

JOB AT RISK? Trident and Employment

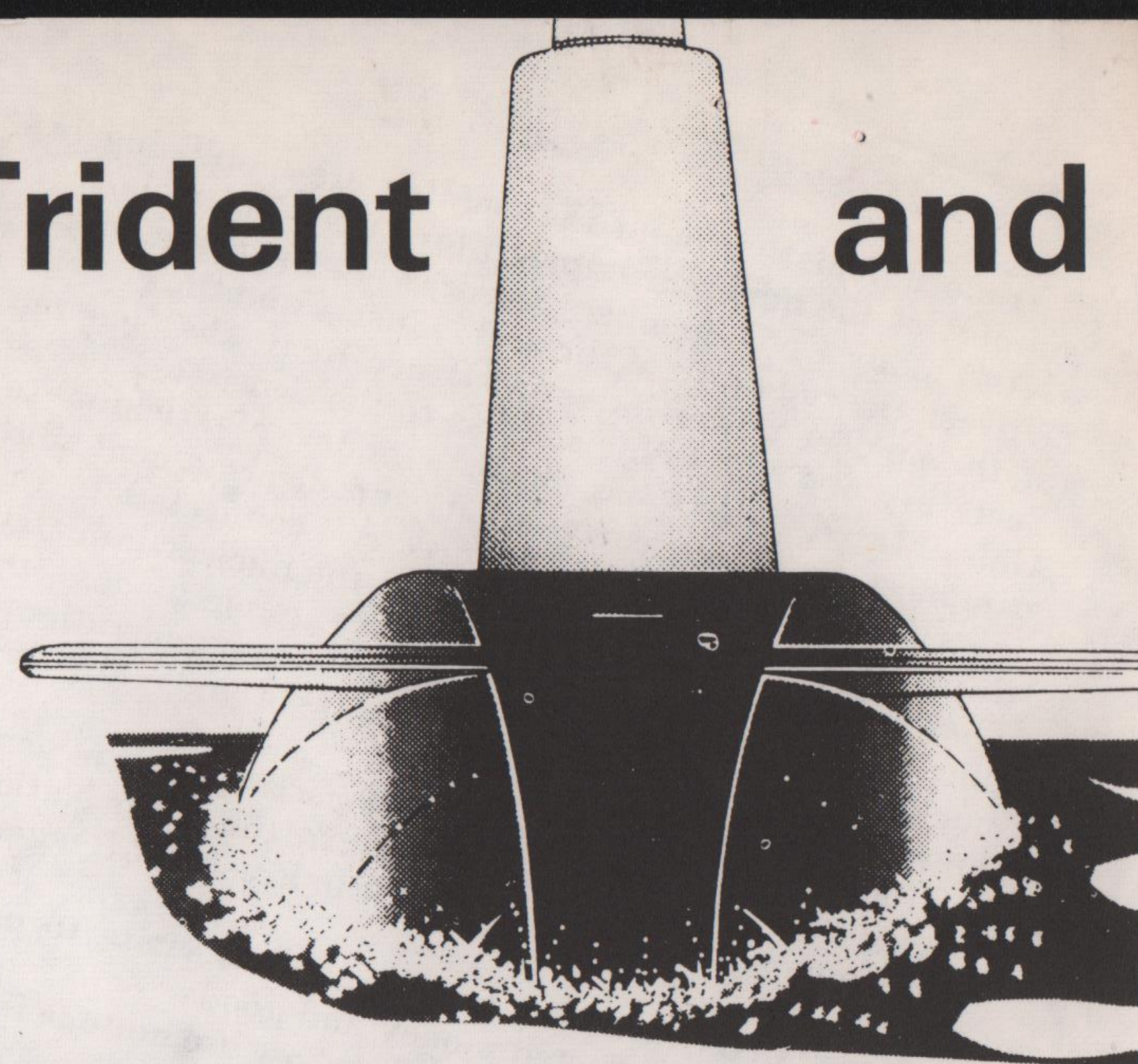
Barrow-in-Furness is the town where Trident will be built. British Shipbuilders Vickers yard, employing 13,000 people, begin work on the four 14,600 ton submarines within the next few years.

