed Declarations of Public Conscience.



Inside: 4 extra pages
on UK nuclear
accidents

Nukes Outlawed

Tony Myers, Campaigns Worker

"Nuclear arms are illegal, court rules." So ran the headline in the Daily Telegraph. The decisions of the International Court of Justice effectively outlaw the threat or use of nuclear weapons. Even in the case of the only possible loophole left open, the

Court could not conclude definitively whether nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence. As Commander

Rob Green, Royal Navy (ret.), the UK Chair of the World Court Project, stated: "I could never have used a nuclear weapon legally." Indeed, any submarine commander cannot now order the launching of a nuclear warhead and neither can a crew member of that submarine obey such an order. It also calls into question the whole of the British nuclear policy including the Riffkind Doctrine concerning the sub-strategic use of Trident (also known as Tactical Trident).

Nuclear weapons cannot be disinvented but they can be eliminated. The United Nations Conference on Disarmament should get immediate negotiations underway for a global Nuclear Weapons convention as called for by the World Court similar to the Chemical Weapons Convention already agreed.

The best summary comes from Peter Weiss, the Co-President of the International Association of

Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, in his analysis of the decision:

"The decision of the International Court of Justice is not perfect. But it will go down as one of the most important decisions in the history of the Court and of the law of warfare. And it is close to perfect in that it affirms that the

threat and use of nuclear weapons are subject to humanitarian law, environmental law and human rights law; that the threat and use of nuclear weapons are generally prohibited

under international law, subject to an extremely narrow and highly speculative possible exception; that nuclear deterrence cannot be said to be sanctioned by law and that there is a solemn obligation to conduct and conclude negotiations leading to the complete abolition of nuclear weapons - not at some distant date in the next century, but now, before the advent of holocaust by inertia."

Sounds good to me!

What groups can do

- Write to the press using some of the points written here.
- Write to the MoD - Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP, MoD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB. Ask them to explain how Britain's nuclear policy can continue in the light of the decision.
- Support non-violent direct actions and peace camps (see article on page 4)

Some of the decisions of the Court

Vote C "A threat or use of force by means of nuclear weapons that is contrary to Article 2, paragraph 4 of the United Nations Charter and that fails to meet all the requirements of Article 51 is unlawful". Passed unanimously.

Vote D "A threat or use of nuclear weapons should also be compatible with the requirements of the international law applicable in armed conflict, particularly those of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, as well as specific obligations under treaties and other undertakings which expressly deal with nuclear weapons". Passed unanimously.

Vote E "It follows from the above-mentioned requirements that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law. However, in view of the current state of international law, and of the elements of fact at its disposal, the Court cannot conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence, in which the very survival of a state would be at stake". Passed by 8 votes to 7 (three of the judges voting against did so because they took the complete illegality view and did not agree with the possible "extreme circumstances" exception so, in effect, the vote for illegality was 10 to 4).

Vote F "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control". Passed unanimously.

What's happening?

Tony Myers, Campaigns Worker & Nigel Chamberlain, Cumbria CND

CND Lobbyists please contact William Peden, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ Tel: 0171 700 4524.

Nukewatch

Your local authority will have received the updated Ministry of Defence (MoD) guidelines known as the Local Authority and Emergency Service Information (LAESI). Theoretically, these guidelines may be better than before, but could the emergency services cope with the consequences of an accident and how likely are desktop plans to work in reality? Following the less than impressive and hugely expensive warhead convoy exercise in Northumberland recently, County Councillors were stunned to see that CND and Nukewatch appeared to know more about the subject than they did. They decided to call an open meeting to discuss the MoD's report of the exercise, when it becomes available, in light of the LAESI guidelines and have invited Nukewatch to participate.

And remember, the MoD has only come this far with great reluctance and as a result of consistent pressure from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities and persistent campaigning from Nukewatchers everywhere!

What you can do

Why not write to your local council and see if they have asked the MoD for the report of the Northumberland exercise and if they have plans to discuss LAESI guidelines at an open meeting. If not, ask if they are satisfied with the quality of information coming out of the Home Office.

Exhibition & Leaflet

A new leaflet is now available called "What can nuclear weapons do for you?" (see Sales Order Form) in response to requests from groups for a more general, long-term leaflet that is not tied to a specific event. As always, let us know your thoughts on this, or indeed anything else we produce. To accompany our Autumn campaign we are also producing an eight-sheet Exhibition, covering the points made on the leaflet and highlighting the illegality of Tactical Trident, which should be available by October.

