

Diary Dates

Every Sunday **Stand For Peace.** Silent Vigil for Peace held in Market Square 12.30 - 1pm.

Sat 3 May **May Day March for Peace and Justice**
Nottingham Stop the War Coalition are helping Nottingham Trades Council to organise this year's traditional May Day March. Assemble at 11:30am at Forest Fields Recreation Ground to march off at 12 noon to a Rally in the Market Square, where there will be local and national speakers from the Trade Union and Anti-war movements, and bands, stalls and DJs for the rest of the afternoon.

Mon 12 May **Nottingham CND Public Meeting: Depleted Uranium and the long term effects for Iraq.**
See below for details.



Banners from Feb 15th anti-war demo in London
Photos: Matt Wiltshire



Nottingham CND Public Meeting Depleted Uranium and the long term effects for Iraq

Monday 12th May, 7.30pm

International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

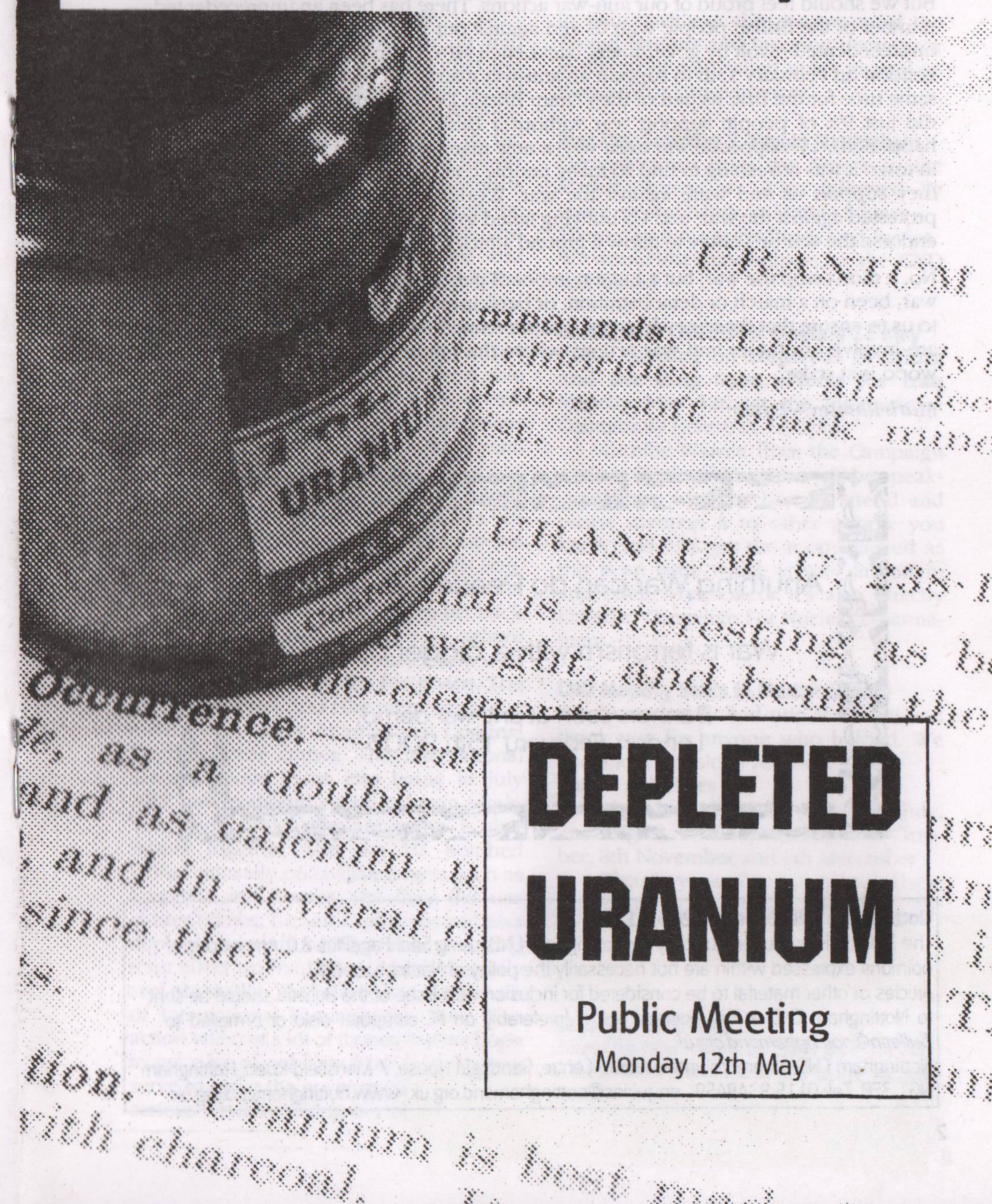
Speaker: Camille Warren (Campaign Against Depleted Uranium)

Up to 2,000 tonnes of DU has been used in the Gulf, a large part of it in cities like Baghdad, and DU left from the 1991 War is believed by many scientists to be responsible for cancers and other health problems in Iraq. Please come to this meeting on this important issue.