The company appears to be confident that the Government will press ahead with Trident, despite widespread opposition. This opposition is shared by Barrow Trades Council who have organised a conference — **Jobs at Risk? — Trident and Employment** — on September 22 in the town to examine the real cost of Trident — militarily, economically and most importantly for jobs.

What makes this conference so significant is that it is taking place in a town whose livelihood would seem to depend on Trident. Barrow is basically a one industry town with Vickers by far and away the largest employer. In an area like the north where jobs are hard to come by at the best of times, it might seem strange that the employment implications of Trident are being questioned.

Yet there are firm grounds for scepticism. From the very outset the Government has insisted that Trident will be a bountiful creator of jobs. The conference organisers, including Northern Region TUCND, insist otherwise. They point to the fact that half of the expenditure on Trident will take place in the USA. They point as well to the trend that Trident typifies — more and more expensive defence equipment but fewer orders and jobs. Because of Trident, conventional naval shipbuilding is being hit, leading to redundancies at Chatham and Portsmouth.

The same trends will hit Barrow itself. When work begins on Trident, the present programme of building conventional submarines will end, causing



redundancy. Another possibility also haunts Barrow workers — according to a report in the Daily Telegraph (25/4/84) there is a increasing chance that Trident might have to be cancelled on economic grounds.

Faced with these scenarios, workers at Vickers are beginning to look at possible alternatives to naval work. The conference will look at how Barrow could be converted from a naval facility into one capable of producing peaceful, socially useful products and the beneficial impact such a strategy could have for jobs in Barrow.

The conference is being sponsored by a wide variety of trade union bodies and will hear the case for conversion from Bill Niven (ex-TASS national organiser and now Secretary of the Greater London Conversion Council), Phil Asquith (ex-Chair Lucas Aerospace Combine), Denzil Davies (Labour spokesperson on defence and disarmament) and Danny Pearson (Convenor at Barrow).

The conference is a significant event for both the peace and labour movements. It aims to tackle the dual problems of unemployment and nuclear escalation at their very core — the town where Trident is due to be built.

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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No. 5



FALL-OUT WARNING - WHEN THERE IS DANGER IMMINENT FROM FALL-OUT YOU WILL HEAR 3 LOUD BANGS OR 3 BLASTS ON A WHISTLE IN QUICK SUCCESSION. (ESCC Emergency War Plans)

