



PEACE CAMP Newsletter No. 2

STILL HERE - AND DETERMINED TO WIN!

On Feb. 8th our Picket and Peace Camp enters its' third week. For those still unaware, we are campaigning for an end to work on the nuclear bunker, for non-co-operation with Government plans for Nuclear war and for the re-allocation of funds for essential and peaceful services. What have we achieved?

- *Enormous publicity on TV, radio and newspapers and a great deal of public interest in the issues raised by the bunker. 250 people turned up for a meeting on site on 31 January and 3 County Councillors spoke in support of our protest. Hundreds of others have played a part in keeping the picket going.
- *Practical help, support and goodwill has come from many individuals and organisations too numerous to name all but including women at Greenham, East Wales Congregational ministers Conference, George Wright of the Wales TUC. and Mardy Lodge of the NUM who thoughtfully provided a brazier and coal to warm our spirits. (Entertainers - please contact Hotline below)
- *Donations of over £300 - including a generous one from Greenham women - have enabled us to purchase our own Peace Caravan which is now on site and can sleep 4 people. We need every penny if we are to continue the fight.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BUNKER IS SPREADING - But we need YOUR support: Please raise this issue with your M.P., Councillor, Trade Union, Political Party, etc and send a message of protest to the Chairman of Mid Glamorgan County Council, County Hall, Cardiff - we'd also like to hear of your concern

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS -

Mid Glamorgan Public Protection Committee visited the site on Feb 1st. Approx 50 Councillors turned up and were lobbied by a similar number of our supporters. The Chief executive and P.P. Chairman met Peace Camp representatives and were left in no doubt of our determination. Council resorted to the pathetic view that the bunker was needed for 'civil purposes' which is presumably why they need blast proof doors and walls, decontamination shower, water re-cycling equipment and a Games Room to help pass the 14 days or more the officials plan to be in seclusion according to their own documentation!

After indicating that neither we nor the public are fools our representatives withdrew but were subsequently informed our request for a meeting with the Committee was being brought forward from mid March to February 18 - indicating some response to the pressure now building up on the Council.

TRADE UNION SUPPORT

Mr George Wright (Wales TUC) and Mr John Foley (ISTC) have expressed concern about the bunker issue and we are in touch with trade unions. We hope T&GWU and related unions will now black this site in view of the stated views of the unions and Labour Party Conferences.

CHURCHES

A constructive meeting and exchange of views took place on Feb 5 with Bridgend Council of Churches who are considering suggestions for joint co-operation with CND in the future. Three churches have already pledged support.

PEACE CAMP BADGE: Our special badge is now available price 20p (for funds)

DIARY DATES :

February 18 : 2.0pm Lobby of Mid Glam County Hall. Please support.

February 23 : Clwyd anti-nuclear vote. If successful Wales will be the first Nuclear Free Zone in the world. How can we mark this?

Sundays 2pm - Public meeting at Bunker (Tuesdays 7.30pm Friends meeting House)
Saturdays 11am: Leafletting from Brackla Centre Bridgend.

People, cash, caravans wanted - Hotline Telephone Pontycymer 870582

Action Committee: 6 Kingsley Tce, Thomastown, Merthyr Tel 71053.

County Bunker, Bridgend Industrial Estate

The present capital works at this site - described by the Home Office in 1979 as a "County Wartime headquarters" - can be traced to the events following the decision by the U.K. and NATO Governments on 12 December 1979 to agree to the deployment of U.S. Cruise missiles.

Following receipt of a Home Office Circular on "Wartime Communications for Local Authorities" the Chief Executive of Mid Glamorgan County Council presented recommendations to a sub-committee of the Public Protection Committee. In a Confidential Report to the sub-committee on 17 March 1980 it was noted that:

"The system is specifically designed to meet the needs of wartime regional government in the immediate post attack period..."

