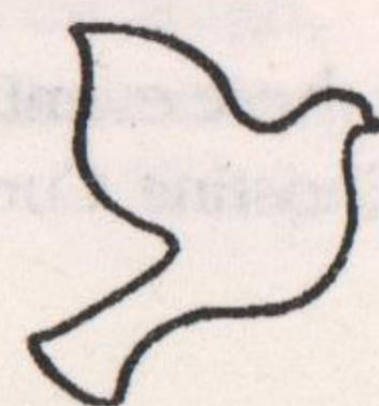


Diary Dates

- Sat 13 June Nottingham CND stall at St. Peter's Gate 11am - 2pm.
- Mon 15 June CAAT protest about the export of weapons and technology to Turkey. At Royal Ordnance site on Kings Meadow Road, Nottingham, 8.30am.
- Sat 20 June Nottingham CND stall at St. Peter's Gate 11am - 2pm.
CAAT stall at St Peter's Gate.
- Sat 11 July Nottingham CND stall at St. Peter's Gate 11am - 2pm.
- Sat 25 July Nottingham CND stall at St. Peter's Gate 11am - 2pm.
- Thu 6 Aug **Hiroshima Day.** See below.
- Sat 15 Aug Nottingham CND stall at St. Peter's Gate 11am - 2pm.
- Sat 29 Aug Nottingham CND stall at St. Peter's Gate 11am - 2pm.
- Aug/Sept Video evening. We hope to show the "March to Aldermaston" film and a video about the World Court Project. Date and venue to be arranged.

STOP PRESS: Footnote, p.8: Dounreay's progressive closure was announced June 5th.



Hiroshima Day August 6th

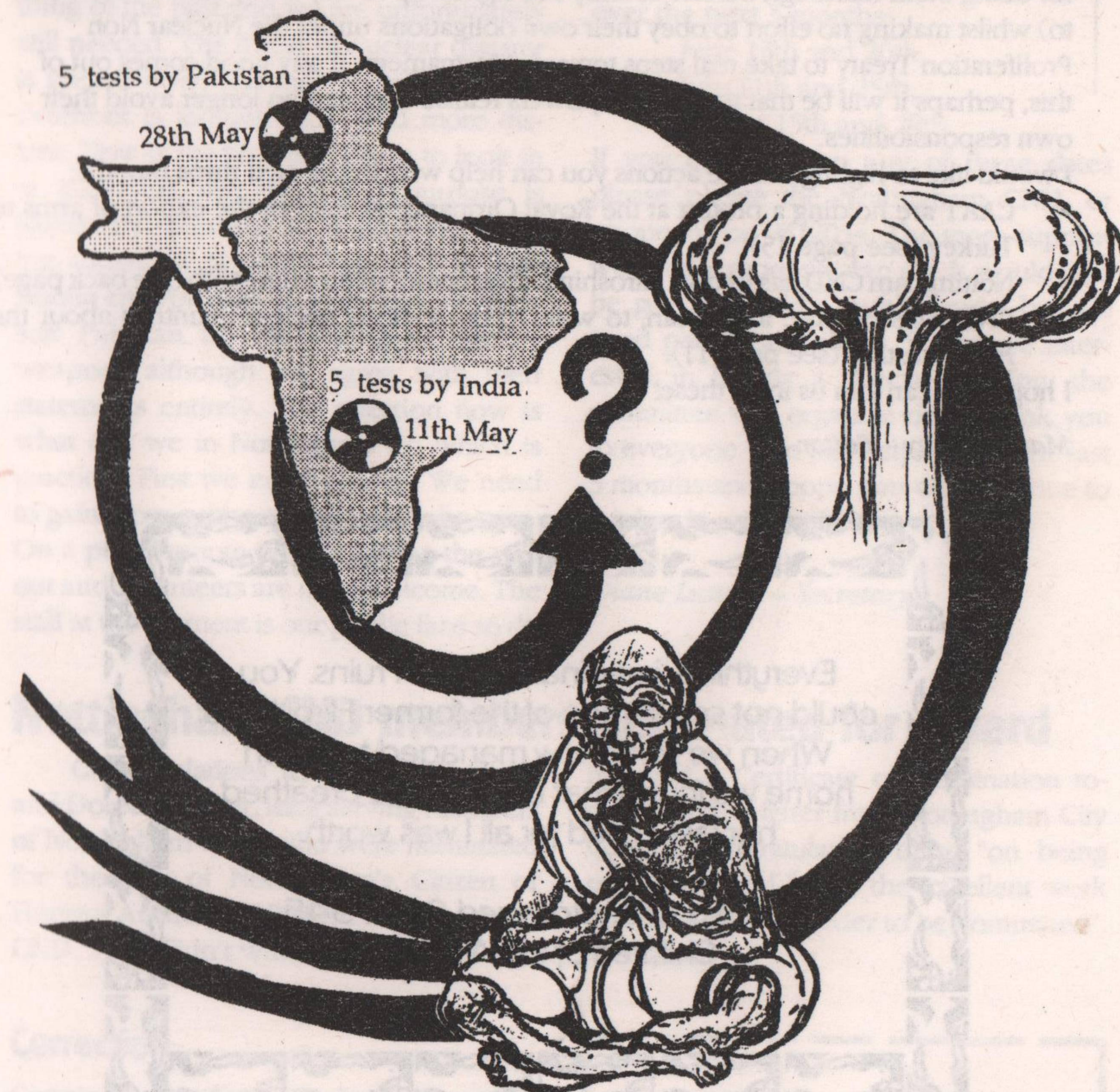
As always, we will hold a memorial of the bombing of Hiroshima 53 years ago, including readings and music.

To be held at the Aboretum, near the bandstand, 7.30 - 9pm



Nottingham CND Bulletin

June 1998



"The world is my family."

"There is no remedy for the many ills of life
save that of nonviolence."