Nottingham CND Bulletin

May 2003



DEPLETED URANIUM

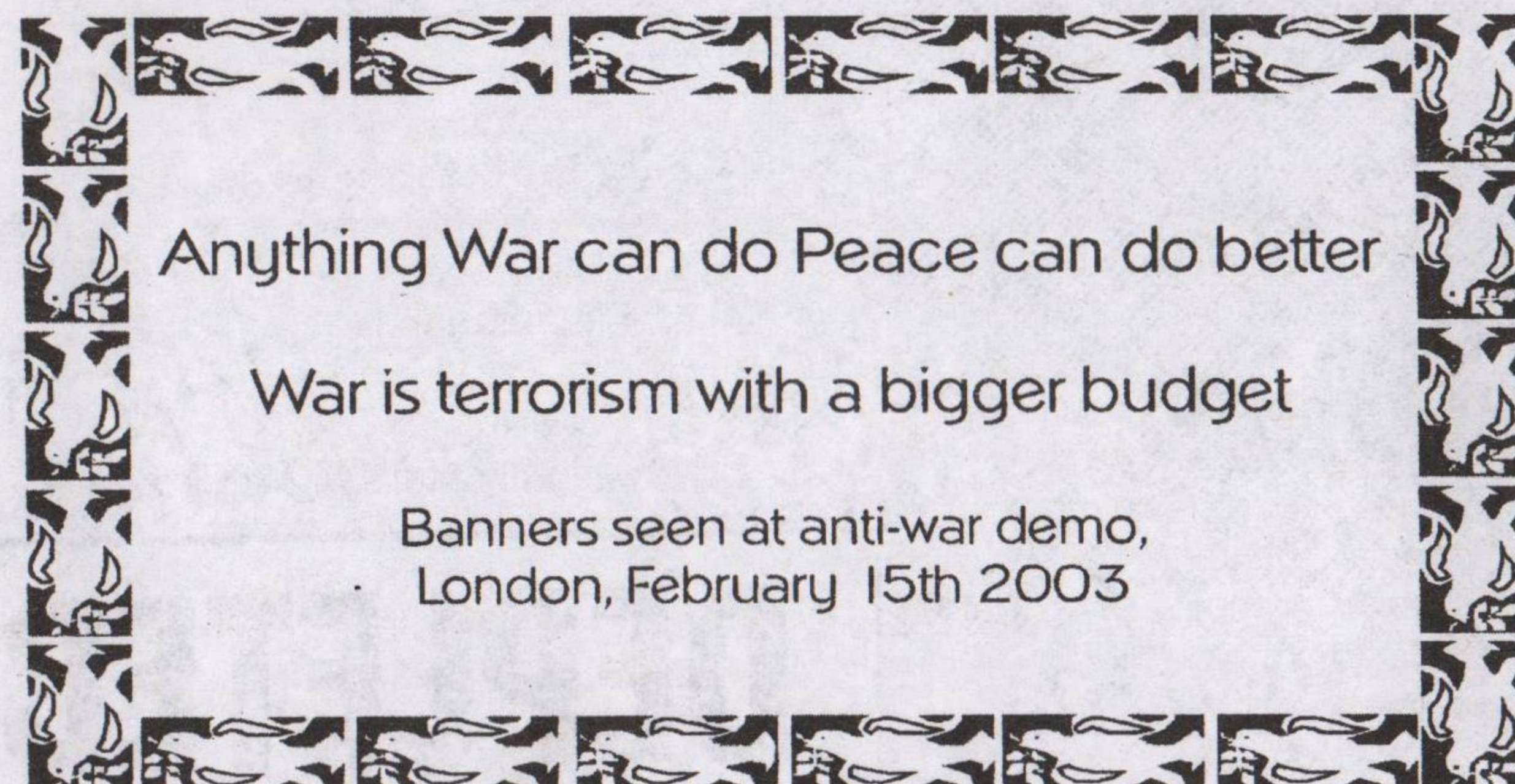
Public Meeting
Monday 12th May

The war is happening, the Iraqi regime has been defeated. Over two thousand Iraqi civilians have been killed, together with many more conscripted civilians, as well as some British and American army personnel. It's easy to feel downhearted.

But we should feel proud of our anti-war actions. There has been an unprecedented number of the British people with us and against our government's actions, and an unprecedented revolt by government backbench MPs. Up to 2 million went down to London on February 15th to support an anti-war march. An opinion poll around the same time for the BBC as part of their "Iraq: Britain Decides" day showed that, not only did just 9% of people support war without a fresh UN mandate (which never happened), 45% opposed war even with a new mandate. On the Nottingham CND stall in town it was refreshing to find so many people coming up to the stall and saying that they support us and were against the war. Worldwide, millions of people have protested against the war, and US bullying failed to force the UN Security Council to endorse the war or Turkey to allow a ground attack to be launched from its territory.

No, it didn't stop the war, but a huge number of people have discussed the merits of war, been on a march or demonstration, or been involved in an anti-war group. It is up to us to ensure that these newly active people remain part of the peace movement and are involved in future anti war actions where the future of our nuclear-weaponed world is at stake.

Mark Ramsey - Editor



Nottingham CND Bulletin #2003/1

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Articles or other material to be considered for inclusion next issue of the Bulletin should be sent to Nottingham CND at the address below (preferably on PC computer disk) or e-mailed to bulletin@nottinghamcnd.org.uk.

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www.nottinghamcnd.org.uk

Nottingham CND Update

Where Next after the War on Iraq?

Before and during the war on Iraq everyone for peace had a united goal and therefore the role that Stop the War had was very clear. During that time Nottingham CND played a leading role in the demonstrations and activities both locally and in London. The most positive aspects resulting from this activity have been the formation of neighbourhood groups and the wide diversity of organisations and individuals which have been involved. The actions which have taken place have often been organised very quickly so my apologies for any members who were not informed and who would have been able to take part. Anyone with internet access can check our website or subscribe to our email list to be kept up to date (email enquiries@nottinghamcnd.org.uk).

The big question that is on the minds of many people involved is how can we keep the momentum up and what aspects should we concentrate on, as regards Iraq, as the situation is far from perfect and the ordinary people are struggling to get back to a 'normal' situation. This is where National CND is playing a major role with the sale of **white ribbons for peace**. The money from this is to take members of the government to the International Criminal Court for war crimes. The International Criminal Court came into being in July 2002 and is shortly about to begin work. The stand which we are using is that Britain together with the US bombed indiscriminately on civilian targets such as hospitals and houses and they did use cluster bombs, fuel-air explosives and also depleted uranium which will have a long term effect on Iraqi people both mentally and physically. We believe this is a breach of International Humanitarian Law. This action will cost a lot of money but we hope to get a lot of publicity from it and it may serve to make the government think more seriously before taking our country to war

in future without the consensus of the United Nations and ignoring democracy in favour of a so called quick victory no matter what consequences.

