

TUCND News

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Alan Sapper, ACTT General Secretary, addresses the "What Price Trident?" conference, in London, February 1984.

WHEN the Brothers (and that sprinkling of Sisters) gathered at Blackpool on 2 September for the 117th Trades Union Congress, they began their proceedings with a Minute's Silence for Peace.

On 17 September, another illustrious body, the United Nations Assembly, made the same gesture at its opening session.

Both occasions were the fruit of an idea germinated long before within the Disarmament Committee of ACTT, the Association of Cinematograph Television and allied Technicians. But ACTT sees this as only the beginning. It wants the Minute for Peace to be observed annually throughout the world, by all the peoples of the world, as a fervent declaration that we will not countenance a nuclear war.

Just symbols perhaps. But symbols have their value in consciousness raising — in getting people to take practical action to prevent war.

It is a sad fact that, over the past dangerous decades, the British trade union movement has not been mobilised to its full and impressive strength in support for the peace movement in general and for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in particular.

Within ACTT, a number of members came to the conclusion a few years ago that it was time to move things along. They felt a responsibility as trade unionists, and also as professionals working within the media, to work for peace and to campaign

for peace within their own union.

The ACTT Disarmament Committee was founded by an Annual Conference resolution in 1981. Since then its activities have increasingly drawn in people from other unions and organisations.

In June 1982, broadcasters, journalists, printers, technicians, actors — and media consumers — came together in London for the ACTT-sponsored Media and the Bomb conference. The events of the day were such that they devoted a great deal of attention to the role of the media in the Falklands War.

It was another initiative of the ACTT Disarmament Committee that led to What Price Trident? conference in London in February 1984. Other sponsoring unions were COHSE, NALGO, NGA, NUPE, NUR and the Sheet Metal Workers, in association with Trade Union CND.

ACTT people make films (and now videos too) as a job. Those involved in the Disarmament Committee have now been responsible for producing two visual records of great peace movement demonstrations — *Together We Can Stop the Bomb* in 1983 and *We Are Many* in 1984. And they have made *Taking the Soviet Pulse*, in conjunction with the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons.

Other unions have other talents. None has talents that cannot be devoted to promoting the cause of nuclear disarmament and world peace.



Human race or nuclear race — Britain can make a difference!



CND Chair Joan Ruddock calls upon trade unionists to take a stand for nuclear disarmament by attending the CND National rally and march to be held in London on October 26.

The world is facing a choice. Either we can continue with the nuclear arms race with all its potential for destruction, or we can start now to turn the arms race back and begin nuclear disarmament. That's the main message of this year's national rally and march called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. The rally is to be held in London on Saturday October 26.

Despite the talks between the USA and the USSR in Geneva, the arms race has continued unabated. New weapons systems are being developed, nuclear weapons are being tested and relations between the two major powers remain effectively frozen. Thousands of millions of pounds are wasted every day swelling the stockpiles of the nuclear powers.

CND believes that the world cannot go on much longer living on tenterhooks waiting for the big bang to happen.

We believe that there is a better way. And we believe that Britain has a major role in achieving this better way.

We are one of only five countries that keep the nuclear arms race going. We're in a pivotal position to change the situation internationally and to help create a more secure world.

But our Government seems determined not to join the majority of nations in the world but rather to do virtually everything in their power to speed up the arms race.

They welcome the stationing of Cruise Missiles on our soil — missiles with an explosive power many times that which destroyed Hiroshima. They are one-sidedly escalating the arms race by purchasing the Trident nuclear missile submarine. And this year they are planning to spend over £18 thousand million on "defence" while cutting back nearly every other area of public spending. All the new nuclear weapons and all the money spent on the military and nuclear weaponry is not adding to our security but rather is lessening it.

CND believes that Britain has to make a choice. It is a choice about whether we continue to depend on a suicidal defence

policy based on nuclear weapons. A choice about whether to put health and genuine security first. A choice about whether the best way to improve the standards of living of the British people is to provide hospitals, houses and schools or by building more nuclear weapons and nuclear bases. A choice about whether the best way to defend our democratic rights and civil liberties is by tapping the telephones of CND members, tampering with our mail and attacking peace demonstrators.