Mahatma Gandhi

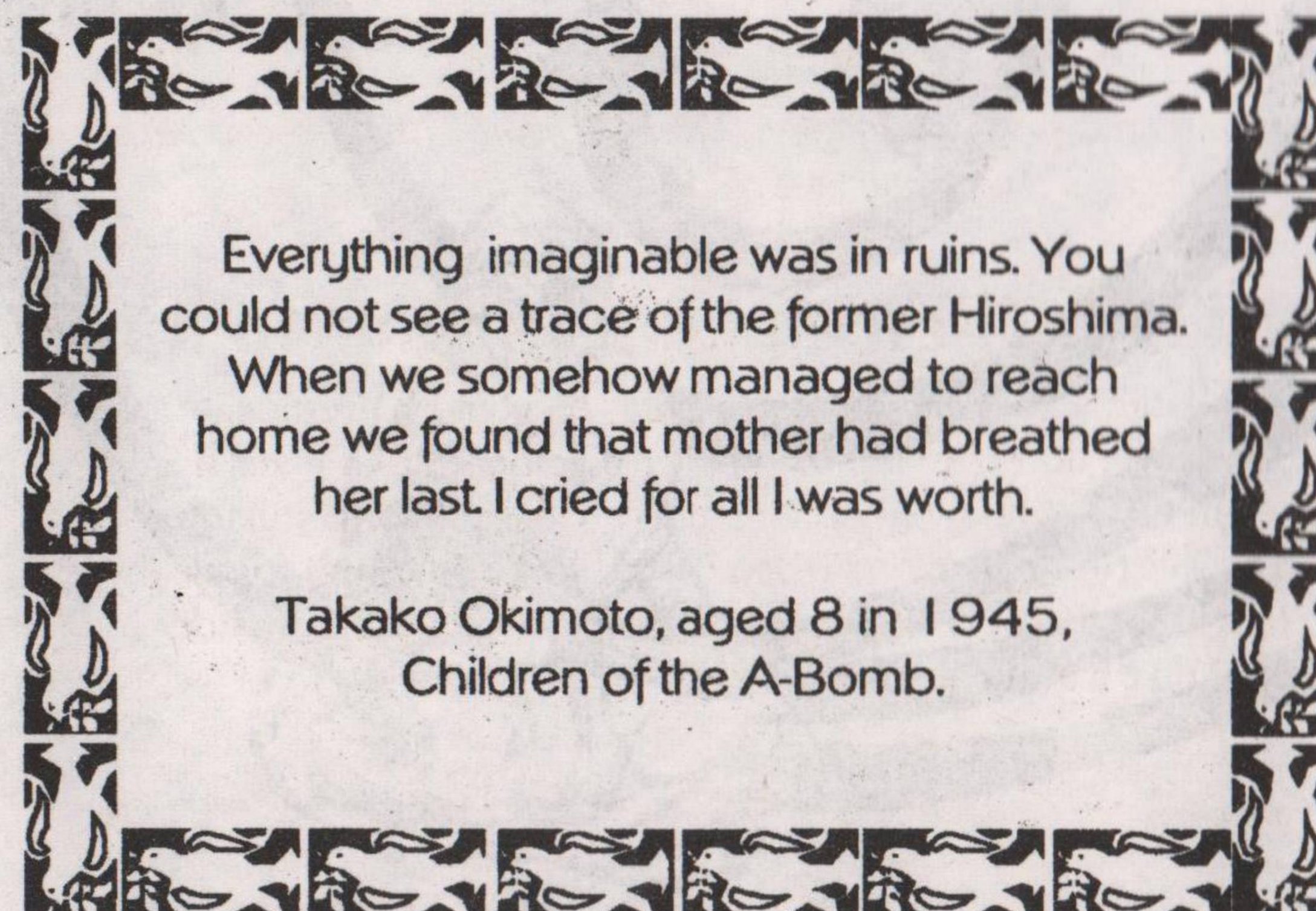
Welcome to the June issue of Nottingham CND Bulletin. Several notable events have taken place since the last issue. First there were the arguments over the nuclear waste which Britain has accepted for reprocessing from Georgia. More recently there have been the worries about the nuclear testing by India and Pakistan. It is incredible how hypocritical the US and Britain can be about the tests – condemning India and Pakistan for doing them (although neither country has signed up to any treaty forbidding them to) whilst making no effort to obey their own obligations under the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty to take real steps toward disarmament. If any good comes out of this, perhaps it will be that the nuclear powers realise they can no longer avoid their own responsibilities.

I would like to highlight three actions you can help with in the next three months:

- CAAT are holding a protest at the Royal Ordnance site about the export of arms to Turkey (see page 15)
- Nottingham CND has its own Hiroshima Day memorial on August 6th (see back page)
- CND calls on you, if you can, to write to the various nuclear countries about the recent testing (see page 11).

I hope you can join us in all these!

Mark Ramsey – Editor



The Bulletin is produced by Nottingham CND, Box 33, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL. Telephone 9588586 (there is usually someone available to answer the phone on Tuesday afternoons; answerphone at all other times).

The next issue of the Bulletin is due in Sept 1998. Articles (on PC computer disk if possible please) or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to Nottingham CND at the above address or e-mailed to [redacted] by Aug 2nd 1998.

India, Pakistan, who next ?

Since the last bulletin produced by Nottingham CND it has been proved beyond doubt that the Nuclear issue is not a thing of the past and we are unfortunately still needed. The threat of nuclear disaster is greater now, and the idea of it being a deterrent is looking more and more distant. Now is the time for Britain to look in at itself and see what real purpose is gained by spending £1.5billion on keeping trident. It is really hypocritical how Britain and America are condemning India and Pakistan for the testing of nuclear weapons although we agree with their statements entirely. The question now is what can we in Nottingham do which is practical. First we need people. We need to gain more support. We need to be seen. On a positive note we are getting the stall out and volunteers are most welcome. The stall at the moment is our public face so do

come down and help. For information, the stall will be going out, at St. Peters Gate 11am-2pm, on the following dates over the next 3 months:

June 13th and 20th,
July 11th and 25th,
August 15th and 29th.