May Day Saturday 3 May in Nottingham

Demonstration from the Forest to the Market Square at 12.30, followed by speakers and bands at Market Square. Theme for this year is Peace and Justice. We would like some helpers for the CND stall please.

Nottingham CND Public Meeting 12 May

Public meeting on **Depleted Uranium and the long term effects for Iraq** Monday May 12th at the International Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Camille Warren from the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium will be speaking. Please try your best to attend and please mention it to other people you know and let's get the room packed as this is an issue which is very important and often overlooked. It's also directly linked to Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament.

CND Monthly Stalls in Market Square

We have already had two stalls out and thank you for anyone who helped. We had a lot of positive response.

Future stall dates are:

Saturdays 24th May, 28th June, 19th July, 2nd August, 27th September, 25th October, 8th November and 6th December.

Please try your best to come and help as the more volunteers we have the

Saturday 10th May

Morning Star event at the Place on Melrose Street, Sherwood. We hope to have a CND stall there - volunteers welcome.

Diane Lunzer - Secretary

Why did CND oppose the war?

The CND website says the following regarding the war and weapons of mass destruction:

CND is opposed to war with Iraq. It is not an effective way of dealing with weapons of mass destruction (WMD). CND believes that the possession or use of WMD cannot be justified in any circumstances. The most effective way of dealing with WMD is to strengthen the international treaties on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

War increases the risk that Weapons of Mass Destruction may be used

War with Iraq greatly increases the risk that instead of being disarmed, Iraq's WMD may be used. But Iraq is not the only party with WMD. The US and Britain will not rule out the possibility of using their nuclear weapons against Iraq. In response to questions in the House of Commons on 3 March 2003 on whether the Government would rule out the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf, Secretary of State for Defence Geoff Hoon MP refused to comment.

Options for Disarming Iraq peacefully have not been given time to work

The conflict with Iraq has been driven by the Pentagon's timetable for military action before the Iraqi summer. Bush and Blair set artificial deadlines for Security Council action and Iraqi compliance. Options for disarming Iraq peacefully have not been tried and weapons inspectors were not given time to complete their tasks. Alternatives were rejected out of hand by the US and Britain, along with Canada's proposal for bridging the divisions in the UN Security Council.

Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Dr Hans Blix said that even with Iraqi cooperation, "it would still take some time to verify sites and items, analyse documents, interview relevant persons, and draw conclusions. It would not take years, nor weeks, but months." Following the withdrawal of UNMOVIC inspectors from Iraq, Blix told reporters, "I do not think it is reasonable to close the door on inspec-

tions after 3 months... I would have welcomed more time."

War is not an effective way to Disarm Iraq

Military strikes are not an effective way to deal with WMD. War increases the risk that Iraq's WMD may be used or transferred to military leaders or terrorists. Bombing chemical, biological or nuclear facilities could be catastrophic. As German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer states, "We continue to need an effective international non-proliferation and disarmament regime. This can eliminate the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction using the instruments developed in this process to make the world a safer place. The United Nations is the only appropriate framework for this. No-one can seriously believe that disarmament wars are the way forward!"

Tackling Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Government claims that it is going to war to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, but US war aims such as "regime change" have no legal basis under the UN Charter. The Government has yet to provide convincing evidence either that Iraq has WMD or that Iraq has links with Al-Qaeda or that Iraq poses a threat to the UK.

Blair and Bush claim that they are trying to disarm Iraq of WMD, but the US and Britain are doing more to undermine the treaties that control WMD than to strengthen them.

The US and Britain claim to support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but they have not complied with their obligations to nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the Treaty, which requires the elimination of nuclear weapons. They are members of the Chemical Weapons Convention, but the US has withheld funds from the Convention's implementing body, reducing its ability to

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Iraq – what has CND been doing?

CND, both nationally and locally, has been very involved in the protests against war with Iraq. Nottingham CND has kept its members informed about anti-war events whenever possible, and many local members have either attended many of the anti-war protests, or attended the local Stop The War Coalition meetings to help organise local events. Some local anti-war events in recent months have included:

- Public meetings
- A march and rally in Nottingham on March 8th supported by up to 1500 people, the largest protest march seen in Nottingham since the poll tax.
- Protest rally, impromptu march and sit-down on the day war began with a speech from Alan Simpson MP.
- Protest vigils outside Chetwynd barracks in Chilwell.
- Leafleting at major road junctions.
- A weekly silent vigil at Sunday lunchtimes in Market Square. Numbers have varied, but 60-70 people joined the vigil the Sunday after war began.
- A weekly Stop the War stall.
- Stalls and protests in other local town centres, and the setting up of some

local peace groups.

Nationally, CND has been fully involved in organising or supporting all the major protest marches and rallies together with the National Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of Britain – including, of course, the biggest ever protest march on February 15th.

CND obtained a legal opinion from Matrix Churchill chambers that UN resolution 1441 does not authorise military action against Iraq and took the government to court, challenging the the legality of its decision to go to war. In a historic decision the court limited CND's liability to pay the government's costs. But CND lost as the judges ruled that the court had no power to declare the true interpretation of resolution 1441.

Recently CND, Greenpeace, the Green Party, Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, Campaign Against the Arms Trade and comedian Mark Thomas have started selling White Ribbons for Peace, which will raise money for a legal fund to take members of the government to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for War Crimes.

Why did CND oppose the war?

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conduct inspections and chemical weapons facilities and to fill staff posts. They are members of the Biological Weapons Convention, but the US blocks efforts to verify the Convention to pursue its own "biodefence" programmes.