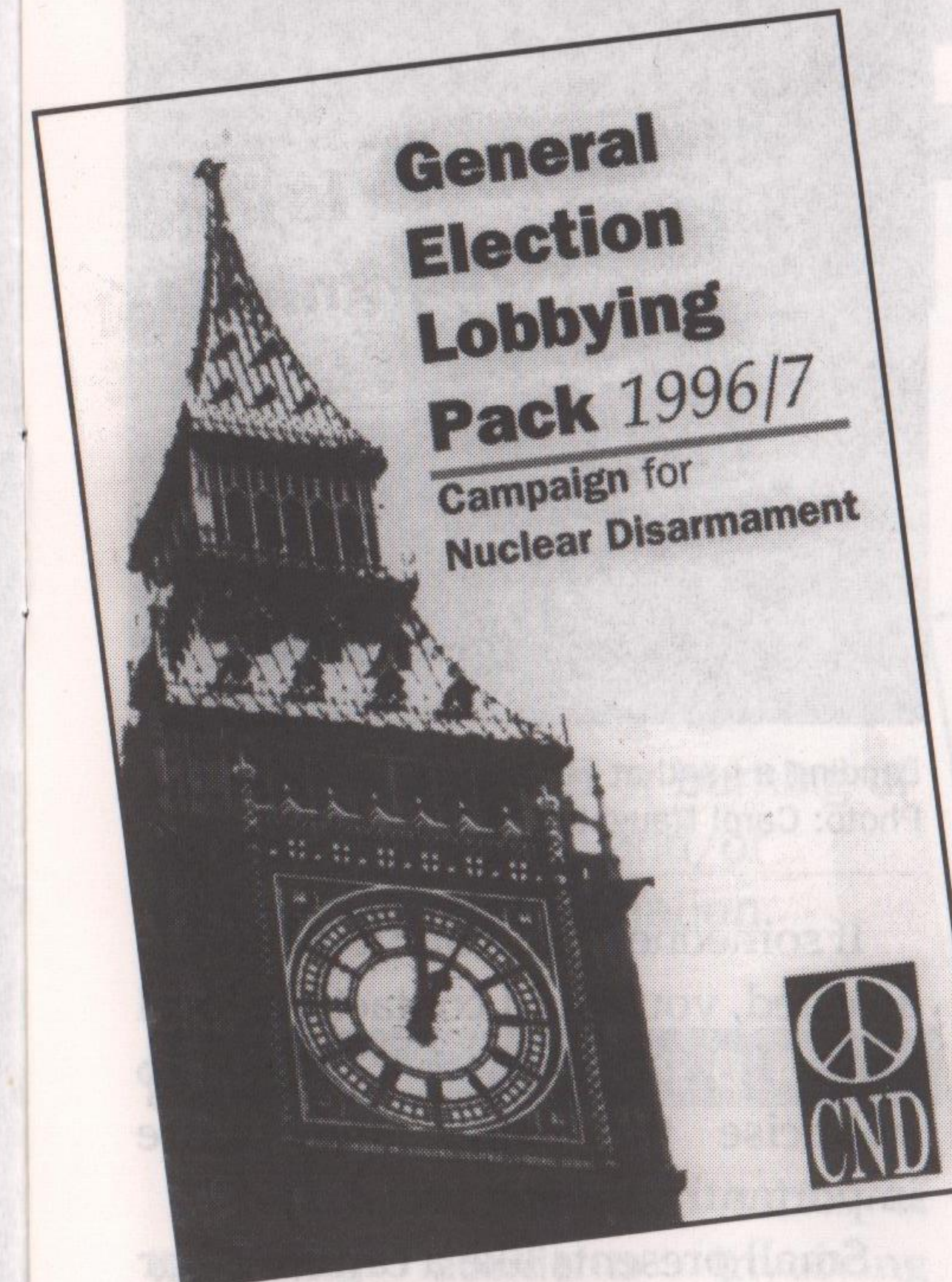
Abolition 2000

Abolition 2000 emerged from the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference where anti-nuclear activists from around the world put together an 11-point statement calling for the conclusion of negotiations on a treaty by the year 2000 to eliminate nuclear weapons. CND was involved from its inception and is one of the endorsing organisations. As part of this commitment we will be lobbying MP's and centring a lot of our press work around the new Blueprint (see order form on page 11). Also available from Holloway Road are more copies of the Abolition 2000 petition (or photocopy your original) and copies of the Abolition 2000 statement.