If you can help on any of these dates please phone the Nottingham CND, or phone me on 9812034. The more support we get the more we can do. It would also be good to hold a public event but we need people and ideas. If you are interested in having a special meeting, the committee will organise one. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the last 3 months and I hope you will continue to – it has been greatly appreciated.

Diane Lunzer – Secretary

Nottingham CND members nominated for award

Congratulations to Peggy Westaway and Doreen Gower, long serving members of Nottingham CND, who were nominated for the City of Nottingham's Citizen of Honour Award for 1998 for their work for CND. They didn't win the award but both

received a Certificate of Nomination together with a letter from Nottingham City Council congratulating them "on being nominated and for all the excellent work you have done in order to be nominated". Well done!

Correction

Connie Ford, whose death was noted in the last issue, was 85 not 84 when she died. She worked as a vet at Sutton Bonnington, not Castle Donnington. Every year she placed a wreath of white poppies at the Cenotaph or War Memorial at the service each November on the Victoria Embankment in Nottingham. Apologies for the inaccuracies, most of which came from the Evening Post article about her.

The Nottingham CND Stall needs YOUR help

The stall is our chief visible face in Nottingham but to have it out every fortnight we need people to staff it. If you can help please contact Nottingham CND.

What is CND?

On this 40th anniversary, we thought we should remind ourselves what CND stands for and what it wants. CND Council appointed a Strategy Development Group to encapsulate what we are and to develop an ongoing strategy by which we can measure our progress. This is what they have come up with so far:

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament campaigns non-violently to rid the world of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and to create genuine security for future generations. CND aims to:

- change government policies to bring about the elimination of British nuclear weapons as a major contribution to global abolition,
- stimulate wide public debate on the need for alternatives both to the nuclear cycle and to military attempts at resolving conflict,
- empower people to engage actively in the political process and to work for a nuclear-free and peaceful future,
- co-operate with other groups in the UK and internationally to ensure the development of a greater mutual security.

Strategic Objectives

1. Elimination of British nuclear weapons:
 - practical steps/confidence building measures carried out, e.g. Trident off 24 hour patrol with the warheads removed to shore for eventual dismantling,
 - full cancellation of Trident announced,
 - non-replacement of Trident is stated in Government policy,
 - Trident is included in early disarmament talks.
2. Abandonment of NATO as a nuclear alliance:
 - no nuclear expansion of NATO,
 - formal nuclear weapons free zones in Europe,
 - increased support for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) or an organisation with the same aims and objectives,
 - NATO wound-up or Britain leaves NATO.
3. Global abolition of nuclear weapons:
 - entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT),
 - all encompassing Fissile Material Cut-off treaty agreed,
 - negotiations on the global abolition of nuclear weapons take place at the Conference on Disarmament,
 - a treaty on the global abolition of nuclear weapons agreed.
4. Abolition of other threats of mass destruction:
 - full compliance with agreed Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC),
 - strengthened Biological Weapons Convention (BWC),
 - an international "No Plutonium in Space" agreement achieved.

40 year march

Paul Oestreicher sketches over the past 40 years

On August 7, 1945 I was a 13-year-old schoolboy in New Zealand. That winter morning, incredulous, we asked our physics master how it was possible for one bomb, the day before, to turn the whole city of Hiroshima to ashes. He was one of our best and most respected teachers. He told us of Lord Rutherford, the great New Zealand physicist and his atomic experiments in Cambridge that had now evidently led to the harnessing of such unimaginable destructive power. Of course we did not understand. But I will never forget his words as the lesson ended: "Boys, either we now learn to abolish war or war will abolish us."

By the late 50s I was a young curate in the East End of London. What could I do to avert the threat of the cold war, now at its height, turning into a nuclear holocaust? I did not need my vicar, Stanley Evans, a pillar of the Christian Socialist Movement, to convince me that my place at Easter was not only at the altar praying for peace, but on the Aldermaston road: Aldermaston, because to this day it is the cradle of Britain's potential to contribute to the end of life on this planet.

So with my wife, our daughter in a pushchair, we marched with thousands of others whose hearts beat for the survival of the world's children. Pipe-in-mouth John Collins strode out at the head in his black cassock, wartime RAF Chaplain, Canon of St Paul's, his children at Eton, proud possessor of a vintage Rolls Royce. This turbulent priest was no wild radical; with him walked Michael Foot and Labour stalwarts Fenner Brockway, Tony Greenwood, Frank Allaun, Frank Cousins and the skilled, tough organiser Peggy Duff. The Rev Donald Soper was at the head of the

march and other notables included Arnold Wesker, Doris Lessing, George Melly, James Cameron and Vicky. But the thousands, old and young, who year by year converged on Trafalgar Square were not an intellectual elite but simply ordinary, caring people. Yes, the Quakers and the principled pacifists were there. So were a handful of Communists and their fellow travellers, enough for the hostile media to smear the thousands who would gladly, had it been possible, have carried the same banners in Moscow.

For the party establishments, all three, the doctrine of deterrence became a fixed dogma. When even Nye Bevan declared: "We will not go into the conference chambers of the world naked," many were bitterly disillusioned. My short-lived membership of the Labour party was over. Vicky's cartoon, after that speech, showed Gandhi, in his loin-cloth standing behind Nye: "I went into the conference chamber naked and won." But not against Stalin, the Nato establishment replied, with no lack of conviction.

