

# Nottingham CND Bulletin

May 2000



Nottingham CND stall in Market Square

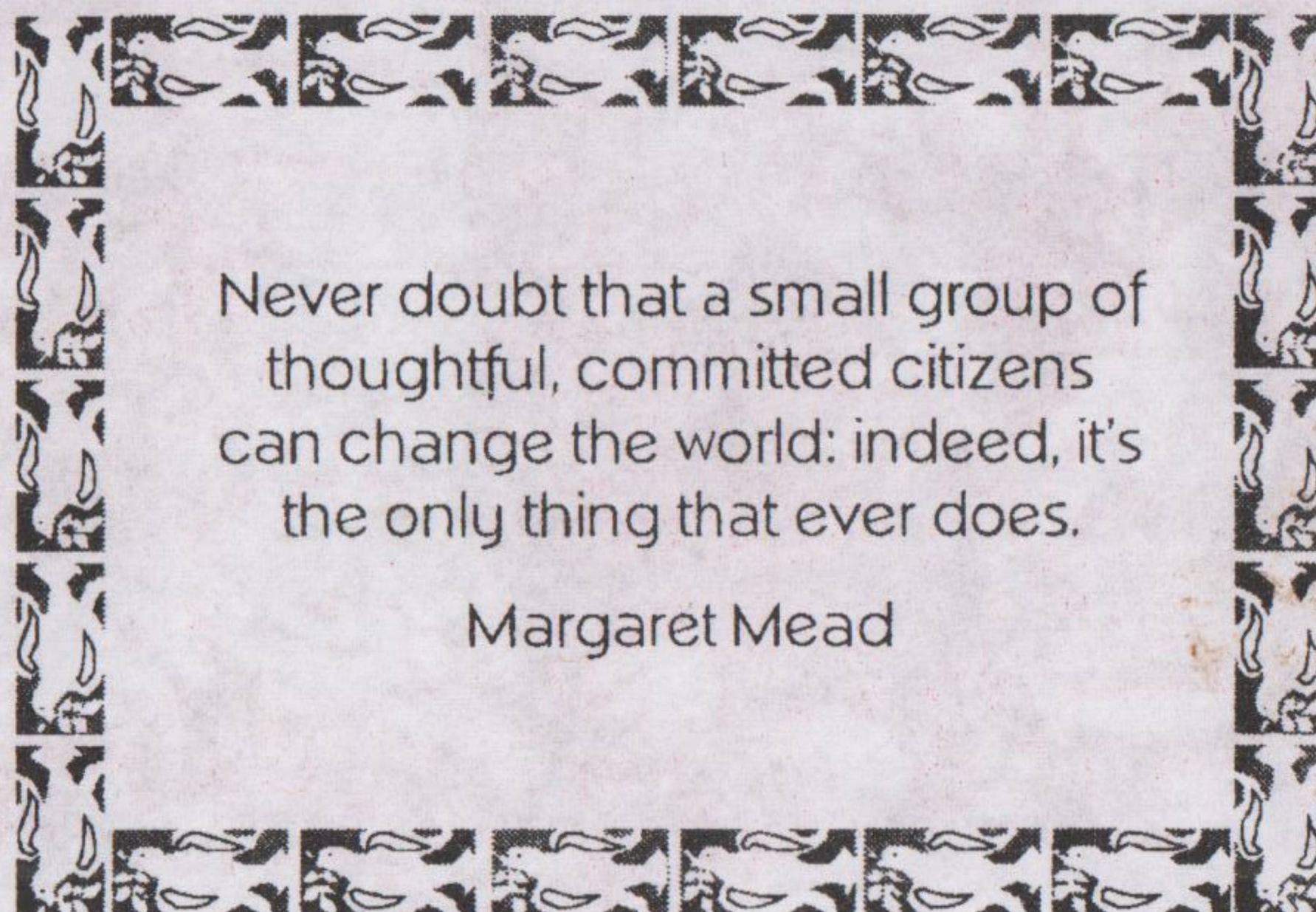
May Day 2000



Welcome to the May 2000 Bulletin. Nationally and internationally the main nuclear items in the news recently have been the continuing problems of BNFL at Sellafield, and the proposed US National Missile Defence. BNFL continues to have credibility problems with its nuclear fuel, as well as receiving criticism about discharges at Sellafield. Most countries, and even some parts of our own government, are critical of the proposed US National Missile Defence which will be very destabilising and probably won't work –but unfortunately it looks likely to happen due to internal US politics. See pages 4 & 5 for details of CND's campaign against it. Meanwhile, largely unreported by the press, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference has been taking place for the past month. The final statement from the conference was better than many expected, but not as good as we would like. As always, it will be the subsequent actions of the nuclear powers which determine how meaningful that statement actually is.

