

**Report by Ian Cohen: 24th September Joint CND/Stop the War
Coalition/Muslim Association of Britain Demonstration in Central London**

The demonstration was organised around the joint themes of End the Occupation, Defend Civil Liberties, Defend the Muslim Community. It started from Parliament Square with a march to a rally in Hyde Park. A coach was organised from Nottingham with members from CND, StW and the local Muslim community involved.

The weather was ideal, dry, sunny but not too warm. The march was very lively and colourful and made a real impact on Central London. The rally at the end was also very effective with some excellent speeches particularly from Jeremy Corbyn, Tony Benn, John Pilger and Bruce Kent. There were also some moving contributions from families of soldiers against the war whose sons/brothers/husbands have been killed in Iraq.

Coming as it did on the eve of the Labour Party Conference it kept the issues firmly on the agenda, drawing attention to the Public Opinion Polls showing that 58% of the British Public are against the war and want the troops brought home.

TRIDENT REPLACEMENT? An article by Richard Norton Taylor in Oct 5th Guardian describes how both the US and UK governments seem to be stifling debate on weapons policy. The Pentagon has removed from its website a document on joint nuclear operations for US chiefs of staff. In its guidance for US commanders it envisages nuclear use to pre-empt a possible attack by a country, terrorist or criminal group with 'weapons of mass destruction.' This barely-noticed doctrine envisages the use of US nuclear weapons in conflicts where they would previously have been considered illegal. At a recent press conference, US chief of staff Myers denied it lowered the nuclear threshold - though neither he nor Defence Secretary Rumsfeld had yet read it! A UK defence official told the Guardian 'There is no need for a debate now. When the time comes there will be a debate.' That, presumes Norton Taylor, will be when it is too late to make any difference to what the government has already decided, in private with Washington.

WRITE TO YOUR MP - Clare Short has come third in the Private Members Ballot and has adopted a Bill proposed by Neil Gerrard MP called the Parliamentary Approval for Participation in Armed Conflict Bill. This Bill seeks to change the law so that war can only be declared and troops be deployed if Parliament as a whole approves it. At the moment the Prime Minister does not need such approval from Parliament. The Bill has its second reading on Friday 21st October and Friday is the day on which many MPs return to their constituencies so they will need pressure from you to get them to remain in London for the reading.

There is also an Early Day Motion number 85 which your MP can sign to show approval of this Bill. Even if your MP is already committed to returning to the constituency, signing the EDM will help.

Write to your MP at House of Commons London SW1A 0AA



NOTTINGHAM CND NEWSLETTER - October 2005

(Note to members: if you have email, tell us your address!)

From the Secretary - Diane Lunzer

As we near the end of 2005, we have our AGM and also the sale of white poppies. These yearly events are still necessary as we still need to work towards a world where war - and nuclear weapons - are things of the past. It seems like a dream at the moment - but even a small step to seeing the end result is a step in the right direction. There is right now the very important issue of the possible replacement of Trident.

FUTURE EVENTS -

Derby Weekend 22nd to 24th October. This event was highlighted in our last bulletin but we do need people to come and participate. On Saturday afternoon there will be mass leafletting to highlight the hazards of nuclear materials to the people of Derby who live close to the Rolls Royce factory on Raynesway. This plant manufactures the nuclear reactors and nuclear fuel which powers Trident submarines. The leaflets aim to highlight health and safety issues as well as the fact that we in the East Midlands are not prepared to let this continue. To travel to Derby we will most likely catch the Red Arrow coach from Victoria Bus Station. Then in the evening at 7pm there is a public meeting on nuclear health and safety and diversification which is being held at the English Martyrs' Church Hall, Alvaston. On Monday 24th October there will be a peaceful demonstration at Rolls Royce Raynesway, Derby. Buses for Derby leave Nottingham at convenient times.

2nd to 24th, please ring me (Diane) on 981
an transport efficiently.

The following Derby event info is from Tom Cuthbert of East Midlands CND:

Saturday 22nd October Stall and Leafletting in Derby City Centre from 2pm
Meet at the Clocktower in St. Peter's Street.

Public Meeting at English Martyrs Parish Hall behind Church, London Rd, Alvaston, Derby. Hall open 6.30 meeting 7pm. Speakers: Roger Morby - 'Manufacturing Diversification' Di Macdonald (Nuclear Information Project) - 'Safety around industrial nuclear plants' Possibly one more speaker from Open University on Alternative Energy Projects.