Deterrence seemed to be working, the threat less acute: the numbers of the frightened receded. But the danger had not gone. Survival depended on the sanity of a few politicians. Kennedy and Khrushchev were sane and, over Cuba, withdrew from the brink. By a hair's breadth we survived.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament declined but survived too, to revive, with even greater numbers in the early 80s. The fear of intermediate range nuclear missiles, targeted on each other, and threatening to leave a European wasteland brought the people back on to the

continued on page 8

Microchips and megadeaths

Extracts from Electronics World magazine published in last Autumn's newsletter raised the topic of the engineer's role both in military projects and in the campaign for peace. Electronics for Peace is a well-established group whose name explains itself. Another reference from the same magazine commemorates its former editor's stance:

"Then I was shocked by the feeling that the skin of my face had come off. Then, the hands and arms, too. Starting from the elbow to the fingertips, all the skin of my right hand came off and hung down grotesquely. The skin of my left hand, all five fingers, all came off... Hundreds of people were squirming in the stream. I couldn't tell if they were men or women. They all looked alike. Their faces were swollen and grey, their hair standing up. Holding their hands high, groaning, people were rushing to the river... Under the bridge were floating, like dead dogs or cats, many corpses, barely covered by tattered clothes. In the shallow water near the bank, a woman was lying face upward, her breasts were torn away and blood spurting... By my side many junior high school students were squirming in agony. They were crying insanely 'Mother! Mother!' They were so severely burned and bloodstained that one could scarcely dare to look at them. I could do nothing for them but watch them die one by one, seeking their mothers in vain."
(Eyewitness account, Hiroshima, 6 August 1945)

Engineers played their part in the making of these events. Thirty-five years later their role has become central, for the technology of delivering death has been greatly improved. We no longer have to rely on manned aircraft to drop atomic bombs but send them as the warheads of self-guided missiles. This is where electronic engineering makes its particular contribution to slaughter, in the design of the guidance system. Consider, for example, the Trident and the Tomahawk, the two nuclear missiles which the UK Government, without benefit of open Parliamentary debate, has swung on a reluctant nation. Both of these have guidance systems which rely on advanced digital microelectronics to update an inertial navigator. In the Trident, a submarine-launched ballistic missile intended as Britain's independent nuclear weapon, the electronic system receives reference information from the optical pattern of the stars. The Tomahawk, part of a NATO arsenal that will be owned and operated by US military forces, is a cruise missile;

here the electronic system receives reference information on the geographic contours of the desired route from a magnetic-core memory and information on the actual contours over which it is travelling from a radar altimeter. And such is technical progress that as we get more and more devices on a single silicon chip so we are able to kill more and more people with a single missile.

Through work on such weapons electronics engineers in the East and the West have put themselves in the service of politicians, generals and industrialists who have become monomaniacs; who seem to see no way out of the self-perpetuating system of threat and counter-threat into which they have locked themselves and, like drug-addicts, desperately go on with it. The only thing likely to drag them out of their dementia is a threat from another direction, a concerted threat of rebellion from the trapped populations.

It becomes increasingly clear, as our
continued on page 8

Bomb-grade Cowardice

George Monbiot comments on the news that Dounreay is to reprocess nuclear waste from Georgia

Tony Blair and Bill Clinton are absolutely right: there is a real and pressing danger that weapons-grade nuclear material will get into the wrong hands. Indeed, as I write, a dangerous and mendacious organisation, which is alleged to have killed people already and could kill many more, is about to get its hands on a consignment of bomb-grade uranium. The delivery will enhance its ability to terrorise the local population and hold its government to ransom. Having extracted hundreds of millions of pounds already, it will use the new consignment to demand many millions more from the hard-pressed natives of the island state it intimidates. I'm talking, of course, about the truculent, unruly faction based in a fortified stronghold in a remote part of the world, known as the UK Atomic Energy Authority.

There's no question that the world has a problem. Huge quantities of bomb-grade waste are languishing, poorly guarded, in research laboratories all over the former Soviet Union. The five kilos of enriched uranium sitting in a physics lab in Tbilisi, Georgia was simply crying out to be commandeered by one of the state's guerrilla armies and spirited away over an invisible border.

There's also little doubt that responsible global governance involves doing something to sort this mess out. As Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, took such pains to point out on Radio 4 yesterday, the British Government should help the United States to prevent the proliferation of bomb-grade nuclear material.

So why the secrecy over our starring global policing role? Why did British peo-

ple hear nothing about the Government's plans to fly the uranium to the Atomic Energy Authority's plant at Dounreay on the north coast of Scotland, until the news was leaked to the New York Times? It wouldn't have compromised state secrets to have consulted the British people about the principle of the deal, before the uranium arrived.

You don't have to look far to see why the Government might have been so untypically modest about its latest contribution to world peace. Dounreay is the most dangerous nuclear plant in Britain; possibly the most dangerous nuclear plant on earth, outside the former Eastern Bloc. Last year, it was forced to reveal the existence of a shaft above the crumbling coastal cliffs, into which it had been dumping uranium, plutonium and a number of potentially explosive materials. The shaft had erupted once and could explode again at any time. The revelation, the AEA claimed, marked a new culture of openness on its part: there would be no more cover-ups. Just two months later, a second hole was discovered at Dounreay, into which the plant is still dumping unsealed nuclear waste, despite the express instructions of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

This week, the NII decided that it had had enough. From Tuesday 21 April, Dounreay was to stop importing foreign nuclear fuel for at least two years, pending the outcome of a major safety review. One can't help suspecting that the United States government was not the only powerful agency Tony Blair was assisting by letting the uranium come to Britain.

continued on page 8

40 year march (contd from p5)

streets, a new generation of the young, but veterans too. Michael Foot was still there and the few conviction politicians to whom winning power was not the first priority. Now at the head was Catholic priest and one time tank officer, Bruce Kent.

