

# Say no to Trident

by Martin Meteyard (Secretary, Anti-Trident Campaign)

Every trade unionist has heard of Cruise missiles by now. But what about Trident — Britain's very own contribution to stepping up the nuclear arms race?

The Government has been keeping very quiet about it. The Tories even 'forgot' to put it in their election manifesto. But Trident is on its way. And it's coming sooner than many people think.

£350 million or more may have been spent on Trident by mid-1984. The giant complex in which the submarines are to be built is now taking shape in Barrow. The prototype centre section to house the nuclear reactor has already been completed. Some underground tests on the warhead have almost certainly been carried out.

Trident is supposed to 'replace' Britain's present fleet of Polaris nuclear submarines. But it's some 'replacement':

- \* Each Trident sub would be able to hit up to 14 times as many targets.
- \* Trident warheads would be 10 times as accurate.
- \* Trident missiles would have more than twice the range.
- \* More Trident subs would be at sea at all times ready to fire their weapons.

It all adds up to massive one-sided rearmament. Trident junks even the dubious concept of deterrence. Such weapons are designed to hit the other side's *military* targets — and to hit them *first*.

Don't forget, too, that Trident would be 'independent' in name only. Normally it would be assigned to NATO. Trident would tie us to US 'first

strike' policies that threaten the very future of our world.

No time is to be lost if we are to avoid this appalling prospect.

The next few months will see a big lift in the anti-Trident campaign.

Saturday February 11 sees a major trade union conference entitled "What Price Trident? — Unemployment and the Bomb". Initiated by the ACTT and now supported by other leading unions NALGO, TGWU, NUPE, NUR and the FBU the conference is focusing on the economic consequences of the nuclear arms race, particularly on the impact of Trident. Speakers at the conference, which will be held at County Hall, London, will include Ron Todd, Hilary Wainwright, Tim Webb, Margaret Beckett M.P. and Rodney Bickerstaffe.

Later in the month, on February 25, the Anti-Trident Convention will be held in Manchester. It's hoped that the Convention will contribute towards the building of massive popular movement in opposition to Trident. Support is growing every day for the Convention and it looks like it will be a big success.

Meanwhile at Barrow-in-Furness, where the submarines are to be built, preparations for a day school on Alternative Employment to Trident have begun.

Opposition to Trident will be a central part of CND's campaigning this year. Trade Unionists at Rolls-Royce in Hillington, Glasgow, have already provided a major inspiration to the campaign with their refusal to handle work for the US-Trident system.

For further details: What Price Trident? conference: London, February 11. Contact: C/ACTT, 2 Soho Square, London W1V 6DD.

Anti-Trident Convention: Manchester, February 25. Contact: c/Anti-Trident Campaign, 420 Sauchiehall St., Glasgow G2 (041-332 3141).

## TRADE UNION CND: HINTS FOR ACTION

Trade Union CND is a specialist section of CND. Our role is to promote CND's aims in the trade union movement. TUCND will offer whatever assistance we can to any union and/or CND member who wishes to promote CND in the union movement.

### FIRST STEPS

If you're a union member you could consider the following steps:

- \* Join CND nationally and/or locally.
- \* Wear a CND badge to work.
- \* Talk to your workmates about CND and CND activities.
- \* Display CND posters at work.
- \* Keep a small stock of literature for people who want more information.

### INFLUENCING YOUR UNION

- \* Suggest that your union branch invite a CND speaker.
- \* Move a policy resolution opposing the nuclear arms race at your branch. Model resolutions are available from TUCND.
- \* Urge your branch to affiliate the CND. Details are available from TUCND.

- \* Suggest that your branch distribute CND material and sponsor CND activities.
- \* Persuade your branch to take action itself, appoint a CND liaison officer, produce your own leaflets etc.
- \* Move resolutions to go to other sections of the union.

If your CND group wishes to increase union involvement in your activities, the following steps could be considered:

- \* Appoint a Trade Union liaison officer.
- \* Survey your group's members to find out which unions they're members of.
- \* Through your members find out the present policies of local unions. Ask them to raise the issue at their local branch meeting.
- \* Contact local branches and trades councils offering speakers, asking for support for your campaigns.

These are just a few hints: for a full guide contact Andrew Hewett at Trade Union CND.