In Nottingham, CND has been taking its message to the public with our stall at the May Day event and at Nottingham University. We are also holding a meeting about CND's "Point the Finger" campaign on 27th June – see back page for more details about this and please do come and learn how we can contribute to CND's campaign against the US National Missile Defence and Britain's part in it.

*Mark Ramsey – Editor*



**Nottingham CND Bulletin #2000/2**

The Bulletin is produced quarterly by Nottingham CND, using Serif PagePlus 6.0. Any articles or opinions expressed within are not necessarily the policy of Nottingham CND.

The next issue of the Bulletin is due in Aug/Sep 2000. Articles (preferably on PC computer disk) or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to Nottingham CND at the address below or e-mailed to the editor [mramsey@spch.com](mailto:mramsey@spch.com) by July 15th 2000.

Nottingham CND, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, Sandfield House, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB. Tel: 0115 9348459



# Nottingham CND Update

We have had our stall out at St Peters Gate twice this year, having had confirmation from the city council which days we are permitted to have a stall. On both dates we have carried a petition aimed at maintaining the traditional opportunity for voluntary groups to hold stalls in front of St Peters Church, following the councils recently brought in restriction – we have received many positive responses to the petition from the public. Our next stall date is Saturday 27th May; on the same day there will be a "Sing-In" by the Clarion Choir, near our stall, in support of the St Peters Gate stalls.

We have also had the Nottingham CND stall out at a One World Day fair at Nottingham University which proved very positive – thank you to all members who helped out. See the report on the next page for more details. On May 1st we had a stall at the May Day protest in Market Square. The event's theme this year tied in with other protests against capitalism elsewhere in the country. There were bands and speakers in Market Square. Our stall was among a number of voluntary sector stalls, and attendance and atmos-

phere was good, with many members of the general public stopping to talk, buy and read.

We are now storing the stall at Shamanic Organic in Hockley (old Hizi). Here they serve home made vegan and vegetarian dishes and have a large variety of different teas. The food is excellent and it's well worth a visit. They also sell organic, vegetarian and vegan produce and have a take-away service. Please try to support them if you're in Nottingham as we'd be stuck without them.

June is going to be another busy month so I need to ask again for volunteers. If you have not helped on the stall before and are a bit unsure of what happens then come to Market Square on Sunday 4th June when the national Trash Trident Tour visits Nottingham. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet CND members from London. On 27th June Tom Cuthbert (National CND Council Member) is coming to discuss the Point the Finger campaign which Nottingham CND needs to get involved with [see article on page 4 about the campaign].

*Diane Lunzer - Secretary*

## News of members

- Peggy Westaway has decided to stand down as our membership secretary due to ill health. We thank her enormously for all she has done for Nottingham CND.
- Sadly, after a long illness, one of our active long standing members Eric Jessop passed away. Condolences were sent to his wife Louise. Thankyou to Louise for acknowledging our card – it was very much appreciated. Eric will be missed in our movement.



**The Nottingham  
CND Stall  
needs your help**

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



## Point the Finger

What does the Fylingdales early warning radar station in Yorkshire have in common with the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston? Answers: neither appears on any map, both are centres of secret nuclear deals.

The US and the USSR were joint signatories the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, National Missile Defence (NMD), a programme now being planned by the US, has been nicknamed Son of Star Wars. It is a radar-controlled anti-ballistic missile system designed to shoot down long-range missiles. It is precisely the sort of system specifically prohibited by the treaty to which the USA is a signatory!

It can and will be portrayed as a 'defensive' measure – but actually threatens security. The sense of invulnerability it fosters (however spurious) would encourage nuclear first strike. Furthermore 'enemy' states would be prompted to swamp it with multiple warheads and decoys – perhaps also cruise or ship-

launched missiles beyond the ABM system's grasp. Fylingdales, Yorkshire, houses the well-known golfballs, the weapons early warning radars whose giant faceted spherical enclosures are transparent to radio waves but opaque to the eye. If Britain gives the 'okay', this station will play a part in NMD, being modified technically in ways contravening the ABM treaty. Also in Yorkshire, Menwith Hill US Base would be part of a related satellite network, again implicating Britain in treaty violation.

Back in 1967 the Outer Space Treaty (signed by UK, US and 89 other states) reserved space for peaceful purposes. At once bold, radical and rather inconvenient, it seems to have been forgotten. AWE Aldermaston is the centre of development for nuclear warheads. Britain and USA plan new ones for the Trident nuclear weapons system. Neither this proposal nor ABM is the subject of debate.

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## CND at University's One World Day

On 21st March the students at Nottingham University celebrated One World Day by inviting many local organisations to set up stalls at a joint exhibition in Portland Building. Five stalwarts of Nottingham CND set up and ran our stall all day and a very enjoyable activity it turned out to be.

