



# Nottingham CND Bulletin

August 2000

## NO FURTHER QUESTIONS



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**ARE MINDS MADE UP ON  
NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENCE?**



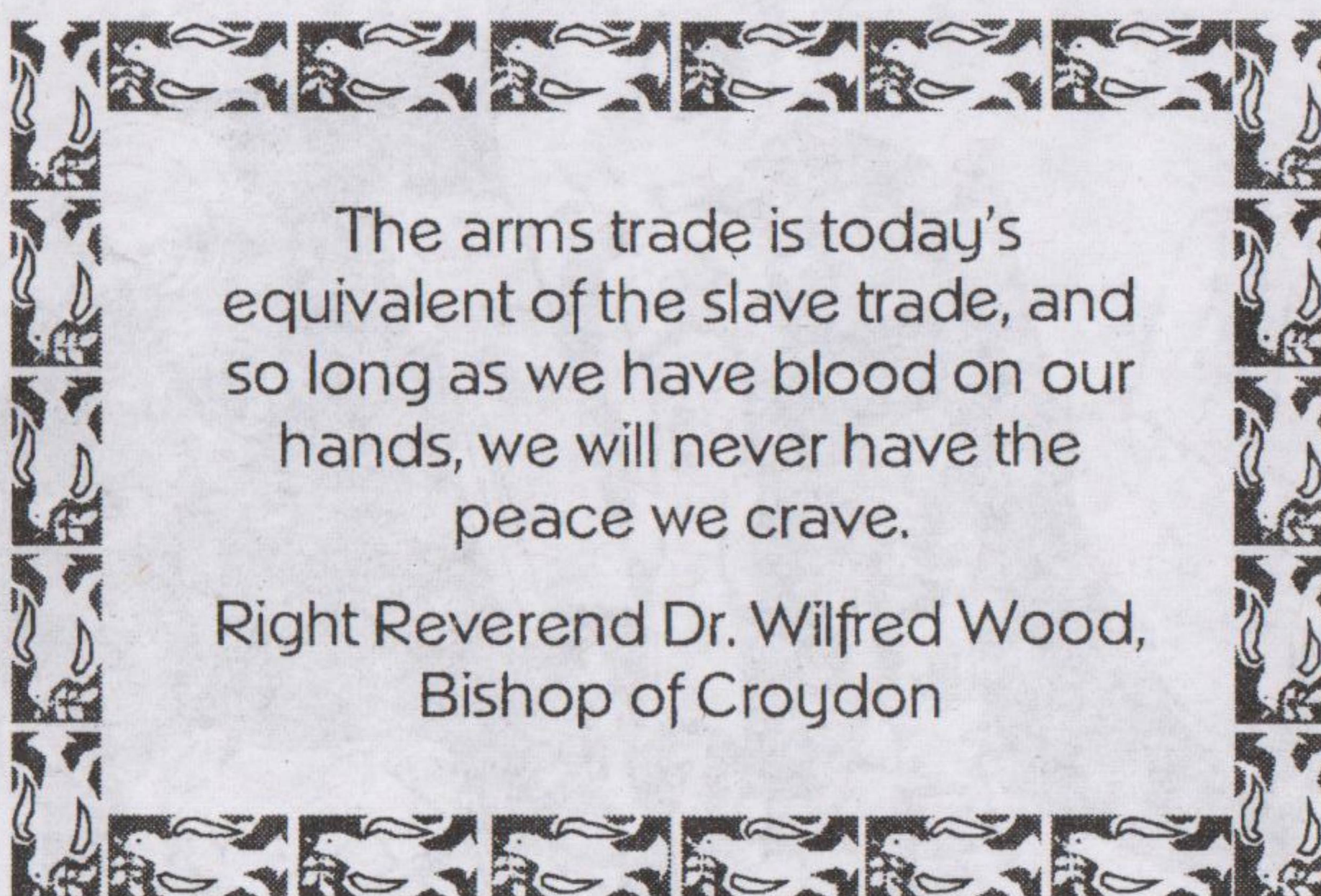
Welcome to the August 2000 Bulletin. There are three issues I particularly want to draw your attention to this issue:

The US National Missile Defence debate continues. Its most recent test was a failure, but President Clinton is still likely to give the go-ahead for political reasons. Meanwhile, our government is saying little about it. For the latest news and campaign reports on NMD see page 6-7.

In Scotland, in October, the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh will make rulings on issues surrounding non-violent action against Trident. Whether they ignore or reinforce the ICJ advisory opinion, they could have global implications. See page 14 for more information.

Did you know that this year is the UN International Year for a Culture of Peace? If you want to know more about it see page 12-13.