The US and Britain sold Iraq the technology and the infrastructure for its chemical and biological weapons. The US and the UK sell arms to India and Pakistan although these countries are not members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the US provides extensive military assistance to Israel although it has nuclear weapons and is in breach of numerous UN resolutions. Iraq has failed to imple-

ment disarmament commitments made in previous UN Security Council resolutions, but neither has any attempt been made to establish a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East – one of the aims of Security Council Resolution 687 on Iraq from the end of the last Gulf War in 1991.

WMD cannot be controlled unilaterally or countered effectively militarily. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention must be strengthened and must be implemented fully and fairly to reduce the risk from WMD.

Extracts from <http://www.cnduk.org/pages/binfo/nowar.html>

March 20th 2:34am

War on Iraq began on March 24th 2:34am. This happened despite the weapons inspectors reporting that Iraq was cooperating and had made some substantial disarmament and despite the IAEA reporting that Iraq was not developing nuclear weapons and the allegations made by the US were wrong. The US and Britain decided to cut short the weapons inspections and go to war despite the opposition of the UN Security Council and the wider world – making it look like Bush's decision to go through the UN was only an attempt to get wider political sanction for a war that the US had decided would happen anyway, and never a serious attempt at a peaceful resolution. Surprise, surprise, our government's law officer decided that previous UN resolutions make the war legal – despite most of international legal opinion saying that this is not the case.

From that date, Baghdad endured weeks of almost continuous military bombardment, killing some civilians and making the rest live through weeks of fear. After three weeks, following surprising initial resistance, the Iraqi regime has been destroyed, but social order has broken down and looting and crime have filled the power vacuum that the coalition forces appear not to have prepared for. Museums and libraries have been looted and much of Iraq's heritage has been stolen or destroyed. A BBC reporter reported that Baghdadis are experiencing their "first days of freedom in more fear than they have ever known before".

A Tikrit cafe owner says "The people of Tikrit are like the rest of Iraq. They hated Saddam Hussein. I want to kill him," but then adds "this is an occupation. Nothing else. We will keep quiet for a year and if they have not gone we will kill them." These views are replicated throughout the largely Arab parts of Iraq. In Nassiriya, Shia protesters greeted the

US consul General Garner with shouts of "No to Saddam, no to occupation" last week. In Baghdad, tens of thousands of Sunni and Shia worshippers came out of Friday prayers and marched through the streets, calling on the US to leave.

It is no surprise that the Iraqi regime has fallen. A country that spends 50% of the world's military expenditure is defeating a country that spends 0.0015% of world spending on the military in a ridiculously mismatched "war" – "shock and awe" bombing used against a country with no functioning air force and antiquated air defences.

Over 2000 civilians have been killed by the war (see www.iraqbodycount.org), and many thousands of Iraqi military, many of them conscripted civilians. But our media will not show the corpses, the human tragedy which our bombs cause; the focus on the 'tragic' case of one Iraqi boy who lost both arms and all the rest of his family is obscene as they rarely mention its cause – our bombs.

Meanwhile, the longer that water and electricity supplies are cut off or disrupted, the longer that chaos and looting prevent food distribution, the greater the threat to the lives of ordinary Iraqi people and the greater the danger of humanitarian disaster. UNICEF spokesperson Wivina Belmonte warned on 7 Apr., "With each passing day, as the conflict continues, a humanitarian clock is ticking – it's a question of access, it's a question of distribution, it's a question of time, and it's a question of the lives of Iraqi children." On 9 Apr., UNICEF Representative Carol de Rooy said, "Before this conflict took place, UNICEF had networks and systems inside Iraq ... What is horribly worrying about the looting, chaos and breakdown of order is that those systems we counted on may completely disappear or collapse."

Did Iraq have biological or chemical

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London Demonstrations

February 15th

February 15th saw the largest demonstration ever in this country, with up to 2 million people coming to show the government that the country was against war. 35 coaches went from Nottingham. The march was so overcrowded that it took us 2 hours from reaching the back of the march to have reached the point where a steward with a loudspeaker told us that "you have now reached the start of the march"! The main group from Nottingham didn't reach Hyde Park until 5.45pm – well after the rally had finished! It was great to be part of a history making event.

There were lots of witty banners on display on this march, including:

**Anything war can do peace can do better
Better to be a dove than a hawk
War is terrorism with a bigger budget
Inspect these empty war-heads (with a picture of Bush & Blair)
Bush and Blair – the praxis of evil**

We are all used to differences between the police and organisers' estimates of attendance at a demonstration (except at the Countryside march when, curiously, they were exactly the same). Many people use the 'take the average' rule, but I'm sure some think that the police estimate is more trustworthy. For the Feb 15th demo the police estimated 750,000 people, the organisers 2m – but there is a third estimate allowing us to judge the accuracy of these: an opinion poll for the Guardian showed at least one person from 1.25 million households in Britain went on the march in London. This third figure shows that the police numbers are no more trustworthy than the organiser's ones.

Mark Ramsey

April 12th

The Sherwood coach left at 8:15am, around three quarters full, and picked up a few more people from Friar Lane. People were generally in good spirits.

On our arrival in London, instead of being dropped off at the new point of Victoria Street, we alighted top end of Hyde Park. We've never been known to arrive at Hyde Park so early in the day. Resisting the temptation just to hang around the Park for the rest of the day in the sun and wait for the speakers, we set off down Park Lane with much whistle blowing only to be stopped by the police at Hyde Park corner. After a short delay we continued down Grosvenor Place with several loaded police vans passing us on the way. The police then stopped us at the bottom of Grosvenor Place, apparently saying we were walking the wrong way and we had missed the main march. By this time several other coach loads of people had turned up, some from Chesterfield and the police now faced a large number of people some of whom were getting quite annoyed and so the police eventually gave way. There was much cheering. We then marched to Parliament Square where on the green opposite, there were very many placards and photographs showing the horrific injuries suffered by the civilians in Iraq. We continued past the cenotaph and on to Downing Street where people laid flowers and laid wreaths in memory of the civilian deaths in Iraq. There was a very large crowd at this point with much shouting and the street was heavily protected by Police & security.