The committee were told that private speech lines existed between the County control and Sub Regional Headquarters and also to police and military headquarters and the U.K. Warning and Monitoring Organisation (who provide data on nuclear fallout and bomb blasts) The facilities at Bridgend had been fully tested in a recent major exercise but further direct lines were needed between County and District Controls at a cost (before grant aid) of £2,000 connection plus £5000 rental p.a.

In his report the Chief Executive stated that to bring the Control up to standards including "proper control and feeding arrangements after the attack" would cost in the region of £250,000. The project was in the provisional list of the capital programme. members were asked whether it "is of sufficiently high priority to proceed with it in the next year or two."

The Building

Three weeks prior to the sub-committee a report, ~~believed to be from the~~ referring to a site meeting at Waterton, made proposals for a new control room and a "new building linking the two bunkers housing sleeping accommodation", kitchen, messroom, water re-cycling facilities, rest area and a room for "varying numbers of female staff":

"I am of the opinion that 80 people, used for most of their lives to a comfortable standard of living, and who would be shut in these conditions for a period of up to or even exceeding 14 days, would find the situation intolerable with a consequent lowering of morale and performance, and therefore a loss of efficiency of the unit."

To ensure such "comfort" it was recommended that carpets be laid, separate toilets be installed and a games room be provided, the estimated cost of such works (1980 prices) being put at £215,000, not including furniture, mattresses or bedding.

Doubts about the viability of this project emerged at this stage.

The letter to the Chief Fire Officer states finally:

"You may feel that if we were to spend money at this level we should consider whether Waterton and the existing bunkers are the right location for the Control Centre."

Decision Time

By June 1980 a decision in principle to proceed with a major renovation of the Bridgend Bunker had apparently been taken. The Director of Building Works had prepared an estimate and a meeting was being arranged with Home Office advisers "to assist in specifying equipment".

A Report dated 17 June 1980 contained specific recommendations:

- "Decontamination room and shower near main entrance,"
- "doorways to face away from greatest blast sources"
- Blast walls and contouring of earth embankments,
- Water tanks increased from 1,000 to 8,000 gallons and with fuel, to be sited underground.
- Water to be re-cycled for toilet use "thereby avoiding complete flushing failure if mains service cut off."
- Security- "all doors, ventilation grills, switchgear, etc to be given special consideration for unauthorised entry and from blast effects."
- New electric generator since "gas supply is exposed to blast and internal interference."



PEACE CAMP

Newsletter No. 3

Valentines Day is the 21st day of our 'siege' of the nuclear bunker. We are here to demonstrate that the powers of love and peace are greater than those of hate and war. Evil triumphs because good men do nothing. We will not allow evil to triumph. We shall overcome, and see the bunker closed or put to constructive purposes.

DECISION TIME AT COUNTY HALL

Our 4th week of occupation also marks the most crucial test yet of the Council's Nuclear Free Zone policy and the first major opportunity for work on the bunker to be called off in response to public opinion.

Please speak to your Councillors and try to be present (with banners) on the steps of County Hall, Cardiff at least one hour before these meetings;

* Wednesday, 17 February- At 11am the controlling Labour Group will meet and probably consider a resolution against the bunker from Cllr Ray Davies (Caerphilly) who also wants the Council to withdraw from Operation Hard Rock. Later, they may decide to take disciplinary action against Councillors, like Cllr Jeff Jones, who are supporting CNDs stand against the bunker project.

The Labour Group must be reminded that it is Labour Party policy to comply in a minimal way with the Governments civil defence plans - this does not mean building a prestigious £400,000 super-bunker for bureaucrats!

> * Thursday, 18 February- The full Council will meet at 11am and the bunker issue may be put to the vote. If so a significant number of Labour members may decide to vote against their Leader's recommendation. CND has circulated every councillor with the facts so there are no excuses this time! Much will depend on how much pressure we and the public can bring to bear to make councillors accountable. We know Plaid members, some Labour members and Cllr Arthur True (Rhondda) are committed to voting against the bunker. We shall be watching the others very closely - one day they will be wanting our votes!