The politicians were beginning to listen to a frightened world. Reagan, animated by a patently sincere Gorbachev, said yes to the first stage of nuclear disarmament. The masses could once again

fold up their banners. The crisis had passed. The journey on the long road from what Aldermaston still symbolises, to what the nuclear non-proliferation treaty commits Britain and all its signatories had begun: the abolition of all nuclear weapons.

We did not march, 40 years ago, in vain. The road may still need our hearts and minds and feet.

Paul Oestreicher, Canon Emeritus of Coventry Cathedral, is vice-president of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Taken from The Guardian 10 April 1998

Microchips ... (contd from p6)

distinguished American contemporary Science has said, "that deterrence cannot ultimately be stable, and that the civilian populations of the world are no longer defended by the armed forces for which their taxes pay, but are merely hostages to them."

None of us can be proud to serve a technology which is being used in the name of "defence" as a means to attain immense human suffering. Because we know what this technology can do we should be among the leaders of dissent.

Taken from Electronics World, January 1998 (article first appeared Nov 1980)

Bomb-grade ... (contd from p7)

By allowing, even encouraging, Dounreay to break the new embargo within days of its announcement, he may have saved the plant from the closure it so richly deserves. For Dounreay was established to do precisely what Britain's intervention in Georgia is intended to prevent. Dounreay extracts (or extracted, until its decrepit reprocessing plant was closed 18 months ago), weapons-grade uranium and plutonium from nuclear waste.

The reprocessing centre will now re-open in order to upgrade a consignment removed, we are told, to reduce the global circulation of weapons grade material. Once reprocessed, it will almost certainly be sold abroad, probably to build another reactor, identical to the one which has caused so much panic in Georgia.

If Donald Dewar and his administration were truly intent upon honouring their international commitments, they would be making plans to mix the Georgian uranium with high level waste, rendering it permanently useless to bomb-makers, and seal it in glass for permanent storage.

They would be persuading the International Atomic Energy Agency to stop helping to build new reactors in impoverished countries, and start helping those countries to clean up their existing mess.

But this decision has nothing to do with good global governance, and nothing to do with non-proliferation. It has everything to do with a cowardly government's insatiable desire to please the powerful, while generating and distributing the most dangerous materials on earth.

Taken from The Guardian 23 April 1998

India conducts nuclear test ...

The Guardian, 10 May 1998

India stunned the world - and its Asian neighbours in particular - yesterday by conducting its first nuclear test for 24 years, coming out of the closet to declare openly that it now has the capacity to produce weapons. In a move that came as a blow both to regional stability and international efforts to promote non-proliferation, the government in New Delhi said its underground blasts established that it had "proven capability" for a weapons programme.

But even as India held out the prospect that it would now work for disarmament, there were fears that yesterday's action would trigger testing by fellow nuclear "threshold" state Pakistan. International concern registered in the form of a formal protest from the United States, and

"dismay" from the European Union. Both will want to explore the prospects for dissuading India from conducting any further tests and turning yesterday's bad news into something more positive in the longer term.

India's nationalist government received the backing of even its most strident critics at home, indicating a national consensus over the issue. P.K. Iyengar, a former chair of the Atomic Energy Commission, said India should now be regarded on a level with the world's five leading nuclear states. "If India is accepted politically as a nuclear weapon state. Then it could act much more responsibly in the nuclear disarmament issue. The tests are a positive proof of India being a nuclear weapon country and no one can deny it," he said.

... and so does Pakistan

The Guardian, 29 May 1998

The appalling prospect of a nuclear confrontation in one of the world's most volatile regions drew closer last night after Pakistan matched India with nuclear tests, detonating five nuclear devices to show its neighbour and arch-rival that it too could produce and deliver a bomb.

Pakistan's move brought immediate sanctions and international condemnation at the undermining of faltering efforts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. The "successful" underground tests brought Pakistan into direct nuclear stand-off with India but without any of the safeguards and agreements that mitigated the worst dangers of the US-Soviet confrontation.

"We have settled the account of the nuclear blasts by India," the Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, said in a televised address to the nation, referring

to New Delhi's tests two weeks ago. Jubilant Pakistanis greeted the news by dancing and embracing in the streets and firing guns in the air.

In Washington, a grim President Clinton announced that the US was imposing economic sanctions against Pakistan for ignoring pleas to refrain from testing. "I cannot believe we are about to start the 21st century by having the Indian subcontinent repeat the worst mistakes of the 20th century when we know it is not necessary to peace, to security, to prosperity, to national greatness or national fulfilment," Mr Clinton said.

But the US and the four other "official" nuclear powers - Russia, China, Britain and France - were blamed for failing to cut their own arsenals under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

CND calls for end to nuclear madness

On Friday 29th May, CND activists were outside the Pakistani High Commission calling for an end to the nuclear madness in Asia following today's nuclear test. The protesters were also highlighting the hypocrisy of the nuclear weapons states in opposing tests and urging all nations to take immediate action to rid the world of nuclear weapons. CND is also urging the Pakistan and Indian governments not to go to the next stage and actually build and deploy nuclear weapons on each others' borders.

Dave Knight CND Chair said, "We now have three Asian countries that are virtually at war with each other all of which are nuclear capable. This crisis has highlighted how untenable the position adopted by the nuclear weapons states for the last 50 years really is, CND is calling upon international leaders to announce urgent new moves on nuclear disarmament in response to this crisis. Nuclear tests must be opposed -but only by agreeing to end the global nuclear imbalance can the world hope to end nuclear testing and the spectre of nuclear war,

"While these tests are a sad development it was just a question of time before this happened. The world leaders need to grab the opportunity to tackle nuclear weapons and take us forward into a nuclear weapons free 21st century. Britain and other nuclear weapons states cannot in one breath describe nuclear weapons as "essential for our security" then in the next breath criticise India and Pakistan - surrounded by potentially hostile neighbours - for developing their own."