We arrived at Hyde Park to hear excellent speeches from many people including Alan Simpson, Jeremy Corbyn, Imran Khan, and Carol Naughton from CND who spoke about depleted uranium.

The estimates of people on the march ranged from 20,000 (police) to 200,000 from the organisers, National CND say greater than 150,000. Nottingham was fairly well represented with 160 people in 4 coaches.

Don Lane

Robin Cook's Resignation

I have resigned from the cabinet because I believe that a fundamental principle of Labour's foreign policy has been violated. If we believe in an international community based on binding rules and institutions, we cannot simply set them aside when they produce results that are inconvenient to us.

I cannot defend a war with neither international agreement nor domestic support. I applaud the determined efforts of the prime minister and foreign secretary to secure a second resolution. Now that those attempts have ended in failure, we cannot pretend that getting a second resolution was of no importance.

In recent days France has been at the receiving end of the most vitriolic criticism. However, it is not France alone that wants more time for inspections. Germany is opposed to us. Russia is opposed to us. Indeed at no time have we signed up even the minimum majority to carry a second resolution. We delude ourselves about the degree of international hostility to military action if we imagine that it is all the fault of President Chirac.

The harsh reality is that Britain is being asked to embark on a war without agreement in any of the international bodies of which we are a leading member. Not Nato. Not the EU. And now not the security council. To end up in such diplomatic isolation is a serious reverse. Only a year ago we and the US were part of a coalition against terrorism which was wider and more diverse than I would previously have thought possible. History will be astonished at the diplomatic miscalculations that led so quickly to the disintegration of that powerful coalition.

Britain is not a superpower. Our interests are best protected, not by unilateral action, but by multilateral agreement and a world order governed by rules. Yet tonight the international partnerships most important to us are weakened. The

European Union is divided. The security council is in stalemate. Those are heavy casualties of war without a single shot yet being fired.

The threshold for war should always be high. None of us can predict the death toll of civilians in the forthcoming bombardment of Iraq. But the US warning of a bombing campaign that will "shock and awe" makes it likely that casualties will be numbered at the very least in the thousands. Iraq's military strength is now less than half its size at the time of the last Gulf war. Ironically, it is only because Iraq's military forces are so weak that we can even contemplate invasion. And some claim his forces are so weak, so demoralised and so badly equipped that the war will be over in days.

We cannot base our military strategy on the basis that Saddam is weak and at the same time justify pre-emptive action on the claim that he is a serious threat. Iraq probably has no weapons of mass destruction in the commonly understood sense of that term – namely, a credible device capable of being delivered against strategic city targets. It probably does still have biological toxins and battlefield chemical munitions. But it has had them since the 1980s when the US sold Saddam the anthrax agents and the then British government built his chemical and munitions factories.

Why is it now so urgent that we should take military action to disarm a military capacity that has been there for 20 yrs and which we helped to create? And why is it necessary to resort to war this week while Saddam's ambition to complete his weapons programme is frustrated by the presence of UN inspectors?

I have heard it said that Iraq has had not months but 12 years in which to disarm, and our patience is exhausted. Yet it is over 30 years since resolution 242

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Robin Cook's Resignation

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called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

We do not express the same impatience with the persistent refusal of Israel to comply. What has come to trouble me most over past weeks is the suspicion that if the hanging chads in Florida had gone the other way and Al Gore had been elected, we would not now be about to commit British troops to action in Iraq.

I believe the prevailing mood of the British public is sound. They do not doubt that Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator. But they are not persuaded he is a clear and present danger to Britain. They want the inspections to be given a chance. And

March 20th 2:34am

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weapons? Many MPs are concerned that none have so far been found in Iraq, and that the government and intelligence services were exaggerating the evidence. My MP claims that none of the Security Council countries seriously think that Iraq didn't have them, but former UNSCOM chief weapons inspector Scott Ritter thinks otherwise, and Robin Cook MP, when resigning from the Cabinet, said "Iraq probably has no weapons of mass destruction in the commonly understood sense of that term".

While the US administration hopes that the war will make other countries fear the US, and submit to its demands, North Korea seems to have taken the opposite lesson. It has noted that inspections do not avert war and are therefore pointless, that Iraq could only be attacked because it wasn't too big a threat, and that the only way to avoid American attack is to have a nuclear deterrent. It therefore continues to develop its own nuclear deterrent. The war to remove weapons of mass destruction could be encouraging their development and proliferation.

they are suspicious that they are being pushed hurriedly into conflict by a US administration with an agenda of its own. Above all, they are uneasy at Britain taking part in a military adventure without a broader international coalition and against the hostility of many of our traditional allies. It has been a favourite theme of commentators that the House of Commons has lost its central role in British politics. Nothing could better demonstrate that they are wrong than for parliament to stop the commitment of British troops to a war that has neither international authority nor domestic support.

Written by Robin Cook. Taken from The Guardian Tuesday March 18, 2003

Reports in the media in recent days may point to the true reasons why the US was so keen to attack Iraq.

The Observer 20/4/2003: 'Plans to build a pipeline to siphon oil from newly conquered Iraq to Israel are being discussed between Washington, Tel Aviv and future government figures in Baghdad. [The pipeline] would transform the economic power in the region, bringing revenue to the new US-dominated Iraq, cutting out Syria and solving Israel's energy crisis at a stroke. It would also create an endless and easily accessible source of cheap Iraqi oil for the US guaranteed by reliable allies other than Saudi Arabia – a keystone of US foreign policy for decades and especially since 11 September 2001.'

The Guardian 21/4/2003: 'The US is planning a long-term military presence in Iraq, in a move which will dramatically extend American power in the region and spread dismay and fear among its opponents across the Arab world. According to reports, the Pentagon intends to retain four military bases in Iraq after the invasion force withdraws.'