> At 2.30pm our delegation will meet the Public Protection Committee and will put the case against the bunker and for a wholehearted commitment to the policy of Nuclear Free Zones.
IT IS ESSENTIAL TO GIVE MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES BY BEING THERE IN LARGE NUMBERS AND TACKLING COUNCILLORS - we know we can count on you. Thank you.

BOOST FOR PEACE CAMP AIMS

- Ogmore M.P. Ray Powell has joined the growing list of influential people and bodies concerned about the bunker. He told the South Wales Echo, 10th Feb: "If the centre was being equipped for nuclear war, in no way could I condone the actions of the county council." He also said he would make the "strongest possible protest about this scandalous waste of money" and would investigate the bunker and question the Government.

- The South Wales Area of the National Union of Mineworkers has given £100 towards our campaign against the bunker and is actively considering ways of supporting the action.

- The 40 strong G.M.C. of the Ogmore Constituency Labour Party yesterday (13 Feb) unanimously called on Labour councils to refuse to allocate funds for the provision and maintenance of wartime control centres and to refuse to participate in nuclear exercises. They also voted to re-allocate employees engaged on nuclear war plans to peaceful duties. This resolution is being sent to the annual conference of the Labour Party in Wales later this year.

Next Public Meeting at Bunker - Next Sunday, 2.0pm February 21st
Hotline for offers of help: Pontycymer 870582 (Steve Samuel)
Action Committee: 6 Kingsley Tce, Thomastown, Merthyr. Tel 71053.



VICTORY IN SIGHT!

Nuclear war preparations in Mid Glamorgan are to be halted and the County's declaration of a nuclear free zone is to be made a reality. CND was given these assurances following a meeting with our delegation at County Hall, supported by a very effective lobby.

The following measures are contained in a Statement of Intent placed before the Public Protection Committee:

1. Withdrawal from the Government War Emergency Scheme.
2. The Bunker to become a Civil Emergency Centre only. (Cllr Squire later said it would be open to inspection and to regular visits by District Councils).
3. Instructions to officers to disentangle and divorce the centre from anything which might be regarded as wartime emergency activity.
4. Henceforth officers would interpret their statutory duties in a manner consistent with the belief that there is no meaningful defence to nuclear war. The Home Secretary would be informed of this policy.

Future of the Bunker?

Reports from the controlling Labour Group suggest the bunker may be modified by the installation of windows, the removal of decontamination equipment and the dropping of plans to earth over the controversial link building. These are suggestions only which may be the subject of an architect's report to the Public Protection Committee who will consider the Statement of Intent at their meeting on 25 February at 2.0pm.

After 28 days of picketing Victory is now in sight! --

PLEASE, PLEASE MAKE THE FINAL EFFORT AND BE AT COUNTY HALL, CARDIFF ON THURSDAY 26th Feb FROM 1.0pm with banners, etc to Lobby Councillors.

We still need certain guarantees - Will they permit inspection by us? Will they withdraw from "Operation Hard Rock"? Will they fully support CND's Easter Rally on April 10th? Can we have full and frank information? Why not ask your Councillor - and while you're doing it tell him we don't want Government propaganda films shown to our children in Mid Glam!

The Media

Once again our Campaign has caught the headlines in the press, radio and T.V. Speaking on BBC. TV (Wales) Paul Llewellyn, Chairman of Mid Glamorgan CND said the statement by Cllr Squire, the Leader of the Council was "a vindication of CND's campaign. If these measures were made effective and monitored it will mean an unprecedented victory for CND."

MEANWHILE - THE PEACE CAMP WILL GO AHEAD (Public Meeting Sun 28 Feb at 2pm)

On Tuesday 23 February we hope to celebrate the declaration of a Nuclear Free Clwyd and therefore a Nuclear Free Wales - the first country in the world to declare itself nuclear free - with the lighting of a Symbol of Peace from 8.0pm at the Peace Camp/"Bunker" - Why not join us in what we all hope will be a Triple Celebration for Peace - Clwyd, Mid Glam and All Wales. Bring entertainment and refreshments!