CND believes that Britain should stand up and be counted for nuclear disarmament. There has been enough talking, the time is for action. We believe that our country can take a number of independent steps which do not endanger our security but rather enhance it. Steps like returning Cruise Missiles, cancelling Trident, closing down American bases and renouncing the possession of nuclear weapons.

And for Britain to take a stand for nuclear disarmament, the Government and politicians of all parties have to be convinced that the majority of British people want an end to our involvement in the race of death. That's why the CND National Rally and march is so important. And that's why it is so important that all our supporters, all those who believe that Britain can make a difference turn out in force on October 26. CND, and I in particular, urge all trade unionists to come to London on that day.

We want and need your support and involvement. We want you to stand beside us in this campaign for a better way. For the right choice to be made — human race not nuclear race people like yourself have to take stand.

CND supporters are asked to assemble in the Serpentine Rd. in Hyde Park from 11am. There will be a circular march linking the embassies of the Soviet Union and the United States. A rally will be held in the park at 3.30pm.

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 groups 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.

While they talk the arms race goes on

The world heaved a collective sigh of relief when the USA and USSR got together to begin arms control talks in March. Similarly we all welcomed the announcement of the summit meeting between Reagan and Gorbachov to be held in November.

The talks are important for they help to reduce, in some way, international tensions.

But while the statemen are talking the nuclear arms race is continuing its relentless course.

Just a quick look at developments since the talks began shows:

* The testing of the M-X missile is on schedule and deployment is due to begin at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming in early 1986

* A new version of the Soviet Bear strategic bomber, each carrying four AS-15 air-launched Cruise missiles, has entered service.

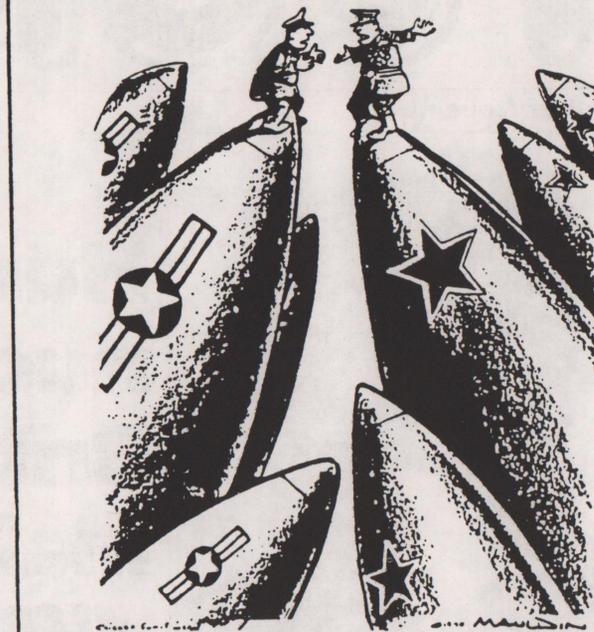
* The first B1B strategic bomber arrived for deployment at a Texan air force base in late June. Each B1B can carry up to 38 nuclear weapons, is nearly twice as fast as the current B-52 and utilises the new "stealth" technology so that it has a radar signal only one hundredth of that of the B-52.

* The number of warheads being carried on each of the current Soviet SS-18 ICBMs is being increased from 10 to 14.

* The fifth squadron of B-52's equipped with 192 air-launched cruise missiles entered service in January.

The continuation of the nuclear arms race illustrates the urgency of all the nuclear powers taking their own independent initiatives to help stop the drive to the brink.

• "You can Overkill us 60 times, but we can only Overkill you 50 times!"



Britain as a nuclear power has a real responsibility to not only stop any escalation of the arms race, but more to the point to begin nuclear disarmament now.

The world cannot rely upon the two major nuclear powers talking away while building up their nuclear stockpiles.

Goods from TUCND

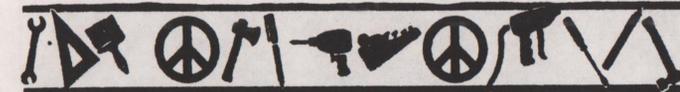
Hot from the presses are a number of new publications from TUCND. WE have produced speakers notes on arms conversion and on the work of TUCND. Just send a SAE and we will get a copy out to you.

A guide for local CND groups on how to involve trade unions in their campaigns is now available. Called Working Together — CND and the trade unions, it costs 80p (or £1.00 including P&P).