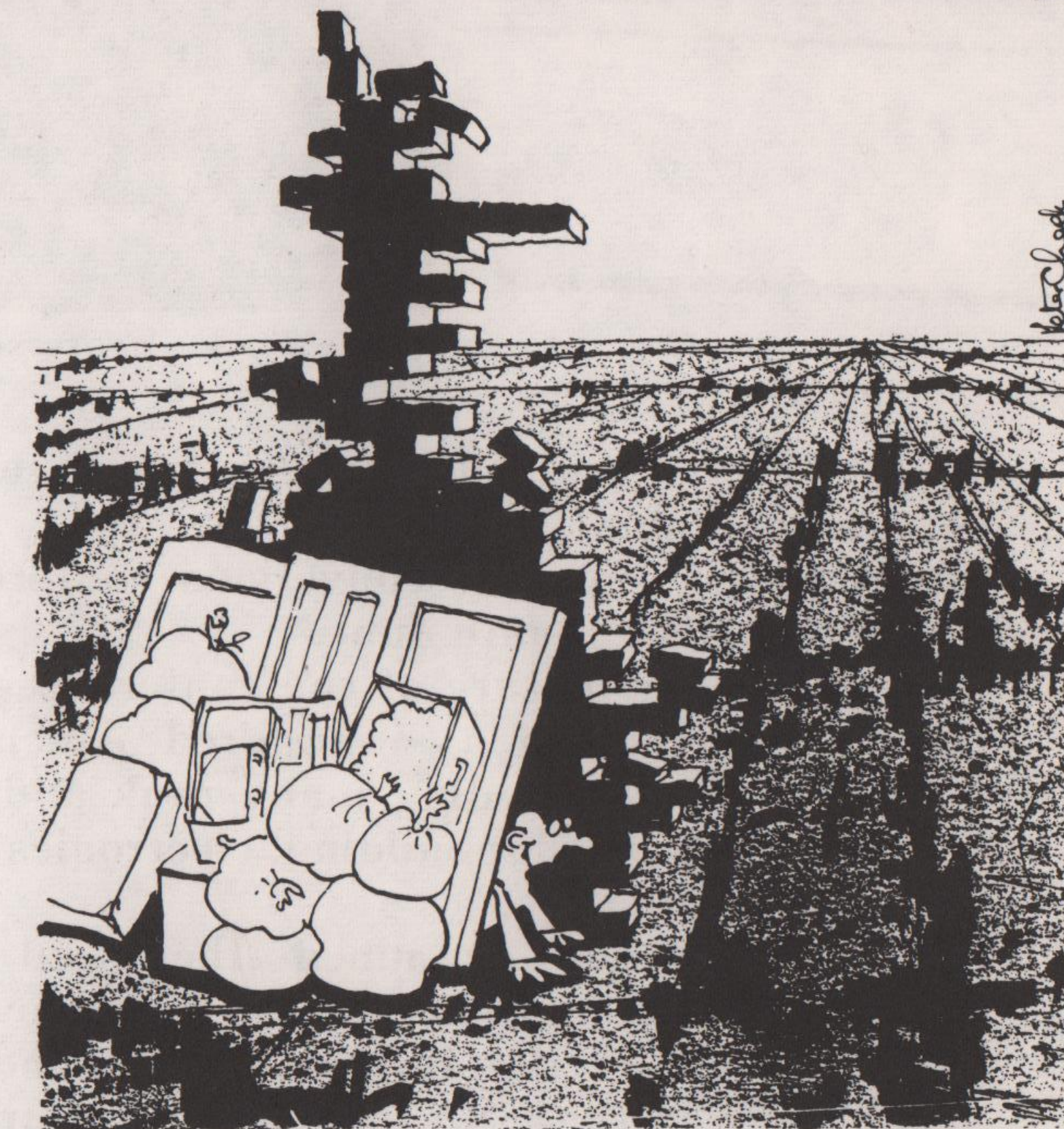
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No to Nuclear War Games

"We're workers from the health service and local councils — we're nurses, firefighters, ambulance drivers and others who care for people and try to protect you from the dangers of everyday life. But in spite of all our training, our skills, our dedication, we can do nothing to help you after a nuclear attack. To pretend that we can is a cruel joke — that's why we oppose the Government's new civil defence plans and the new duties that they're imposing".

That's how a new leaflet sponsored by five national unions — NUPE, NALGO, COHSE, FBU and the TGWU — together with Trade Union CND begins. The leaflet which explains why the unions are completely opposed to the Government's civil defence plans, is part of the nationwide educational and action campaign that the unions, CND, nuclear-free zone councils and other peace groups are launching. All the groups are focusing on a week of campaigning from September 17-23. The Government introduced new regulations from last December. The regulations and the Government's whole plans are based on the belief that a nuclear war is survivable. But with the new information on the possible aftermath of a nuclear war which suggests that a "nuclear winter" with sub-arctic temperatures for many months would occur, the chances of "surviving" are even less than previously thought. It would literally be a case of the survivors envying the dead.

Already a number of union branches and activists have launched information and education campaigns. The Manchester City Council NALGO branch, for instance, decided last year that they should undertake an extensive campaign using videos, films and



training courses. Roger Jackson, a member of the branch executive and linkperson of the Civil Defence and Nuclear War Working Group, explains "Its vital that we use the period before the regulations are brought into action, to inform and educate our branch's membership".

The Manchester NALGO branch has among other activities run a day school for shop stewards on the regulations and have organised a number of screenings of the video "A Guide to Armageddon" at different departments throughout the Town Hall. Shop stewards and branch activists have made up most of the audience and the aim now is to reach out to other branch members.