Mark Ramsey

Do not forget the horror

John Pilger

Last Sunday, seated in the audience at the Bafta television awards ceremony, I was struck by the silence. Here were many of the most influential members of the liberal elite, the writers, producers, dramatists, journalists and managers of our main source of information, television; and not one broke the silence. It was as though we were disconnected from the world outside: a world of rampant, rapacious power and great crimes committed in our name by our government and its foreign master. Iraq is the "test case", says the Bush regime, which every day sails closer to Mussolini's definition of fascism: the merger of a militarist state with corporate power. Iraq is a test case for western liberals, too. As the suffering mounts in that stricken country, with Red Cross doctors describing "incredible" levels of civilian casualties, the choice of the next conquest, Syria or Iran, is "debated" on the BBC, as if it were a World Cup venue.

The unthinkable is being normalised. The American essayist Edward Herman wrote: "There is usually a division of labour in doing and rationalising the unthinkable, with the direct brutalising and killing done by one set of individuals ... others working on improving technology (a better crematory gas, a longer burning and more adhesive napalm, bomb fragments that penetrate flesh in hard-to-trace patterns). It is the function of the experts, and the mainstream media, to normalise the unthinkable for the general public."

Herman wrote that following the 1991 Gulf War, whose nocturnal images of American bulldozers burying thousands of teenage Iraqi conscripts, many of them alive and trying to surrender, were never shown. Thus, the slaughter was normalised. A study released just before Christmas 1991 by the Medical Educational Trust revealed that more than 200,000 Iraqi

men, women and children were killed or died as a direct result of the American-led attack. This was barely reported, and the homicidal nature of the "war" never entered public consciousness in this country, let alone America.

The Pentagon's deliberate destruction of Iraq's civilian infrastructure, such as power sources and water and sewage plants, together with the imposition of an embargo as barbaric as a medieval siege, produced a degree of suffering never fully comprehended in the West. Documented evidence was available, volumes of it; by the late 1990s, more than 6,000 infants were dying every month, and the two senior United Nations officials responsible for humanitarian relief in Iraq, Denis Halliday and Hans von Sponeck, resigned, protesting the embargo's hidden agenda. Halliday called it "genocide".

As of last July, the US, backed by the UK, was wilfully blocking humanitarian supplies worth \$5.4bn, everything from vaccines and plasma bags to simple painkillers, all of which Iraq had paid for and the Security Council had approved.

Last month's attack by the two greatest military powers on a demoralised, sick and largely defenceless population was the logical extension of this barbarism. This is now called a "victory", and the flags are coming out. Last week, the submarine HMS Turbulent returned to Plymouth, flying the Jolly Roger, the pirates' emblem. How appropriate. This nuclear-powered machine fired some 30 American Tomahawk cruise missiles at Iraq. Each missile cost £700,000: a total of £21m. That alone would provide desperate Basra with food, water and medicines.

Imagine: what did Commander Andrew McKendrick's 30 missiles hit? How many people did they kill or maim in a population nearly half of which are chil-

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Do not forget the horror

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dren? Maybe, Commander, you targeted a "command and control facility", as the Americans and Geoffrey Hoon like to lie. Or perhaps each of your missiles had a sensory device that could distinguish George Bush's "evil-doers" from toddlers. What is certain is that your targets did not include the Ministry of Oil. "The ultimate test of our professionalism" is how Commander McKendrick describes an unprovoked attack on a nation with no submarines, no navy and no air force, and now with no clean water and no electricity and, in many hospitals, no anaesthetic with which to amputate small limbs shredded by shrapnel. I have seen elsewhere how this is done, with a gag in the patient's mouth.

One child, Ali Ismaeel Abbas, the boy who lost his parents and his arms in a missile attack, has been flown to a modern hospital in Kuwait. Publicity has saved him. Tony Blair says he will "do everything he can" to help him. This must be the ultimate insult to the memory of all the children of Iraq who have died violently in Blair's war, and as a result of the embargo that Blair enthusiastically endorsed. The saving of Ali substitutes a media spectacle of charity for our right to knowledge of the extent of the crime committed against the young in our name. Let us now see the pictures of the "truckload of dozens of dismembered women and children" that the Red Cross doctors saw.

As Ali was flown to Kuwait, the Americans were preventing Save The Children from sending a plane with medical supplies into northern Iraq, where 40,000 are desperate. According to the UN, half the population of Iraq has only enough food to last a few weeks. The head of the World Food Programme says that 40 million around the world are now seriously at risk because of the distraction of the humanitarian disaster in Iraq.

And this is "liberation"? No, it is

bloody conquest, witnessed by America's mass theft of Iraq's resources and natural wealth. Ask the crowds in the streets, for whom the fear and hatred of Saddam Hussein have been transferred, virtually overnight, to Bush and Blair and perhaps to "us".

Such is the magnitude of Blair's folly and crime that the contrivance of his vindication is urgent. As if speaking for the vindicators, Andrew Marr, the BBC's political editor, reported: "[Blair] said they would be able to take Baghdad without a bloodbath, and that in the end the Iraqis would be celebrating. And on both of those points he has been proved conclusively right."

What constitutes a bloodbath to the BBC's man in Downing Street? Did the murder of the 3,000 people in New York's Twin Towers qualify? If his answer is yes, then the thousands killed in Iraq during the past month is a bloodbath. One report says that more than 3,000 Iraqis were killed within 24 hours or less. Or are the vindicators saying that the lives of one set of human beings have less value than those recognisable to us? Devaluation of human life has always been essential to the pursuit of imperial power, from the Congo to Vietnam, from Chechnya to Iraq.

If, as Milan Kundera wrote, "the struggle of people against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting", then we must not forget. We must not forget Blair's lies about weapons of mass destruction which, as Hans Blix now says, were based on "fabricated evidence". We must not forget his callous attempts to deny that an American missile killed 62 people in a Baghdad market. And we must not forget the reason for the bloodbath. Last September, in announcing its National Security Strategy, Bush served notice that America intended to dominate the world by force. Iraq was indeed the "test case". The rest was a charade.