*Mark Ramsey - Editor*



**Nottingham CND Bulletin #2000/3**

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 December 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 November 1st 2000.

Nottingham CND, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, Sandfield House, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB. Tel: 0115 934 8459



# Nottingham CND Update

First of all thanks to Jeremy for sending an interim newsletter to all members to publicise the Hiroshima Event on August 6th in the Arboretum. It did receive a good response with approximately 27 members and friends attending plus the Clarion Choir. Jos Wood did a good job by stepping in at the last minute to do the master of ceremonies, and the event went well. There has been a suggestion that the current venue is less than ideal due to the way the ground slopes where we hold the event and that another venue, perhaps the memorial gardens at Victoria Embankment, might be better. Any feedback on this would be helpful.

The forthcoming event is the annual Green Festival at the Embankment on September 3rd. This year we have decided to run our usual stall plus a tombola and book stall. Any goods which you feel are suitable will be gratefully received. Please can you either bring them to the festival – we will be setting up at 9.45am – or ring me on 9812034 to arrange to bring them to my place.

Since the last bulletin we have seen yet again the urgency of getting rid of nuclear weapons with the recent disaster

of the Russian nuclear submarine with 118 people on board. It shows that they are not 100% safe and disasters like that do happen – there still may be contamination, or worse, caused by the nuclear reactors on board. As members of Nottingham CND we are in the prime position to get the message across that nuclear accidents can happen. Our main way at the moment is by using the stall, but if anyone can send letters to the local press please do. If you would like CND nationally to make more of this issue, please let us know as Maureen Maitland and I will be your representatives at CND National Conference on September 16 & 17th.

We have no permanent storage place for our stall at the moment as, sadly, Shamanic Organic has closed down. If you have any suggestions for somewhere near the centre of Nottingham to store the stall please let me know. We have permission to run the stall on the following dates:

16th September                      21st October  
4th November (white poppies)  
2nd December

If you can help please let me know.

*Diane Lunzer - Secretary*

## Nottingham Green Festival

**Sunday 3 September 2000**

**Victoria Embankment**

Please support this event and help with the CND stall  
People are most needed to help run the stall from 10.30am to 4pm



# Trekking Trident in Nottingham

The weather turned up trumps for the visit to Nottingham of National CND's "Trekking Trident" Road Show on Sunday 4 June. A huge inflatable mock-up of a Trident missile leaned over a small white van in Nottingham's Market Square. In charge of this impressive but harmless monster was Tom Cuthbert of National CND. In its shadow members of our group set up our stall with leaflets, petition forms, stickers, badges and an excellent exhibition. Some half dozen Nottingham members together with two friends from Greenpeace ran the stall all day. Being a Sunday the crowds in the square were thinner than a weekday, but on the posi-

tive side people didn't seem to be in quite such a hurry, stopping to talk and ask questions.

Several times people accepted leaflets and walked away reading them, then actually turned back to sign the petitions. By the day's end we had a number of full sheets of signatures, had distributed packs of leaflets and sold badges and jewellery as well, so all in all we felt it a very worthwhile day. Tom Cuthbert has taken the roadshow to several Midlands towns and he was impressed with Nottingham's achievements on this day.

*Marguerite Oldham*

# Blocking Trident in its Lair

Sixty-nine people were arrested during a blockade of the Faslane Trident on the morning of August 1st. The demonstration was held at the end of a 400 mile peace walk from Aldermaston. A group of Buddhists led the walk and approached a line of police guarding the main gate to the nuclear base. They bowed, chanted and beat drums only feet from the policemen and women. Then before they had finished their ceremony several were arrested. Many others who had come from across Scotland and around the world joined them and sat down in the roadway.

The main gate was closed for 2 hours. Meanwhile a group from Faslane Peace Camp erected a tripod to block the alternative entrance to the base. Two campers hung from the scaffolding poles throughout the morning.

The protest was jointly organised by Scottish CND and Trident Ploughshares.

John Ainslie, Administrator of Scottish CND said: "This morning's protest shows that ordinary people can take effective action, even against Britain's number one nuclear base and despite a huge police operation. The event was inspiring for those who were present and the Buddhists set a fine example to everyone."

A Trident Ploughshares spokesperson said: "Again we have been encouraged to see so many people willing to confront this crime against humanity in such a peaceful but determined way. We feel that there is a significant shift away from complacency about Trident. There is more unease about it in official circles and more ordinary people are realising that they can do something about it. We are looking forward to continuing the good work over the next 14 days."

*Taken from the Scottish CND website  
<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/cndscot>*



# British CND Hiroshima anniversary at Aldermaston

Well we eventually got inside the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston on Sunday 6th August after all these years campaigning from the outside! I hasten to add that we had been permitted onto a car park inside the perimeter fence for our Hiroshima Day action but we were kept outside the main security fence.