The nuclear-free zone councils are also campaigning against the Government's plans. They have decided not to participate in the Government's preparations but have kept asking for the assumptions on which the Government is planning for civil defence.

The Home Office's replies are vague, evasive and inadequate. CND believes that the task now is to take the case against the civil defence regulations to as many people as possible, particularly local authority and health service workers. Trade Union CND will give all possible assistance to trade union campaigners. If you would like any help in showing that civil defence against nuclear war is a massive con-trick contact Andrew Hewett at the CND office.



Ron Todd, General-Secretary designate TGWU addresses the International Economic Conversion Conference.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONVERSION CONFERENCE

Eight hundred delegates from eight countries came together for the first international economic conversion conference in Boston, USA in late June.

A significant feature of the conference was the involvement of two hundred American trade unionists including many rank and file workers from the shipbuilding, electronics and aerospace industries.

The conference examined the need for economic conversation with the growing militarisation of the international economy, particularly in the USA and Western Europe.

Shipyard workers, for example were concerned that 95% of American shipbuilding was now naval related. Proposals for conversion were canvassed and the hard practicalities of campaigning, both in the workplace and also in the community were discussed. Fifteen delegates from Britain participated in the conference, including two delegates from the Barrow shipyards, national officers from four unions and two former shop stewards from Lucas Aerospace.

The conference has undoubtedly helped to put conversion on the agenda in the USA and has helped develop links between conversion activists around the world. For information about the conference contact Andrew Hewett at Trade Union CND.

WHAT'S ON

- August 5-19** Youth CND's Bases Tour, culminating in a carnival in London. Details YCND 01-263 0977.
- September 15** Labour's Non-Nuclear Defence Policy. Day conference sponsored by Labour Disarmament Liaison Committee. Speakers include Robin Cook, Joan Ruddick, Denzil Davies. Details LDLC c/o LCC 9 Poland St. London W1.
- September 17-23** Civil defence campaigning week, supported by CND, unions and nuclear-free zone councils. Details TUCND 01-263 0977.
- September 22** "Jobs at Risk - Trident and Employment". Day conference organised by Barrow Trades Council. Details Terry McSorely 89 Marsh St. Barrow-in-Furness.
- October 20** "A Better Future for Defence Jobs - Aerospace and Arms Conversion" Day conference sponsored by local districts of AUEW-TASS, AUEW-ES and ASTMS. Details Alison Gilchrist, 34 Heron Rd. Easton, Bristol.
- October 24** Trade Unionists Day of Action for Nuclear Disarmament. Part of CND's week of action against Trident. Contact TUCND for details 01-263 0977.
- October 27** CND National Rally Against Trident and for alternative employment in Barrow. Details CND 01-263 0977.

OCTOBER WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST TRIDENT

CND groups around the country are gearing up for a major action against the proposed Trident nuclear submarine.

The main activity will be taking place in Barrow-in-Furness where the submarines are due to be built.

The rally will focus on the one-sided escalation in the nuclear arms race that Trident represents and on the need for alternative employment proposals to be developed. The massive cost of Trident (currently estimated at £11.5 billion) will also come under attention.

Preceding the action in Barrow which will take place on Saturday October 27 will be a week of action by different interest and social groups. Wednesday October 24 will be the trade unionists day of action for nuclear disarmament. Trade Union CND is encouraging trade unionists around Britain to consider ways in which they can raise the need for nuclear disarmament at their workplace on that day. Lunchtime meetings, leaflet handouts, nuclear-free workplace declarations, video screenings are just some of the suggested activities. Contact Trade Union CND at 11 Goodwin St. for publicity resources, advice etc.

Public Meeting Number 1

Darlington recently played host to the first in a series of public meetings organised by TUCND. The idea is to arrange for prominent trade union & CND speakers to share the same platform in meetings throughout the country. In this case, on June 13th, NR TU CND, Darlington Peace Action & Trades Council, jointly sponsored a successful meeting with Jimmy Knapp from the NUR, Roland Boyes MP and Mick Elliott from CND speaking. If your Region/Area/Group are interested in arranging similar meetings contact TUCND.

