

CAMPAIGN WALES



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CND CYMRU'S PAPER FOR GROUPS

No. 30 NOVEMBER, 1986.

CAMPAIGN WALES



the future



It has been decided to change the distribution of Campaign Wales and make it a Newsletter for every individual member of CND Cymru - this may also mean some changes in format and contents.

This decision resulted from recommendations from a workshop at the last Cyngor. It will be published bi-monthly and as well as going to all our members, the secretaries of groups, affiliates and the newspapers of Wales will all receive a copy. Additional copies will be on sale for non-members. We hope that in this way we shall reach more people and spread our message more widely.

These changes will not alter the present arrangements with London, by which groups receive 4 copies of British CND 'Campaign' each month and it is hoped that in the future a page of Welsh information and news will be included in this.

May we once again take this opportunity to ask you to contribute to the 'new look' Campaign Wales and to thank you for your support in the past.

Editorial Group,
Plas Bodhyfryd, Waunfawr,
Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

thanks Sue

We congratulate Sue Pitman on her new appointment as 'Peace and Nuclear Affairs' officer for Lambeth Council in London.

Unfortunately their gain must be our loss and she will be sorely missed by all of us in CND Cymru and throughout the Peace Movement in Wales.

In losing her finger during the Carmarthen Bunker Campaign she made a very great sacrifice, which will not be forgotten. Also after 2½ years as treasurer of CND Cymru our finances look much healthier.

GOOD LUCK SUE - AND THANKS

RALLY - OCTOBER 4th



SEE INSIDE PAGES FOR FULL REPORT

CND Cymru is campaigning to stop the arms race. We need your support and your money to help us to do it. Join CND Cymru now.

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Please find enclosed £..... for membership. £..... donation

Make payable to CND Cymru and send with completed form to:
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CND



CYMRU

Reykjavik and Star Wars

by John Cox

The near-agreement of Reykjavik would have cut Soviet and American strategic weapons (ICBMs and SLBMs) by a half and removed all SS-20s, Pershings and Cruise Missiles from Europe. It foundered on Reagan's insistence that the USA must continue to develop SDI (Star Wars) whilst Gorbachov insisted that no new weapons systems should be developed.

How close was an agreement? A long way, I fear. Whilst delighted at the progress made at Reykjavik, we should not underestimate the gap that remains and the task before the peace movement.

The big achievement of Reykjavik was to dramatise the possibility of disarmament - primarily due, it must be said, to Soviet diplomacy. We are witnessing now the fruits of a recent change in Soviet strategy towards ending the nuclear arms race, signalled most notably in Gorbachev's speech on January 15th this year. In explaining the continuation of the Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing (since then renewed for a further 6 months), he stated: "it is time to abandon the thinking of the stone age, when the chief concern was to have a bigger stick or heavier stone. If one were to follow the usual 'logic' of the arms race that presumably, would have been the thing to do (i.e. restart testing) . . . that logic has to be resolutely rejected. Otherwise the process of military rivalry will assume gigantic proportions and any control over the logic of events would be impossible. To yield to the anarchic force of the nuclear arms race is impermissible."

Such statements and subsequent actions throughout 1986 show that the Soviet Union is firmly set on ending the arms race. Gone is the insistence on matching the USA weapon for weapon. Gone is the foolish bravado about competing with Reagan in Star Wars - which would have provided Reagan with the excuse to continue. Instead the Soviet Union proposed the elimination of all nuclear weapons within 15 years.

A feature article in the Daily Telegraph (30th January 1986) was one of the many expressing fears about the turn in Soviet diplomacy: "(the Western powers) . . . believe in nuclear weapons as permanent guarantors against a terminal third world war and that . . . will not be an easy case to argue in the court of public opinion."

Whereas the Soviet proposals at Reykjavik were part of this perspective to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2000, Reagan had no intention of agreeing a disarmament package. What he wanted was to cut existing nuclear weapons so that his Star Wars system would have a better chance of being effective. It's not surprising that Gorbachov said 'No'.

In effect, Reagan's negotiating strategy was to reduce the threat to the USA whilst keeping open what he sees as his trump card. By contrast, the Soviet Union proposed a package which would have stopped the nuclear arms race completely and also reduced the current level of armaments. Whatever is now being said about the closeness to an agreement at Reykjavik, I see no evidence of a meeting of minds.

Unfortunately, the issue remains confused because SDI is ridiculed by well-meaning opponents as 'unworkable' - which it probably is in the version expounded by Reagan for public relations purposes. In his now notorious speech of 23rd March 1983, he outflanked the US

Freeze movement by presenting Star Wars as a measure of disarmament!

"The human spirit must be capable of rising above dealing with other nations and human beings by threatening their existence."