Specifically CND are urging world leaders to announce:

- A special conference of the nuclear weapon states to discuss the best ways they can fulfil their NPT Article VI commitments in the shortest possible time-scale, and provide a report to the UN on steps to be taken.
- That they will urge India, Pakistan and Israel to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and enter international disarmament talks.
- That they will take all nuclear weapons off alert status and remove the warheads to storage ashore - to increase international confidence that disarmament is in process and reduce the risk of accidental launches. That America, Russia and China will ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- The halting of all Stockpile Stewardship & Management Programmes designed to maintain the capability to design, develop and deploy nuclear weapons. In particular all the nuclear weapons states must commit to not conduct any further sub-critical nuclear tests.

CND Chair Dave Knight continued, "Britain, China, the U.S., Russia and France are currently giving budding nuclear weapons states a very good argument for developing their own weapons. While they continue to fail to even agree to a procedure for disarmament at international negotiations, their moves to take sanctions against other countries taking up nuclear weapons are hypocritical. We believe that sanctions alone simply will not be effective in stopping an arms race in Asia, We now need an acknowledgement that nuclear weapons, like chemical and biological weapons, are a major threat to international security. Like other weapons of mass destruction they must be internationally banned and strong control and enforcement measures put into place."

- thanks to Eric Lunzer, who received this National statement via e-mail.

Nuclear tests - what you can do

If you are someone who is able to write letters to protest about the recent nuclear tests and the issues around them, national CND has issued suggestions of who to write to and what to write about.

India and Pakistan need to be condemned for actions which are reprehensible in themselves and likely to result in even greater destabilisation of the region of Southern Asia, and an increase in cross border tension in the Kashmir region. Neither country can afford to become a nuclear-weapons state. India has a population of over 900 million, a 48% illiteracy rate, only 81% having access to safe water and a debt burden equal to 38% of GDP whilst its per capita income remains one of the lowest in Asia - it should have higher priorities than becoming a nuclear-weapon state. Likewise Pakistan with a population of over 120 million, a 62% illiteracy rate, only 79% of the population having access to clean water, and an equally as large burden of debt should also have far higher priorities.

Blame also has to be apportioned to the nuclear-weapons states (Britain, France, China, Russia, US) who still cling on to 36,000 nuclear weapons between them. By continuing to cling to the justification that nuclear weapons remain an essential part of their security India and Pakistan's action could be said to be justified. After all, if nuclear weapons are so essential for the security of the five nuclear-weapons states then why should every country in the world not have a few? Clearly the continuing imbalance of "do as I say and not as I do" is untenable. The nuclear-weapons states have to take seriously their obligations under the NPT to negotiate away their nuclear weapons.

The G8 issued a statement from their meeting in Birmingham calling on India to "adhere unconditionally to the NPT and the CTBT and to enter into negotiations on a global treaty to stop the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons" (Pakistan had not conducted its test by this time).

That's fine, but what about the nuclear weapons states adhering 'unconditionally to the NPT'? So please take time to write to the Indian and Pakistan High Commission, to the British Government, and if you can, to the Embassies of Russia, France, China and the US. Also don't forget Israel who have 100 to 200 operational nuclear weapons - please write to them suggesting they renounce their nuclear weapons like South Africa and sign up to the NPT.

Addresses:

Tony Lloyd MP, Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AH
Office of the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4NA
High Commission for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 35-36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9JN
Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1N 4JL
French Embassy, 58 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7JT
Embassy of the Russian Federation, 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QX
American Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE
Embassy of Israel, 2 Palace Green, Kensington, London W8 4Q

Uranium in conventional weaponry

by Jeremy Iago

Depleted uranium is an expensive waste product. Its cost would have also to be measured in human terms if the opinions of Iraqi medical experts are verified. A large increase in cancers has occurred in Iraq since the Gulf War seven years ago. The most likely culprits, doctors believe, are tank shells used during the war, containing depleted uranium.

Uranium shells are not nuclear weapons, nor are they very radioactive. Natural uranium consists chiefly of stable U-238, less than 1% being the 'useful' U-235. Most nuclear reactors use 'Enriched' uranium, an artificial concentrate richer in 235. 'Depleted' uranium is the U-238 left over from the process: a waste product looking for a use. It is nearly twice the weight of lead for a given bulk, and turns up as weights and flywheels in industrial equipment. Military demand leads to a more sinister use: armour-piercing shells.

The Gulf War lasted 43 days - during which a staggering 30 tonnes of depleted uranium ammunition was fired by Allied forces. Inevitable dust and smoke particles containing uranium are among several

suggested causes of 'Gulf War Syndrome', a range of medical disorders suffered by veterans. Now Iraqi specialists suspect that uranium entering the food chain is responsible for many new cases of child and adult cancer, affecting lungs, breasts, lymphatic system and other organs.

The Iraq government is pressing for compensation, citing 'annihilation crimes punishable by international law.' Independent confirmation of the scientific basis of such claims has, however, yet to be given, and the process will probably be a long one. The issue should be treated seriously: it is not possible for depleted uranium to be entirely free from 'hot' residues - even if it were, it is still very toxic. It might turn out to be cancer-causing for reasons other than radioactivity. Decontaminating the environment might prove impossible in practice.

Actual war offers the military-industrial alliance the most valuable means possible to test untried weaponry. And with any luck, the cost of collecting and processing data on human subjects will be funded from health budgets.

Nuclear protesters beat eviction

Campaigners at the Faslane Peace camp vowed last night to continue their protest against Britain's nuclear weapons programme after an eviction notice served by Argyll and Bute council was ruled "incompetent" by Dumbarton sheriff court.

Rab Fulton, a spokesperson for the protesters, described the ruling as a victory for the people of Argyll and Bute. "It has taken us by surprise. Our view was that by taking us to court the council was

conceding that we had been successful in highlighting Trident nuclear weapons in Scotland. To have won in court just adds so much more to our sense of victory," he said.