Trade unionists around the country are mobilising in support of the miners' campaign for "Coal Not Dole". And many CND members are drawing the connections between the run-down of the coal industry and the growth of the nuclear power industry. Bruce Kent, the General Secretary of CND, in his address to the Scottish Miners' Gala, stated "CND has made a policy of sticking to the run-down of the pits is directly connected to the Government's policy of running up the nuclear industry. That has to be achieved if they are going to have the plutonium for the warheads of a whole new generation of nuclear weapons of which Trident is only the best known".

Trade Union CND sponsored the participation of nearly ten coachloads of striking miners in the CND National Rally opposing the visit of American President Reagan on June 9.

Many CND members have organised visits to picket lines and have collected money and goods.

As Bruce Kent said at the Gala "we are not one for fair weather friends".

HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE

Greater Manchester TUCND is organising a week of action on the general theme of Healthcare Not Warfare. Members of COHSE, NUPE, ASTMS, NALGO and the TGWU are being encouraged to organise suitable activities during the week. They are particularly being encouraged to join with local CND groups.

Regional/district sections of the unions concerned have expressed support for the week and will be distributing to all branches a joint TUCND/Trade Union leaflet drawing attention to the cuts in the NHS and the growth of military expenditure.

A joint press conference sponsored by the Manchester City Council is also planned.

Further details from CND Office 061 236 1588.

Work for the future—jobs & defence

That is the title of a leaflet given out at selected arms factories in the North of England on Hiroshima day. The leaflet produced by NRTUCND and sponsored by unions with members in defence drew out the adverse impact high defence spending has on jobs and the possible alternatives. Local CND groups leafletted arms factories within their localities while the sponsoring unions distributed the leaflets to branches and wrote to their branches within the selected factories informing them about their support for the activity.



Work for peace. Join CND.

Yes, I'll join the CND

Name _____ (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address _____

Post Code _____ (IMPORTANT)

☐ MEMBERSHIP
RATES Adult £9 ☐ Two people at same address £12 ☐ 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.