Our exhibition attracted considerable interest from students and from other stall holders. Discussion and answering queries went on all day, we collected dozens of signatures on our petitions, and recruited a new member. Free literature was taken and quite a bit of jewellery and

stickers with Peace symbols sold. Many students wanted to discuss the possibility of a world without nuclear weapons. It was with rather mixed feelings that we found one or two students telling us how their parents used to tell them of the CND demonstrations they used to attend when they were students!

There were a wide range of stalls from environment through to animal rights to community groups and trade unions. Altogether a very worthwhile day, we look forward to being there again next year.

*Report by Marguerite Oldham*



# Point the Finger

**CND's forthcoming campaign during the summer will Point the Finger from Fylingdales to London via Aldermaston.** The aims are to highlight Britain's role in the ABM treaty-breaking NMD plans, and to highlight the secret plans by UK & US to develop new Trident warheads. Not to say draw attention to some very large features which the Ordnance Survey would appear to have missed.

In abbreviated form, here is the plan of campaign. Note that the previously publicised 'Trash Trident Trek' is postponed until next year, in favour of the current campaign.

**4th July:** A 67-mile sponsored walk starts during the 'Independence Day' action at the US spy base at Menwith Hill, organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases.

**8th July:** Walkers and supporters reach Fylingdales, and highlight this non-existent listening base by fence decoration, kites and music.

**6th August:** To Aldermaston for Hiroshima Day, when CND will highlight secret UK-US deals to develop a new Trident warhead.

**9th August:** Declarations of protest at Downing St and US Embassy, Grosvenor Square.

A giant postcard is available for local group messages to the PM, together with smaller 'Point the Finger' cards for messages from individual members and supporters. Sponsors are sought for the walkers. Finally, as many attenders as possible are wanted at Fylingdales on July 8th and at Aldermaston on August 6th.

Come to our meeting on June 27th and hear more details (7.30, ICC, Mansfield Rd). Or contact Nottingham CND Office (9348459) if you are interested in any way in this campaign and would like further details. But don't ask for map references.

*Jeremy Jago*

## Time for Peace

An illustrated peace book for children by Janet Ganguli

Published by Small World Publications at £4.50 plus p+p. ISBN 0 536235 0 5

Written to show children that war is an unacceptable and ineffective way to solve problems and that throughout history courageous men and women all over the world have struggled for peace and justice. The struggle today is more urgent than ever and everyone can take part in building a fair and peaceful society.

"The text is excellent and clear, just right for children - and, of course, adults." - Bruce Kent.

Send orders to Small World Publications, 31 Caxton End, Bourn, Cambridge CB3 7SS. Cheques payable to J. E. Ganguli. £4.50 plus £1 p+p per copy.



# NPT Review Conference

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference took place on April 24th to May 19th. Whilst some, including the UN and the New Agenda Coalition countries, see the progress made as a real breakthrough, CND's reaction is less favourable given the lack of timetabled commitments. Below is a review from the Acronym institute, followed by a response from CND.

## Successful Conference: Now Words into Actions

The Sixth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has ended with the adoption of a final document containing the consensus views and objectives of representatives of the Treaty's 187 parties on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The successful conclusion was viewed as a triumph for the non-nuclear weapon states (especially the New Agenda Coalition of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden) who had effectively pushed through an unequivocal undertaking and next steps on nuclear disarmament.

In addition to assessing the implementation of the Treaty over the past five years, the Conference adopted an important agreement on practical next steps for nuclear disarmament, which had been negotiated between the five nuclear weapon states (Britain, China, France, Russia and the US) and the key group of 'New Agenda' non-nuclear weapon countries from Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and Europe. Because of long-standing disagreements between the nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states over the fulfilment of disarmament obligations, previous Conferences since 1985 were unable to gather consensus to adopt their final documents. The 2000 Review Conference's achievement is all the more remarkable for taking place at a time of impasse in the disarmament field and deep political divisions between some of

the nuclear powers, especially over the ABM Treaty and NATO expansion.

Much has been riding on this Conference, as there has been a growing sense that the non-nuclear weapon states may have given away their leverage in 1995 when they agreed to the indefinite extension of the Treaty in return for principles and objectives on non-proliferation and disarmament, and a strengthened review process.

Though the agreements on disarmament may be regarded as a breakthrough, they must be measured against what was missing from the Conference. Politically, this was a lost opportunity to address the proliferation dangers inherent in US plans to deploy national (ballistic) missile defences, and to send a strong message to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament to stop haggling and get down to negotiating and concluding a ban on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. Both issues, of great importance to the non-nuclear weapon states and some of the nuclear states, were swept under the carpet by the early agreement among the nuclear powers of a P-5 statement. It now remains to be seen whether the CD is able to move forward when it reconvenes on May 25.