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## CIVIL DEFENCE—No defence!

**Trade Union and community opposition to the Government's new "civil defence" regulations is developing rapidly. Opponents of the new regulations which came into force on December 1 1983, have been bolstered by new scientific findings about the likely aftermath of a nuclear war.**

**Under the Government's plans, local authorities must train an "appropriate" number of employees, take part in Government war game exercises, provide control centres and train a volunteer force. Council staff may find themselves practising digging mass graves or cooking post-holocaust high teas. It's also widely feared that the volunteer force could be used for strike-breaking.**

John Daly, General Secretary of NALGO, has circulated all NALGO branches urging immediate action by all branches to make sure that members know of the union's policy. In his circular of January 4, he writes "... branches should, as a matter of urgency, inform all their members that they will have the support of NALGO if they refuse to take part in civil defence working resulting from the introduction of the regulations on the grounds of personal conscience or on the grounds that his/her contract of employment has been unilaterally varied".

Daly also urges branches to tell local authorities of NALGO's policy and to seek assurances that no staff member will be forced to take part in "civil defence activities". Branches are also urged to ensure that local authorities do not attempt to write into contracts of employment for new employees in all departments a clause which would require them to be involved in the exercises. This is an obvious reference to Home Office hopes that such a requirement will solve the problem of conscientious objection.

Other unions, such as NUPE, FBU and COHSE are also publicising their policies. A number of them are joining with TUCND to produce a mass distribution leaflet outlining their policies.

Throughout the country, a large number of day schools and conferences are being held to inform activists of the folly of civil defence for nuclear war and to discuss strategies for resistance. North

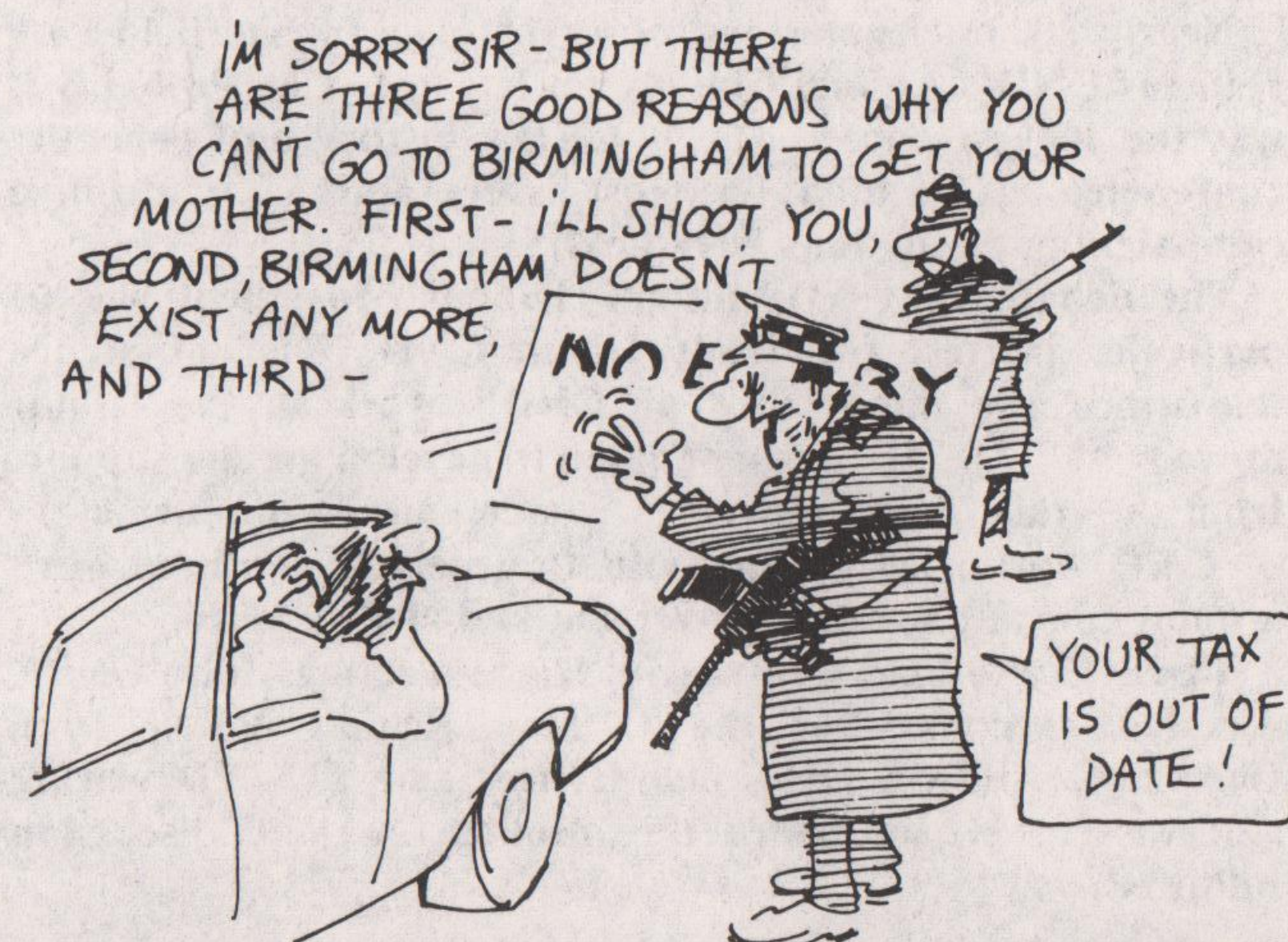
region TUCND, for example joined with the South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council to hold a successful conference last December. The Sussex Association of Trades Councils is sponsoring a series of day schools beginning in mid-April, with the support of local CND and peace organizations.