It was a pleasant enough day if hardly the height of glorious summer. There were a few organisational and equipment problems to contend with and we were very worried at the seemingly very low turn out for an event which had been promoted as a 'national action', particularly as the car park could have comfortably accommodated several thousand people. Fortunately, many campaigners had brought their own colourful banners which they tied to the perimeter fence either side of the gate near the roadside. More people began to arrive and fill up the grass verge which is just as well considering there were TV crews from BBC South, Meridian, Sky and a Japanese company and several local journalists and photographers. We had also been very busy in the days before the action with radio interviews and briefings.

With the PA system eventually functioning and Karl Dallas and his band of wandering minstrels tuned-up, we encouraged everybody to form a semicircle around them against a backdrop of our two large, bright yellow CND banners and our 14 foot inflatable Trident missile, all tied to the Aldermaston fence. We also had a large photograph on a board of the devastated City of Hiroshima 55 years ago.

Several large 'Point the Finger' plac-

ards with 'Why is Aldermaston NOT on the map?' across the wrists were prominently displayed and everybody was given their personal Trident plutonium core with a 'Return to Sender' luggage label addressed to 'The Aldermaston Bomb Factory, Somewhere in Berkshire, UK'. On the back of each label it simply read: 1 Trident plutonium core = 7 Hiroshimas. Unfortunately, some people had to be responsible for more than one of the 200 mock bombs.

Poignant and apposite speeches from Pat Arrowsmith, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Colin (Youth CND), Bruce Kent and Caroline Lucas MEP were introduced by Dave Knight. They were interspersed with more music, including a newly-penned song for the day, and a request for everybody to place their bombs around the base of the Trident missile for a photo opportunity for the media. Dave warmly thanked the speakers and the musicians for their contributions and then everybody else for turning up and supporting the action.

He then invited people to join him in 'returning to sender' the 200 Trident plutonium cores that have been produced at AWE. The MoD Police stood by as a shower of bright orange ball cocks with blue fuses landed at their feet - INSIDE the Aldermaston Bomb Factory. Finally, Dave handed in his Declaration of Protest to the MoD Police who obligingly posed for a photograph then helpfully returned two ball cocks when Dave asked if he could have his bombs back.

*Niger Chamberlain 10 August 2000  
Taken from the Scottish CND website  
<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/cndscot>*



# US Defensive Shield Update

Party conventions are expressions of collective bravado: slogans and schemes proclaimed, and applauded, at deafening volume. Any attempt at analysis from within the main hall, let alone criticism, is the act of a traitor. Sometimes it seems the same attitude prevails in the country as a whole.

The proposed American National Missile Defence (NMD) starts with an overwhelming advantage: its sheer impracticability. A volley of incoming long-range enemy missiles approaches. Multiple warheads and decoys detach and separate. Almost instantly they are detected – individually – and their trajectory plotted by radar. Before a single one strikes home, counter-missiles are launched, accurately homing in on, hitting and eradicating each and every device. Three cheers for the red white and blue.

Like the Reaganite Star Wars before it, NMD bears the stamp of audacity: almost inviting the Un-American frowns of those who say it couldn't Be Done. Politically, the argument is not between NMD and no NMD, but between timid, half-hearted NMD (the Democrat option) and expanded gung-ho NMD if the Republicans win. The 'limited' proposal is thought to comprise some 100 interceptor missiles in Alaska. Warhead detection and tracking would be from stations to be built in Alaska itself, Greenland and the UK. The area of 'security' covered by the interceptors does not, apparently, extend as far as the UK, whose radar stations would thereby become prime targets for enemy annihilation at the outbreak of a war. Situation: not very promising. One is reminded of Margaret Thatcher's trip to Germany during the 80's when that country seemed somehow less than keen to house

additional nuclear weapons, which if deployed, would land within German soil. Mrs Thatcher intended, it was said, to 'stiffen Germany's resolve'.

Not only would NMD break the Anti Ballistic Missile and Outer Space Treaties, its central implication is inescapable – feasible first strike. As NMD's practical limitations become obvious with time, the temptation for first strike is actually increased. Cripple the adversary's missile sites, the better to cope with the reduced retaliatory volley.

For newspapers and broadcasters to continue to call this a 'shield' is to be complicit in a lie. As for the treaties, a spot of desperate moral contortionism deals with these too – having been signed with a regime (USSR) no longer existent, they are null and void – if not in letter, then at least in spirit!.