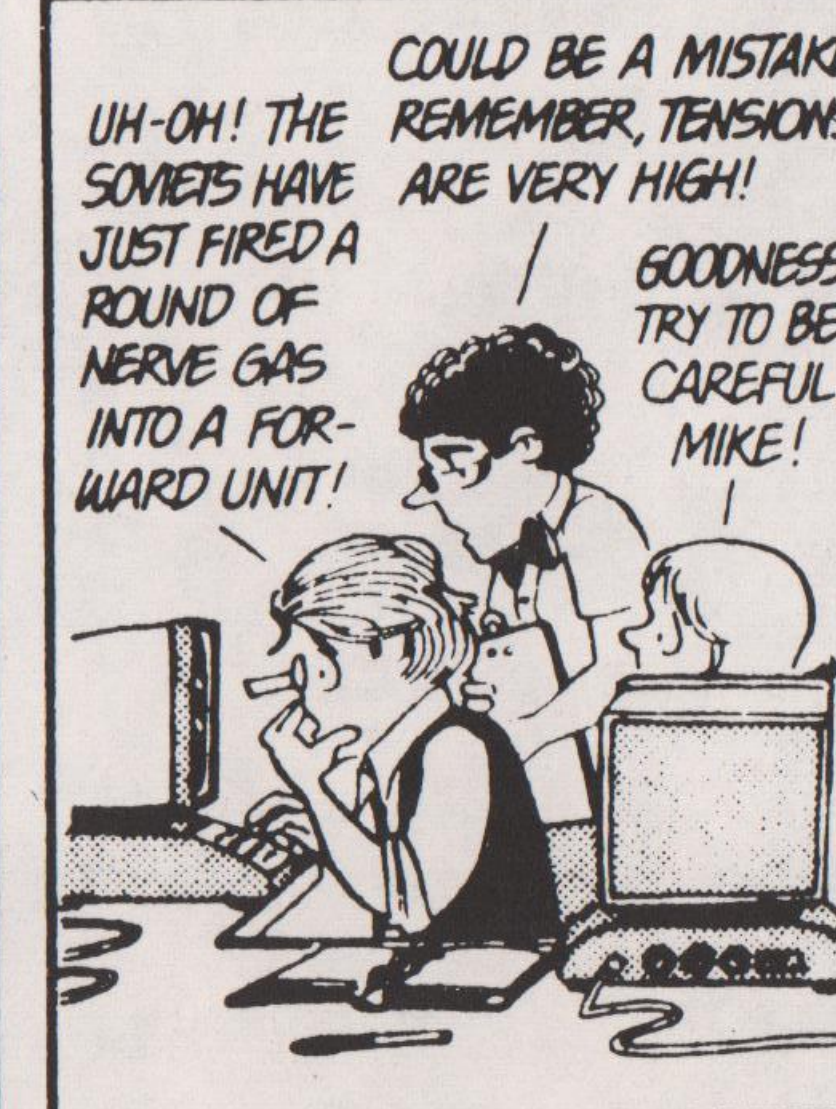
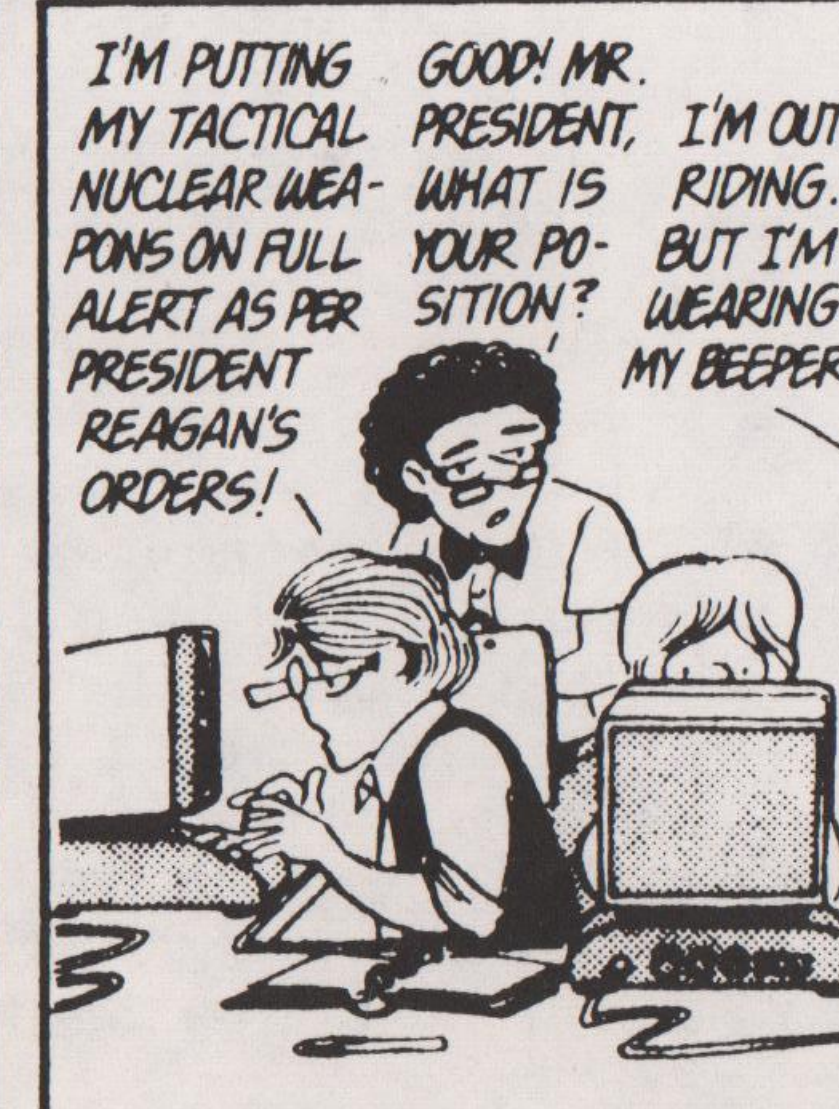
My Trade Union is _____

☐ 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.



DOONESBURY



By Garry Trudeau