General Election

Although we still do not know the date of the General Election, we can certainly prepare for it by campaigning on a number of issues. All groups should have received the General Election Lobby Pack and a copy of the new Blueprint For A Nuclear Weapon-Free World. The Lobby Pack contains all you need to know about the key issues involving nuclear weapons as well as the CND Manifesto that we recommend for adoption by the political parties before the General Election. CND will also be present at the Labour Party and Liberal Democrat Party Conferences with a stall and a fringe meeting at each venue.

We still need lobbyists to talk to the candidates in your constituencies, so if you would like to join the nationwide network of



Peace camps and you

Now nuclear weapons are illegal we must uphold the law!

Eirlys Rhiannon, Vice Chair

Banners outside the Sellafield Visitors Centre, "Real Information" leaflets at the entrance, paint on the sea walls at Faslane, trespassers at Menwith, court appearances at Whitehaven, tents and peace signs at the entrance to Aldermaston. Peace camps are about many things to many people - bearing witness, taking action, causing trouble. They're not the only focus for non-violent direct action, but they are a good place to start. Here's how you can help:

What You Can Do If You're Coming:

If it's your first time, the main thing is to relax! Don't be afraid to ask questions - "old hands" often forget to pass on essential information, so jog their memories! You don't need to do any direct action if you don't want to but make sure you are well briefed on the implications before you do anything.

Helping people get there:

Be a "Transport Contact" for your local area with information about how to get to Faslane, Sellafield, etc. by public transport and a contact for whoever might be driving there. Transport subsidies are always welcomed by any low-waged or unwaged peace campers. If there is nobody local needing a subsidy, you can always send donations direct to the camp and mark it "Transport Subsidy".

Publicity:

If your group has a stall, leaflets are available to publicise the regular camps. You could also take copies to local health food shops, bookshops or other alternative groups in the area, such as Friends of the Earth, Earth First, etc.

Invite a speaker from one of the camps to speak at a meeting or, even better, if you've recently been to a camp, equip yourself with the facts about the base and offer yourself to groups as a speaker.

If you've got good photos of a camp, or even just a good story, contact any local alternative publications and get them to run a story about the camp.

What you can do at home:

Even if you can't physically make it to a camp, there are lots of ways that you can be there in spirit. You could be available at the end of a phone. If any campers are arrested, a call to the relevant police station always helps.



Lending a hand at Faslane.
Photo: Carol Naughton

If someone from your local area is arrested, you could contact the local press. It will be another chance to publicise the camp and, more importantly, the issues.

Small presents like a card or a bar of (preferably vegan) chocolate always bring smiles around the camp fire and give everyone something nice to think about if they find themselves in a cold police cell later on.

Peace camps always need food, camping equipment, paint, brushes and sheets for banner making cheap printing for leaflets, vehicles, money and, most of all, people!

Current Peace Camps

- **Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp** - 2nd weekend of each month. Contact: 0117 909 9448. 24 Tyne St, Bristol BS2 9UA
- **Burghfield Women's Peace Camp** - Last weekend of each month. Contact: 01703 554434. 30 West Wood Rd, Southampton SO17 1DN
- **Faslane Peace Camp** - Permanent, yes permanent. Faslane Peace Camp is staying open and there will be action weekends and gatherings on the first weekend of every month. Contact: 01436 820901. A814, nr Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, Scotland G84 8HT
- **Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp** - Permanent. Contact: 0585 329313. Outside Menwith Hill US Spy Base, Kettleing Lay-By, nr Harrogate, N Yorkshire HG3 2RA
- **Sellafield Women's Peace Camp** - Last weekend of every other month. Next dates 27-29 September and 23-24 November. Contact: 01706 812663. c/o Peace House, 34 Byron St, Todmorden, W Yorkshire OL14 5HS

BROKEN ARROW

TOP SECRET

Broken Arrow :- An official term used to describe the most serious type of nuclear weapon accident - short of full detonation - involving non-nuclear detonation or burning of a nuclear weapon, and/or radioactive contamination.

Eddie Goncalves, Press Officer

CND has revealed a series of terrifying accidents involving nuclear weapons at British and American nuclear bases in the UK.

These top secret accidents include nuclear weapons being dropped from an aircraft at Wittering, burnt so badly in a fire at Lakenheath that the nuclear triggers were exposed, and in the worst accident so far revealed, burnt and releasing enriched Uranium into the environment at Greenham Common.

The disgraceful cover up of these accidents has revealed one of the prices that we are paying for the bomb. Accidents deemed "politically sensitive" are withheld from the general public, putting lives at risk to maintain the nuclear status quo.