Early in August, US Defence Secretary William Cohen was reported as being on the point of recommending President Clinton go ahead with the NMD system. The failure of the recent demonstration missile was blamed on an ancient circuit (all of 10 years old) thus irrelevant. A few days on, Cohen asked for a few more weeks to resolve a number of difficult issues prior to any recommendation.

Meanwhile, Russia and China are threatening to increase their nuclear arsenal if NMD goes ahead. China in particular fears that its existing nuclear forces would be overwhelmed by the proposed shield and so it would need more missiles to give it an effective 'deterrent'. Such a move would almost certainly trigger a response from China's nuclear neighbours, including India and Pakistan, as well as increasing the possibility of other nuclear

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## US Defensive Shield Update

continued from page 6

proliferation

European supporters of NMD seem few and far between. In any event, Washington cannot assume UK support. Although the suggestion of a common European stand against NMD was dismissed by Mr Blair, cabinet members are not shy to state eloquent objections to the scheme. The Commons cross-party foreign affairs committee urges the cabinet to articulate concerns about the plan, and

identifies 'apparently contradictory views' between the Foreign Office – which favours the ABM treaty terms – and the Ministry of Defence, which favours not rocking the Special Relationship boat.

The most coy player currently is Washington itself, which despite naming UK locations as essential components of the NMD system – even requiring to build a 14-storey radar station here – has yet to ask permission for their change of use.

*Jeremy Jago*

## Help stop this NMD madness

Send a letter to Tony Blair, Robin Cook, Geoff Hoon and your local MP.

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA. Fax: 020 7925 0918

The Rt Hon Robin Cook MP, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AH. Fax: 020 7270 2833 or 020 7829 2417

The Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1A

Dear Prime Minister/Foreign Secretary/Defence Secretary,

I am writing to ask you to take a strong stand against US plans to build a ballistic missile defence system (BMD), and to urge it to maintain and strengthen the ABM treaty.

At the recent Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York, the UN secretary general, the governments of Russia, China, France, and the UK, the Non-Aligned movement, the New Agenda Coalition, and the European Union all expressed strong support for the maintenance and strengthening of the ABM treaty.

This cannot be interpreted to mean modifying it to allow BMD. The missile defence systems currently under discussion in the US seek to protect the US (but not Europe) against a threat that either does not exist at all, or for which missile defence is a completely inappropriate response. These plans may require cooperative action on the part of the United Kingdom, such as changes within the joint intelligence gathering and control sites located at Menwith Hill and at Fylingdales in Yorkshire.

The very discussion by the US of missile defence options is itself destabilising and puts progress toward the global goals of elimination of nuclear arsenals in doubt.

We/I urge you to put to the US government in the very strongest terms that it should no longer contemplate missile defence options, and to make it clear that the UK will not in any way cooperate with such options.

Your government has said it wants to maintain and strengthen the ABM treaty. It must follow on from this good beginning by making it clear that it is absolutely opposed to BMD. The US government should instead be strongly urged to accept the very lowest warhead numbers on offer from Russia and to stand down its nuclear weapons systems from 'launch on warning' status.

Yours sincerely



## Submarine in Gibraltar after reactor leak

The British nuclear powered submarine, HMS Tireless, was forced to call off a round the world deployment when there was a reactor problem in the Mediterranean. There was a leak of coolant from the nuclear plant and the reactor was shut down. The incident occurred between Sicily and North Africa on 12th May. Diesel generators were used to power the vessel

as it limped to Gibraltar.

The Gibraltar Government has spoken out against repairs taking place in Gibraltar harbour because the Ministry of Defence has refused to show them its safety case. Local lobby group Voice of Gibraltar also raised concerns about safety.

The submarine may have to be towed back to its base at Devonport.

## Russia may use the bomb first

Last month Russia's Security Council adopted a new military doctrine. It reserved the right to make first use of nuclear weapons if 'the very existence of the country' is at stake. Previous doctrine developed in the former Soviet Union emphasised a 'no first use' policy and this was reiterated in 1993 after the ending of the Cold War.

But as if to underline that a strong

Russia posed no threat to the West, the State Duma also voted to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which bans underground tests worldwide.

Moscow is now ahead of Washington on the question of nuclear disarmament as the US Senate has still to ratify the test ban treaty. Britain and France have already ratified it.

## US Nuclear Target List Grows

The United States has increased the number of targets for its nuclear weapons by 20%. The list grew from 2500 in 1995 to 3000 this year. This was despite the fact that in 1997 targets within Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan were removed.

There are a total of around 2,260 "vital" targets in Russia. These are in four categories: nuclear (1,100), conventional (500), leadership (160) and war supporting industries (500).