We must not forget that a British

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What is Depleted Uranium?

The misnamed 'Depleted' Uranium is left after enriched uranium is separated from natural uranium in order to produce fuel for nuclear reactors. During this process, the fissionable isotope Uranium 235 is separated from uranium. The remaining uranium, which is 99.8% uranium 238 is misleadingly called 'depleted uranium'. This waste product of the nuclear industry is 'conveniently' disposed of by producing deadly weapons.

Depleted uranium is chemically toxic. It is an extremely dense, hard metal, and can cause chemical poisoning to the body in the same way as can lead or any other heavy metal. However, depleted uranium is also radiologically hazardous, as it spontaneously burns on impact, creating tiny aerosolised glass particles which are small enough to be inhaled. These uranium oxide particles emit all types of radiation, and can be carried in the air over long distances. Depleted uranium has a half life of 4.5 billion years, and the presence of depleted uranium ceramic aerosols can pose a long term threat to human health and the environment.

In the 1950's the United States Department of Defense became interested in using depleted uranium metal in weapons because of its extremely dense, pyrophoric qualities and because it was cheap and available in huge quantities. It is now given practically free of charge to the military and arms manufacturers and is used both as tank armour, and in armour-piercing shells known as depleted uranium penetrators. Over 15 countries are known to have depleted uranium weapons in their military arsenals – UK, US, France, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Pakistan, Thailand, Iraq and Taiwan – with depleted uranium

rapidly spreading to other countries. Depleted uranium was first used on a large scale in military combat during the 1991 Gulf War.

A sub-commission of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights appointed a 'rapporteur' to investigate the use of depleted uranium weapons among other types of weapons, after passing a resolution which categorised depleted uranium weapons alongside such as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, napalm, and cluster bombs as a 'weapon of indiscriminate effect'.

Depleted uranium is also used in civilian products. For example, it is used as ballast in aeroplanes (having disastrous consequences in 1992 when an El-Al jet crashed into flats near Amsterdam). It is also used in some hospital equipment. The alarming Euratom (European Atomic Energy Community) objective which will allow the 'recycling' of low-level radioactive waste in to consumer goods has also raised concerns that depleted uranium may be used in this way.

Taken from www.cadu.org.uk

Scientists urge DU cleanup

Hundreds of tonnes of depleted uranium used by Britain and the United States in Iraq should be removed to protect the civilian population, the Royal Society said yesterday, contradicting Pentagon claims it was not necessary. The society's statement fuels the controversy over the use of depleted uranium (DU), which is believed by many scientists to cause cancers and other severe illnesses.

The society said, both soldiers and civilians were in short and long term danger. Children playing at contaminated sites were particularly at risk.

Taken from The Guardian April 17 2003

Nottingham CND Public Meeting about Depleted Uranium

Monday 12th May, 7.30pm

at the International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd, Nottingham

Hoon approves Missile Defence

CND slammed Geoff Hoon's long expected decision to give the go-ahead to the use of the Fylingdales base in Yorkshire for missile defence, calling it "yet another sell-out to US demands, against the wishes of the people of the UK." "The decision," they continued, "leads the UK, the US and the World down a very dangerous path, with potentially seriously destabilising consequences."

Geoff Hoon made the announcement just days after the Parliamentary Defence Committee released a report heavily critical of Hoon's handling of the affair. In the report, which mentions Yorkshire CND's submission to the committee several times, they said "we deplore the manner in which the public debate on the issue of the upgrade has been handled." Neither Tony Blair nor Geoff Hoon has given an adequate explanation as to why there is such a rush to answer the US now, rather than allow the public consultation period to take place with sufficient time. CND, like most campaign groups and the defence select committee, felt rushed to create detailed submissions and reports to meet MOD deadlines. This has essentially stifled debate.

Last Friday Hoon said that he was "satisfied that we have been able to take fully into account the views of all interested parties in coming to a decision". He has not taken the views fully in to account, he has interfered with debate and he has made a mockery of democracy.

Whilst Hoon argues that missile defence could represent "an invaluable extra

Do not forget the horror

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defence secretary has announced, for the first time, that his government is prepared to launch an attack with nuclear weapons. He echoes Bush, of course. An ascendant mafia now rules the United States, and the Prime Minister is in thrall to it. Together, they empty noble words – liberation,

insurance against the development of a still uncertain but potentially catastrophic threat to the citizens of this country" he fails to mention that the current plans will do nothing to protect the UK – they are designed only to protect the USA.

CND Chair Carol Naughton said, "The facts are very different to the dreamy world of Hoon's position. Missile Defence will make the UK a target. In much the same way that the UK and US will knock out Iraq's defences with air strikes at the start of an attack on Iraq, so if anyone wants to attack the US they will knock out their defences – Fylingdales and Menwith Hill, integral to missile defence, are two such targets. Such an attack on the UK would increase the chances of a successful attack on the US. Hoon is trying to stay friends with a bully and is risking the UK as a result."

She continued, "The system will also allow increased aggressive foreign policy from the US, as it feels shielded from the consequences of that aggression, a potential arms race as states try to redress the military imbalance of such aggression, and later, the development of space as a war-fighting medium. For Hoon to look at this whole affair as a simple software upgrade at Fylingdales is at best short-sighted and at worst deceptive. We have taken a dangerous path and it's up to everyone to stand up and oppose this decision as well as to write to the MOD NOW to oppose any further involvement." *CND Press Release 6 February 2003 taken from www.cnduk.org*

freedom and democracy – of their true meaning. The unspoken truth is that behind the bloody conquest of Iraq is the conquest of us all: of our minds, our humanity and our self-respect at the very least. If we say and do nothing, victory over us is assured.