The next three pages outline the extent of the accidents revealed so far, details of how to get CND's full report on the Greenham accidents, and what you can do to put the pressure on this government to come clean on all the nuclear accidents they are shamefully covering up.

EXCLUSIVE A US bomber loaded with nuclear weapons exploded in the heart of England, poisoning a wide area. The Americans said it never happened and the British conspired in the cover-up. The lies still go on about a catalogue of accidents

When nuclear bombs blazed in Berkshire



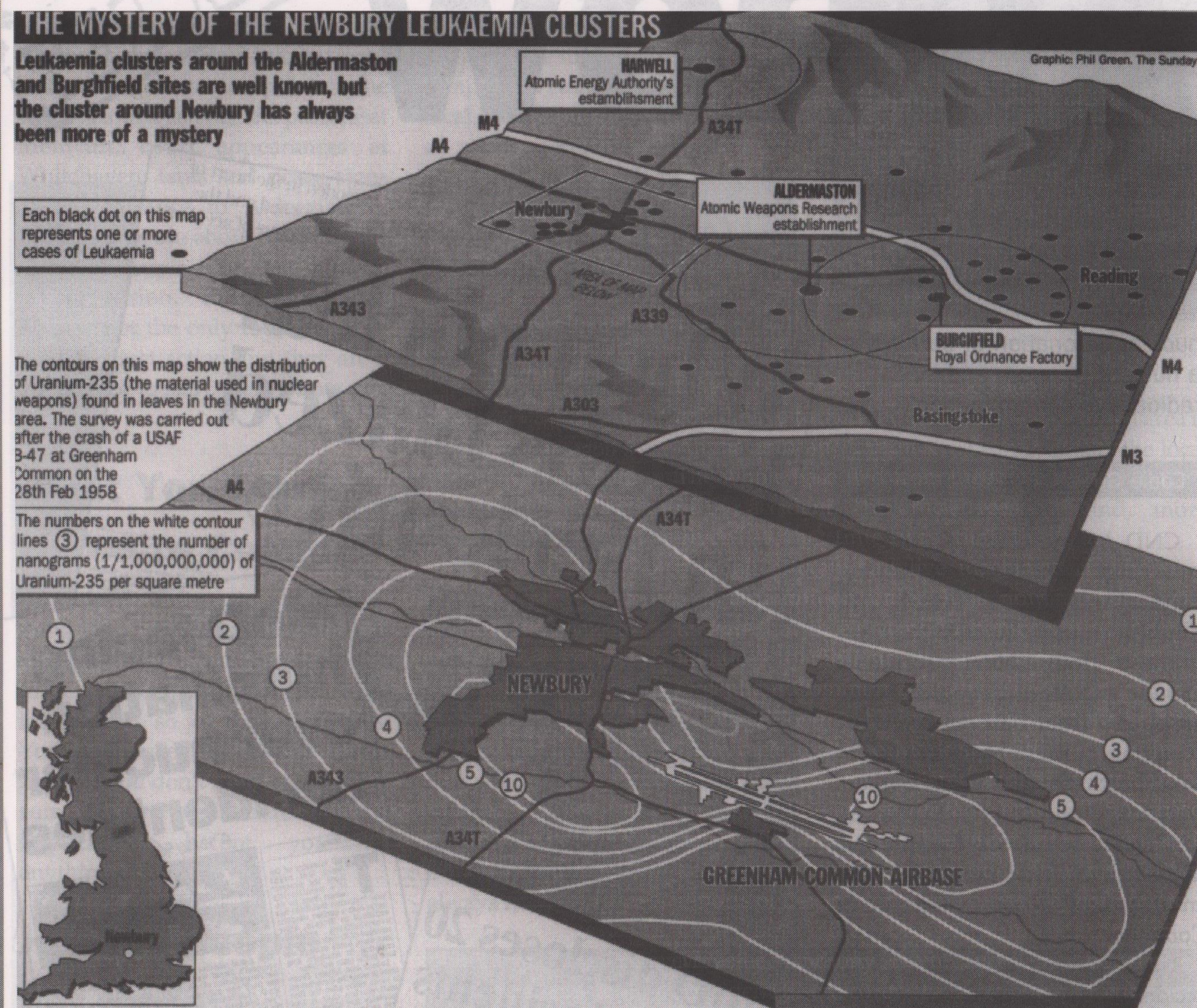
MoD facing humiliation over nuclear accident lies

MoD discloses 20 nuclear incidents
By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent
14.8.96
it was dropped accidentally on Wittering in Cambridgeshire. A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said that if a bomb had been dropped on Wittering, it would have been a disaster.