There are 2,300 US nuclear warheads which are on launch-ready alert on land-based missiles and Trident submarines. 98% of the land based Minuteman III and Peacekeeper missiles are on two minutes' notice to fire. A total of four US Trident submarines are on patrol at any

time, two in the Atlantic and two in the Pacific.

The Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP), the main nuclear weapons plan, includes a handful of Major Attack Options for the use of over 1,000 nuclear warheads against Russia. There are also 65 limited Attack Options in which between 2 and 120 weapons would be used against Russia.

In 1998-99 China was added to SIOP and there are two limited attack Options against China.

In addition to the detailed options in the SIOP there are hundreds of other non-SIOP targets identified in China, Russia, Iran, Iraq and North Korea assigned to US Strategic Reserve Forces.

*Articles taken from Nuclear Free Scotland, Summer 2000, the magazine of Scottish CND.*



# Russian nuclear sub accident

*CND press release taken from the CND web site [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org), 17 August 2000*

A Russian nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered submarine, the Kursk, lies at the bottom of the Barents Sea off the Norwegian coast. 118 crew died.

The Russians claimed that the reactor was shut down and denied that the Kursk has any of its nuclear cruise missiles on board although CND is always sceptical of any statement about nuclear weapons, from any nuclear-armed state.

John Ainslie, Scottish CND Administrator, says the latest accounts of the submarine accident on the Kursk are very worrying and do not accord with earlier statements and assurances.

The US has said that there was one explosion followed very shortly by a second larger explosion. Accounts of the state of the submarine say there is extensive damage from the bow to under the control tower.

This suggests that one torpedo exploded and set off a massive explosion of several torpedoes within the bow com-

partment. This external damage would have been sufficient to sink the vessel. It probably will have caused far more damage within the pressure hull. Most of the blast will have gone backwards, probably completely wrecking the control room, making it impossible to send out any messages saying the reactor was shut down.

It is also possible that the blast could have damaged the reactor area and triggered fires in the aft of the Kursk. The reactor may well have shut down automatically but secondary events triggered by a huge blast at the bow may have made it very difficult for any reactor controls in the aft to be operated.

CND is in full agreement with Alexander Pikayev who writes in today's International Herald Tribune that Europe should do more to help finance Russian nuclear disarmament in general and the decommissioning and dismantling of all Russia's nuclear submarines.

## £40m BNFL deal to heal Tokyo rift

British Nuclear Fuels is to pay £20 million in cash and offer £20 million worth of free fuel to Japan as part of a compensation deal for sending plutonium fuel with falsified quality control data last year.

The deal is an attempt to heal a damaging rift with both the Japanese government and its main customer Kansai Electric which suspended all dealings with the Cumbrian company when the falsification scandal broke in the autumn.

BNFL is also taking back at its own expense the plutonium fuel delivered last October with false papers. Under international treaties the fuel, enough to make

eight nuclear weapons, must be brought back on armed merchant ships to Britain. This will take at least 18 months to organise because it needs permission from the US and a dozen countries on route, many of which are opposed to the plutonium trade.

In Washington the Nuclear Control Institute and Greenpeace both announced lobbying campaigns to try and block the path of the return shipment – the US has a potential veto because some of the fuel originated in the US.

*Taken from the Guardian, 12 July 2000*



## Chernobyl to close 14 years after disaster

Ukraine pledged yesterday that the stricken Chernobyl nuclear power station, where the world's worst nuclear disaster erupted 14 years ago, would be closed down forever by the end of the year.

The announcement by President Leonid Kuchma in Kiev in the presence of Bill Clinton crowned the US president's week-long valedictory tour of Europe and concluded seven years of wrangling over the fate of the power station, which spewed clouds of radioactive debris across Europe when its fourth reactor exploded in April 1986.

"We will switch Chernobyl off permanently by December 15 this year," said Mr Kuchma after the two presidents had toasted the decision with champagne. Mr Clinton said Washington would provide \$80m (£50m) to Ukraine to help with the effort to render the disaster site safe and for investment in the moribund Ukrainian energy industry. Most of the money will be

spent on repairing or renewing the creaking concrete and steel "sarcophagus" which has entombed the stricken reactor since the disaster.

Describing the Ukrainian decision as "a historic announcement", Mr Clinton said: "The final reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will be shut down and the entire plant closed on December 15. This is a hopeful moment. It is also a moment when we remember those who suffered as a result of the accident there."

An epidemic of thyroid cancer among thousands of children in Ukraine and in neighbouring Belarus is currently one of the most troubling legacies of the nuclear explosion.

Greenpeace said the announcement was long overdue. "Fourteen years after the worst nuclear catastrophe in history, the Chernobyl timebomb is finally being defused," said a spokesman.