The Review Conference final document contained important paragraphs calling on India and Pakistan to adhere to UN Security Resolution 1172, passed after

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## Successful Conference (continued from previous page)

both countries conducted nuclear tests in 1998, and on the Middle East, calling for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and naming Israel among the four remaining states (India, Israel, Pakistan and Cuba) which are urged to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states. There were useful agreements on nuclear safety and liability, but most worryingly, sections dealing with export controls on nuclear materials and technology were watered down or lost altogether, and there were disturbing signs that Russia, China and France wished to weaken the agreements on full-scope safeguards. Nevertheless, the Conference did reaffirm the 1995 commitment to making full-scope safeguards a condition of supplying nuclear-related technologies and material, despite China's reassertion of its reservations.

In the agreement the nuclear powers pledged an "unequivocal undertaking... to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals". The NPT Parties underscored the necessity of achieving the early entry into force of the CTBT and prompt negotiations on a fissile material production ban, presently deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament. While supporting the full implementation of START II, recently ratified by the Russian Duma, the parties urged the United States and Russia to conclude START III. Raising concerns that the nuclear powers had not been taking their disarmament obligations seriously enough and that progress had stalled since the end of the Cold War, the non-nuclear powers identified several important steps which must be pursued over the next five years in addition to the bilateral strategic arms reductions currently underway. The nuclear powers have promised:

- further unilateral efforts to reduce their nuclear arsenals – eg cutting tactical and obsolete nuclear systems;
- to provide more information on their nuclear capabilities and the implementation of disarmament agreements – Britain, Russia and the US have already moved some way towards greater transparency, but France and China have not wanted to reveal nuclear-related information, the first step towards accountability and effective verification;
- to reduce their non-strategic nuclear weapons – Russia continues to deploy tactical nuclear weapons, and the US retains them in its arsenals;
- concrete measures to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapon systems – the non-aligned and New Agenda had been pressing for nuclear weapons to be taken off alert, de-activated and for the warheads to be separated from their delivery vehicles. The five nuclear powers have for the first time stated that none of their nuclear weapons remain targetted, and promised to go further;
- a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies – non-nuclear countries remain very concerned that NATO and Russia retain policies of deterrence based on the potential first use of nuclear weapons;
- involvement by all five nuclear powers "as soon as appropriate" in nuclear reduction and disarmament negotiations – at present Britain, China and France are on the sidelines waiting for the United States and Russia to make much deeper cuts in the numbers of their nuclear weapons before they get involved in strategic arms reduction and elimination.

*By Rebecca Johnson (amanded). Taken from the Acronym Institute web site [www.acronym.org.uk](http://www.acronym.org.uk)*



## It may be agreement, but is it nuclear disarmament?

Agreements seem to be blossoming like spring flowers all round the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the UN in New York.

Agreement to name Israel as having nuclear weapons. Agreement to urge Israel, India and Pakistan to give up their nuclear weapons and join the NPT as Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS). But no agreement on how this could come about. Agreement that States should sign up to internationally monitored Safeguards of nuclear facilities, which is good. But also agreement to continue the promotion of nuclear energy, which is not. Agreement to not let the enormously important issue of National Missile Defence (NMD) and "Son of Star Wars" significantly interfere with the Review Conference. Even Russia and China are making only ritualistic protests at the US plans. It fell to Canada to state "we favour continuing intensive results-orientated consultations on establishing a standing mechanism in the CD to discuss outer space issues, especially non-weaponization. It would be a substantial and positive achievement if we could, for once, ban weapons from an area – in this case, earth orbit – before they were deployed, rather than always trying to play 'catch up' after the fact."

However all the agreements between the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) which allowed them to make a joint statement will only last to the end of the Conference. After that it will be business as usual, which means deadlock at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and lack of agreement between the US and Russia on the START II extra Protocols and START III due to US domestic politics and US commitment to going ahead with NMD and beyond.

Not that the NWS are having it all

their own way. There has been a great deal of effort from Groups of States and individual States to move the process forward. While the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) has taken the lead and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is more radical, initiatives have also come from Canada and the so-called NATO 5: Norway, Netherlands, Italy, Germany and Belgium. In addition Malaysia and Costa Rica presented a joint working paper based on the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion which made it very clear that States not only have an obligation to negotiate in good faith but also to bring such negotiations to conclusion. This requires a nuclear weapons convention or framework convention.

A note of hope is that there is agreement that there should be further efforts by the NWS to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally. However although the NWS generally appear to be willing to give an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, they are not willing to engage in an accelerated process of negotiations in the forthcoming NPT review period 2000-2005.

There may well be agreements from this year's Review Conference but it is clear that the NWS, for all their fine words and weapon reductions, will only make agreements in the context of strategic stability, which is NWS-speak for deterrence. Therefore until there is an obvious and radical change to the nuclear security policies of the NWS and nuclear alliances there will, whatever the agreements, be no significant nuclear disarmament, no global abolition and no nuclear-weapon-free-world.