Remember Greenham - they remembered us! On the same day Newbury Council may decide to evict Greenham Peace Camp. Please support the demonstration to prevent this happening or at least protest by writing to the Council.

Mid Glam "Hotline": Pontycymer 870582 (Steve Samuel)

'WAR WORK' HALTED - Major breakthrough for Peace

As we predicted, work on the bunker has virtually ceased by order of the Public Protection Committee, the same Committee which began the work.

*Not yet unfortunately so
Peace Camp pickets are still on site.*

Officers have been instructed to arrange for the installation of windows and the removal of earth from the building. The Committee has recommended the County withdraw from Civil Defence, despite threats of legal action and surcharges.

The controlling group of Mid Glamorgan County Council have therefore conceded the major points of CND's demands, though these recommendations together with Officer's reports, will be the subject of a Full Council Meeting, probably on March 18th.

WHAT A WEEK!

Taken with the vote in Clwyd, the Peace Movement in Wales has scored enormous successes in the past few days. Mid Glamorgan's position is critical and potentially the most progressive in Wales, after a long period of inertia and "doublethink".

Admitting a "change of mind" Cllr Philpin said this was not due to "outside forces" but "careful talks within the group". The Labour Leader indicated otherwise complaining (if we heard him correctly) of "Bunker-itis" i.e. the strength of our peace picket and lobbies combined with inner-party discontent and showers of letters, telegrams etc from all over Mid Glamorgan and Wales.

WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT! - and ensure PRACTICE FOLLOWS PRINCIPLE:

- A massive turn out for the Full Council Meeting, probably March 18th. Please raise this with your group and all possible sources of support including community groups, ward parties, trade unions, miners lodges etc
- The Peace Camp should continue if possible - this depends on people or groups offering to do a stint, a few hours or overnight. Please contact Steve Samuel (Tel Pontycymer 870582) to arrange a time. If staying overnight we can provide food but please bring sleeping bag milk and bread (these are difficult items to obtain on site)
- Keep up the pressure on Elected Members. There must no retreat due to surcharge threats. The arms bill is an enormous surcharge on us all. Perhaps CND could consider launching a "Defence and Aid Fund" thus taking a practical step to resist the Governments discredited policies.
- We must now widen the Campaign - Mid Glamorgan should tell the Home Office we want their bunker out of the County. We shall deliver a massive "Notice to Quit" from All Wales on April 10th!

THANKS - and Well Done Everybody - Keep up the Pressure

DIARY DATES

Thurs 18 March (Provisional) Lobby of County Hall - Bring banners.

FRI MAR 19
Sat. 20 March "SIZZORZ FOR PEACE" Gig for CND by local progressive Punk Group at Nolton Church Hall from 8.0pm.

Sun. 21 March - "Festival of Life" Demo' at 6 gates of Greenham Common covering artists, religion, music, women, environment, etc. Please support.

April 4-10th - PEACE WEEK. Local activities e.g. proposed shop in Bridgend
Why not plant flowers, trees at Bunker?

Sat. 10 April All Wales Demo and Rally at Bridgend and Brackla led by feeder marches from Swansea, Cardiff and Mid Glam.

PEACE CAMP PHOTO'S

We need photographs of the Peace camp and related events including Womens Action at Porth, Lobbies at County Hall etc We hope to use these for an Exhibition and publications for Peace Week. Please contact urgently: Tony Simpson, 3 Heol Cae Glas, Tondy Tel (0656) 721441 or Linda Mathews 6 Kingsley Tce, Merthyr, Tel 71053. Thank You.

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o to this*

CND's reply to the Statement of Intent laid before the Public Protection Committee

1. CND entirely supports the intention to withdraw from the Government War Emergency Scheme though we do not underestimate the difficulties of doing so. Obstacles will undoubtedly be placed in the Council's path. They are not alone in taking such actions or in surmounting obstacles. A powerful peoples movement now supports the 170 or so Nuclear Free Councils. many Councils have successfully gone further in resisting the Governments discredited 'Home Defence' plans, including Lothian, Greater London, South Yorkshire, Birmingham, etc We are not aware of any Councillor being surcharged due to his authority's non compliance with 'Home Defence' planning. Councils in Wales are now in a strong position to take such action since every Council now supports nuclear free policies. Unity is strength. We call upon mid Glamorgan not to retreat but rather, as the largest Council with a strong and radical tradition for Peace within the County, to provide leadership and unite with other councils to resist war plans.