*Taken from the Guardian 6 June 2000*

## Rare punishment for protesting grandmother

A 70-year-old grandmother who campaigns against nuclear weapons was today given the rare punishment of being confined to a courtroom for one day for non-payment of a fine. Magistrates in Alnwick, Northumberland, said sending the retired teacher to prison would serve no useful purpose. Instead they invoked a little-used power under Section 135 of the Magistrates' Court Act to detain Mrs Meredith within the precinct of the court until the close of business at 4pm today.

The campaigner had been given a suspended jail sentence last month for the non-payment of a £100 fine handed out by Argyll and Bute court in Helensburgh earlier this year. She had been found guilty of breach of the peace following a sit-down

protest at the Faslane Naval Base near Glasgow last May.

She told magistrates why she had refused to pay the fine. "I have not paid because I am a member of Trident Ploughshare which is working for nuclear disarmament and the dismantling of the Trident submarines," she said. "I have pledged to work with them and the non-payment of the fine is part of the protest."

She told the court she did not relish the prospect of going to prison but was prepared for any decision of the court. She said her original protest at Faslane had been morally correct, saying: "I think I have the right as a citizen to make a protest against nuclear weapons."

*Taken from The Guardian 7 August 2000*



## Lost nuclear bomb may still be on seabed

A leading Danish newspaper, Jyllands Posten, has claimed that there is an American nuclear bomb still lying on the seabed near Greenland 32 years after a B52 crash.

On 21 January 1968 the B52 bomber, codename Butterknife V, was flying above Thule in Greenland. It crashed on the ice in Baffin Bay. Three of the four bombs broke on impact scattering radioactive debris. Each of the bombs was a B28 thermonuclear weapon with a yield of 70 to 350 kilotons.

While the US claimed that all the weapons had been accounted for they did not say that they had all been recovered. Jyllands Posten says: "Detective work by a group of former Thule workers indicates that an unexploded nuclear bomb probably still lies on the seabed off Thule."

## Arms trade poll

A Gallup International opinion poll commissioned by the UK Working Group on Arms showed that:

- 87% believed the Government should introduce tighter controls on UK arms sales as soon as possible
- 86% think there is too much secrecy surrounding UK arms exports
- 84% think the Government should introduce systems to ensure that arms exported by the UK are not misused abroad
- 77% think the Government has not done enough to stop the sale of arms to governments which abuse human rights since coming to power
- 76% think the Government is right to halt arms sales in response to human rights crises, as they did to Indonesia over east Timor last September.

*Taken from Saferworld newsletter Summer 2000*

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## Nottingham Real World Coalition – Lecture Series

The Nottingham Real World Coalition has organised three public lectures to explore issues relating to environmental sustainability, economic justice and democratic renewal. Short presentations are followed by lively open forum discussions. Please come along and contribute to the Real World debate. All lectures are at 7pm at the Arkwright Lecture Theatre on Shakespeare Street.

### Time Banks and the New Economy

Speaker: Sarah Burns, Time bank project manager, New Economics Foundation

Date: Wednesday 11th October

Further details from Richard Eddlestone, Nottingham Society of Friends tel: 9252586

### Factor 10: reducing our use of the world's resources

Speaker: Simon Bullock, Friends of the Earth Sustainable Development Research Unit

Date: Wednesday 15th November

Further details from Nigel Lee, Nottingham Friends of the Earth tel: 9104872

### A sustainable future for the East Midlands? (Why we should take public consultation on Regional Planning Guidance seriously)

Speaker: Stephanie Hilbourne, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Wednesday 6th December

Further details from Nigel Lee, Nottingham Friends of the Earth tel: 9104872



# International Year for a Culture of Peace

Did you know that this year has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year for a Culture of Peace? Or that 2001-10 has been designated the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World? Probably not as there has been nothing about this in the media, and the government appears to have done little to promote it. The year and decade have been adopted by the UN following work by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Appeal of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. The aim is to move away from the current 'culture of war' and towards a 'culture of peace'.

What is a Culture of Peace? I'm sure you can work out your own ideas for this, involving, respect, tolerance, rejection of violence, etc. UNESCO puts it like this:

"The Culture of Peace is all the values, attitudes and forms of behaviour that reflect respect for life, for human beings and their dignity, and for all human rights. It is the rejection of violence in all its forms and a commitment to the principles of freedom, justice, solidarity, tolerance and understanding between groups and individuals."

There is a culture of war, or culture of violence, in Britain. Many state occasions include displays or marches by the military, and many uniformed organisations, even children's ones, are full of militaristic terms and imagery. Violence is the first response in a conflict between individuals or groups, and is instilled in children from an early age – "if someone hits you, hit them back". Moving towards a Culture of Peace means working to counter the idea

that violence and war are the most effective means of solving our problems; the hope is that the issuing of this challenge will lead gradually towards making violent responses to conflict less inevitable.