Monday 24th October Peaceful demonstration from 9am at Main Gates of Rolls Royce Raynesway, Derby This is a separate support action to Trident Ploughshares timed earlier. For more information visit www.derby.peacepages.co.uk or www.tridentploughshares.org or phone Alison

Travel Arrangements: If you come to help leaflet and travel by car, parking is good in Derby once you get there. It is a challenge to get to the centre because of roadworks - use the Multi Storey by the Tourist Information Centre and Assembly Rooms near to the traffic island by Derby City Council Offices or the Eagle Shopping Centre Multistorey which is well signposted. Approach the city by the A52 into the City Centre or the A6 and look out for City Centre sliproads. Derby in my view is poorly signposted but the Tourist info centre will give you a map and directions. Give yourself time or bring a map with you.

Spondon Station is a short walk from Raynesway and is on the Nottingham Derby line - times should be available by telephone for weekends and weekdays or online.

If you come by car to the meeting venue there some parking at the English Martyrs Hall and plenty of sidestreet parking in Lincoln Avenue, or Brighton Rd just close by. If you come to the Blockade ensure your car is looked after by someone. The police will protect the demonstration and please take care of your safety on the dual carriageway which is Raynesway. There are good paths to walk along and grassy areas on which to demonstrate. Bring banners and signs by all means to draw attention to the demo and we hope create an impression for press and TV on the day. We do not envisage being there later than 2 to 3pm on the 24th. Trident Ploughshares will stay to care for any who are arrested but if you can help in any way that does not compromise your safety then please do. (Tom Cuthbert)

White Poppy Sales This year, as in the past few years we will be raising money for Friends of the Iraqi People for a girls' orphanage in Bagdad. This is still an ongoing project and they have seen positive results with the money already sent including an IT suite and an IT teacher. I have ordered 300 poppies from the Peace Pledge Union which also helps support their work.

Stall Dates to sell white poppies outside Council House ... Saturday 30th October from 11.30am Tuesday 8th November from 11.30am. Christmas stall date: Thursday 8th December 11.30
As usual I am looking for as many volunteers as possible to come and help - even if it is for only half an hour. If people do know of anywhere else we can offer white poppies for sale, please let me know as we need as many different places as possible.

November 11th Vigil 5.45pm to 6pm outside Council House - Nottingham CND together with other organisations will hold a silent vigil outside the Council House on November 11th to say 'never again'. Please try to come and bring a friend and a candle and glass if possible.

Nottingham AGM Sunday 6th November 11.30 to 3pm This year we have decided to hold the AGM earlier so people can get home before it gets dark. It has had to be the Queens Walk Community Centre because the ICC at that time

will be extremely noisy, it would cost twice as much money and we can't get a room. Please try and make it. As it is lunchtime, food as well as drinks will be provided. The AGM will be followed by a slideshow plus a chance to hear the talk Bruce Kent gave on Radio Nottingham when he came to Nottingham earlier this year. We also hope to show a short video. The AGM is the time when you can have a go at me and also say what Nottingham CND should be concentrating on in 2006. Remember - we cannot survive without your help. **If you want to know how to get there, or if you would like a lift, ring Margaret**

One World Xmas Fair Saturday 25th November YMCA Shakespeare St. This will be taking place for the last time at the YMCA as they are hiving their downstairs hall off to make way for shops!!! We will be having a stall there and, yes, I do need helpers. Ian, one of our members, will ask his son to design a new CND Xmas card.

RECENT EVENTS - Hiroshima Weekend Thanks to everybody who came along to the events. The weekend went extremely well. We managed to attract a lot of people, especially on the Saturday afternoon when we had a joint silent vigil outside the Council House.

Report by Jeremy Jago: The Hiroshima & Nagasaki bombings, being in their 60th anniversary, were much more prominent in the media than in former years. Major TV documentaries appeared and several debates were held. In Nottingham a letter from Diane was published in the Evening Post. The first local event was organised jointly by NCND and Nottingham Greenpeace Supporters and was well-attended - it was a silent vigil in front of the Council House, centred by a huge CND symbol laid in flowers on the stone. A small group of women peace campaigners in geisha costume led a session of peace message writing by the public on silk strips which, tied to long strings, formed a striking display.

The evening commemorative gathering took place at the Arboretum and featured readings of poetry and prose and quiet musical performances. Candles illuminated the gathering dusk as we made the final procession down the hill.

On Sunday the NCND-arranged show of the satirical film Dr Strangelove took place at Broadway Cinema. Jenny Maxwell of West Midlands CND gave an interesting introduction. NCND's stall was in the foyer, and cinema staff even continued sales of peace merchandise while we were all viewing the film.

Throughout the weekend and in the weeks leading up to it, we were pleased by the very friendly relations with City Council and Broadway, and with Jane Burd and Michelle Clarke of Greenpeace. We look forward to developing worthwhile partnerships for further events.