Nuclear denial 'not enough'
By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent
14.8.96
The next three pages outline the extent of the accidents revealed so far, details of how to get CND's full report on the Greenham accidents, and what you can do to put the pressure on this government to come clean on all the nuclear accidents they are shamefully covering up.

Former pilot derides MoD version of dummy bomb
By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent
14.8.96
The next three pages outline the extent of the accidents revealed so far, details of how to get CND's full report on the Greenham accidents, and what you can do to put the pressure on this government to come clean on all the nuclear accidents they are shamefully covering up.

Lies, damned lies and nuclear accidents



The documents exposed by CND show that the British and American Governments have deliberately covered up a number of accidents involving nuclear weapons at various bases in Britain. The first such accident revealed took place at Greenham Common in 1957 when an American B47 bomber, loaded with its nuclear weapon, caught fire. The bomb burnt, releasing deadly uranium and possibly also plutonium oxide powder over an area of several miles around the

base. The investigation by Aldermaston scientists reported in 1961, to the UK Atomic Energy Authority, that they had discovered Uranium-235 levels between 100 - 3,000 times greater than could be accounted for by discharges from AWRE.

The total number of people affected could be enormous. There is a well-known cancer cluster in the area, and the unusually high incidence of radiation-linked cancer among local children has always

been linked to the atomic weapons research establishments at Aldermaston and Burghfield. But the Government enquiry into the clusters, conducted by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE), was deliberately not told about the amount of radioactive dust known to have been released at the time of the accident. One local school, which has since closed, was located at the centre of the highest radioactive hotspot found by

Government scientists. Over the years, radioactive dust has been repeatedly disturbed and blown over the area, and thousands of people have visited the base for Air Shows. Service personnel, civilian staff, police, peace campaigners, local residents and journalists have all been put at risk. A follow-up survey by Aldermaston scientists in 1986 confirmed the findings of the original report yet still no clean-up operation has ever been mounted.

Among many disturbing facts in the report are:

1. A report by US Government scientists from that time, which depicts a hypothetical scenario almost identical to events at Greenham Common, says the base may have to be "written off" permanently. The US Pentagon's Defence Nuclear Agency planning document on nuclear accidents states: "In a nuclear weapon accident, the most likely cause of injury or death is inhaling radioactive alpha particles".
2. The British and US Governments are believed to have agreed as early as 1956 to deny that nuclear weapons were present in any accident involving American nuclear bombers stationed in the UK.
3. American bombing exercises in Britain frequently carried live nuclear weapons, even when flying over cities such as London.

If the accident had come to light at the time, in the very month that CND was formed, it is very likely that the public outcry would have been such that it would have been extremely difficult to maintain a US nuclear presence in Britain and the development of the British bomb would certainly have been affected.

The runway has now been crushed and stands in great piles, known locally as "The Alps of Berkshire", blowing dust over the surrounding area. The rubble is now starting to be used as hardcore in the foundations of the controversial Newbury by-pass.

Tip of the iceberg? Three other accidents uncovered so far

1956 USAF Lakenheath

An American B-47 bomber crashed on landing, hitting the nuclear weapon storage bunker. The accident was covered up until 1979 when an American investigative newspaper revealed that a USAF officer said the accident could have turned the whole of East Anglia into an "irradiated desert". The whole base fled from the scene of the accident. The official reason given at the time was that the burning aircraft had live machine gun ammunition on it. It is now known that three Mark VI bombs, identical to those involved in the Greenham Common accident, were damaged, one so badly that it was "a miracle that one Mark six with exposed detonators sheared didn't go", according to a secret cable now declassified by the US. The order to keep nuclear weapons out of reports of the accident came directly from both the British Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, and US President Eisenhower.

1959 RAF Wittering

A Valiant bomber, carrying a 2000lb nuclear weapon, accidentally jettisoned the bomb. According to the base Operations Record Book, "severe damage resulted to the weapon upon hitting the hard standing". When presented with

further evidence undermining its claim that there had never been an accident involving a nuclear weapon in the UK, the Ministry of Defence at first said that it never commented on leaked documents. When it was pointed out that the record book was in the Public Record Office, the MoD did a sensational U-turn, admitting for the first time that there had been a number of "minor incidents" involving nuclear weapons, but the bomb at Wittering was a "dummy round". However, Air Commodore Alistair Mackie (ret'd) told the Guardian that the MoD's version of events was "incredible".

1961?