UNESCO and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation are among the organisations which are already promoting peace by helping to re-build societies torn apart by war, and promoting peaceful resolutions to conflict. In many places relationships are being restored at the grassroots level, between individuals in different communities.

UNESCO has written a pledge called Manifesto 2000 and aims to collect a hundred signatures worldwide. A Manifesto 2000 leaflet is included with this Bulletin – please sign it and send it to the address given immediately as UNESCO plans to present all the signatures to the Millennium General Assembly of the United Nations in September.

In the UK, Saturday November 11th has been designated as "a day for remembrance, reconciliation and a future without war". The Royal British Legion is supporting the use of November 11th as a day for promoting a Culture of Peace, and their theme this year is "Reflection and Hope", looking not only back at those who have died in war, but also forward to a future without war.

In Nottingham, the United Nations Association are organising a panel discussion on the Culture of Peace on Friday November 10th. For more details phone Noel Harrower on 0115 960 6012. If you have any ideas or wish to be involved in other local activities on Nov 11th, please phone Mark & Sally Ramsey on 0115 943 1765 or via Nottm CND on 0115 934 8459.

*Mark Ramsey*



## Manifesto 2000

Join the international movement for the culture of peace and non-violence

- because the year 2000 must be a new beginning, an opportunity to transform - all together - the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace and non-violence;
- because this transformation demands the participation of each and every one of us, and must offer young people and future generations the values that can inspire them to shape a world based on justice, solidarity, liberty, dignity, harmony and prosperity for all;
- because the culture of peace can underpin sustainable development, environmental protection and the well-being of each person;
- because I am aware of my share of the responsibility for the future of humanity, in particular the children of today and tomorrow;

I pledge - in my daily life, in my family, my work, my community, my country and my region - to:

- 1 *Respect all life.* Respect the life and dignity of every person without discrimination or prejudice;
- 2 *Reject violence.* Practise active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;
- 3 *Share with others.* Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;
- 4 *Listen to understand.* Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity giving preference always to dialogue and listening rather than fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;
- 5 *Preserve the Planet.* Promote consumer behaviour that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet;
- 6 *Rediscover solidarity.* Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

*"True peace is far more than the absence of war. It is a phenomenon that encompasses economic development and social justice. It means safeguarding the global environment and curbing the global arms trade. It means democracy, diversity and dignity; respect for human rights and rule of law; and more, much more ..."*

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

For more information about the Culture of Peace year and decade, contact the United Nations Association or the National Peace Council.

UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. Tel: 020 7609 9666.

NPC, 162 Holloway Rd, London N7 8DD. Tel: 020 7930 2931.

[www.oneworld.org/una\\_uk](http://www.oneworld.org/una_uk) [www.peacecouncil.org.uk](http://www.peacecouncil.org.uk)



# World Court Project

At Greenock Sheriff Court in October 1999 Angie Zelter, Ellen Moxley and Ulla Roder (Trident Ploughshares pledgers) were charged with malicious damage of Trident related equipment. The women openly admitted that they had purposely destroyed the equipment. Their defence was that they were engaged in crime prevention through the disarmament of illegal and criminal weapons of mass destruction. No evidence was called by the Prosecution to rebut this argument. In acquitting them Sheriff Gimblett allowed that the Trident Ploughshares view is a reasonable one and arguable in a court of law. She also ruled that there was no criminal intent in their action because it was based on a sincere belief that they were acting against a continuing criminal conspiracy to contravene international humanitarian law.

The Lord Advocate of Scotland, on behalf of the UK Government, has asked the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh for a clarification of the Sheriff's ruling on points of law. The Court's opinion will not affect the acquittal – the women will remain free; but it has the effect of an appeal by giving authoritative interpretations to be followed in future cases. The Lord Advocate's Reference will be held from 9 October for five days in the High Court of the Justiciary, Edinburgh and will be open to the public.

The questions are about Scottish law and relate to one particular nuclear weapon system, Trident; but the general principles are the same for any country. The application of international humanitarian law to nuclear weapons, as clarified by the World Court, is now under review in a nuclear weapon state. The global implications of this are therefore immense.

The questions that have been referred

to the High Court are:

- 1 In a trial under Scottish criminal procedure, is it competent to lead evidence as to the content of customary international law as it applies to the United Kingdom?
- 2 Does any rule of customary international law justify a private individual in Scotland in damaging or destroying in pursuit of his or her objection to the United Kingdom's possession of nuclear weapons, its action in placing such weapons at locations within Scotland or its policies in relation to such weapons?
- 3 Does the belief of an accused person that his or her actions are justified in law constitute a defence to a charge of malicious mischief or theft?
- 4 Is it a general defence to a criminal charge that the offence was committed in order to prevent or bring to an end the commission of an offence by another person?