"What if free people could live secure in the knowledge that their security did not rest upon the threat of instant US retaliation to deter a Soviet attack; that we could intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil, or that of our allies."

"I call upon the scientific community who gave us nuclear weapons to turn their great talents to the cause of mankind and world peace: to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

If he really did want to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons, it could be done much more cheaply by disarmament. But that would end the military-industrial-complex on which he, and his backers depend. His perspective is for a trillion-dollar armaments expenditure, ostensibly to achieve world peace.

No matter that the 'scientific community' does not believe in the so called 'leak-proof defensive shield' - the most that the most optimistic supporter of SDI has claimed to date is that perhaps 10% of the on-coming missiles might be destroyed. Yet, despite almost universal ridicule from scientists and opposition to its funding by the US Congress, Reagan has persisted in pressing ahead with SDI.

Supposing, however, that SDI is not intended as a defensive shield. Note, moreover, that almost any weapon in space could be used in an attack on the Soviet Union. Suppose, in addition, that the Soviet Union agrees to reduce its missiles in a so-called disarmament package. If all this can be achieved, SDI could give America military domination. This is why Reagan insisted at Reykjavik that SDI was 'non-negotiable'.

If SDI could only be used for defence, Gorbachov could have accepted the Reykjavik package and left Reagan to waste his \$trillions. If SDI is a non-starter as an offensive system, again Gorbachov could have agreed the Reykjavik package. However much SDI is ridiculed in the West, it is clear that the Soviet Union sees SDI as a serious potential threat and will not agree on disarmament measures whilst SDI developments continue.

Some clever commentators have argued that 'because SDI won't work, the Soviet Union should let it go ahead'. Those of us with long memories recall the same being said of Cruise Missiles in 1972 - and where did that get us? The history of the nuclear arms race has shown, time and time over, that the best time to stop a new weapon is before it is made - not half-way through a production and deployment programme.

Was Reykjavik a waste of time? Certainly not. It has showed that disarmament is possible and where the pressure of the peace movement should be applied. It has isolated the warmongers to such an extent that even Lord Carrington, the political head of NATO, has had to rebuke NATO's military top brass for their opposition to the talks. For the first time in two decades, there is a real prospect that increased pressure from the peace movement could achieve a genuine disarmament agreement.

CND CYMRU RALLY



Following the ROF Llanishen demonstration and five mile march the biggest rally of the year was held on the 4th October, 1986 in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. The speakers were introduced by Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Chairman CND Cymru).

First to the platform was the Secretary of the Labour Party in Wales, Anita Gale, who arrived heady from the Labour Party Conference. She devoted most of her speech to extolling the virtues of the newly approved Labour Party non-nuclear defence policy. Whilst acknowledging the unilateralist stance of Plaid Cymru, the SNP, Communists, Greens and many Liberals, she emphasized that only the Labour Party could put such a policy into being as it was the only one with a realistic chance of being able to form a Government. She urged her audience to help elect a Labour Government at the next election as the most effective means of ensuring the implementation of anti-nuclear policies.

Whilst the CND supporters present at the rally naturally applauded the intentions of Labour's new policy - Anita Gale's speech demonstrated the dangers of attempting to make party political gain out of the Peace Movement as Prof. Gwyn Alf Williams was quick to point out in his uniquely trenchant style. He proceeded to 'not make a party political speech' in restating Plaid Cymru's long standing commitment to the antinuclear cause. Having briefly dispensed with 'the advertisements', Prof. Williams moved to expose the flaws in the concepts of the British bomb, the French bomb, the Euro bomb and the NATO deterrent itself,

illustrating how effectively they all come under the all-embracing American umbrella. He savaged what he regards as the corrupting and persuasive influence of the American Administration in their recent attempts at interfering in the democratic process of the British electoral system - drawing analogies with the Mafia dominated politics of Southern Italy. He stressed that change could only be brought about by the people reclaiming 'patriotism' as an initial step to wresting power from Parliament and the State. Whether the withering of the state will be achieved as Gwyn Alf Williams envisages, his speech was surely the highlight of the afternoon, and Rhodri Glyn Thomas commented that it was the first time he had failed to be disappointed by Dafydd Elis Thomas's absence from the Rally.

The first official speaker was Joan Ruddock Vice-Chair of British CND. She hoped that all CND members would strive to obtain a commitment to an anti-nuclear policy from all candidates at the next election, whatever their political affiliations. She hoped that whatever the outcome of that election, it would result in the existence of a solid anti-nuclear majority in the House of Commons. She also alluded to the recent comments of the American Defence Secretary, pointing out that a majority in CND would welcome the scenario he envisaged of a rapidly escalating world wide demand for nuclear disarmament, and the eventual break up of the NATO Alliance. She concluded her speech by launching EPIC II.