2. CND supports the view that officers should interpret their duties in a manner consistent with the belief that there is no meaningful defence to nuclear war

Government propaganda films which fuel the arms race should not be shown in County schools or premises.

At present officers face a possible conflict of loyalties between their duty to the Council and its ratepayers and that to Government policies via the Home Office who arrange training and provide grant aid. The Labour party recommends only minimal compliance with the latter such as collecting and publishing information.

CND's view is that officers should be encouraged to undertake a more positive public role in providing full, frank and accurate information on the dangers of nuclear war and should have powers to exercise stringent control over the manufacture, siting and movement of nuclear materials in and through the County area, such as is the case in Tyne and Wear.

Officers should on no account be involved in Government and military exercises such as 'Operation Hard Rock' or on other nuclear war preparations. These create false illusions and detract manpower and other resources from peacetime emergencies.

3. CND supports comprehensive and effective measures for dealing with peacetime emergencies and notes with concern that the Annual Budget proposes reduced manning levels for retained firemen and reduced highway maintenance together amounting to cuts of £108,000 CND repeats that there was never any requirement on the Council to build the Bridgend bunker at a cost of £389,000 plus fixtures and fittings. Had the Council taken our advice this money would have been raised and spent on providing essential services like those outlined.

4. Finally CND believes and stated to the Public Protection Committee that this matter has raised important issues about the democratic process in mid Glamorgan County Council - especially the role and balance of power between certain officers, Council leaders and elected members. The questions we have asked remain unanswered. What is at stake is the confidence of a large number of the public in democratic decision-making at County Hall. The first casualty of peace is usually democracy - that is the real challenge to be faced by the Public Protection Committee if it is to live up to its name.

DAY 42 - DARE WE TRUST THEM?

On 26 February, by 39 votes to 1, Councillors recommended the bunker should be modified for peaceful uses only.

CND was told earth would be removed and windows made; no war equipment would be installed.

Since then we understand there have been talks with the Home Office; the earth remains,

The Council are now building windowless concrete walls, 40mm thick. We have no doubt once this concrete sets - within days - this building will be a bunker as planned.

The Clerk says the work cannot be stopped. The Clerk is the Wartime Controller, with a place in the bunker - what is he, the Home Office and the Council Leader playing at??

QUITE SIMPLY - ARE WE BEING LOPED?

We, the public, are paying the bills - We demand the work is halted.

NO EXCUSES - ACTION NOW!

We have told Cty Cllr Philip Squire CND may step up its direct action unless the work is immediately stopped or modified as promised. WE MUST NOW ACT to ensure the Council keeps that promise - Please be ready to respond.

Keep in touch with your local CND Group: Hotline Tel. Numbers:

Bridgend and Maesteg : Pantycymmer 870582 or Bridgend 59619, 721441.

Rhondda Valleys : (June Bacon) 433879

Merthyr Tydfil: (Peter Brunson) 2604 ; (Linda Thomas) 71053

Pontypridd: 433879, Llantrisant: 222417, Cynon Valley: Merthyr 4027
if no reply, try Merthyr 71053 or Bridgend/Pontycymmer numbers.

MASS LOBBY, COUNTY HALL, 18 MARCH (Thurs)

The Full Council will decide on the bunker and recommendation to withdraw from exercises like 'Operation Hard Rock'. It is vital we are there in force. Contact your trade unions, miners lodges etc

Won't Someone Tell Me Why?

"Today I can see the grass, the sky, the trees and everything there is to see. I wonder what it's like in Heaven, because that's where we'll all end up if they press the button. I don't want to die, but what can I do about it? It's just a question of now you see us, now you don't. It's like putting your life in someone else's hands. No one looks after your possessions as well as you do.