The questions beg vital issues. Question 2 ignores the fact that the women acted to uphold the law. There is justification in Scottish law and all national legal systems for private individuals to stop the commission of crime. The question also refers to pursuing an "objection" by individuals as if they were engaged in a political campaign. They were not. Their true motivation was to try and prevent the capacity to engage in mass murder, in other words crime prevention. This was made quite clear in court.

Question 3 refers to "belief"; but the basis of the action was stronger than belief; it was a conviction based on fact and legal argument provided by the world's highest judicial authority. The defence presented evidence that went unchal-

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## World Court Project

continued from page 14

lenged by the Crown. By using the "belief" phraseology the Crown assumes that the threat or use, or even deployment, of Trident would not be illegal.

If the Court is wise and courageous it will also grapple with the major problem arising out of the Greenock Trial - that of the underlying question of the illegality of Trident. It will suggest that a full and independent public enquiry into the legality of the British Trident system and present British Defence Policies be immediately instituted.

The three judges concerned with the Lord Advocate's Reference are not dealing with a little local difficulty. They need to know that their deliberations have global implications. These should be widely publicised. Please

- Come to some of the proceedings
- Write to your MP asking why the legality of Trident is not being considered

by the High Court Judiciary

- Write to the local media to advertise the importance of the proceedings

We know that people from anti-nuclear groups are likely to be in Edinburgh in force. Organisations like the World Health Organisation, the International Commission of Jurists, and Human Rights Watch have also been asked to send a representative. There are supportive "celebrities" as well, such as Susannah York and Rolf Harris. The Archbishop of Wales, senior clergy in Scotland and some Roman Catholic Bishops have been informed, but we could do with some more Anglican Bishops. If you can think of any useful people and organisations please let us know names and addresses as soon as possible.

World Court Project, 67 Summerheath Rd, Hailsham, Sussex BN27 3DR. Tel 01323 844 269. [geowcpuk@gn.apc.org](mailto:geowcpuk@gn.apc.org)  
[www.gn.apc.org/wcp](http://www.gn.apc.org/wcp)

## a picture of democracy

An exhibition of photographs taken by the people of Nottingham on the subject of **Democracy and Citizenship**

September 25th - October 27th - Adult Education Centre 14 - 22 Shakespeare St

October 30th - November 11th - Community Exhibition Area Angel Row Library

December 11th - January 8th 2001 - St Ann's Library Robin Hood Chase

Supported by Nottingham City Council

Exhibition organised by Nottingham Charter88

The photographers came from all walks of life and from all age groups. The youngest belonged to a photographic club for 8 to 12 year olds. Some found the task immensely difficult, others found it 'easy' and 'exhilarating'. In most cases they had to think hard about the meaning of *democracy* and how it might be represented visually. Very often, the task stimulated discussion among family and friends. Nottingham Charter88 hopes that those who see this exhibition will find it equally stimulating.

For more information phone Nottingham Charter88 0115 9336231. [www.Charter88.org.uk](http://www.Charter88.org.uk)



# Diary Dates

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 3 September  | Green Festival at Victoria Embankment 11am - 6pm.   |
| 5 September  | Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp – A Picnic on the Common. See below for details.   |
| 25 September | A talk entitled "The Death of Democracy" by Alan Simpson MP. University Adult Education Centre, 14-22 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.   |
| 7 October    | Day of action against National Missile Defence. Menwith Hill, Fylingdales and the US Embassy.<br>Further info: Menwith Hill 01943 466405; Fylingdales: 01274 730795; US Embassy: 020 7700 2393 and/or 020 7607 2302 |
| 3 November   | Autumn Concert of classical music in aid of Amnesty International. 7.30pm at the University Adult Education Centre, 14-22 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Tickets at the door £5.50/£4.50                           |

## Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp A Picnic on the Common 5 September 2000

To celebrate the Peace Camp's 19th birthday.

To say goodbye to the camp that gave us all support, esteem and political confidence to go forth and continue to rattle cages beyond Greenham.

*A car is going from Nottingham – anyone interested phone Marguerite 01773 760205*

## Saturday November 11 2000 A day for remembrance, reconciliation and a future without war

Can we use this day to:

- Remember all those who have died in wars gone by, including vast numbers of civilians
- Explore alternative ways of resolving our differences and moving beyond the conflicts of the past
- Put war behind us forever as inhuman and unacceptable

**United Nations International Year for a Culture of Peace**