From The Independent 20 April 2003

Roger Rawlinson – an Appreciation

The last newsletter reported that Roger Rawlinson, long time supporter of the peace movement and member of Nottingham CND, died in January. We thank Tony Latham for this article.

So much of Roger's life was a testimony to his commitment to non-violence, and in particular non-violent resistance to what he believed was evil, that even the list of organisations that he actively supported is immensely impressive. One might well see the seeds of this commitment in such events as his father's death when Roger was 7, which resulted from an injury in the first World War, and the fact that his mother was French and also encouraged friendship with the German people. Nevertheless, when World War 2 broke out he volunteered for the army and served for six years. One happy outcome of his service was his meeting his wife Vivienne who was also in the army.

"After we married back in England" writes Vivienne, "we went to hear Vera Britain speaking in Liverpool about the horrors of war. After this we became convinced that war is wrong in any circumstances. " This led to Roger experiencing immense guilt about his own war service. "When we lived in Southsea, Roger used to talk down on the sea front about the futility of war."

When this country decided to have a Hydrogen Bomb, Roger returned his war campaign medals to Churchill in protest. Soon after, in February 1958 came the inaugural meeting of CND and Roger, as a photographer by profession, managed to sneak into Westminster Central Hall by a back door to take photographs. The photos, which include a (relatively) young Michael Foot, an elderly Bertrand Russell and Canon Collins are still at his home.

In April 1958 came the first Aldermaston march, and Roger decided to start his walk from Portsmouth, being received and publicising his protest at various points on the way. Eventful as this walk and the subsequent march were, Roger ends his article on it, "However, of all the sights

which remain in my mind on this occasion, none made such an impression as a Japanese man watching our arrival, gently bobbing his head up and down as if bowing to each and every one of us, a gentle smile on his face in which gratefulness and sadness, and some hope too, seemed to be inextricably mixed. We had *not* forgotten Hiroshima"¹

Vivienne had been brought up as a vegetarian but had given up in the war. When she and Roger stayed at a vegetarian guest house in the Lake District a lively discussion on the subject led to their both becoming vegetarians.

Perhaps one of the non-violent resistance movements with which Roger is most widely associated is that of the French peasant sheep-farmers of the Larzac where in the 1970s the French Government attempted to extend an army camp by taking over the farmers' land. The farmers gained wide support from regional groups, trade unions and local workers concerned about redundancies as well as the practical help of a Gandhian organisation, the Community of the Ark. Over some ten years Roger and Vivienne travelled to the Larzac to interview many of those involved in the campaign and record their experience and views. The movement successfully resisted the takeover until, in 1981, François Mitterand became President and fulfilled his pledge not to proceed with the extension of the army camp. This campaign is fully recorded in Roger's book, *Larzac, a non-violent campaign of the 70's in Southern France*.²

Possibly one of Roger's greatest gifts was in influencing others to become interested in and support those concerns which were so central to his life. I became involved in CND during its resurgence in the early 80's, living as I do in Keyworth, Notts.

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The Really Big Blockade

At 10pm on Easter Monday anti nuclear activists joined a coach at Leicester Forest East to begin the 700 mile round trip to Gareloch and the Clyde naval depot at Faslane near Helensburgh 30 miles west of Glasgow.

The purpose to blockade the home-base of the nuclear submarines capable of launching the devastation of Trident ballistic missiles and the Trafalgar class nuclear submarine HMS Turbulent which launched 30 Cruise missiles against Baghdad in the early phase of the illegal war on Iraq.

600 plus protesters gathered at the base blocking entrances North and South for most of Tuesday 22nd April. 164 were arrested many of them locked onto each other with plastic and metal tubes. Among those arrested were former CND Chair Bruce Kent and 11 activists from the East Midlands party and Norwich CND. 5 peo-

ple from Leicester were arrested including Zena Zelter and her mother Angie. Zena was part of the affinity group with Trident Ploughshares including Marlene Yeo, Jennifer Pardue, Davida Hegley, Judith West, John Elliot and Shevane Yell. Former arrestees include George Galloway MP for Kelvinside pilloried over allegations of receiving funds from Saddam Hussein by The Daily Telegraph.

In comments to East Midlands CND today David Mackenzie of Scottish CND said "We think this has been a terrific day".

The gathering brought together protesters from Sweden, Ireland, Britain and Finland, 3 of whom breached the base security setting off alarms in the highly guarded base defended in places by razor wire 3 tiers deep.

Tom Cuthbert, Press and Media Worker East Midlands CND

Roger Rawlinson – an Appreciation

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where Roger and Vivienne had lived since 1966. Efforts were made also to establish an Amnesty group in Keyworth and, although the group did not continue, at least one other Keyworth resident who was motivated to write on behalf of prisoners of conscience known to Amnesty, has continued to do so 26 years later, now into her 90's.

Ecological issues have equally concerned Roger and Vivienne, demonstrated among other ways by their decision to install solar power in their bungalow. Equally, he wished to chronicle the efforts of others to resist pollution, and his book *Communities of Resistance*³ details the successful activities of the people of Marckolsheim in Alsace to prevent the establishment of a lead factory and the resistance of Fessenheim in France, Breisach in Baden and Kaiseraugst in Switzerland to the building of nuclear power stations. (In

the end only the one in Fessenheim was built.)

All peace movements received his direct or indirect support. He was a long time member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and was attracted to the Quakers and attended their meetings for worship, though he never became a member,

Knowing him only in the last 26 years I cannot hope to convey the extent of his influence throughout his long life, but I am grateful to have an opportunity to pay this small tribute to him and hope that his efforts will continue to bear fruit in the lives of those who knew him.

(1) The First Aldermaston March, article in the Nottingham CND Bulletin 1998 and the Quarterly Newsletter of the Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire General Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, April 1998

(2) Published by William Sessions Limited, York 1996

(3) Published by Quaker Peace and Service, Friends' House, Euston Road, London, July 1986