On January 16 1961, an American nuclear bomber at an unknown USAF base in Britain was involved in an accident so serious that its nuclear weapon was "scorched and blistered", according to secret correspondence dated 23/1/61 between the Chairman of the US Joint Commission on Atomic Energy and the Secretary of Defense's office. The accident happened at 9.50am when an aircraft on round-the-clock alert crashed on take-off, causing spilled fuel to erupt into flames which engulfed the aircraft. A nuclear weapon mounted on the aircraft's centreline pylon was badly damaged before the fire could be put out. The US Government has never acknowledged the accident or its precise location, and it is not included on the Pentagon's official list of "Broken Arrow" accidents.

CND recommends the following actions:

1. All readings ever taken by Aldermaston and the Defence Radiological Protection Service must be made public without delay, and all files relating to nuclear weapons accidents and investigations - including Board of Inquiry reports - should be released for publication.

2. The British Government must demand from the American Government all evidence and information about the fires and accidents of 1957 and 1958, including base logbooks and readings taken for uranium and plutonium inside the base, and place it in the public domain.

3. There must be a full and open Public Inquiry into the accident, the circumstances surrounding it and the effects on the local area and local populations, including an investigation into the Government's repeated failure to pass on evidence about contamination to Parliament and the Government's own Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment.

4. The immediate area of Greenham Common should be vacated and secured pending a full radiological survey undertaken by an agency independent of the Government, using detailed soil sampling techniques at regular intervals on and around the runway.

5. The Government must make available facilities for free health checks to all service personnel and civilians who have

visited the base, or who have worked, lived or received education in the area, who currently work, live and receive education in the area, and who are concerned that they may have been contaminated by radioactive dust. If necessary, the Government should set up a telephone 'hotline' to provide advice.

6. The crushed concrete from the runway must be covered, removed and disposed of immediately in order to prevent the continued dispersal of dust.

7. The Government must begin a clean-up operation to minimise the impact of radiation on local water tables, crops and animals reared for food. Any contaminated soil, vegetation or concrete must be removed and disposed of in a proper store for nuclear waste.

8. The COMARE inquiry into cancer clusters in West Berkshire and North Hampshire should be reopened, and COMARE researchers should have access to all records and data on the Greenham Common accident.

9. The Government should ask the IAEA to carry out its own investigation into the accident, The Government should be bound by all its findings and recommendations.

10. The European Commission should authorise an enquiry under the terms of the EURATOM Treaty, including the right of access to all documents and independent monitoring.

Help us to get to the truth:

Nuclear Bases in the UK (past and present)

Present UK:

Coulport/Faslane (Argyll & Bute),
RAF Marham (Norfolk),
RAF Honington (Norfolk)

Present US:

Lakenheath (Suffolk)

Past UK:

Portsmouth/Frater (Hampshire),
Plymouth (Devon),
Cottesmore (Leicestershire),
Gaydon (Oxon),
Wittering (Cambridgeshire),
Coningsby (Lincolnshire),
Finningley (Lincolnshire),
Scampton (Lincolnshire),
Waddington (Lincolnshire),
Feltwell (Norfolk),
North Luffenham (Leicestershire),
Hemswell (Lincolnshire),
Great Driffield (Humberside).

Past US:

Holy Loch (Argyll & Bute),
Machrihanish (Western Isles),
St Mawgan (Cornwall),
Alconbury (Cambridgeshire),
Molesworth (Cambridgeshire),
Bentwaters/Woodbridge (Suffolk),
Fairford (Gloucestershire),
Greenham Common (Berkshire),
Mildenhall (Suffolk),
Sculthorpe (Norfolk),
Upper Heyford (Oxon),
Wethersfield (Essex).

If you live near any of these current or former nuclear bases write to the MoD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A2HB asking for the Operations Record Books of the bases to be released and for the data base containing information on nuclear accidents to be made open to the public under the Open Government Initiative. Also get your MP to raise the issue in the defence debate at the end of October. Enclosed with this issue of Campaign is a petition calling for the government to come clean on the nuclear accidents. Please photocopy it and use it on your stall or general street work. Copies of the complete Broken Arrow report are available (see sales order form on page 11) or you can visit the CND Web site: <http://www.cnduk.org/cnd>

Nuclear test ban treaty in jeopardy?

William Peden, Campaigns and Parliamentary Worker

There are two hurdles to getting a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to the United Nations in New York. These are the adoption of a report of the Committee on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty with the CTBT text attached as an appendix and then the adoption of the report of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) itself.

At either stage, a veto from any participating country is possible, which would effectively block either report.

At this time there is no way that the CD will agree by consensus to a CTBT as it stands. India and Iran are both standing firm and refusing to agree to anything.