*Dave Knight, National CND Chair.*



# Nuclear weapons are a stupid risk

by Martin Woollacott

The Israeli military analyst Martin van Creveld recalls an occasion when one of his students burst into uncontrollable laughter during a seminar on the utility of nuclear weapons. Her reaction, he wrote, was entirely appropriate. Nuclear weapons are so inherently absurd that rational argument about their use is scarcely possible.

In these matters, instinct is often the best guide. Reasonable discourse can lead in dangerous directions: each step may appear reasonable, and yet the whole sequence be the reverse of reasonable. This is the context in which it can be said that some of the arguments about deploying a limited missile defence system in the US are not unreasonable, and some of the arguments against are not particularly strong. Yet, even though this is so, the ultimate effect of deployment could well be profoundly damaging to the security of all countries, including America.

Britain's agreement in principle to changes at the Fylingdales early warning station that prepare the way for this deployment, as reported in the Guardian yesterday, was probably inevitable. In defence matters, the government strives alternately to satisfy both the EU and the US. One for Europe was represented by Tony Blair's recent decision in favour of a European air-to-air missile. One for the US is represented by this potential adjustment at Fylingdales. No doubt the government reserves its position on the much more critical changes that would come later, if the station was to be refurbished to deal with alleged threats from the Middle East as well as from North Korea.

At that moment Britain would be vulnerable to missiles which the US,

thanks in part to early warning from Yorkshire, would be able to shoot down. That is, if there are genuine threats; if America's huge array of nuclear weapons were not sufficient to deter them; if a "rogue state" did then target Britain; if the American missile defences actually worked. These "ifs" are a measure of how the rational and the irrational are so riskily muddled in these arguments.

Britain, of course, is only a detail in the big picture. At the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London last week an American and a Russian debated the broader issues. The Russian expert on American affairs, Sergei Rogov, arguing that deployment would be destabilising, was reasonable. The former American diplomat and aide to Ronald Reagan, Arnold Kanter, arguing that it need not be, was also reasonable.

It was possible to imagine these two men, or men like them, arriving at a Russo-American agreement under which America would get its anti-missile system and Russia would get a more favourable nuclear balance, at much lower levels on both sides, with the US. It is possible, too, that China could be reassured and Europe's doubts overcome, particularly if Russia drops its objections. In fact this is now the thrust of moderate, informed opinion in the US. Since national missile defence has become inevitable, says this school of thought, the key objective should be to lodge it in a series of agreements and understandings with other countries. At the end of the process the US, Russia, and Europe might all congenially share an interconnected set of anti-missile defences.

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## Nuclear weapons are a stupid risk

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Yet all this reasonableness conceals the real force behind the drive for new missile defences. That force is an angry American nationalism which sees the rest of the world as suspect and potentially malign, and makes a fetish of nuclear weapons. It also clings to the idea that America's superior technology can give it invulnerability while allowing it to intervene forcibly around the world whenever it wishes to do so.

This is summed up in a phrase quoted by Rogov: "Freedom to attack, and freedom from attack." It may not be the nationalism of most Americans, but it is the nationalism of a section of the Republican party, and it has outposts elsewhere. Ordinary Americans, the polls show, favour arms control. But naturally, when asked whether the country should defend itself, they tend to favour that as well.

It is the job of serious politicians to explain that some forms of defence can reduce rather than increase security. But there are many in America who do the opposite. After the Senate voted to reject the Test Ban Treaty, majority leader Trent Lott deemed that the next objective should be to "strengthen American nuclear deterrence". This in a country with the capacity to blow up the world many times over.

In the face of such attitudes, the facts matter little. North Korea could peaceably unite with South Korea, Saddam Hussein could fall, Iran could abandon its weapons programmes – men like these would soon find fresh demons. Representatives of the people of this calibre might well reject an amended ABM Treaty with Russia, one crafted to secure Russian agreement to new US anti-missile deployment, because they would prefer that treaty to collapse altogether.

Let it be admitted that, at some point in the future, it might be easier for the US and its allies to deal with a hostile country that had a handful of unsophisticated nuclear weapons if there was little chance that those weapons would get through. But look at the price to be paid for that notional capacity in that notional situation. It is a large one, even if the moderates succeed in bringing it in with some measure of international agreement. The price is that the idea of controlling, reducing and ultimately taking nuclear weapons to as close to vanishing point as possible is slipping off the American and therefore the international agenda.

That changes the atmosphere in which other states will make decisions, as it already has in the sub-continent. It points to a future in which the advanced states will keep their weapons and more of the poorer states will acquire them. Not necessarily a large number. As Martin van Creveld implies, nuclear weapons are stupid things to have and, whatever seemed to be the case 40 or 50 years ago, when most of the present owners acquired them, many countries now are smart enough not to want them.

