

heddwch

Spring 1999

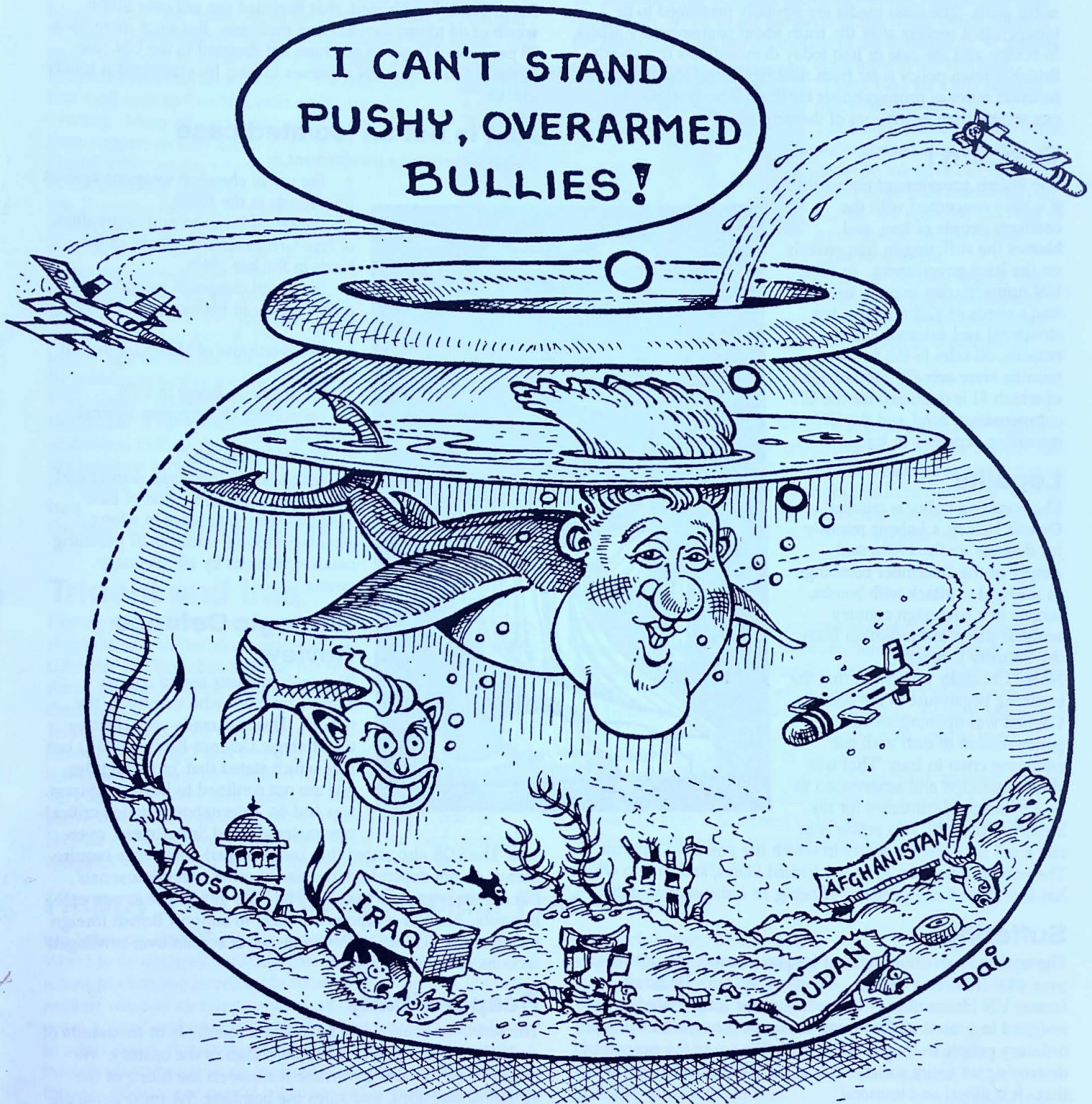
Issue 19

Free (or donation)



the magazine of CND Cymru

I CAN'T STAND
PUSHY, OVERARMED
BULLIES!



STOP THE BOMBING OF IRAQ !
ARMED NUCLEAR TRANSPORT SHIPS OFF THE WELSH COAST
TRAWSFYNYDD ★ TRECWN ★ GREENHAM...AND MORE

CND Cymru works for international peace and disarmament and a world in which the vast resources now devoted to militarism are redirected to the real needs of the human community.

The Function of Iraq in International Affairs

by Milan Rai

Policy

British foreign policy is generally presumed to be the pursuit of noble goals. The mass media are similarly presumed to be independent seekers after the truth about contemporary affairs. In reality, and the case of Iraq today demonstrates this starkly, British foreign policy is far from noble in intent, and the media function more as propagandists for those who hold power in our society than as tribunes of the people.

Concern !

The British government claims that it is very concerned with the ordinary people of Iraq, and blames the suffering in Iraq entirely on the Iraqi government. In 1991, UN humanitarian experts assessed Iraq's needs as \$22bn a year. For structural and external logistic reasons, oil sales in the last six months were actually around \$3bn of which \$1 is deducted for the UN compensation fund and the UN operating expenses in Iraq.

Legality

The bombing policy is criminal. Dennis Healey, a Labour minister for defence in the 1960s, said simply of the December bombings: 'It is illegal to attack with bombs, targets in a sovereign country without direct authorisation from the Security Council.'

Noam Chomsky points out that the bombing began just as the Security Council was opening an emergency session to deal with the emerging crisis in Iraq: 'That was surely intended and understood to be a message of contempt for the Security Council... This action is in fact a call for a lawless world in which the powerful will rule. The powerful happen to be the United States, and Britain which has abandoned any pretence of being an independent state.'

Suffering

The economic sanctions against Iraq are causing the deaths of over 4000 children a month, according to Denis Halliday, former UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Iraq. Halliday, who resigned in protest at the impact that sanctions were having on ordinary people in Iraq, said last year, 'We are in the process of destroying an entire society. It is as simple and terrifying as that. It is illegal and immoral.'

Western bombing, over the years, has cost ordinary Iraqis dearly. The 1991 bombardment deliberately targeted civilian infrastructure in Iraq. Power cuts and lack of generating power have contributed to the lack of clean drinking water, which has been a primary cause of child malnutrition (now running at around 30 per cent of children under five). Together, sanctions and bombing have killed hundreds of thousands of people in Iraq. The very young, the old, the poor and the sick have all

suffered from inadequate diet and a breakdown of the formerly first class health care system. Their suffering has, for almost all of the past eight years, been hidden by the mass media. For the last year, since the human realities of sanctions began to break through into public consciousness, there has been a barrage of propaganda, designed to assign all responsibility for the suffering of the Iraqi people to the Iraqi government.

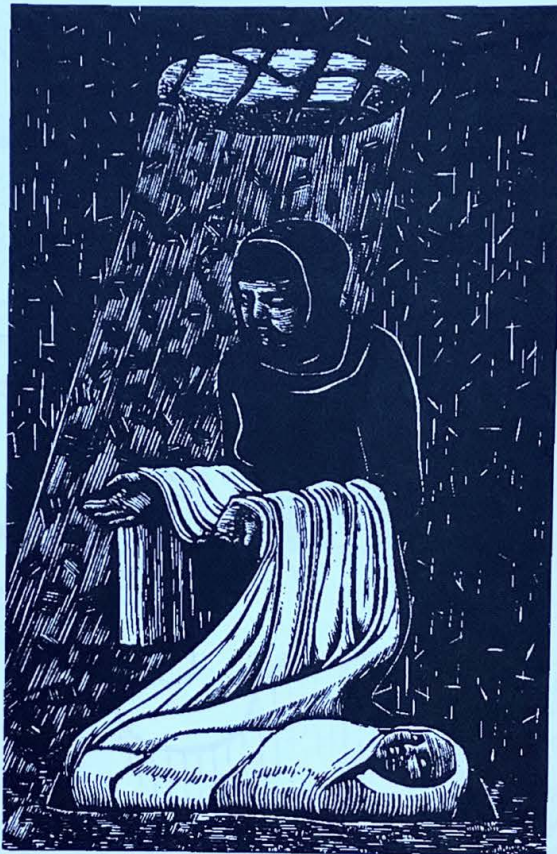
Lies

Robin Cook has claimed that Baghdad can sell over \$10bn worth of oil to pay for food and medicine. But since more than 30 per cent of these oil revenues are diverted to the UN compensation fund and UN expenses in Iraq, his statement is totally untrue.