The TUCND video "Peacework — defence workers on conversion" is selling well. Distribution details are available from TUCND or Concord Films Council, 201 Felixstowe Rd. Ipswich IP3.



**RALLY FOR THE HUMAN RACE
SATURDAY OCT 26**



TUC SUPPORT ARMS CONVERSION

The TUC is to call a conference of defence industry workers to discuss arms conversion.

This was decided by delegates to this year's TUC Congress. Arms conversion featured strongly in the resolution on nuclear disarmament moved by the Furnishing Trades Union.

Delegates reaffirmed TUC opposition to the stationing of Cruise Missiles, the Trident contract and the neutron bomb. They also opposed any British participation in the American Government's Strategic Defence Initiative. But a number of delegates stressed the need to take the debate out of the conference room.

TGWU General Secretary, Ron Todd, argued that "It will be no good emerging from the holocaust clutching a copy of the TUC policy". Doug Hoyle MP, representing ASTMS, speaking on the same theme said that defence workers had to be convinced of the need for arms conversion. It was also agreed that the TUC would discuss with the Labour Party the planning and legislative framework which will be required to facilitate arms conversion. Full support was also promised for the International Year of Peace and all other major peace and disarmament activities.



Defence workers are to come together at two conferences to discuss the crisis in the defence industries and the alternative of arms conversion.

In the North-West, a number of trade unions have joined with Trade Union CND to sponsor and organise a regional conference entitled "Defence and Jobs — The North-West Crisis".

Speakers at the conference which is to be held in Manchester on November 9 will include Jack Dromey (TGWU National Secretary), Tim Webb (ASTMS National Officer) and Chris Darke (AUEW-TASS National Organiser). The Chair will be John Tocher from the AUEW.

The Manchester conference will be focusing on the aerospace and electronics industries.

Three weeks later, southern defence workers will come together at a conference sponsored by the Southampton City Council. Something like one in every four workers in the South is involved in the defence industry and this conference should be an excellent opportunity to build upon some research work that has been done over the years. Speaker will include Chris Darke and John Routley, a former Lucas Aerospace steward.

Details of both conferences can be obtained from TUCND



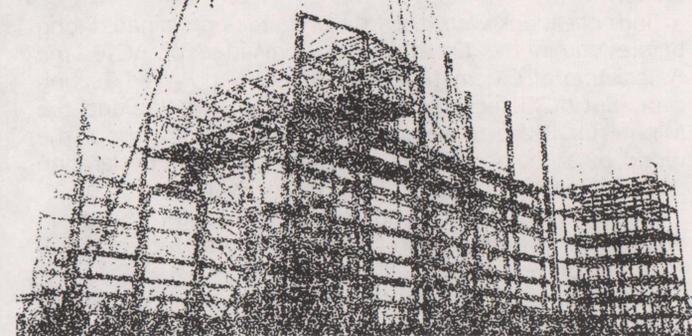
BUILD FOR PEACE

Build for peace — that's the theme of a new joint campaign launched by the construction workers' union, UCATT and Trade Union CND. The campaign will highlight the deterioration of buildings such as housing, hospitals and schools as a result of spending cuts by contrasting public spending in these areas with the massive allocation of funds to nuclear weapons. Jack Henry, UCATT Executive Council spokesperson on peace and disarmament and Bruce Kent, CND Vice-President, launched the campaign at a fringe meeting during the TUC Congress.

Jack Henry told delegates "Since 1982 spending on defence has risen by 28 per cent but spending on housing has been cut by 10 per cent. Hospitals are crumbling for a lack of maintenance resulting in a backlog of repair work with an estimated value of £2 billion. At the same time Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools have warned that the poor condition of schools is seriously affecting the achievements of both primary and secondary school children."

Jack continued by arguing that every slum house in England could be repaired if the Trident nuclear missile submarine was scrapped and the funding reallocated. The £12 billion plus cost of Trident would be sufficient to repair all of our hospitals and build 450 new ones. Both Jack and Bruce agreed that "Britain must invest in construction not destruction."

Copies of the campaign leaflet can be obtained from UCATT offices.



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, 22-24 Underwood St., London N1 7JQ.
Telephone: 01-250 4010.