The findings of an international scientific conference held in Washington last October, have strengthened the belief that there is no civil defence against nuclear war. Over 60 scientists from ten countries, including four Nobel Prize winners, were on the Scientific Advisory Board.

Probably the most significant finding was that if a nuclear war, no matter how limited, was to occur, a *deep nuclear winter with Arctic temperatures* would result.

Agriculture as we know it would be wiped out, forests that had not been burned by nuclear fires would die from lack of sunlight. Drinking water would be frozen, People who had "survived" the immediate effects of the bomb would die of cold, hunger, thirst and disease. "There might eventually be no survivors in the Northern Hemisphere". It would not matter how deep your bunker was, or how long you were underground — there would be no hope.

The Government's civil defence plans are based on the ultimate folly — that a nuclear war is survivable. If there was any doubt that this playing games with peoples' lives, the Washington conference's findings must clinch the argument. There is no civil defence from nuclear war!





# NUCLEAR-FREE WORKPLACES

Could your workplace become a nuclear-free zone? If it did so it would join hundreds of other workplaces throughout the world, particularly in West Germany and Australia.

West German trade unionists have based their campaign on asking their fellow members to sign the Krefeld Appeal. When a majority of workers at a workplace have signed the appeal the office, factory is declared nuclear-free.

A wide variety of workplaces have declared themselves nuclear-free zones, including offices, ships and factories. Even an Army Barracks has declared itself nuclear-free after the majority of the soldiers supported the Krefeld Appeal!

In Australia, the maritime unions have for over twenty years had a Peace Ships campaign. Ships' crews are encouraged to declare that their ship is a "Peace Ship", to affiliate to the peace movement, undertake to have peace movement speakers

frequently and to participate in the activities of the nuclear disarmament campaign. Some ships have even flown a peace flag!

The creation of a string of "Peace Pits" throughout the Mining industry is the aim of the Miners Federation in Australia. The first one was declared at the Collinsville coal mine in Queensland. The Collinsville example has since been followed by a number of other mines. The Queensland branch of the Miners' Federation is to amend their constitution to officially declare itself a "Peace Union".

The nuclear-free zone factory campaign is an ideal way to get the threat of nuclear war and the need for nuclear disarmament discussed at your workplace.

If you'd like to work on the campaign and need some assistance or suggestions as to how to go about the campaign, contact Andrew Hewett at Trade Union CND.



## REFUSE CRUISE DAY

Refuse Cruise Day, Monday December 12, was marked in a wide variety of ways around the country. Given the shortage of time, there was a good response to the call for people to make their protest known at their workplace.

Northern Region TUCND together with NUPE members used the day to draw the link between the massive arms expenditure and the attacks on the NHS. Leaflets were distributed outside most of the major hospitals in the Newcastle area.