But it might not take many to contrive a disaster, particularly in a world where America had made the wrong choice, as William Pfaff has put it, between "international balance and accommodation... and... global preponderance and hegemony." Even if a nuclear exchange continues to be avoided – and it may be – this is still not a world in which it is going to be pleasant to live. Is this worth risking, just because North Korea managed, a year and a half ago, to lob a primitive missile a surprising distance into the sea?

*Taken from The Guardian 31 Mar 2000*



# What are journalists for?

**Jake Lynch, author and Sky news correspondent, compares conventional reporting with a peace journalism approach**

How often is a conflict portrayed in our news as a tug-of-war, a zero sum game between two parties at loggerheads over one issue? Think back to coverage of the Kosovo crisis, characterised as "The Serbs" versus "The Albanian Kosovars." Put it like this, and an inch gained by one side can only be the same inch lost by the other, so both cannot win at the same time. And if only one issue divides them, how can the motives for unexpected behaviour be explained?

A classic from Newsweek: the obduracy of President Milosevic was attributable to the influence of his wife, "an extremist even more fanatical than himself." Extremists and fanatics cannot be reasoned with and must, perforce, be coerced into "backing down" – a logic which makes violence seem inevitable as a means of settling disputes.

Peace journalism looks at matters differently. It maps a conflict as a roundtable, consisting of many parties, many issues. A complex, interlocking pattern of fears, inequities and resentments which can only be overcome by seeking, devising, and implementing complex, interlocking solutions. Focusing, for instance, on the continuing plight of Serbian refugees in Serbia – their ranks growing before, during, and after NATO's bombing – breaches the bipolar model by deconstructing the categories of victim and oppressor in this decade of Balkan upheavals. In doing so, it also identifies one factor in explaining Yugoslavia's violent response to any secessionist force.

Sure, those grievances were cynically manipulated by unscrupulous politicians, but they had to be there to manipulate in

the first place: any settlement capable of bringing lasting peace has to engage with them. This provides a key insight in some of the more imaginative peace plans for the region.

In the same way, anti-independence sentiment in East Timor was, by all means, manipulated from Jakarta, but at the root of it lay the fears of transmigrates. They were the standard-bearers for Indonesia's post-colonial settlement – in a country where living standards had suddenly plummeted in a financial crisis precipitated by Western banks, and scapegoating of newcomers had already brought widespread violence.

Humanise all sides, insist on parity of esteem for testimony in place of worthy and unworthy victimhood, and the structural factors perpetuating a conflict become visible. Because blame cannot therefore be pinned on one, demonised party, suddenly it makes sense to encircle, balance and neutralise those factors if the causes of violence are to be removed. This is not something you can do with more violence.

But how to connect with hidden or marginalised perspectives, given the stridency with which dominant voices propel their own version of events to the top of the agenda? One of these dominant voices – the British government's spin-doctor Alastair Campbell – said it was essential to try to hold the public interest "on our terms" in the Kosovo crisis. Western speakers kept on berating Milosevic and repeating the most exaggerated scare stories about "The Serbs" because they were elevated by journalists directly to the top

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## Nuclear firm plans switch from waste reprocessing to storage

British Energy, the UK's main nuclear power producer, is in confidential talks with British Nuclear Fuels to end its £300m a year reprocessing contracts at Sellafield and move to storage of toxic waste in an attempt to win favour with the Green movement - and boost its much-shrivalled share price. The move is another blow for BNFL, which has suffered a series of reverses since it admitted that its workers had falsified quality control records for plutonium fuel destined for Japan. Spent fuel shipments to Sellafield have been suspended from Switzerland and Germany and there have been calls from the Irish and Danish governments to end reprocessing.

British Energy (BE) has already indicated it wants to renegotiate its contracts with BNFL, but Peter Hollins, BE's chief

executive, said it wanted to end reprocessing and persuade the equally troubled group to offer storage facilities at its Sellafield reprocessing site. Environmentalists have long argued that reprocessing is more expensive than storage and recovers bomb-making plutonium that would otherwise remain locked up. Until now the nuclear industry has argued that plutonium is too valuable as an energy source not to recover it.

Mark Johnston, of Friends of the Earth, welcomed the apparent change of heart. He said the move was clearly due to City pressure over BE's share price - which has lost 80% of its value in the last year - and acknowledged that storage was "the least worst option".

*Taken from The Guardian 19 May 2000*

## News in Brief

### 50,000 extra Chernobyl cancers predicted

The Chernobyl disaster will cause 50,000 new cases of thyroid cancer among young people living in the worst-affected region, World Health Organisation researchers say. The figures show that in Gomel, Belarus, 36.4% of children aged under four on April 26, 1986 - the day of the disaster - can expect to develop thyroid cancer. This percentage is much higher than was originally expected.