The Rally gave a rapturous reception to American Civil Rights activist Paul Robeson Jnr. who joined us from the Miners Eisteddfod at Porthcawl. He congratulated the British Peace Movement on its role in increasing public awareness on the issues of nuclear power and American Bases and attributed to this the widespread public concern expressed over the events at Chernobyl, and the American bombing raid on Libya. He was optimistic regarding the succession of Mikhael Gorbochev to the Soviet Leadership, and felt from personal experience gained on a recent visit to that county, that the new administration had a genuine commitment to both social reform and arms reduction. Paul Robeson refusing to acknowledge Ronald Reagan as 'his' President, warned his audience not to be fooled by his avuncular and jocular image, as he represented the greatest warmonger of the century, having tipped the balance of terror so that the American Administration was now the villain of the 'peace'. He welcomed the adoption of the new Labour Defence Policy at Blackpool as a great step forward. He drew to a close by expressing confidence in the British Peace Movement's ability to provide a lead, which he hoped the American people could follow.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas concluded by expressing thanks to Paul Robeson for his appearance despite a heavy schedule of engagements, drew together some of the main points made by the 'guest speakers', thanked all those present for taking part in a successful day of protest, and handed over to the entertainment.

1st Anniversary Bunker occupation

NUCLEAR WASTE DISCOVERY IN TEIFI ESTUARY

This summer the Irish Sea Project undertook a survey into the levels of radioactive pollution in the Teifi estuary. On Tuesday 30th September they presented the report of the findings to the Public Protection Committee of Dyfed County Council. Before it had even been made public it was embroiled in controversy. Half of the Councillors present voted not to hear the report and some left the chamber in protest.

The survey indicates the presence of radioactive waste from Sellafield in the Teifi estuary. It is the first survey undertaken of the Teifi estuary, and therefore does not necessarily indicate the full extent of the problem. It is now widely accepted that low-level radiation is a health hazard. It is known that radiation related diseases such as leukemia, occur in clusters around nuclear installations. Radioactive contamination concentrates in estuaries and therefore we may expect to see similar long term health problems among the population of Cardigan.

A number of recommendations were made to the council. First that they commission further environmental radioactivity surveys, both in the Teifi and in other estuaries in Dyfed. Second that they commission a survey of the effects of the Teifi radiation upon local agriculture. And thirdly to undertake a baseline study of health statistics so that any increase in radiation linked illnesses can be monitored. Finally and most importantly it was recommended that the council call on British Nuclear Fuels Limited to reduce marine discharge to zero, as it is their reckless operation of the Sellafield plant that has caused this problem in the first place.

Unless we protest and unless our warnings are heeded, we shall be leaving our children not just a legacy of death and disease (the mild genetic damage caused by low level radiation can appear as asthma, allergies, or juvenile diabetes), but also a world that has been irreversibly polluted in a way that mankind has not previously experienced. The build-up of these pollutants in plants, animals and humans is inevitable. This will inflict incalculable genetic damage on all future generations. We are slowly but inexorably altering the conditions under which life on this earth will evolve. Some species will manage to adapt to the new conditions, other species will probably disappear. No one can say into which category mankind will fall.

Contact David Gillam, Crug Farm, Ferwig, Cardigan for further details of the report from the Irish Sea Project.



KAUFMAN REFUSED ENTRANCE TO THE £400,000 CARMARTHEN BUNKER

On Saturday September 13th - exactly twelve months after the occupation of the Carmarthen Bunker, protestors gathered at the site to meet Gerald Kaufman, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary to discuss the protest with him. Mr. Kaufman expressed sympathy and solidarity for the anti-bunker campaign and assured protestors that if a Labour Government was in office, then civil defence would not involve preparations for nuclear war.

Mr. Kaufman asked to see around the controversial £400,000 bunker, but was told that this would not be possible being a Saturday, and anyway it was rather dull and dangerous and rumour has it full of water! Does this imply that the Tory Government have decided not to engage in nuclear war at weekends? Mr. Kaufman then urged representatives of Carmarthen District Council to drop their charge of tortious conspiracy against the 17 peace protestors many of whom were present and who still face possible bankruptcy over this action. He was assured that his message would be relayed to the Council. As yet however, the Council have still not proceeded with, or dropped the claim against the Carmarthen 17.

On Wednesday 8th October, Magistrates in Carmarthen ruled that evidence given by Sue Pitman and Michael Reed showed that there existed a 'prima facie' case against Dyfrig John Nicholas, the Pritchard Security guard accused of committing grievous bodily harm against Sue Pitman on January 11th, 1986. The case now goes on to Crown Court to be heard by a jury.