Therefore, the only option open is for a group of states or "Friends of the Treaty" to take it to the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly when it opens on September 16.

However, this leaves the CTBT open to amendment by non-aligned states unless there is a massive majority who vote down any amendments and a vote overwhelmingly for the CTBT text.

India and Iran have been set up to take the blame for the CTBT failure by Britain's and Russia's insistence from the start of negotiations in January that the "Entry into Force" provision must include a rigid list of states including India, Israel and Pakistan. In any multilateral treaty this is an unheard of inclusion. All past treaties have included a simple



numerical formula of say forty states having to sign before entry into force.

The rigid list of 44 states also includes some of the poorest nations in the world like Bangladesh and Zaire. Bangladesh has stated, publicly, that they cannot afford to sign up to a CTBT as it will involve a substantial financial commitment from them being a member of the Executive Committee.

The CTBT text will now go to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 16 where we have to hope it is not amended so drastically that we lose it for ever.

One way of possibly winning support for the CTBT at the UNGA is for the Nuclear Weapons States (Britain, France, China, Russia and the United States) to agree to the establishment of an ad hoc Committee on Disarmament at the CD. This committee would have no negotiating powers but would at least show a commitment (however slight) by the Nuclear Weapons States to the global abolition of nuclear weapons by starting to talk about it. The establishment of this committee is being blocked by the

United States and Britain at present, with France, China and Russia amenable to the idea.

An even greater problem is that the United States is now threatening the Conference on Disarmament (CD) itself. If we lose the CD, we lose the only body with the power to actually negotiate a worldwide nuclear weapons abolition treaty. It meets for thirty weeks of the year and includes those nations that have not yet signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, such as India, Israel and Pakistan.

Let's hope that the CD survives, that a CTBT is achieved by the end of the year so that 1997 can begin with a world one step closer towards getting rid of nuclear weapons.

What you can do:

Write to the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AA. Ask him if Britain will commit itself to setting up an Ad-Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament at the Conference on Disarmament.

CND Annual Conference '96

23-24 November 1996 at the University of London Union

Tony Myers, Conference Organiser

Not long to go now before the fun-packed Conference is with us again. Many thanks to all those who took advantage of the cheaper rate and registered early. If the number of people registering continues at the current rate, we could have the biggest Conference for some years. As well as this, the press coverage we are receiving at the moment is enormous and we could attract more representatives from the

media than we have managed in recent years. We are very pleased to announce that we have a first-class cabaret evening lined up for the Saturday night. This will feature comedians including Jeremy Hardy (from TV and Radio 4's The News Quiz) and Mark Little (formerly of Channel 4's The Big Breakfast) who was very active in the French nuclear testing campaign. There will be more details in the next issue of Campaign.

American resistance



NVDA outside the General Dynamics Plant

Rae Street, Gtr Manchester CND

I recently visited the US where I joined in a demonstration against the commissioning of the 17th Trident submarine, USS Wyoming. Two weeks later, I joined a dedicated crowd of resisters outside the General Dynamics boatyard where the launching of the 18th Trident, USS Louisiana, was being "celebrated" by what appeared to be the entire population of the small town of Groton, Connecticut. USS Louisiana is the final Trident sub but, of course, not the final nuclear-armed sub. The Groton yard is already well on its way with fast

attack submarines and so the development of the vast and useless US nuclear arsenal continues remorselessly. It was a North American commentator who said "this is not nuclear deterrence, it is nuclear domination". Three nuns and a grandmother, the "Weep For The Children Plowshares", went into the base earlier on the same Saturday and hammered a missile cone. The crew came up on deck and yelled "Hey, there's high security on, how did ya get in?". The four were arrested, but released the same day. ● Write to them c/o Ardeth Platte OP, Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Avenue,

The registration fees are as follows:

Delegates from CND groups and affiliates £25

Waged individual members £25

Youth and Student delegates £8

Unwaged individual members £8

Deadlines

Registration (with accommodation) Friday 25 October

Registration (without accommodation) Friday 8 November

Baltimore, MD 21216, USA. In Wisconsin, I met John LaForge, Barb Katt and other members of Stop Project ELF, Nukewatch and WAMM (Women Against Military Madness), all long time non-violent protesters against Trident. A particular focus in Wisconsin is the Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) system which is essential for getting in touch with the Trident subs which go so deep that neither radar nor the very low frequency signals can reach them. The site in Wisconsin is strung with high energy wires for over 46 miles. In a Plowshares action on Earth Day, 22 April, Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings used handsaws to cut down the antenna poles. I was allowed to visit them in jail, where they are kept indoors the whole time in prison uniform. Their case comes up in September. They acted for all of us, please support them. ● Write to them c/o Ashland County Jail, 221 7th Street E, Ashland WI 54806, USA. ● If you would like contact addresses, or the report I prepared for CND, please write to: Rae Street, Calder Cottage, Hare Hill Rd, Littleborough, Lancs OL15 9HG

Muriel's Grapevine What's Going On



Helensburgh CND's "People Powered Trident Recycling Machine" converting Tridents into hospitals, housing, jobs and even cream teas and organic carrots!