Won't someone tell me why people will kill themselves. Why fool ourselves that we can hide in some tin hut until it's all over, then come out into a world where everything is as it was. The world won't be the same! There will be dead bodies everywhere. I will be dead. They will begin a war, and end a world."

ANNA BENSON THOMAS age 10 (Penybont Primary School)
Read by Anna to the Peace Camp, February 14th, 1982.

Local Progressive Band "SIZZORZ" will perform a charity gig for CND on Friday March 12 from 8pm at Nolton Church Hall, Bridgend. Supporting band 'Royal Jones'. Please support and spread the word.

GREENHAM COMMON "Festival Of Life" Sunday March 21 Check if your group is running a bus. Bridgend/Maesteg CND hope to do so - for details: BRIDGEND CND Weekly Meeting, 7.30pm Friends meeting house.
Tues 9 March: James Stuart, "Rebecca" magazine.

VICTORIOUS PEACE CAMP LEAVES BUNKER SITE - CAMPAIGN GOES ON

Mid Glamorgan Peace Camp will end at 3.0pm on Sunday, March 21.

There will be short speech by Cllr Clr Paul Flynn, who has recently returned from Strasbourg, on behalf of WANA. Daffodils - the symbol of the anti nuclear movement in Wales - will then be planted on the site. We hope these will flower as an affirmation of life and a permanent reminder of our struggle for peace in Mid Glamorgan. Simultaneously many of our supporters will be representing the Peace Camp at the Festival of Life at the gates of Greenham Common.

Achievements

When we occupied this site on 24 January, after terrible snows, we set ourselves 4 objectives (see Newsletter No. 1, Jan 31st). These were - to get the war work stopped, to expose the realities of civil defence plans, to further the Councils Nuclear Free Zone policy and to try to build a stronger peace movement. It is no exaggeration to claim that we have achieved each of these goals. We know that we could not have done so without the encouragement, practical support and sacrifice of many people in Mid Glamorgan and elsewhere.

Approx. 600 people have taken part in the peace picket on site. Many thousands of others have been active through the nuclear free zone campaigns, distributing leaflets, attending meetings, lobbying, etc and through their peace activities and peace camps giving strength and encouragement to us. The declaration of a Nuclear Free Wales and the many visitors and delegations to our peace camp have testified to this strength.

To all of these people and groups, too numerous to mention, we send wishes of peace and love and say a heartfelt Thank You.

Peace and Democracy strengthened in Mid Glam

We congratulate our Council on having the courage to change its policy and stand up to War Planners, especially in a week when the arms race has been stepped up by the Government's criminal decision to spend £7,500,000,000 on the Trident submarine missile, in addition to Cruise missiles at Greenham and Molesworth. We shall campaign against Trident and Cruise as we campaigned against the bunkers.

As far as the Waterton site is concerned we will remain vigilant. There can be no retreat on this issue. Our campaign has shown that peace and democracy are indivisible; Mid Glamorgan CND pledges its support for the Council's declared intention that the Nuclear Free Zone "will be made a reality."

Beyond the Bunker

Our caravan will leave the site to be used in campaigning work in Bridgend and the other towns of Mid Glamorgan in preparation for the All Wales March and Rally at Bridgend on Easter Saturday, April 10. On that day we shall march from the symbol of our success at Waterton site to the Central Government Nuclear Bunker at Brackla Hill where we shall serve "notice to quit" on the Government's War Plans in Wales. A great rally at Bridgend Recreation Centre will be addressed by national leaders of CND and will be accompanied by stalls, activities, films and a 'Ceilidh for Peace' (Folk Evening).*

We invite all those wanting peace - individuals, families and community organisations - to join us on April 10 at Bridgend. Our Peace Camp has shown that Together We Can Stop the Bomb.

(*Further details of Easter events: Steve Samuel 27 Albany Rd, Pontycymer, Tel 870582 or Linda Matthews, 6 Kingsley Tce, Mertyr Tel 71053.)