Mr. BUGG AND THE BRAWDY BY-LAWS

Mr. John Bugg, the former policeman who successfully challenged 27 Ministry of Defence By-laws intended to prevent trespass and protest at the U.S. Air Force base at Mildenhall, Suffolk is coming to Wales to offer advice to peace-protestors accused of breaking similar by-laws at the U.S. submarine tracking station at Brawdy. Earlier this year, Mr. Bugg argued in Mildenhall magistrates court that the by-laws introduced by former Defence Secretary, Michael Heseltine, were unlawful as he had not gone through the correct parliamentary procedures.

LATEST NEWS: John Bugg has been remanded in Bedford Prison for breaking bail conditions. Cards and letters of support please; he could be there for some time!

CAMPAIGNING ON NUCLEAR FREE ISSUES WITH YOUR COUNCIL

The Local Government Access to Information Act 1985 means:

1. You have the right to attend meetings of the Council, its' committees and sub-committees. e.g. Public Protection Sub-Committee.
2. A Council notice of meetings must be posted up at main council offices at least 3 days beforehand.
3. Beforehand you can see the agendas, reports and relevant internal documents. e.g. bunker proposals, nuclear hazards, information etc.
4. If during the meeting you are asked to leave you must be told exactly why. Later you can read a summary of what was said.
5. You can ask your local newspaper or a councillor to get more facts on an agenda item if it is not clear to you.
6. All these agendas and reports are open for 6 years. Important internal documents in the files are open to you for 4 years.
7. If a council officer is given power by councillors to take decisions on behalf of the council you have the right to know who the officer is and exactly what powers s/he has.
8. The main council offices must provide you with the names and addresses of councillors, what committees and sub-committees they serve on and what your rights are.
9. You can make a copy of available information during office hours at the main council offices though a reasonable charge can be made.

10. These rights also apply to Fire Authorities and Police Authorities as well as to joint committees of 2 or more councils e.g. for civil defence or other matters.
11. If someone at the main council offices stops you getting information to which you have a right you can report them to the Police or Ombudsman / Ombudswoman via your councillor or tell the press.

REMEMBER - though some things are still secret they must be covered by the Law. If you are prevented from seeing something, you must be told under which heading you are barred. Terms like 'Confidential' or 'Contrary to public interest' are no longer allowed; only the specific reasons listed in the Act. You can see the list during office hours at main council offices.

Anti-nuclear groups may find it useful to delegate one or more members to monitor Council meetings, minutes and documents and report back.

We have reported Councils for breaches of their rules e.g. the ombudsman is conducting a full investigation into Carmarthen Council's bunker plans as a result of one such report.

Please keep us informed of any such developments. Contact Tony Simpson, 3 Heol Cae Glas, Tondu, Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan.

Further information on the Access to Information Act from Community Rights Project, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XF. A copy of the Act can be obtained from HMSO Cardiff or PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT.

COMPETITION DESIGNING A BANNER FOR DYFED CHRISTIAN CND



PRIZE - £40.00 to the originator(s) of the winning design.

Open to young people under 18 resident in Dyfed.

Adjudicator - Mary Lloyd Jones.

RULES:

The design, which may be the work of one person or a group of young people, should be prepared on A4 (296mm width x 209mm) or A3 (418mm width x 296mm) size paper and the finished artwork should incorporate (i) the Christian CND symbol (see above) and the wording (ii) Christian CND Cristnogol - Dyfed. It should also be borne in mind that what is required is a design suitable for a banner executed in applique work.

On the back of each design submitted the following details should be noted:

- (i) Name(s) of competitor(s).
- (ii) Age(s).
- (iii) Address(es).
- (iv) School.

The artwork should be sent to the Chairperson, Dyfed Christian CND, Cwm Gorllwyn, Boncath, Dyfed by Monday 15th December 1986 at the latest. The name(s) of the originator(s) of the winning design will be announced in January 1987.

It is hoped to arrange an exhibition of the work of all competitors as early as possible in the New Year.

CND CHILDREN'S PEN-PAL CLUB

For non-nuclearists aged between 8 and 18, who would like to correspond with people of their own age and opinions.

It was started less than 3 months ago and already boasts almost 50 members.

If you are interested, whether or not you are a member of YCND Cymru please contact:

Rhiannon David (15 years),
10 Glenveiw Court,
Pentwnmawr,
Newbridge, Gwent NP1 4HW.



TRAWSOBYL?

Heno mae cwmwl unig - tros fawnog
Trawsfynydd anniddig;
Mae rhyw ias ym mer y wig
O ludw anweledig.

Meirion McIntyre Hughes



Argraffwyd gan:
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Cwmni Cydweithredol