Iraq is not an isolated case

British Government involvement in :

- the use of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds in the 1920s,
- the brutal invasion and occupation of Free Greece after the flight of the Nazis in the late 1940s,
- the brutal campaign against the rural Chinese in Malaya from 1948 to 1960,
- the overthrow of Mussadiq in Iran in 1953,
- the attack on Egypt in 1956,
- supporting US terrorism against Libya in 1986,
- the 1991 Gulf 'War',
- arms sales to Indonesia during and after the bloody occupation of East Timor, all take their place in a long standing national tradition of pursuing national interests by all necessary means.



Strategic Defence Review

'National' interests are, of course, defined by those who dominate 'the nation'. This was made very clear by the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) last July, which stated that 'our vital interests are not confined to Europe'. Stress was laid on 'international trade', critical raw materials, and 'investment' over-

seas. The SDR also stated that 'our [nuclear] deterrence requirements' do not depend on 'the size of other nation's arsenals', but on 'the minimum necessary to deter any threat to our vital interests.' Nuclear weapons are there to support British foreign policy in the defence of the privileges of certain over-privileged sections of British society.

Responsibility

The sanctions against Iraq have killed hundreds of thousands of civilians in Iraq is one of the great crimes of the century. We must ensure that our government supports the lifting of the economic sanctions, and stops the bombing. We must persuade the mass media to report the truth consistently.

Milan Rai, peace campaigner, launched, edited and published "Gulf War Weekly" in 1990-91. Last year, he visited Iraq with *Voices in the Wilderness*, an international organisation which breaks UN sanctions by hand delivering medicines, without export licenses, to children's hospitals in Iraq. *Voices in the Wilderness* can be contacted at 1, Hertford Road, London N2 9BX. (0181) 4441605

Welsh protests against the bombing of Iraq

We were preparing for Christmas, a time for peace when even the warring soldiers in the trenches during World War 1 had laid down their arms, played football and sang carols together. The Red Choir had just raised money for the Western Sahara refugees and we were feeling good. The Muslim community was preparing for the holy month of Ramadan.

Peace was shattered when the US and British governments bombed Iraq. We remembered the futile bombing of 1990 and 91, when thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians were killed - and have continued to die because of sanctions. Our telephone tree was set in motion. We called our first vigil outside Cardiff Castle on Wednesday evening. Many of the Christmas shoppers tooted their support as they drove past. Opinion in Cardiff reflected the widespread Welsh opposition to the bombing campaign mounted against Iraq. On Thursday evening it poured with rain - it didn't matter; our peace people turned out in force with their banners. International opinion was against the bombing. There was no authority from the UN for the assault on Iraq. Not one member of the Security Council, apart from the US and Britain, supported the aggression. The Russians withdrew their ambassador from the US. There was a clear majority of British people against the bombing.

By midday Saturday we were on the streets of Cardiff with CND Cymru chairperson, David Morris MEP. We collected thousands of signatures on a letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair and raised £145 for Voices in the Wilderness, an international organisation which breaks UN sanctions by hand delivering medicines, without export licenses, to children's hospitals in Iraq.

On Saturday night the bombing was halted - and what had it

achieved? Saddam Hussein appeared on Iraqi television as strong as ever, while the people's suffering intensified. On Sunday we met with the Iraqi community in Cardiff. It was their relatives and friends who had suffered at the hands of our government's action. We planned what was to be a very impressive march through the centre of Cardiff.

We presented our petitions and letters from CND and the Iraqi community to one of the ministers in the Welsh Office. One of the Iraqis who had lost his mother in the bombing in '91 put his arms around me and said, "Thank God for CND and the peace movement."

The media attended every event we organised, and reported honestly. We gave our support to the large Iraqi community in Cardiff; we reflected the view of peace loving people everywhere; and we hope our voices have been heard.

We didn't stop the war, but we made our feelings against the violence sound clear and loud. Meanwhile, it is reported that apart from the effect of the bombings, 4000 - 5000 children are dying unnecessarily every month as a result of sanctions on Iraq.

Ray Davies



heddwch action : if you wish to be kept in touch with actions in Cardiff, and to be on the 'telephone tree', please contact Ray Davies, Vice Chair, CND Cymru (see 'Contacts'). For news of other possible actions in Wales contact the National Secretary or your local Vice Chair. Voices in the Wilderness can be contacted at 1, Hertford Road, London N2 9BX (0181) 4441605

Trident and Iraq

During the earlier November crisis in the Gulf, a Trident submarine was sent to the Mediterranean. HMS Vanguard visited Gibraltar in December, this was the first ever visit by an operational nuclear weapon submarine to an overseas port, other than the US.

Trident missiles fired from Faslane itself could reach Iraq. However, the MoD may feel that if a missile was launched from Scotland this could be mistaken for an attack on Russia. At the very least, the Navy sent Vanguard to the Mediterranean to prove that it could be deployed in a sub-strategic role. In February 1998, Robin Cook warned that if Iraq used chemical weapons there would be a "proportionate" response.

The government has given assurances that nuclear weapons would not be used against a non-nuclear country which is a signatory to the Non Proliferation treaty (NPT), unless it was in alliance with a nuclear power. However, when questioned by the House of Commons Defence Committee, Foreign Minister Tony Lloyd said that this guarantee did not apply to Iraq - because Iraq was in breach of the NPT.

Meanwhile, it is rumoured that HMS Splendid, another submarine, which completed the first British test firing of a cruise missile last year, is to be sent to the Gulf. This submarine is nuclear powered but not nuclear armed.

source: Scottish CND

Happy 17th Birthday Nuclear Free Wales !

On February 23rd 1982 Wales became the first country in the World to be declared a nuclear free zone. The statement of intent has become increasingly relevant over the past 17 years as nuclear weapon carrying submarines continue to patrol our coast, air and seaborne pollution from nuclear plants continues to affect Wales, nuclear power stations are decommissioned, nuclear waste becomes an increasingly insoluble problem and those in positions of power fail to see peace, justice, the environment and the state of the population's health as a top priority. That Local Authorities still see the nuclear free principle as important is demonstrated by the fact that only Conwy, Bridgend and Wrecsam Councils have this year failed to join the Nuclear Free Zones Forum. Anti nuclear groups in Wales will be making representations to councillors in these authorities to point out the benefits in terms of access to information, support and legal help that membership of the Forum brings.

heddwch action: Send a card to your Councillor congratulating the council on Wales' 17 years of nuclear free-ness! If you live in Bridgend, Conwy or Wrexham, ask your Councillor to press for your authority to affiliate to the Nuclear Free Zones Forum. More information from CND Cymru (see Contacts) or Nuclear Free Local Authorities, c/o Nuclear Policy & Information Unit, Town Hall, Manchester M602LA (0161) 234 3244.



Campaigning

Bold steps for peace: dancing a tarantella from the doors of the Hague Peace Conference

CND Cymru is a member of the National Peace Council, a British association of like minded organisations working for Peace and Justice. The National Peace Council is celebrating the approaching millennium with a "Bold Steps for Peace" campaign.

The approach of a new millennium is an obvious time to be thinking about our visions for a more peaceful world and the steps we could be taking towards creating such a world. Great strides have already been taken in the right direction: apartheid in South Africa has been abolished, chemical and biological weapons outlawed, the Cold War ended, and an international criminal court established. However, to create a long-lasting peace for the 21st Century there is a long way to go. In May 10,000 people will be taking part in an international peace conference in the Hague aiming to put the abolition of war itself on the world's agenda. It is hoped that Bold Steps for Peace is a way to enable more people to help set the Hague Agenda and to promote it afterwards.

The Bold Steps campaign will try to create a climate in which immediate, concrete realisable steps can be taken now to move us in the right direction, in which bold and imaginative ideas for peace can be widely discussed and politicians feel increasingly under pressure to begin implementing at least some of them.

heddwch action: Our aim between now and the Hague Peace Conference (May 11-16) is to involve as many people as possible in the Hague process, by getting people to contribute their visions for a world without war and some of the specific, concrete steps that could move us in that direction. These messages - maybe in the form of illustrated footprints, essays, letters, posters, songs or video - will be collected and taken to the Hague Peace Conference as part of the contribution from Wales, representing some of those not able to physically attend the conference.

For more information about the Conference, or the Campaign, contact CND Cymru (see 'Contacts'). Send contributions to Bold Steps for Peace, c/o: CND Cymru before May 1st.

End of the road for THORP?

The new German Government has announced that it will stop sending nuclear fuel to Cumbria for reprocessing in the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP) by the end of the year. Heavy pressure is being exerted by the British Government and the nuclear industry on the German Government, to reverse their announcement. If it is carried through, the German decision should have a direct impact on BNFL's plans to incorporate plutonium from THORP into mixed oxide (MOX) and return it to overseas customers as reactor fuel. The Environment Agency handed over BNFL's application to commission the Sellafield MOX Plant to the Minister of State for the Environment and MAFF last October and they are still awaiting a decision. CND, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment and Nuclear Free Local Authorities have all asked the Minister to conduct a public

inquiry into all the issues surrounding MOX. This is an important issue for Wales, reprocessing as it is now, and as it could be if the MOX plant is given the go-ahead, increases radioactive pollution of the Irish Sea, of the atmosphere and also means more transport of nuclear materials around our border and coastline. The transport, distribution, redistribution and stockpiling of plutonium puts a legitimate 'mask' on the immoral and dirty business of nuclear power and nuclear weapons production and ownership.

heddwch action: By proposing to cancel contracts with BNFL for reprocessing spent fuel at Sellafield, Germany has given us the perfect opportunity to close THORP. Don't waste this opportunity, as we have already seen with the stalling of the German decision in January, BNFL, the nuclear industry and the British Government are not going to give up easily.

- Write to John Battle, Minister of State for Science, Energy and Industry, Department of Trade & Industry, 1, Victoria Street, London SW1A 0ET, let him know how much you want Sellafield to cease reprocessing. BNFL's future lies in decommissioning, clean up, waste management and dry store construction.
- Support the German government by thanking them for bringing reprocessing nearer to an end and asking them to press on with their policy. Write to: The Federal Environment Minister, Environment Ministry, PR Division, Postfach 12 06 29, 53048 Bonn Germany; and/or Gerhardt Schroeder, Bundestag, Bonn 53113 Germany. Help with letters is available contact Jill Stallard or Dave Andrews (see 'Contacts')

Fun and games on Trawsfynydd Lake? no thanks !

Snowdonia National Park have given permission for the building of a landing stage on Trawsfynydd Lake. The structure will be used for pleasure boat trips across the radioactively contaminated lake as part of a scheme to develop Trawsfynydd as a tourist attraction. A National Radiological Protection Board survey has assessed that there would be no danger to the public from radiation. Yet as decommissioning of the former nuclear power station proceeds, radioactively contaminated materials continue to be discharged into the lake. A report drawn up for the Central Electricity Generating Board in the late 1980s concluded that there were alpha emitting radionuclides with half lives of thousands of years in the sediment of the lake, and that should the sediment dry and blow about (as at the edges of the lake) it would constitute a serious danger to humans, and other living things. The time when the lake level is lowest, and there is contamination on the shoreline is during the summer, when the development company, *Traws-Newid*, is proposing to bring in visitors. Magnox, a company owned by the British people, has given £200,000 to the development company, along with financial aid from the Welsh Development Agency and Gwynedd Council. Hugh Richards of the Wales Anti Nuclear Alliance commented "it is either a radioactive water lagoon or a pleasure lake, it cannot be both".

Campaigning within the Labour Party

CND Cymru lobbied participants of the first stage of the Labour Party's Policy making machinery in Swansea in January. The National Policy Forum launched the draft consultation document of the Britain in the World Policy Commission, which includes defence policy. Members of the Forum, including members of the Government were leafleted as they entered the Dylan Thomas Centre, where the national meeting was held. During the lunch break Swansea Labour Councillor Veronica Woods chaired a well attended CND Cymru and Labour CND fringe meeting at the Environment Centre. Speakers included

David Morris MEP and Chair of CND Cymru, and Pete Willsman, Labour National Executive Committee member. Scrapping Trident already has wide support within the Labour Party and in recent years such a motion has been either widely supported or narrowly defeated at successive annual conferences. Cancelling Trident is the policy of national trade unions such as UNISON and the TGWU as well as the Labour Party in Scotland and the Scottish TUC. The draft National Policy Forum document will now go to local parties and affiliates for consultation, and then on to National Labour Party Conference.

heddwch action: Labour Party members wanting to learn best how to influence their party on nuclear and defence issues can contact Labour CND, Carol Turner, Secretary, 29, Stodmarsh House, Cowley Estate, London SW9 6HH (0171) 820 9709

School of the Americas Protests

On 22nd November no less than 2,319 people committed civil disobedience when they entered the US army base at Fort Benning, Georgia, USA, to protest against the School of the Americas (SOA). They carried white crosses and black coffins carrying the names of the thousands of victims who have suffered, disappeared and have been killed by SOA graduates in the Americas. No arrests were made, there were clearly too many protesters! Instead, the military handed out 'ban and bar'



Prison drawing by Kathleen Rumpf

letters to everyone, without even ascertaining names! The SOA continues its half century long third world war, a "low intensity war" on 21 countries whose elite troops our troops are training to knuckle under their civilian "elected" governments, which in turn knuckle under to good old uncle sam. Pat Litekey, imprisoned for 2 years for pouring red dye on the Pentagon and on the SOA writes: "Our sacrifices are real but cannot begin to compare to the torture chambers and killing fields in the 21 countries of Latin America served by the elite academy of coups and cruelty - the School of the Americas..."

Source: Grandmothers for Peace International Newsletter & The Nuclear Resister - thanks!

heddwch action: 7 protesters are still in prison for actions against the SOA. For more information contact: SOA Watch, POB4566, Washington, DC20017 USA <http://www.soaw.org>

Every letter offers Mordechai hope Some Facts about Mordechai Vanunu:

1. In 1987, after working at Dimona, Israel's secret nuclear plant, which had been disguised as a textile factory, Mordechai gave details of the production of nuclear weapons at the plant to the London Sunday Times, for publication. Israel may have as many as 200 nuclear weapons.
2. One of the female agents of Mossad, the Israeli Secret Service, then enticed him to take a holiday in Italy, from where he was abducted, taken to Israel, tried and sent to prison for 18 years.
3. After almost eleven and a half years in solitary confinement he was released from solitary in March last year.
4. Since March, it has been reported that his cell still has no window and lights shine on him all the time. Every night he is woken by the guards.
5. His terrible experience has not undermined his belief in the cause of peace and justice.
6. His mail is still censored, he has no home leave and is allowed telephone calls only from his lawyer and his direct family.
7. He has been adopted by an American couple, Mary and Nicholas Eoloff. On a recent visit, which was scheduled to last two hours, they were only allowed to see him for half an hour because he mentioned being kidnapped.
8. In October 1997, the family of Haim Itach, who had been exposed to low level radiation for years at Dimona and died of a form of leukaemia, was awarded \$985,000 by an Israeli court. This is probably a direct result of Mordechai exposing the nature of the Dimona plant.
9. The Episcopal Church of America has created a new international award in honour of Mordechai Vanunu. The creation of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq must be condemned but it certainly has been advanced by the existence of Dimona nuclear plant.



heddwch action: Support Mordechai Vanunu

Please write to Mordechai Vanunu during 1999. He may be in prison for another 7 years should his appeal in April fail. He receives all his letters, although your letter may be censored if you write about nuclear weapons, or his kidnapping. He may not be able to answer all letters he receives, but every letter gives him hope.

Address: Mordechai Vanunu, Ashkelon Prison, Ashkelon, Israel
You can also send a letter or fax asking for his early release, to arrive before his appeal in April, to one or all of the following:
Ezer Weizman, President of Israel, 3, Hanassi Street, Jerusalem, Israel Fax: 0092 2 566 0445

Dror Zeigerman, Israeli Ambassador, Embassy of Israel, 2, Palace Green, London W8 4QB

Contact The Campaign to Free Vanunu & for a Nuclear Free Middle East, 185, New Kent Road, London, SE1 4AG (0171) 378 9324 vanunu@innocent.com

Trident Ploughshares (TP) 2000

CND Cymru continues to support the bold and enterprising actions of TP2000. As only brief summaries of the campaign can be included here please contact the Trident Ploughshares Office to subscribe to their inspiring "Speed the Plough" occasional newsletter.

Actions

At Trident Ploughshares camps in November and February imaginative direct actions continued as Faslane, where the illegal and immoral Trident nuclear submarines are based. As we go to press 15 individuals are awaiting trial for Trident Ploughshares actions. Also in November, TP2000 pledger Pol D'Huyvetter fasted for 14 days on the steps of the Belgian Foreign Ministry in support of nuclear disarmament resolutions at the UN. The Belgian Foreign Minister responded by saying



that he respected Pol's stance and would discuss the issue of 'no first use of nuclear weapons' with his Canadian and German counterparts. This was the first time a Belgian Minister had publicly supported the doctrine of no first use. Pol, sufficiently encouraged to finish his fast, is in good health.

Dialogue

Despite 6 letters to British government ministers beginning with a letter to Tony Blair in March, before actions began, no meetings have been arranged between activists and ministers. The government believes that Trident is legal, that there is no value in setting an arbitrary date to fulfil their commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons and that they cannot talk with an organisation engaged in illegal acts (including encouraging "service personnel to refuse to carry out their legal (sic) duties"). Activists and supporters are being asked to contact their own MPs urging them to push for a meeting between Trident Ploughshares' negotiating groups and the Government.

Trident Ploughshares is a campaign to disarm the British Trident nuclear weapons system by the year 2000 in a non-violent, open, peaceful and fully accountable manner. Over 100 people from 12 countries have pledged to disarm Trident in this way and there are over 900 supporters - including many famous people and members of Parliament. Trident Ploughshares acts to uphold international humanitarian law and to expose the illegality of the Trident system. With rational pressure building up all over the world and the nuclear weapons states being increasingly exposed and isolated, 1999 will be a special year for nuclear disarmament. Trident Ploughshares 2000 is well set to play a significant part.

To get involved, or for more information or offers of support contact Trident Ploughshares 2000, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1NR Britain; (01603) 611953; email tp2000@gn.apc.org; <http://www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/>

Protecting our rights to life & peace - and embarrassing the authorities at Barrow

In the early hours of February 1st, Rosie James and Rachel Wenham from the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp were arrested at Barrow with 3 of their support group, after swimming 300 metres, unchallenged, through the oily water of Barrow Docks to Vengeance, the fourth Trident Submarine. They boarded the vessel, completely unchallenged and painted slogans including "illegal death machine" on the hull, and damaged equipment attached to the conning tower with hammers. A banner "Women want Peace" was draped across the submarine. As we go to press, the 5 have appeared in Barrow Magistrates Court charged with causing £25,000 worth of damage. Rachel Wenham said "as a citizen of the world, I have upheld the Nuremberg principles in acting to prevent the crime of mass murder from being threatened and committed". Vengeance, the fourth Trident submarine is in Barrow awaiting delivery to the Clyde in March. The three submarines already commissioned carry between 12 and 16 missiles each of which can deliver a number of 100 kiloton warheads to individual targets.

To Scotland with Vengeance

The fourth Trident submarine will have arrived at Faslane by the end of March. This will provide opportunities in Scotland for anti-Trident campaigning in the run up to the Scottish Parliament elections. George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence has suggested in *The Glasgow Herald* that in the event of an eventually independent Scotland, "Faslane would be a very, very big headache. There's a huge investment there for Britain's national deterrent...The rest of the UK (sic) would be unlikely to say let's move Faslane to the Tyne, the Wear or the Mersey, or indeed the Thames and pay all the costs associated with that." He went on to suggest that Faslane could be leased out to

TRIDENT IS TERRORISM STOP THE WAR MACHINE END THE THIRD WORLD-WAR - NOW
WE SUPPORT FASLANE
PEACE CAMP!

Britain in the same way that the Ukraine leases Sevastopol to Russia, i.e., to bribe or bully the Scottish people into accepting these illegal and immoral weapons of mass destruction. John Ainslie of Scottish CND comments: "Robertson's comments were in the context of an independent Scotland and clearly have significance in this area. But the implications go beyond this. If there is any way that Trident can be removed from Scotland, whether by independence or any other route, then Britain will be free from nuclear weapons."

source: Scottish CND

WOMEN-FRIENDLY PLACE

part-residential

part social space

Any women out there who would be interested in our proposed project with some money/enthusiasm/ideas about alternative lifestyles in a seaside town in West Wales?

for further information phone:

Sonia (01970) 615168

Olwen (01970) 611994

Campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament in 1999

British CND Conference affirms our campaigning commitments

The World has become a more complex place since the launch of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Canon Collins, one of the founders of the campaign in 1958, spoke of a "short, sharp campaign", and many of those who set up CND assumed that its aims would be achieved by winning over the Labour Party and then helping that party to victory.

The aims of the campaign remain essentially unchanged since those early days: to rid Britain of all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear chemical and biological, leading to world wide eradication of such weapons; to remove US bases from Britain and for Britain to withdraw from military alliances using or threatening to use nuclear weapons (ie NATO).

The campaigning goals for CND for 1999, decided at British CND Conference are as follows, (in order of priority):

1. Elimination of British nuclear weapons and global abolition of nuclear weapons:

- Cancellation of Trident by the British Government.
- Stated government policy is that Britain will not replace or enhance Trident nor develop, purchase or deploy other nuclear weapons nor allow the deployment of any foreign nuclear weapons on British soil or in British waters.
- An all encompassing Fissile Material cut off Treaty is agreed.
- Key serving military personnel convinced of anti-nuclear arguments and announce open opposition to Trident or Trident's replacement.
- Negotiations on the global abolition of nuclear weapons take place.

2. Enhancement of European Security & a Nuclear Free Europe

- Extension of the influence, resources and funding of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation on Europe (OSCE).
- No military nuclearisation of the European Union.
- No nuclear or other expansion of NATO.
- Formal nuclear weapon-free zones in Europe established.
- Britain withdrawn from NATO and all foreign military bases on British soil closed.

3. Cessation of the plutonium trade

- Establishment of a British nuclear waste management policy.
- Cessation of reprocessing of spent fuel.
- Prevention of the re-use and transport of plutonium.
- The abandonment of nuclear energy as a source of power.

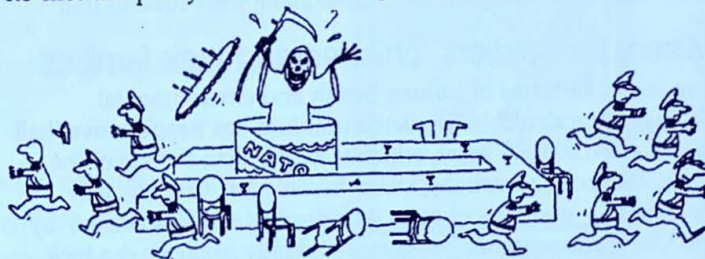
WELL, IT HASN'T HAPPENED SO FAR!



heddwch action: a copy of the full "Strategic Objectives" is available from CND Cymru see 'Contacts'.

A challenge to NATO nuclear policy by Germany and Canada

The new German Government of Social Democrats and Greens believes that a new nuclear doctrine is long overdue and that a no-first-use policy would discourage other states from acquiring



nuclear weapons. It could even encourage threshold states such as India and Pakistan to renounce the use of their weapons of mass destruction. Joscha Fischer, the German Green Party Foreign Minister has been pushing hard for a revision of the first-use policy, with support from the press who see the policy as outdated and unnecessary.

A Canadian parliamentary committee has issued a report declaring that nuclear weapons have outlived their usefulness and should be abolished. An anniversary Summit of NATO is to be held in April, in Washington.

The 'New Agenda Coalition' Resolution in the UN General Assembly December 1998

An excellent result for peace campaigners, and shame on the British Government! The UN General Assembly adopted the New Agenda Coalition resolution by a vote of 114 in favour, 18 opposed with 38 abstentions. This resolution has been initiated by Ireland and Sweden calling on the nuclear powers to bring to a conclusion 'without delay' talks to eliminate their nuclear weapons arsenals. It represents the first significant UN initiative on nuclear weapons since the end of the Cold War. Britain voted against the resolution in part on grounds that it advocated measures inconsistent with the Labour Government's insistence on the maintenance of a "credible minimum nuclear deterrent" for Britain, that it did not mention Indian or Pakistani nuclear tests, and that anyway, Britain is already committed to nuclear disarmament. The British Government also states that it remains ready to support any measure that will make a practical contribution to advancing nuclear disarmament.

heddwch action: for a full copy of the New Agenda Coalition Resolution, a breakdown of the UN vote and an full 'explanation' of why Britain voted against, contact George Farebrother, World Court Project, 67, Summerheath Road, Hailsham, Sussex BN27 3DR (phone & fax: 01323 844 269)

The Voice of Experience

Three days ago I discovered it was 51 years since I started in a military career. For forty years from the beginning of that career I had continuous experience in the theory and practice of war. No one studied it more keenly than I did, and I was in a position to know what war really meant. And the only conclusions I have been able to reach are these - that war seldom, if ever, settles anything.

More frequently than not it leads to fresh wars. Preparing for war never seems to prevent it but rather to precipitate it; and in its conclusions war is just about as disastrous to the victor as to the vanquished. Therefore I say it is the duty of all today to concentrate upon how best to preserve peace. What we want is less suspicion, less mistrust, less fear in our international diplomacy. We want a more generous and a Christian spirit.

Field Marshal Sir William Robertson speaking at Colwyn Bay, November 10th 1929 thanks to Lib Rowland Hughes, Llangollen

Lethal depleted uranium - in Iraq, Llanishen and Kirkcudbrightshire

As reported in previous editions of *Heddwch* depleted uranium (DU), a component of the casings of British and US ammunition and armour of tanks contaminated wide areas of Iraq in the 1990 -1 conflict. 1,200,000 DU bullets alone were fired in Iraq.

Misery for soldiers, children and their families

The legacy in terms of human health and environmental damage is incalculable. Depleted uranium has a radioactive 'half life' of 4,500,000,000 years, which is longer than the life of the earth. Weapons containing DU were only last year officially classified as 'weapons of mass or indiscriminate destruction' by the UN Human Rights Commission. Many soldiers who took part in the 'Gulf War' in 1990 -1991 believe that their illnesses have been caused, at least in part, by ingestion or inhalation of depleted uranium dust during the conflict. Some doctors believe that it is the dust from the same source that has caused a dramatic increase in leukaemias and cancers amongst Iraqi children and babies. In a strange sequence of events surrounding US studies of soldiers found to have DU in their bodies, all patients had their laboratory samples and records lost, and two doctors who carried out the testing have been fired.

Official recognition of the legacy of DU could cost the US Government billions of dollars in compensation and decontamination. Such weapons have been sold to at least 11 countries.

Depleted uranium - in the air and on the menu

Meanwhile, the testing of British DU weapons is carried out at Dundrennan, Eskmeals and West Freugh ranges in South West Scotland. Over the past 12 years 6,255 DU shells have been fired

at Dundrennan, most of which land 'safely' in the Solway Firth. The Firth is now also contaminated. Tenacious campaigning by individuals in Scotland, and *The Galloway Gazette* has brought the issue to public attention, Welsh MPs Llew Smith, Paul Flynn and Dafydd Wigley have joined those asking questions in the House of Commons about DU, and Alasdair Morgan, MP for the Scottish region, Alex Smith MEP, and local councillors have joined in the call for action to be taken to clean up the contamination.

DU gets everywhere

DU is also used in the manufacture of Trident warhead casings and it is widely feared that DU swarf has contaminated the former AWE Trident warhead casings factory site at Llanishen, Cardiff, and at AWE Aldermaston.

For a decade, many organisations and individuals from all over the World have been asking questions about depleted uranium. In outlining a decontamination plan for Kuwait in 1991, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Report commented that such a plan should be carried out in 'complete confidentiality' before "it (depleted uranium ammunition) becomes a political problem created by the environmental lobby".

heddwch action: Manchester & District CND has launched a campaign against DU weapons. For more information, contact them at GM&D CND, One World Centre, 6, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS (0161) 834 8301 (email: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org), or contact CND Cymru.

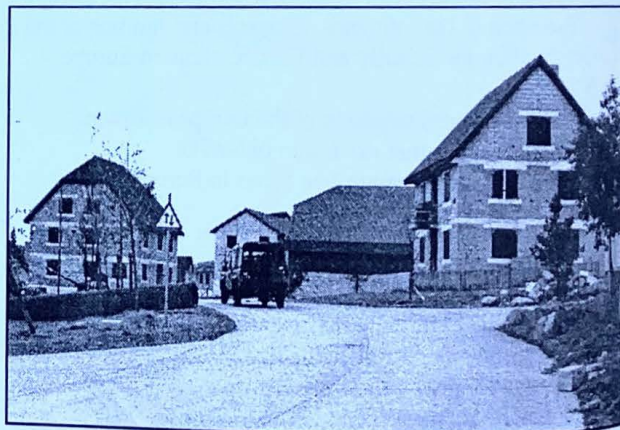
An Uprooted Community: A History of Epynt

by Herbert Hughes (Gomer Press)

The Welsh language version of this book, *Mae'n ddiwedd byd yma ...* ("It's the end of the world here ..."), takes as its title the agonized words of an elderly woman from the close-knit Epynt community to Dr Iorwerth C. Peate when he was there on behalf of the National Museum documenting in words and pictures the story of the 1940 eviction (when some 400 people were moved from Epynt, their homes destroyed, and the mountain turned into an enormous firing range by the War Office). "My boy", she said, "go back (to Cardiff) as fast as you can, it's the end of the world here." Her words had a profound effect on Dr Peate, as anyone who has read his moving essay on the Epynt Mountain in his book *Ym Mhob Pen* will know, where he traces the story and mourns the loss to Wales for ever of a community totally Welsh in language and culture.

Herbert Hughes's book neatly encapsulates the full, sad story of this distressing period, and our debt to him as a nation is great. The well-produced volume displays detailed and careful research, with clear and relevant pictures. The only error I noted was the reference to the author of *Cwm Eithin* ('Gorse Glen') as Hugh Owen, when it should have been Hugh Evans.

It's a shame he had to omit nearly half his original manuscript. To have had more of the history of the efforts of the Fellowship of Reconciliation over the years, with accompanying pictures, holding memorial services and services of repentance on the site of the Capel y Babell, and protesting against that horror that stands near the spot today - a fake village complete with an 'alien' church, built for military target practice - would serve to raise the consciousness of a new generation of Welsh people, not only about the waste of war generally, but also the insensitivity of the military authorities towards the people, the land



and the soul of Wales. As we sympathise with the former inhabitants of Cwm Cilieni who lost their homes, and read the entertaining stories in the book about schools in the area, the arrogant attitude of the education authorities becomes obvious too, as they strive to create fluent little English-speakers and glorify Britishness. That was probably hard work, as this report by one of her Majesty's inspectors in years gone by testifies: June 26 1917: "the scholars all obviously feel more at home when spoken to in Welsh". Remembering how these children and their parents were forced to yield to the British system is a cause of immense sadness, and Herbert Hughes's book should be compulsory reading for all who love Wales and its people. Last year, the United Nations celebrated the half centenary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and asked if there is cause for celebration. Remembering Epynt, yesterday and today, I'd say we still have a very long way to go.

NIA RHOSIER

Pick up a Pen....

Imagine if politicians were inundated with letters protesting against Trident. This would convince them that supporting the campaign for nuclear disarmament would win votes, not lose them. In an attempt to make the call for nuclear disarmament in Wales deafening, a new lobbying group is being set up by CND Cymru.



Lobby Cymru needs CND Cymru members in all Welsh constituencies to write every few months to their MPs. Model letters will be provided or you can write your own version. *Lobby*, the British CND parliamentary newsletter will be sent to you free. This contains excellent briefings on all latest developments.

The importance of lobbying your MP cannot be emphasised too much. On more than one occasion, senior political figures have indicated that they have the will to act on nuclear disarmament and would welcome the public pressure to make this happen. Let's make sure that we provide it !

To join Lobby Cymru,

Contact Sarah Isaacs, Bridgend Cottage, Llangammarch, Powys LD4 4ED phone: (01591) 620561.

Encourage a friend to join too, or you could even set up a lobbying group in your constituency.

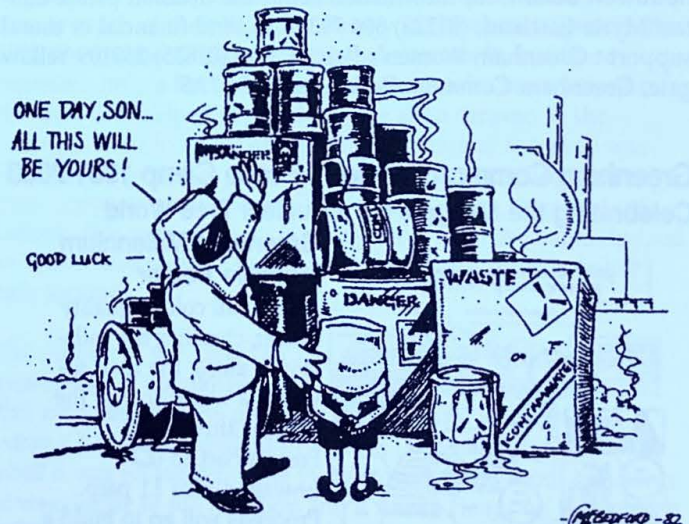
Trawsfynydd Decommissioning - Public Inquiry

Secretary of State Alun Michael has announced that there will be a public inquiry into the plans of BNFL Magnox Generation to delay final dismantling of the Trawsfynydd reactors for 135 years. No venue, date or terms of reference have yet been announced. It was made clear that the proposals were regarded as having more than local significance.

The aim of any public inquiry is to enable the best decision to be made in the public interest. *Heddwch* urges all those concerned about the plans for Trawsfynydd to object directly to the Secretary of State, and to call for the widest possible 'terms of reference' for the inquiry.

- This will be the first public inquiry into the decommissioning of a British nuclear plant, and should therefore be thorough and far reaching.
- The proposed delay in final dismantling is of profound significance for the people of Wales, and for future generations. It raises issues of intergenerational equity, and should be examined using the principles of 'sustainable development'. Assessments of the environmental and social impact of the plans must cover the next 150 years.
- A full safety case must be submitted to the nuclear regulator. All aspects of the plans, including safety, must be examined in depth. All the background papers which led to the development of the delayed decommissioning plan should be made available.
- There must be comparative risk assessments of alternative decommissioning timetables.
- BNFL must produce proof that the technology exists to completely dismantle a full sized Magnox reactor.
- BNFL must produce proof that those in the future who will have to undertake the full decommissioning of Trawsfynydd will have full working knowledge of Magnox reactors, and will be prepared and have the resources to undertake the task.

- BNFL must produce proof that there will be guaranteed access to sufficient funds to fully decommission the site so that a lack of funding does not prevent safe dismantlement. Without such proof the proposals should be examined as if the Trawsfynydd reactors are to be abandoned for all time, and the



so called 'safestore' judged on a far more rigorous basis:

- Is this a suitable site for a nuclear waste dump?
- Is this a suitable design for a nuclear waste dump?
- Can the structural integrity of the reactor cores be guaranteed for all time?
- Can the structural integrity of the concrete reactor blocks (the biological shields) be guaranteed for all time?

heddwch action: Write to: Rt. Hon Alun Michael MP, Secretary of State for Wales, Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ. For more details about campaigning contact Hugh Richards: (01982) 570362

Greenham Woman in Court

Jean Hutchinson from Brynaman appeared before a Stipendary Magistrate at Newbury on 14th and 15th January 1999. She was charged with damaging MoD property viz. 9 panels of perimeter fencing at the AWE, Aldermaston.

Jean told the Court that her action at Aldermaston was carried out to highlight the fact that nuclear weapons were being manufactured at the factory in contravention of the ruling by

the International Court of Justice at The Hague in July 1996. Four expert witnesses attested to the strength of her case: Professor Frank Barnaby, a defence analyst and writer on military technology, Dr. Douglas Holdstock, from the Medical Action for Global Security, Professor Nicholas Grief, Professor of the Law of International Organisations at Bournemouth



University and William Peden, CND Parliamentary Worker. The summing up by the Stipendary Magistrate, his decision and the passing of any sentence is to be made as we go to press. The witness Nicholas Grief commented that "even if Jean is sent to prison, this case has been remarkable and should be widely publicised". Others can carry on the work internationally, using the body of work on this case to campaign internationally for the abolition of nuclear weapons." If Jean is found guilty she will appeal to the Crown Court.

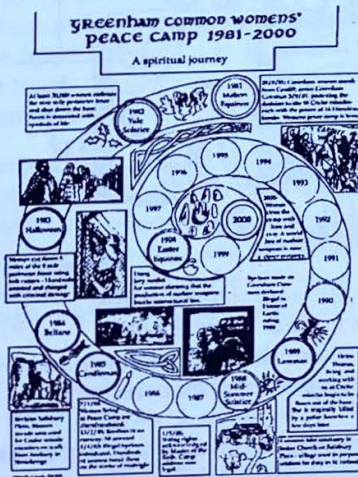
special thanks to Myrta Eastland

heddwch action: for information about the decision please contact Myrta Eastland: (01222) 864 793 or to send financial or moral support : Greenham Women's Peace Camp,(01635) 269109 Yellow gate, Greenham Common, Berkshire, RG14 7AS

Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp 1981-2000 Celebrating the Struggle for a Nuclear Free World

Greenham Millennium Initiative Poster

An A3 full colour quality poster, charting the milestones along the road towards a world free of the nuclear threat. Posters cost £5 (£2 unwaged) plus £1 p&p. Proceeds will go to build a major commemorative sculpture on the site of the USAF nuclear missile base at Greenham Common, Berkshire. Please make cheques payable to "Greenham Women's Peace Camp"



Greenham Millennium Initiative, Women's Peace Camp, Greenham Common, Newbury, Berkshire RG19 6HN (01635) 269109 website -<http://www.web13.co.uk/greenham> email -greenhamwpc@hotmail.com or contact Mary (01222) 495561 or Wendy (01222) 889514

heddwch 10

Greenham Common March Memorial, Cardiff

At last the long awaited dream of installing a memorial to commemorate the long march from Cardiff to Greenham Common is becoming a reality.

As we go to press, arrangements are in hand for a meeting with Cardiff's Lord Mayor, Mrs. Marion Drake. At the meeting will be Welsh Members of Parliament Ann Clwyd and Julie Morgan, Cardiff Councillors and Welsh Assembly candidates Sue Essex and Jane Hutt, both of whom were at the start of the original Greenham march and Cardiff Councillor Sue Lent, one of the organisers of the launch meeting and who also completed the original march from Cardiff to Greenham. After the meeting, when the location and permission for a memorial has been secured, a committee of women will plan the way forward.

heddwch action: to be involved, or to contribute in any way, please contact Vice Chair Ray Davies:(see 'Contacts') or Ruth Osborn (Women's International League for Peace & Freedom) (01633) 251 548.

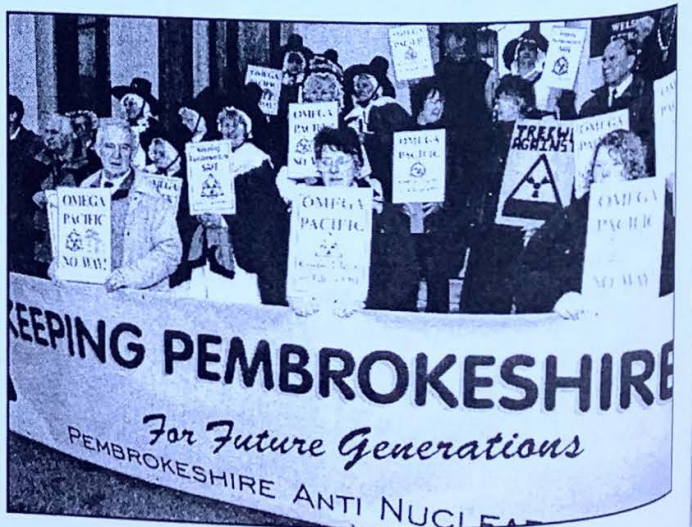
Tunnel vision at Trecwn

Pembrokeshire Anti Nuclear Alliance (PANA) have firmly persisted in their campaign to prevent nuclear waste ever being stored in Pembrokeshire. In January they organised a delegation and protest to demonstrate their concerns to the Welsh Office. They, and people in the rest of Wales have been astonished and angered by suggestions by a company called Omega-Pacific that the 58 tunnels at the former MoD site at Trecwn, a few miles south of Fishguard, could be used for the storage of low and intermediate level nuclear waste.

Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, listened carefully to the delegation from PANA, confirmed that he has noted the strength of local feeling but was unable to comment on the proposals due to his quasi judicial role in the decision making process should an application ever be made. He also confirmed that no Government body had been involved with Omega Pacific's plans for the tunnels at Trecwn.

Recently, Omega Pacific have responded to correspondence from PANA, but have declined an invitation to meet at an impartial venue to discuss their plans for the site. In a stance which fuels the feeling of contempt for and mistrust of the company already fermenting, Omega Pacific continue with their media blackout and fail to respond to letters and phone calls from objectors having stated that they have no further comments.

heddwch action: to get involved or for further details, contact Martin John PANA, (01239)820235 or (01348)874199 (home)



Wales to extend links with the Western Sahara

This summer a group of children from the Western Saharan refugee camps will be visiting Wales as guests of Gwerin y Coed/ The Woodcraft Folk in Wales and WSC Cymru. These children have spent their whole lives in refugee camps in south-west Algeria and will benefit from new experiences.

Visits to Wales provide Saharawi children with opportunities to broaden their horizons and to see some of the things they have only read about in their schoolbooks; to make friends; to get away, if only for a brief period, at a time when temperatures in the camps can be over 50 degrees Celsius for weeks and raise awareness of their situation both with the families they visit and the people they meet, and also through the media.

Western Sahara is a former Spanish colony about the size of Britain. In 1975 Morocco invaded Western Sahara forcing tens of thousands of indigenous Saharawi people to flee their country. Currently there are 165,000 refugees surviving in harsh desert camps in Algeria.

In 1990, the United Nations adopted a resolution to implement a referendum on the question of self determination for the people of Western Sahara. The planned referendum was stalled until the new UN Secretary General brought renewed vigour to resolve this issue. Although now re-scheduled to take place in December 1999, there is a serious threat of a return to war if the UN withdraws from the process in frustration at Moroccan intransigence.

John Gurr



This is not the end of The Peace Shop Ltd. !

In 1983 the Cold War was at its height and the political international climate seen as increasingly threatening. At that time there was no one point through which the Welsh peace movement could be co-ordinated. Opening the Peace Shop Ltd. at 56 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff provided a meeting place, rallying point and a centre for enquiries. It was an act of faith on the part of a small group of people (initially 7 shareholders when first registered as a non-profit making co-operative with the Registry of Friendly Societies in 1983) who were willing to devote much of their time and energy in the cause of peace. By 1998 the number of shareholders had risen to 46, but these represent only a fraction of the volunteers who have served in the shop and helped to run the peace shop caravan in the Hayes, Cardiff in all weathers. The purchase of the shop was financed by personal gifts and loans, regular standing orders from supporters and the profit from sales in the shop and cafe. Initially this was sufficient to repay loans from the bank. Indeed in 1990 it was possible to extend the shop and provide better cafe facilities.

The ending of the Cold War has meant a decrease in the public perception of the dangers of weapons of mass destruction and this together with the proliferation of charity shops in the Albany Road area resulted in a fall in the Peace Shop's income until it was no longer viable in its present form. With reluctance it was decided to sell the shop and it finally closed on September 30th 1998. *This is not the end of the Peace Shop Ltd !* It may no longer sell goods or run a cafe but its primary purpose viz. " providing the service of peace information, education and promotions " remains. We have opened a new office at The Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff from where in due course we intend to use the investment income from the residual sum following the sale of the shop to further these aims.

We shall give more information on this in future editions of *Heddwch*.

Jack Thomas, Secretary, Peace Shop Ltd.

heddwch action: How you can help:

- * Make a donation to support the children's visit.
- * Write to ask your MP to sign EDM 91. This EDM "calls on Her Majesty's government to use all avenues open to it to exert pressure on Morocco to comply with the proposals "for a free and fair referendum".
- * Don't travel to Morocco. Morocco has spent \$1 million a day to maintain its occupation of Western Sahara. The revenue from tourism helps Morocco to continue its occupation.

For further information about the campaign in Wales or to make donations to support the children's visit contact: John Gurr, Western Sahara Campaign Cymru, Manora, Cwmystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 4AF

News Updates

New Year nuclear disaster narrowly avoided at Hunterston B

Two days before the end of 1998, unbeknown to most of us in Britain, Hunterston B nuclear power station in Scotland was put on full scale alert. The plant was left for several hours with no power to the nuclear reactor cooling system when storms cut the power supply twice in twelve hours. The first power cut had triggered the emergency generators successfully, but the Christmas break meant that there were not enough staff available to reset the system before the grid went down again 12 hours later.

Staff were called from their homes and worked for five hours to manually try and reset the safety systems.

A worker at the plant admitted that the staff were terrified: "the sirens were sounding and there were police, fire and ambulance crews arriving. We didn't know what was going on. They had to take an emergency roll call of all staff using clip boards and bits of paper because even the computer swipe card system had failed".

In a triumph of media silence, the news that a nuclear accident at the power station on the Firth of Clyde had been narrowly avoided went largely unreported South of the Scottish border. The Scottish Mirror likened the potential disaster to the accident at Chernobyl where "the full death toll from genetic diseases and cancers caused by radiation is impossible to calculate".

Plutonium : just 700miles above the earth at 42,000mph

The European Space Agency (ESA) is so alarmed by fears that Cassini, the £2 billion space probe carrying 33kg of plutonium,

may fall to earth, that it has called an emergency meetings of scientists, civil servants and government representatives.



These meetings are to take advice on how to defend the Cassini mission and reassure the public that it poses no danger. The probe was launched in October 1997 and must fly close to earth again on August 16th this year, to build up speed for the 5 year journey to Saturn. A fractional miscalculation could bring Cassini and its plutonium crashing to earth. Najamedin Meshkati, Professor of Engineering at the University of South California is one of the many individuals pressing for the probe to be directed away from the earth and into the sun as the risk of scattering plutonium into the earth's atmosphere is too great to take. The Cassini project is funded jointly by NASA and the ESA who say that there is less than a million to one chance of an accident. The same confidence accompanied the Titan rocket which exploded after being launched last year. The same scientists presumably also have no conscience about contaminating a "nuclear free" planet with the contents of the heaviest nuclear reactor ever put on a planetary probe. Cassini's launch was almost halted by protesters through the Courts in 1997. As the space craft heads back to earth the campaign to stop Cassini continues.

heddwch action: Contact the campaign through Yorkshire CND, 22, Edmund Street, Bradford BD5 0BH (01274) 730 795 www.gn.apc.org/cndyorks/ or the international campaign web page at : Cassini No Fly By : www.nonviolence.org/noflyby/

heddwch 12

It's official: Muroroa and Fantagufa are contaminated

Several kilograms of plutonium were left in lagoon sediments of Muroroa and Fangatufa atolls in the South Pacific as a result of the 46 atmospheric nuclear tests carried out there by France between 1966 and 1974. The 147 underground and undersea nuclear tests carried out between 1975 and 1996 have leaked other radioactive elements including americium, tritium and caesium 137.

Surprisingly, or to the more cynical, unsurprisingly, an IAEA report published at the end of 1998 has denied that there will be any health effects *attributable* to radiation doses from the radioactive contamination resulting from the nuclear tests. The Evangelical Church of French Polynesia have pointed out that the IAEA report contradicts previous claims by the French military authorities that there had been no leaks from the underground tests.



The World Medical Association condemns nuclear weapons

The 50th General Assembly of the World Medical Association has adopted a resolution condemning the development, testing, production deployment threat and use of nuclear weapons. The resolution requested that governments refrain from these activities and work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, and urged all national medical associations to support this declaration. The British Medical Association (BMA) already passed a similar resolution last July.

British people pay £40 million for Trident parts to save US jobs

US components for British Trident parts, announced as unnecessary by Defence Secretary, George Robertson, have been bought anyway "to sustain the US industrial base", at a cost of £40 million.

heddwch action: more information and documents from British CND press office (0171)7002350

Chernobyl : book your holiday now !

Taking a leaf from Trawsfynydd and Sellafield's book, Chernobyl is now a tourist attraction. A tourist agency is arranging visits for 'holidaymakers'. It is emphasised that there is absolutely no danger in joining the tour (!) which includes a visit to Pripyat, the phantom city where employees at the plant previously lived, and to Slavutich, the new city on the edge of the Forbidden Zone. An excursion is made around the sarcophagus and control room at Chernobyl. Lunch is included at the canteen. The visits cost about £80 per person, and next summer (during the dry, dusty season) the organisers expect an increase in business. (The anti nuclear movement still has a great deal of work to do.)

Source : World Information Service on Energy (WISE)

A new Chernobyl - paid for by the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development

The last operating nuclear reactor at Chernobyl (no.3) was closed for 2 months from November for repairs aimed at bringing it up to par with international security standards. Reactor no. 2 was shut in 1991 after a fire; no.1 was taken off line in 1996 ; no.4 exploded in 1986 spreading 200 times as much radioactive contamination across Europe as the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki released in total.

The Ukrainian President, Leonid Kuchma, recently met Horst Kohler, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and reaffirmed his desire to see Chernobyl closed as soon as possible. This would depend upon funding for two new nuclear plants, and, according to Ukrainian law, there must be a five year delay between the governmental decision to finally close Chernobyl and the actual closure . Kohler admits that he would exert every effort to close Chernobyl, even if that meant that the EBRD will have to fund two new reactors, for which as yet there has been no technical assessment. The environmental assessment is seen to be illegal, and the geological conditions are said to be extremely dangerous. Renewable energy generation has apparently not been discussed.

In December an International Day of Protest by a coalition of 60 international anti nuclear groups protested in 34 countries against the proposal by the EBRD to provide a loan for the completion of two nuclear power plants at Khmelnytsky and Rivne in the Ukraine. Serious concerns regarding the safety, economic costs and public participation in the environmental-impact assessment process of the process have been raised. Many experts have concluded that the project represents too many risks and that these reactors should not be completed. London protesters sealed off the headquarters of the EBRD in the city and erected banners which included one reading (in Russian): "there is no peaceful atom". Peaceful bankers leaving for lunch were disturbed to meet two 3 metre high 'radioactive' mutants.

heddwch action: Feel inspired to join in ! Contact A SEED Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Email: aseed@antenna.nl. or 'phone Roger on (0181) 525 5392

Alexander Nikitin - anti nuclear whistleblower

The Russian authorities have charged the environmentalist Alexander Nikitin, with high treason following his work with the Norwegian environmental group *Bellona*, to produce a report on the dangerous condition of military nuclear waste around

Murmansk (North West Russia). The Russian authorities fear that an acquittal would encourage others to expose the inability of the

armed forces to look after their nuclear facilities which could then be placed under foreign control.

The trial continues. The evidence against him is secret, but the judge allegedly shocked the former KGB officers, who are prosecuting, by ruling that he has a right to know which laws he has broken. He was first arrested in 1996 and granted bail because of international pressure. There is a death penalty for high treason .



HOW CAN WE STAY IN BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE NEGOTIATING PEACE EVERYWHERE!

Subcritical US nuclear tests

Despite continuing direct action by anti nuclear activists and the Western Shoshone Nation ,the US continue their programme of subcritical nuclear weapons tests. These tests, which take place in the Nevada Desert, involve plutonium but produce no nuclear explosion .Very active protests against the third subcritical test took place in Nevada, New Mexico, California and Japan. These tests violate the spirit of both the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban & the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaties.

Brawdy was a nuclear target...what do you know ?

According to 'secret' papers released on January 1st, Wales would have been a major target for the Soviet Union. Along with British military bases and major cities and ports in Wales already known about, as we had always maintained, the United States Naval facility at Brawdy, Pembrokeshire was also picked out as a potential target. For years peace campaigners from Pembrokeshire and the rest of Wales were scoffed at by the authorities for maintaining that Brawdy, a US Submarine Tracking Station would be a major target in time of nuclear war. Now the truth is out , and Cassandra-like, we feel the uncomfortable joy of knowing we were right (...maybe they'll believe us next time) .

MOX on armed BNFL ships in the Irish Sea

In January it was confirmed that ships loaded with MOX (Mixed Oxide) nuclear fuel and armed with heavy calibre guns and a specially trained, armed atomic energy police force will be sailing up and down the Irish Sea on their way to Japan. The first of these shipments was originally planned for this Spring. The arming of these civilian ships is to satisfy US demands that plutonium shipments be protected against the threat of hijacking. The Atomic Energy Authority police are already armed but have not previously been trained to use large scale naval weapons. Martin Forwood, of "Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment" commented that the announcement "makes a mockery of BNFL's claim that plutonium fuel presents no threat from terrorists or is in any way dangerous". Ironically, this announcement coincides with preparations for the UN Conference on Disarmament which will, this Spring, be discussing a treaty to control fissile materials to prevent further nuclear proliferation. MOX is a mixture of uranium and plutonium oxides that can be used as fuel in certain nuclear reactors.

"Off the record" compensation for nuclear workers

A total of 75 British nuclear workers have been awarded over £3million in recent years for radiation linked diseases. The awards were made under a 'voluntary' scheme run by the UK Atomic Energy Authority, British Nuclear Fuels, Nuclear Electric,, the Ministry of Defence and the Devonport and Rosyth naval dockyards. Under the scheme, 'voluntary' payments can be made on the condition that the workers do not go to court and it is accepted that the industry does not accept responsibility. In this way the industry does not have to admit to a direct link between radiation exposure and diseases, mainly cancer.

source: WISE & N-Base briefing 157, 22/11/98

Hereditary cancer link found

Scientists at the Paterson Institute Cancer Research Centre in Manchester have found evidence that exposure to radiation of males can increase cancer risk in the next generation. It seems that inherited damage to bone marrow 'factory' cells - which manufacture other cells - leave them more vulnerable to a second carcinogen. Dr. Brian Lord, leader of the research team commented "we cannot use this laboratory research definitely to explain the Seascale cluster or other incidences of leukaemia, but what it does show us for the first time, is a potential way - a mechanism - in which paternal irradiation can lead to a leukaemia risk for the next generation".

source: British Journal of Cancer LXXVIII p301

DATES

March 1 St. David's Day and Nuclear Free Pacific Day

March 8 International Women's Day

March 13th Finding our Voices in the National Assembly all Wales Grassroots Conference/Rally, Welsh Showground, Builth, Powys. "Finding our voices is about how power - political and communal - can be more evenly distributed. Thus members of ALL voluntary and church groups, local authorities, health councils, trade unions and especially independent-minded "Wales-watchers" should seek to come". More information from Sustainable Wales (01656) 771900 or send large sae : Finding our Voices, 11, Park Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 3EP

March 20 Wales Anti Nuclear Alliance Meeting 11.00am Cardiff County Council Offices, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff. Contact Hugh Richards (01982) 570362 to confirm

April 24 CND Cymru Cyngor (Council Meeting) 11.00am Friends Meeting House, Temple Street, Llandrindod, Powys all members and delegates welcome ! Confirm with Jill Stallard (see 'Contacts')

April 26 13th Anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident
April 28 "Democracy Day" : All over Wales .Questions and answer Sessions for Assembly constituency candidates. Contact : Board of Mission of the Church in Wales (01222) 704007

May 4 Swedish Bread not Bombs activists on trial for "Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage" (after attempting to disarm the Trident Submarine Vengeance at Barrow). Now on bail since January 11th. For more information contact Stephen Hancock (01865) 770 833

May 6 Elections for the National Assembly Members (for questions for your Member of the National Assembly candidates see the Spring edition of *Heddwch*)

May 6 Election of Unitary Authority Councillors
May 11-14 Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, The Hague. International Citizen's Peace Conference. Further information from: Hague Appeal for Peace, 11, Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ

May 16-26 2000 Walk for Nuclear Disarmament from The International Court of Justice, The Hague to the NATO HQ in Brussels (Contact CND Cymru for more details)organised by For Mother Earth.

May 22 Rally for the Abolition of War, Westminster Central Hall, London 2.00pm - 5.00pm

May 26 National Assembly opens in Cardiff

July 31- August 7 National Eisteddfod, Môn. Welsh speaking volunteers needed to co-ordinate and to help in CND Cymru's campaign tent. Support & help with preliminary arrangements will be given. Contact Rod Stallard (see 'Contacts') by March 1st.

Peace Camps:

Menwith Hill, Yorkshire: continuous WoMenwith Womyn's peace camp contact Helen (01943) 468593. The Peace Camp, Kettleing Head Lay-by, nr. Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 2RA

Menwith Hill: 1st Saturday of every 2nd month, 2pm Quaker meeting for worship Contact Anni (01943) 466405. Also:

Menwith Hill: 3rd weekend of every month: weekend gathering (01943) 468593.

Faslane: still there despite the serving of eviction papers: continuous, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland G48 8NT (01436) 820901. The camp is looking for another piece of land near the base where the valuable work of monitoring the base, blocking weapon convoys and raising awareness about the issues can be continued. It is asking for visitors, people to join in, share skills, and for money to keep the camp going. A land trust fund has been set up (cheques payable to *Faslane Peace Camp*).

Aldermaston, Berkshire: Women's camp at Falcon Gate: 2nd full weekend of every month Contact (01943) 468593.

Sellafeld: last full weekend of every other month. Contact Tracy 0113 262 1534

Burghfield, Berkshire: intermittent contact (01703) 554434

Greenham: continuous contact (01635) 269109. Send support to Yellow Gate, Greenham Common Berkshire, RG14 7AS. Love to Greenham from Wales.

heddwch 14

CND CYMRU CONTACTS

NATIONAL SECRETARY

Jill Stallard, Nantgaredig, Cyngordy, Llanymddyfri SA20 0LR (01550) 750 260

CHAIRPERSON

David Morris (01792) 643 542

VICE CHAIRS

North Wales :

Dave Andrews (01978) 310491

Mid Wales :

Olwen Davies (01970) 611994

Rod Stallard (01550) 750 260

South Wales :

Ray Davies (01222) 889514

HEDDWCH EDITOR

Jill Stallard (see above)

More information, ideas or offers of help? Please get in touch with your nearest CND Cymru Vice Chair or the National Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP

Brian Jones, 72, Heol Gwyn, Yr Alltwn, Pontardawe SA8 3AN (01792) 830330

AFFILIATIONS

Rhoda Jones (01766) 762739

TRADING

Jan Henderson (01792) 830330

TREASURER

Jean Bryant, 16, Ty'n y Cymer Close, Porth, Rhondda CF39 9DE

PARLIAMENTARY WORKER

Sarah Isaacs, Bridgend Cottage, Llangammarch LD4 4ED (01591) 620561

Want to complain about low level military aeroplanes?

Call the MoD (0171) 218 6020

I want to join the CND Cymru

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____ payable to CND Cymru

Waged couple: £15; adult: £10. Unwaged, pensioners, youth: £3
Please return to :CND Cymru Membership, 72, Heol Gwyn, Yr Alltwn, Pontardawe SA8 3AN

heddwch



(Heddwch is the Welsh for Peace)

Heddwch is the magazine of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Wales (CND Cymru).

CND Cymru campaigns alongside many organisations both within Wales and internationally to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction, for peace and human and environmental justice.

Comments, letters, articles are welcome - please contact the editor.

Editor: Jill Stallard (01550) 750260 (heddwch@fdn.co.uk)

Translator: Sian Edwards (sian@derwen.demon.co.uk)

Typeset & Printed by Redkite Print (01591) 610844 (redkite@onyxnet.co.uk)

Packed by volunteers in Cardiff - to join this happy group, one afternoon every 2-3 months, please contact Brian Jones (01792) 830330.