The Faslane camp has been one of the most colourful and persistent centres of nuclear protest against the British weapons programme over the last two decades.

Taken from The Guardian, April 7 1998.

The World Court: the story up to now

Condensed from the video programme 'The People Versus the Bomb - Judgment at the Hague', written and produced by Kevin Sanders.

In unprecedented hearings, the World Court at the Hague in the Netherlands met in November 1995 to consider a request (from the World Health Organisation and the UN General Assembly itself) for an advisory opinion on the legality of the use, and threat to use, nuclear weapons. This historic decision comes at a time when the five nuclear weapons nations, US, Russia, China, Britain and France still have a total of 40,000 nuclear bombs.

Britain, US and France brought tremendous pressure on the non-nuclear states to drop the case - however a majority of the latter voted to proceed, pointing out that 50 years into the nuclear age, still the nuclear powers had not agreed to halt testing, development or use.

Submissions were given by witnesses from 22 nations. Australia also announced that it was setting up a commission in Canberra, the first independent effort by a nation to prepare a blueprint, political and scientific, of a nuclear-free world. Gareth Evans reported plans for 'a group of knowledgeable, imaginative and distinguished individuals' from around the world, to produce a report on how to achieve a nuclear weapons free world as soon as possible.

For the first time the Court received petitions from non-governmental organisations, bearing millions of signatures including those of public figures such as Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama. Nobel Peace Laureate Prof Joseph Rotblat had been asked to prepare testimony for the court. Having worked on the 1940's US Bomb project, he resigned when Hitler turned out not to be building an atom bomb. He went on to join Einstein and Bertrand Russell in Pugwash, an interna-

tional movement to abolish nuclear weapons. After his Hague submission, he joined the new Canberra commission. His repeated warnings on the unique threats of nuclear war were cited by several Court witnesses, including the Mayor of Hiroshima.

Despite the overwhelming evidence presented on the dangers of radiation, the only nuclear nation to mention it was the US, in a dismissive reference. The nuclear states also argued there was no law specifically forbidding nuclear weapons, that their legality depended on circumstances, and that they could be safe. Other nations' witnesses argued against the credibility of 'limited' nuclear wars. Georges Abisaab of Egypt noted the 'almost appealing' language such as clean bombs, low yield bombs and surgical strikes, feeling they evoked images of 'nuclear war toys'.

During the hearings, a vigil outside the court included members of International Peace Bureau, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and International Lawyers against Nuclear Arms. These groups had formed the World Court Project, which helped the World Health organisation to bring the case.

July 8th 1996 brought the Court's announcement of its opinion. Use and threat to use nuclear weapons are subject to international law and would generally be contrary to the rules of war. The Court condemned nuclear arms as the 'ultimate evil' and noted that the nuclear weapons states are obliged to pursue and conclude negotiations for nuclear disarmament. However, in a complex and controversial ruling on the central issue, the Court re-

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Trident Ploughshares 2000

Trident Ploughshares 2000 is a group which has vowed to use nonviolent direct action to enable Britain to disarm its nuclear weapons by the year 2000. It aims to push the British Government into abiding by the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8th July 1996 which decided that the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal under international law because of the unique, indiscriminate and long-lasting damage their use would inflict on civilians and the global environment.

Ploughshares 2000 was simultaneously launched on May 2nd 1998 in Hiroshima, London, Edinburgh, Gent and Gothenburg.

The group is being co-ordinated by Angie Zelter, one of the four 'Hawk Women' who in 1996 caused £1.5 million worth of damage to a Hawk jet bound for Indonesia.

They won their case in court - arguing that their disarmament action was a justified 'upholding of international law to prevent British complicity in the Genocide in East Timor'.

In Britain, the group has written to Tony Blair, giving a detailed account of why they believe the deployment of Trident is illegal, and inviting him to negotiate a phased scaling down of Britain's nuclear threat before they attempt to physically damage the weapon systems' functional ability. They have issued a list of 9 disarmament steps that the British Government could take - such as removing Trident submarines from 24-hour patrol and removal of warheads to shore. If

these steps are taken the group will hold off taking action. If no concessions are made they will start their disarmament actions on August 11th at Faslane, the Naval Base for Britain's Trident submarines.