### Forest fire razes bomb laboratories

The birthplace of the atomic bomb was burned down by a forest fire sweeping across New Mexico, it was reported yesterday. The complex of buildings where US scientists worked on the prototype bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was razed as the fire - originally started as a "controlled burn" - encroached on the Los Alamos nuclear laboratories. They had been earmarked by

the White House as historic sites under the "Save America's Treasures" programme.

### Toxic waste found in scrap metal

One gram of plutonium in scrap metal fed through a Sheffield smelter has turned 50 tonnes of reclaimed material into nuclear waste. This is the first time plutonium, the most toxic substance in the world, has been discovered in scrap metal, but the third time this year that nuclear material has turned up in unauthorised places, leading to increasing fears about the possibility of widespread contamination.

### US planned one big nuclear blast for mankind

The US Air Force developed a top-secret plan to detonate a nuclear bomb on the moon as a display of military might at the height of the Cold War. The main aim of the proposed detonation was a PR exercise and a show of one-upmanship.



## What are journalists for?

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of the news agenda as accomplished fact.

Military hardware – HMS Invincible and Ocean, the Apache helicopters – was dispatched to the war zone not for effect – which was minimal, even zero – but to create helpful “facts” for reporters to report. The gratifying response to fact or statement X provides an incentive, in a feedback loop of cause and effect, for the provision of fact or statement Y.

It has to be understood that there is no agenda-free reporting. All reporting contains an agenda, whether wittingly or otherwise. Neither is it useful to ask who put it there, since the feedback loop means the answer is – everyone did. Fortunately, there are road-tested alternatives to hand, discussed in the [Conflict and Peace Forums] publications, *The Peace Journalism Option* and *What Are Journalists For?* Break the umbilical cord with official information sources, which has London or

Washington “confirming” things reporters cannot possibly check for themselves while Belgrade (for example) only ever “claims” them. Privileged perspectives are camouflaged with “said to be,” “thought to be,” and “it being seen as.” Instead, peace journalism should alert audiences to a world of perspectives. Equip them to ask, who wants me to believe this, and why? And pick up ideas for peaceful outcomes and solutions, whoever suggests them. Then news could start to provide incentives for conflicts to be resolved non-violently.

*The Peace Journalism Option* and *What Are Journalists For?* are available from: Annabel McGoldrick, Conflict and PeaceForums, Taplow Court, Taplow, Berks, SL6 OER

Tel: 01628 591 233 Fax: 01628 773 055

*Taken from NPC "MediaBulletin" March 2000. This article was first published by MediaChannel.*

## Douglas warns of nuclear anarchy in speech to MPs

The full campaigning might of Hollywood was unleashed at Westminster last night as actor Michael Douglas urged Tony Blair to show leadership over nuclear disarmament or risk a world slide into “nuclear anarchy”.

In a speech to MPs, the film star, a United Nations ambassador for nuclear disarmament, warned that three international treaties governing nuclear stockpiles risked “coming apart”. Making his appeal to the all-party parliamentary group for non-proliferation and global security, Douglas warned that the cold war threat from nuclear weapons was still present. He said Russia and China had

warned Washington’s “prospective adoption” of a “Star Wars” missile defence system would cancel a missile treaty and could increase confrontation with the US. The defence secretary, Geoff Hoon, last night said the US had not formally requested use of its bases in Britain for the new system, but said any such request would be “carefully considered”.

Douglas urged Mr Blair to speak at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York in May. “This would send a message to other world leaders of the importance of saving that treaty”, he said.

*Taken from The Guardian, 21 March 2000*



# World Court Project

Last October there was the landmark ruling in the trial at Greenock Magistrate's Court of the three Trident Ploughshares 2000 women accused of about £100,000 worth of damage to Maytime in June 1999. This floating laboratory in Loch Goil is essential to Trident. After three weeks in court, Sheriff Gimblett's ruling effectively endorsed their defence that they were acting lawfully in order to prevent an infinitely greater crime [Reported in October 1999's Bulletin].

The Loch Goil case, and especially Sheriff Gimblett's ruling, is a bold step forward in our legal campaign. World Court Project Chair, Rob Green, writes as follows:

...When the British government brushed this [the ICJ Opinion] aside, we knew that the only way to make it comply would be by more radical non-violent direct action invoking the Nuremberg Principles – which the Court also confirmed apply to nuclear weapons as part of international humanitarian law. These courageous, disciplined and dedicated women have now done this, using the World Court decision in their defence and, following several earlier convictions because the international law defence was disallowed, they have been acquitted for the first time.