Trade Union Staffs Against the Bomb, a group of union employees, held a lunchtime meeting and collected over £200 for the Hour for Peace campaign. NALGO members took up the call at workplaces throughout the country. At the CNAA, for instance, the vast majority of staff signed an open letter to Mrs. Thatcher protesting at the deployment of Cruise.

Rolls-Royce CND group at the Coventry plant, used the day to follow-up the screening of "The Day After" by distributing a special leaflet to fellow workers.

All in all the day gave an indication of the possibilities of such a day of action.



## CND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nearly 2000 delegates and observers packed Sheffield City Hall for CND's Annual Conference late last year. Probably it was the biggest conference in CND's history and generally conference was united on most issues and many positive campaigning discussions were held.

The debate on CND and the Labour Movement was of particular interest for Trade Union CND. The conference reaffirmed the importance of CND's work in the labour movement. TUCND was mandated to develop greater support from the trade union movement, to encourage the formation of CND workplace groups, and to generally continue work around education, arms conversion and civil defence.

TUCND also held a successful fringe meeting. John Geliet, Assistant Secretary of the London Region NGA, John Chowcatt, ASTMS Divisional Officer and TUCND worker Andrew Hewett addressed the meeting. A good discussion followed.

## ARMS CONVERSION CONFERENCE

Four leading trade unions have come together to sponsor a major national conference which will examine the prospects for a better future for defence jobs.

The unions, TGWU, ASTMS, AUEW-TASS and the NUSMCHDE, all have extensive membership in the arms industry.

The conference which will be held in Bradford on April 7-8, is entitled "A Better Future for Defence Jobs - Job Security, Military Spending and Alternative Production".

"It's hoped that the conference will involve a large number of workers from the defence industry and the MoD", John Chowcatt, an ASTMS Divisional Officer and member of the conference planning committee told TUCND News. "We want to stimulate discussion at the shop floor level about the state of the industry and the possibilities for alternative production."

Speakers at the conference will include leading Labour Party, trade union and academic experts. They are Denzil Davies, Labour Party Defence spokesman; Tim Webb, ASTMS National Officer; Bill Niven, Secretary of the Greater London Conversion Council and a former national officer of AUEW-TASS; Malcolm Chalmers, Bradford University; and Ron Todd, National Organizer of TGWU.

"We also plan to hold workshops on the major industries - electronics and engineering, shipbuilding, aerospace and the Ministry of Defence." John Chowcatt added. For further information contact: "A Better Future for Defence Jobs" c/o Andrew Hewett, 11 Goodwin St., London N4.



## TUCND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Registrations for Trade Union CND's Annual General Meeting are coming in thick and fast.

The meeting is to be held on Saturday February 25 in London and is open to delegates from all trade union organizations affiliated to British CND. As well as electing a new TUCND Executive and Officers, the AGM will review our work over the last year and set the guidelines for the rest of 1984.

With the arrival of Cruise Missiles and the desperate need to return them to sender our AGM will be an important opportunity to exchange experiences and information. If your union branch is affiliated to British CND, make sure that they are represented.

SAID TO BOTHER NUCLEAR SUICIDE - COME TO THE  
**ANTI-TRIDENT CONVENTION**  
 \*SPEAKERS\* \*WORKSHOPS\* \*DISPLAYS\* \*VIDEOS ETC.\*  
**SATURDAY 25th FEB: FREE TRADE HALL MANCHESTER 11am-5pm** (REGISTRATION 10am-11am)  
 INFORMATION FROM: ANTI-TRIDENT CAMPAIGN, 420 SAUNDERS HALL STREET, GLASGOW, G2 7EL 041 332 3141

## Work for peace.

Join CND

Yes, I'll join CND

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ (IMPORTANT)

☐ MEMBERSHIP  
 RATES Adult £6 ☐ Two people at same address £9 ☐ Student £3 ☐  
 Unwaged & Pensioner £2 ☐ Youth CND (21 and under) £1 ☐ (tick one)

Please find enclosed

£ \_\_\_\_\_ for membership

£ \_\_\_\_\_ donation ☐ (tick for donation receipt).

☐ I'd like more information about CND and the Trade Unions.

My Trade Union is \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me details of how to affiliate my Union organisation to CND.

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to CND and send with completed form to TUCND, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ.  
 Phone (01) 263 0977.