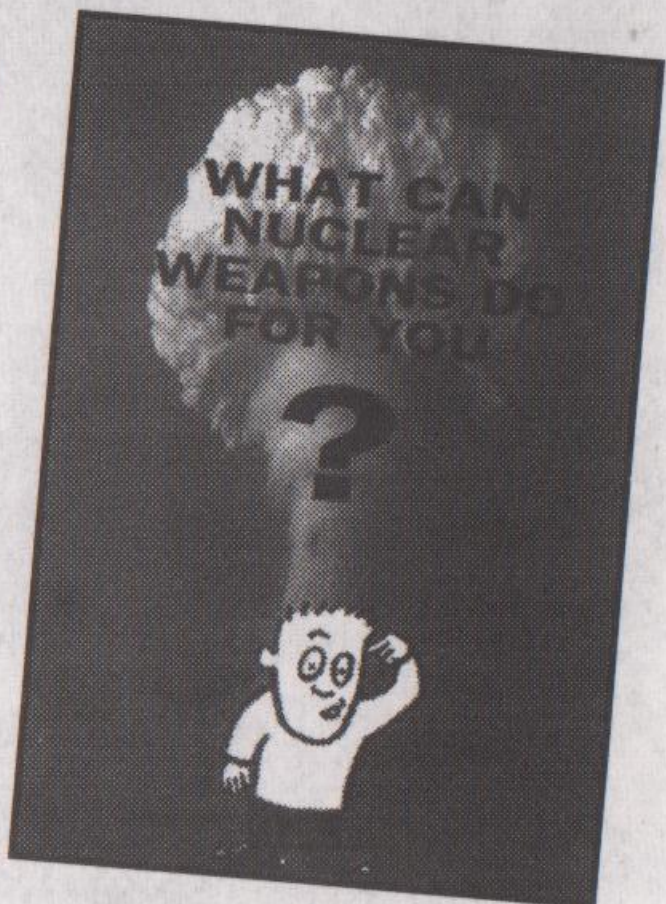
Groups everywhere have been campaigning with the Abolition 2000 petition, the Street Poll and by highlighting the World Court decision. In the last few weeks there has been a huge amount of media interest, mainly due to the Broken Arrow report, and it's up to us to capitalise on the fact that the media now take us seriously. CND Cymru says that low-level radioactive waste may be on the move to Hinkley Point for incineration, but British Energy will not inform local authorities along the route. Meanwhile, there is a fear that Hinkley Point may become a national low-level incineration centre. As Mid-Somerset CND says, the incineration of low-level waste could best be described as "dispersal" rather than "disposal". (More information from the Low-Level Radiation Campaign, 9 North Road, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3BU).

The Home Office has now circulated information to local authorities and emergency services in Wales that US nuclear warheads regularly overfly these areas. Kingston Peace Council/CND noted that a report from the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance says that the ageing Magnox nuclear power station at Wylfa has been given a new lease of life for another 8 years. This is very worrying for the local

people who remember that the 1993 accident didn't become public until 1995, that the plant should have been closed down immediately to eliminate fire risk but was left for 9 hours before any action was taken and that it is suspected that the main purpose of the power station was the production of plutonium rather than electricity since a consignment of plutonium was sent to Japan under a special deal. Cumbrians Opposed to Radioactive Environment reports that the Health & Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate has granted a 10 year extension for the Magnox reactors at Sellafield and Chapelcross. A 20 year life-span was expected, but this extension now means that they have at least a 50 year life-span. When the Western European ministers met in Birmingham, West Midlands CND sent letters to them in their own languages asking the ministers to consider that the WEU Foreign and Defence Policy should emphasise co-operation and confidence building measures and should not have a nuclear weapons component and that a CTBT should be signed and ratified without delay. As a result, the Chair, Madelaine Haigh, was interviewed live on Radio WM. There is a lot going on. Keep your newsletters rolling in. Cheers, Muriel

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