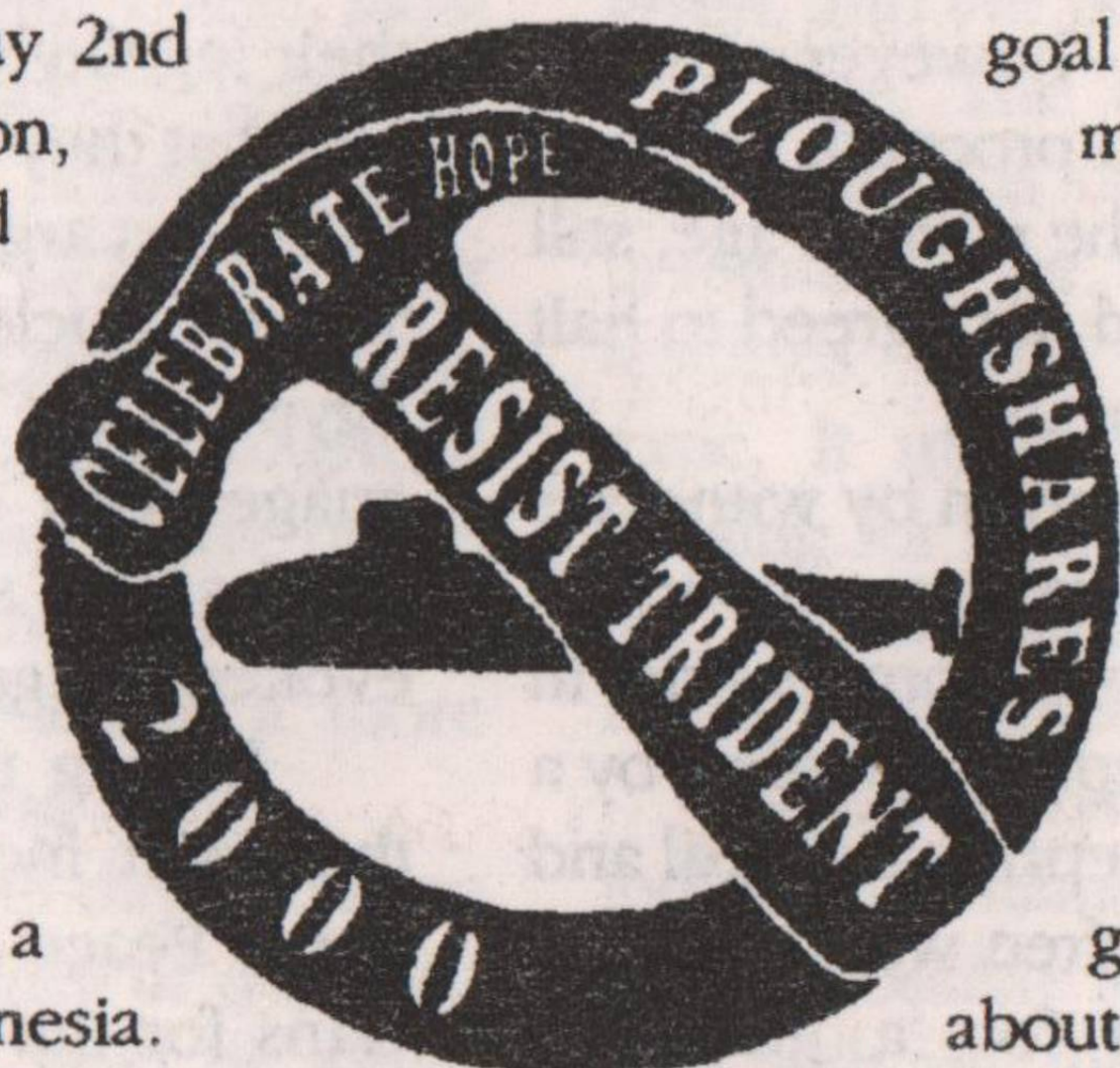
Sadly, the brief reply from Tony Blair's office simply asserts that International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion requires no change in the UK's "entirely defensive nuclear deterrent posture". The reply asserts that the government is looking at the "best way to implement its

Manifesto commitment to the goal of global nuclear disarmament" and, in the right circumstances, "will be prepared to make reductions while maintaining a credible and effective nuclear deterrent"! It seems obvious from the last part of the reply that the government has no idea about the importance of global nuclear disarmament.

National CND is one of over 50 non-government organisations supporting Trident Ploughshares 2000. Nottingham CND committee recently agreed to make a donation to them, and will collect signatures on a Petition of Support for Trident Ploughshares 2000 on our CND stall.

To know more about Trident Ploughshares 2000, contact Nottingham CND or:

Trident Ploughshares 2000, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1UK. Tel: 01603 611953, fax: 01603 666879, email reforest@gn.apc.org Web site www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/



Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

The Turkish government is carrying out a genocide against the Kurdish community in the south east of Turkey which is worse than the suffering of the Kurds in Iraq - yet our government takes little notice of it because Turkey is 'pro West'.

Nottingham is home to Heckler & Koch small arms manufacturer. H&K recently won a contract to transfer technology for the licensed production of HK33 rifles in Turkey. This will result in the production of an estimated 200,000 rifles over the next 10 years and will resupply the Turkish military. It is likely that these guns will be used in the Turkish army's offensive against the Kurds.

On Monday 15th June, 8.30am, there will be a protest at the Royal Ordnance site on Kings Meadow Road in Nottingham. This will involve a wide range of activities

including leafleting workers, banners, media involvement and non violent direct action. We hope a group of Kurdish and East Timorese people will be there, as well as local MP Alan Simpson. The day has been chosen to coincide with the first day of the European Union summit at Cardiff, to highlight Turkey's genocide against Kurdish people in Turkey, and Turkey's application to join the European Union. The protest will continue until 10.30 or 11am, but most of the action will take place in the first hour.

On Saturday 20th June there will be a CAAT stall at St. Peter's Gate to reinforce the message and activities of the previous week.

If you wish to support these events in any way, please contact Christine Curran on [redacted]

The World Court: the story up to now (continued from page 13)

vealed deep divisions, finally voting by a narrow margin that they were 'unable to determine whether or not the use of nuclear weapons would be illegal in extreme circumstances of self-defence in which the survival of the state would be at stake.

The overall decision brought, variously, hope, disappointment, and in a New Zealand cartoon, ridicule: 'Nuclear weapons are obscene. And immoral. And illegal. They must never be used. Except when strictly necessary. So there.'

So the United Nations still has no definitive answer on the legality of use and threatened use. Some nuclear countries, including US & UK, say the decision allows use in certain circumstances - even in a first strike. UK, in fact, said 'The decision has no implications at all for our

defence policy.'

As a result, some of the Non-Governmental Organisations plan to request a clarifying opinion. Most such groups welcomed the aspects of the ruling that seemed to demand policy change by nuclear weapons nations. Typical was the reaction of Leonard Marks, a US anti-nuclear lawyer who stressed the unanimous ruling obliging nuclear states to negotiate disarmament. Others observed that the ruling of legitimacy in extremis is a definite narrowing of the possible circumstances of use hitherto accepted. Cora Weiss summed up 'As law abiding people the states should be sitting at a table, right now, to work out clear, complete nuclear disarmament.'

Jeremy Jago