As an ex-British Navy Commander with nuclear weapon experience, I know that the Nuremberg connection is potentially a winner in the struggle to get rid of nuclear weapons. This stems from the fact that what differentiates a military professional from a hired killer is that the military professional must be seen to act within the law – military, domestic and international law. The Trident Ploughshares 2000 campaigners are acting upon Nuremberg Principle VII which states: "Complicity in the commission of a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity...is a crime under international law." They have taken on the responsibility which the UK government and Navy are shirking, to try to prevent the crime of threatening to use, let alone using, even one Trident

missile, which is loaded with at least three 100 kiloton thermonuclear warheads, each warhead having the explosive power of 8 Hiroshima bombs.

The British Navy is terrified of the Nuremberg connection being made. I was outraged when I discovered that their top legal adviser's view is that Trident submarine Commanding Officers would not be acting illegally as long as they carried out the orders of the State. That was the Nazi defence at Nuremberg – and it failed....

With public opinion in Scotland overwhelmingly against nuclear weapons, and the Scottish Nationalist Party backing the Trident Ploughshares campaign in the new Scottish Parliament, the British government and Navy urgently need to review the deployment of Trident.

This is a boost for the nuclear disarmament movement ... In Scotland, Trident Ploughshares have been vindicated in what was a high-risk campaign, and their activists have been re-motivated to press harder, swamping the courts with cases. It will also empower others in the NATO countries and US allies Japan and Australia to use the legal route. ...

*Taken from the WCP Newsletter Spring 2000, available at the WCP web site [www.gn.apc.org/wcp](http://www.gn.apc.org/wcp)*



# Campaign Against Arms Trade

CAAT organised a demo outside the Nottingham Heckler and Koch arms equipment works on Thursday 4th May, timed to coincide with the British Aerospace AGM in London. BAE and their subsidiary companies fuel the arms trade and export weapons to countries with poor human rights records

One of the protesters describes the demo: "The demo in Nottingham went off well. Five of us braved the cold and early hour to leaflet the workers as they went in at 6.30am. The workers were friendly and most took a leaflet (I think the 'Good morning sir would you like a leaflet' approach kind of shocked them). There were 10 MoD police there keeping us entertained and catching us all on their home video. The afternoon demo at 3.30 saw our numbers grow to eleven, thus we could spare people to hold a banner out at the passing traffic who beeped their support."

"I did a radio interview about it for Radio Trent which went out throughout the day, and a photographer from a local free paper (the Topper) came and took a picture and a leaflet. The article went out in this week's Topper."



ONE DAY WE'RE BOUND TO EVOLVE  
A BETTER WAY OF SETTLING DISPUTES.

A CAAT spokesperson said: "Britain is exporting weapons and warplanes to well known human rights abusers. The Government argues that the arms trade generates jobs and boosts the UK economy but this just isn't true. The British arms industry is crippling our economy because millions has had to be spent on propping it up since the cold war."

CAAT are planning another week of actions on 10th -18th June. If you are interested contact Karl Stirland via the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Rd. Tel: 0115 9585666.

## CD-Rom Review

### Atomic Age

This is a multimedia CD ROM disc currently on sale at 'The Works' bookshop in Nottm at a cost of £2. It is an illustrated mini-encyclopaedia whose title is self-explanatory. Containing subject sections on the history, science and human implications of the nuclear heritage, it features extensive illustrative material including diagrams, historic photos, even documentary colour movie excerpts with sound and commentary. Created in the USA with a largely North American readership in mind, it maintains a commendably straightforward approach without tendencies towards nuclear or military 'gung-ho'. A technical assessment of the effects of missile blasts on several American cities is included. It runs on both PCs and Macs – such as the PC on the desk next to NCND's at our office at Sandfield House. Come up and see it sometime.

A telling quote from Einstein appears at the beginning: 'Had I known the Germans would not develop the bomb, I wouldn't have lifted a finger...'

Jeremy Jago



# Diary Dates

- Sun 4 June      Trash Trident Tour visits Nottingham. 11am onwards, Market Square.
- Sat/Sun 10-11 June      National Peace Council Annual General Meeting.  
                                  10 June "Culture of Peace Festival" 10am - 5pm at Friends House,  
                                  Euston Road, London. Euston tube. Speakers - workshops - stalls -  
                                  exhibits - music - poetry - dance - drama.  
                                  11 June Business Meeting 11am - 3pm caxton House, 129 St Johns  
                                  Way, London. Archway tube.
- Tue 27 June      Tom Cuthbert of National CND will speak on the Point the Finger  
                                  Campaign. International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd,  
                                  Nottingham at 7.30pm. Please attend. Tea and coffee provided.
- Sat 8 July      "Point the Finger" demonstration at Fylingdales US spy base, North  
                                  Yorkshire.
- Sat 6 August      "Point the Finger" demonstration at Aldermaston.

## Trash Trident Tour Visits Nottingham – Sunday 4 June

11am onwards, Market Square

Come along and join the fun!

# POINT THE FINGER



• No Star Wars • No US spy bases • No nuclear weapons  
 Meeting June 27th, 7.30pm, ICC 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham