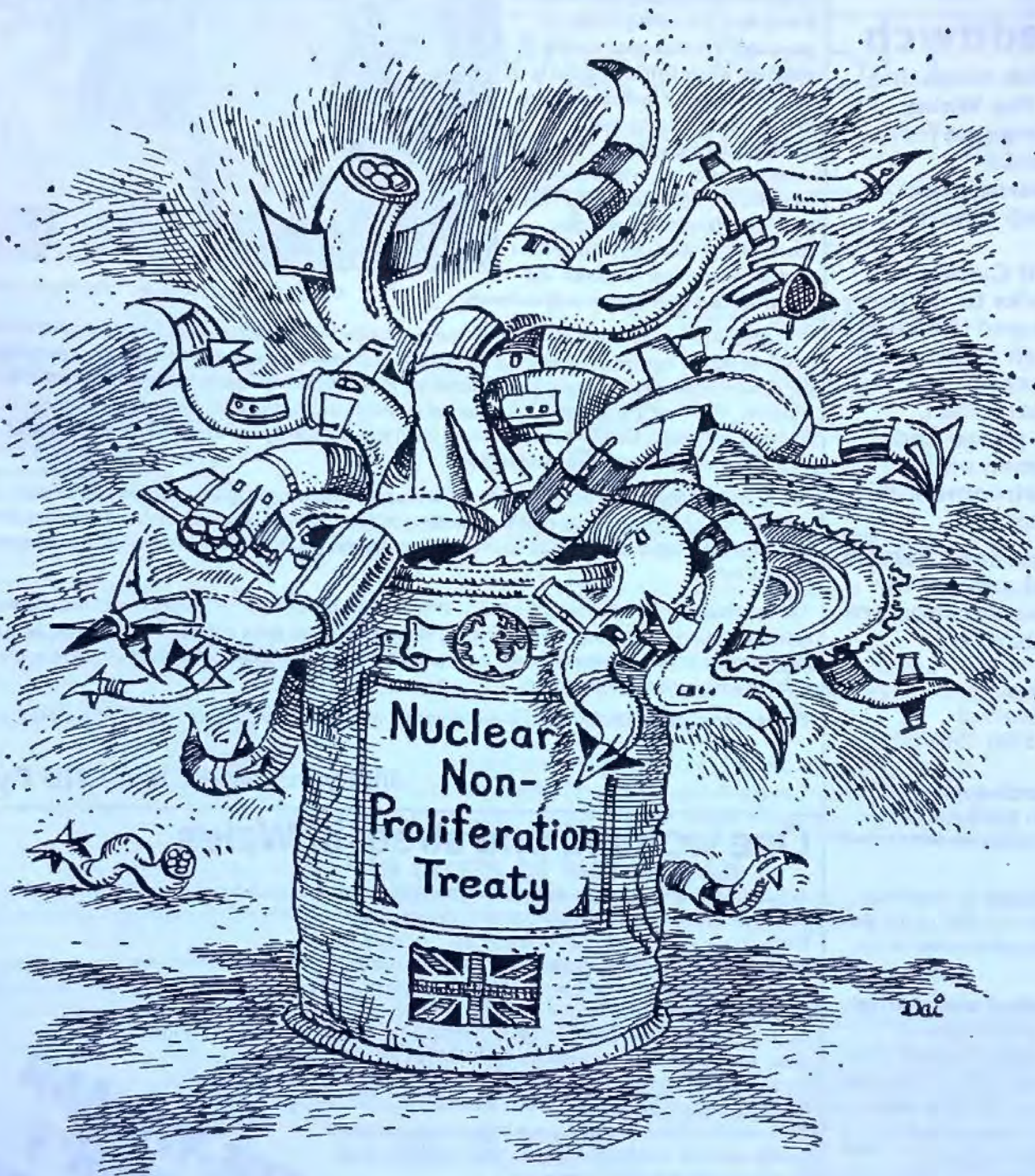


# heddwch

spring 2004  
number 31  
free (or donation)



the magazine of CND Cymru



## can of worms ?

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



**heddwch**  
is the magazine  
of the Wales  
Campaign for  
Nuclear  
Disarmament  
(CND Cymru).

**CND Cymru  
works to rid Brit-  
ain and the World  
of all weapons of  
mass  
destruction,  
for peace and  
human and  
environmental  
justice.**

**Comment, letters  
and articles for  
consideration are  
welcome.**

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**heddwch 2**

## Onward CND Cymru !

It is nearly 35 years since the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entered into force in 1970, and 189 states have now agreed to its objective of eliminating nuclear weapons. In spite of this we are currently in a situation where the US is willing to launch pre-emptive strikes using nuclear weapons, where Britain refused to rule out the use of nuclear weapons in Iraq, where research and development and testing of nuclear weapons continues, where nuclear weapons are still considered a vital part of NATO defence planning, where new generations of battlefield nuclear weapons are developed and the nuclearisation of space is well underway.



Cardiff February 7th 2004 - replying to Hutton

This April will see the final Preparatory Committee on the NPT before the next Review Conference in 2005. In the last Review Conference in 2000 the 13 step plan was agreed as a way of implementing the NPT and it renewed the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapons states to eliminate their weapons. The PrepCom in New York is the last chance to implement this programme before the next Review Conference. Unless we take a strong stand now, especially on Article VI on disarmament, the NPT is in danger of becoming meaningless.

The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are doing pioneering work with the 'Mayors for Peace' initiative which mobilises cities throughout the world to declare themselves nuclear free zones. Now more than ever we in CND Cymru must campaign vigorously to transfer empty rhetoric into concrete political reality.

The International Court of Justice ruled in 1996 that the use or even threatened use of nuclear weapons was unlawful. This makes the strengthening of the NPT all the more urgent. We are talking here about real weapons of mass destruction and an opportunity to destroy them in the most effective way - by enforcing international agreements.

The hypocrisy of the British and US governments with respect to possession of WMD is astounding.

**Jill Evans MEP Chair CND Cymru**

## One woman, one street in Wales

As hundreds of protestors made their way from Wales to protest at George Bush's visit to London in November, a powerful one-woman protest took place on the streets of the rural market town of Presteigne, Powys.

Betty Cotton used figures which had appeared on the front page of the Winter edition of 'heddwch' and listed nuclear arsenals world-wide. These she displayed on posters outside the Assembly rooms in the town. Other posters pointed out that Blair and Bush are war criminals and drew attention to the Iraqi children killed by the US and British military forces and by sanctions against Iraq. Betty, who stayed with her exhibition to talk to passers by received a great deal of support from drivers and pedestrians alike. Like many other groups and individuals across Wales, she felt that, although unable to take part in the demonstration in London it was important to speak out locally, and told 'heddwch' "Even in these small towns, it's always important to have a presence".

Many protests across Wales were well reported in local and national newspapers and on radio and television stations.

Betty's action serves to emphasise once again how 'speaking truth to power' is equally important at all levels - in our homes, at work, in our communities and in the huge numbers of mass demonstrations across the world.

**BETTY'S ONE-WOMAN  
PROTEST AT BUSH'S  
VISIT**  
By Betty Cotton

# Global Day of Action for Peace and Justice

## March in Aberystwyth in March

(No Tony, we just won't go away!)

March 20<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the 2003 invasion of Iraq and will be marked by demonstrations around the world. Groups in Europe and Asia will be taking part; in the USA protests will also take on 'the war at home', the Patriot Act, mass detentions, and the need to shift funds from military spending to vital domestic needs.

An all Wales day of action has been called in Aberystwyth. As part of the focus on Human Rights and International law, speakers are to include Azmat Begg, father of a Guantanamo bay detainee and Corin Redgrave.

Rationally, there should be more people on the streets than on February 15<sup>th</sup> last year. The logic is simple. Last year we suspected the rationale for aggression against Iraq had no basis in truth; now we *know* George Bush and Tony Blair lied.

Last year we were unsure about the existence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. We advocated giving Hans Blix more time. The reason Bush and Blair could not concede to that international consensus is now clear and incontestable. There were no weapons of mass destruction.

Last year the millions who marched were put in the position of seeming to defend a despicable tyrant. Now Saddam is gone. Yet the occupation of Iraq and resistance to it continues, along with an increasing toll of death. The US corporate agenda cannot countenance real popular democracy.

We in the international peace and justice movement can get the message across, and more people will take to the streets on March 20<sup>th</sup>. To the undoubted irritation of Bush and Blair, the issue just refuses to go away. In Britain, if our protest results in a campaign for a **full** public enquiry into Blair's decision to take the nation into a war that has caused so much death and suffering, then truly will have achieved a triumph of people over politics, a victory for truth and peace.

Kelvin Mason

### heddwch action:

March 20<sup>th</sup> will see events in many cities around the world. A great opportunity to celebrate Spring, get together with friends, update yourself and get on the streets again! Put the date in your diaries – cancel everything else and BE THERE! Details below.

Global Day of Action for Peace

March 20<sup>th</sup> 2004

# Wage Peace !

## End the Occupation of Iraq !

### Aberystwyth

### All Wales Rally

Assemble 10.30 am: Park Avenue (opposite Police Station)

March through town to Castle Gardens

Speakers 12.30pm - 1.30pm

### Symposium:

### 'Peace and Progress'

2.30pm Hen Goleg, King Street

Speakers:

Jill Evans MEP Chair of CND Cymru

Azmat Begg - Father of Guantanamo detainee

Corin Redgrave - Co-founder, Guantanamo Human Rights Commission

Eleanor White - Amnesty Cymru

Contact:

CND Cymru : (01550) 750 260 info@cndcymru.org

Linda Rogers (for Peace and Progress): (01248) 490 715

Kelvin Mason (Aberystwyth Peace Network): (01970) 610 185

### The costs of war in Iraq

£93 million - cost of missiles and munitions used in Iraq in 2003 (1)

£1.2 billion - cost of 'urgent military operational requirements' (1)

£5.5 billion - cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan (2)

£3 billion - costs from Treasury reserves to be used by the military in Iraq (2)

Over 10,000 - civilians killed in Iraq

Over 20,000 - civilians recorded as injured in Iraq

500 - 'allied' troops killed

2,000 - 'allied' troops injured

6,000 - 'allied' troops evacuated for health or psychological reasons

up to 45,000 - Iraqi military killed

up to 100,000 - Iraqi military injured

Before 1990, the standard of living in Iraq was the 'highest of middle income' countries in the World

Today:

Life expectancy at birth: 59 for men and 63 for women.

Death of children under 5: 133 per 1,000, or one in 8.

Maternal mortality: 294 deaths for every 100,000 births.

One in four children under five chronically malnourished.

A quarter of all children are born underweight.

These figures are significantly lower than those for 1990.

### heddwch action:

MEDACT is asking people to obtain a copy of the MEDACT report 'Continuing Collateral Damage - the health and environmental effects of war on Iraq 2003' to read it and to send it on to their MP. Copies available from MEDACT, The Grayson Centre, 28, Charles Square, London N1 6HT (020) 7324 4739 info@medact.org or from: www.medact.org

Sources:

- (1) Ministry of Defence
- (2) Statements by Gordon Brown

# The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty A Binding Commitment.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the only binding government commitment towards the goal of disarmament by the Nuclear-Weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty was extended indefinitely in 1995. 188 states have signed the NPT, including the five Nuclear-Weapon States.

Every five years the NPT states meet for a Review Conference. The next one will take place in May 2005. In the intervening years there are Preparatory Committee Meetings (PrepComs). The next PrepCom will be in Spring 2004.

## "General and complete disarmament"

The NPT is essentially a nuclear disarmament treaty. Article VI, obliges its signatories "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control". The International Court of Justice has stated unequivocally that the achievement of global nuclear disarmament is a legal obligation on all signatory states. We need the political will to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. The sixth NPT Review Conference in 2000 provided hope in this direction. The *Final Document*, agreed to by all NPT states contained an "unequivocal undertaking by the Nuclear Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament ..." plus a 13-step Programme of Action for the next five years to implement this.

## Two-faced

It is now nearly four years since the last Review Conference and there are few signs that the Nuclear Weapon States are treating the *Programme of Action* as a matter of urgency. Although their nuclear arsenals have been reduced to almost half their Cold War levels, these smaller arsenals have been upgraded and are being integrated into war-fighting plans in the form of more "useable" nuclear weapons.

Defence planning pre-supposes that reliance on nuclear weapons is a normal state of affairs, into the indefinite future, instead of an aberration to be brought to a halt. This reinforces the idea that nuclear weapons are a vital component of security instead of a source of insecurity, doubt and fear. Other states, such as India and Pakistan, have read and understood the message. North Korea sees its nuclear claims as a useful bargaining tool thus making nakedly explicit what is implicit in the policies of the Nuclear Weapon States.

The peoples of the world and the vast majority of governments reject nuclear weapons and support their speedy abolition. The months before the next NPT Review Conference provide an opportunity to implement this desire.

## Window of opportunity

Britain has a unique role to play. It probably belongs to more international organisations than any other country - the UN, the EU, NATO, and the Commonwealth, to mention a few. It is a Nuclear Weapon State with a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and claims a "special relationship" with the USA. Although much of this reflects the ghosts of empire it is also a unique opportunity to take a lead in nuclear disarmament.



Nagasaki August 1945 photograph by Yasuoka Yamahata

## Reducing the risks

One area where Britain could provide real leadership is under Paragraph 6 of the *Programme of Action* which requires that "the principle of irreversibility" is applied to nuclear disarmament. There is to be a point of no return. The British Government has done nothing irreversible so far. Trident is no longer on hair-trigger alert - but this could be changed in moments. A really convincing step towards "a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies" would be to stand down the Trident force from its provocative and unlawful so-called "deterrent" patrol cycle, and verifiably show that the 196, 100 kiloton warheads, each with the power of 8 Hiroshima bombs, are stored separately from their missiles. This would also reduce the risk of accidental launch. Other progressive measures could include a commitment never to use nuclear weapons first and the pursuit of an agreement with our European partners to achieve a nuclear weapons-free zone in Europe.

In addition the Government faces an important decision very soon - whether or not to replace Trident when it becomes obsolete. It takes nearly 20 years from the time a decision on this scale is made, to the moment a new system becomes operational. The Government still leaves this option open. We should therefore also seek an assurance that Trident will never be replaced.

George Farebrother, World Court Project UK

Much of this account owed to the introduction in a booklet produced for the 2004 PrepCom, April - 9 May 2003, by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom "Reaching Critical Will" Project. <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>

## heddwch action:

For the sake of our children and children's children, nuclear threats and war can not be on the agenda of any Government, for health, environmental, social and economic reasons. CND Cymru is committed to demand that our Government immediately dismantles all nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

Jill Evans MEP, Chair of CND Cymru has successfully initiated two questions, on the topic of 'Nuclear Disarmament: Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2005 - EU preparation of third NPT Prepcom (New York, 26 April - 7 May 2004)' in the European Parliament.

More information and copies of questions from CND Cymru.

# How you can help halt nuclear proliferation

1.

Fill in the Declaration for a Nuclear-Free World included with this 'heddwch' and return it to the World Court Project (address below). These will be collected from citizens worldwide for display at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York in 2005.

The World Court Project UK describes itself as *The Public Conscience in Action*. This concept first appeared in the 1907 Hague Convention and its status as a source of law was confirmed by the International Court of Justice in 1996. The Public Conscience reflects our natural sense of right and wrong. International Law develops through custom as well as through treaties and this provides an important niche for the Public Conscience. The Declarations of Public Conscience did not say that nuclear weapons are illegal. They said that they are wrong and should therefore be made illegal. The Declarations for a Nuclear-Free World state that nuclear weapons violate the values we stand for and demand that the promise of a nuclear-free world be fulfilled. The Declarations are therefore not petitions or simply political tools. They are personal commitments intended to contribute towards the development of international law. More declarations for individuals or groups are available from George Farebrother, Secretary World Court Project UK, 67 Summerheath Rd., Hailsham, Sussex BN 27 3DR England (01323) 844 269 email: geowcpuk@gnapc.org www.gnapc.org/wcp

2.

Get involved in the United Nations Association (UNA) Lobby 2004 on 16<sup>th</sup> March. The central aim of this Lobby is to put the UN at the heart of British foreign policy. The UN is a cornerstone of the building of a more tolerant and just world. This year's lobby themes include calling for clearer steps towards the implementation of the NPT, along with greater

parliamentary accountability to the UN and a louder voice for the majority world in decision-making. For a 'Lobby Pack' and to get involved contact Lobby 2004, UNA Association, 3, Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL (020) 7930 2931 email: interns@una-uk.org or, in Wales: Clare Sain Ley Berry (02920) 821 055 una@wcia.org.uk

3.

Write to your MP, the Prime Minister and/or Geoffrey Hoon Secretary of State for Defence using information in 'heddwch'. Call for the implementation of the NPT Treaty, in particular Article VI which calls on all signatory states (of which British Government is one) "to undertake nuclear disarmament, end the nuclear arms race, and conclude a treaty on general and complete disarmament". The build up of weapons of mass destruction, and all war preparations divert attention from working for true security – ensuring true and honest justice and working to ensure that all communities world-wide have access to clean water, for housing and education and safeguarded human rights. (see Contacts Page 18)

4.

Get involved in CND Cymru and/or with local, national and international organisations and groups taking all kinds of non-violent direct action (from protest to very direct disarmament) to uphold international law and highlight the ongoing criminal activities of the British Government in developing new nuclear weapons.

## A selection of relevant direct action groups:

**Trident Ploughshares:** 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1NR England (01324) 880 744 email: tp2000@gnapc.org www.tridentploughshares.org

**Aldermaston Women's Peace Campaign:** 157 Lyndhurst Road, Worthing BN11 Sussex, England (01639) 700 680 info@aldermaston.net www.aldermaston.net

**Faslane Peace Camp:** Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire G84 8NT Scotland (01436) 820 901 email: faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk

**For Mother Earth International:** Maria-Hendrikaplein 5-6, 9000 Gent, Belgium email: international@motherearth.org www.motherearth.org (+32) 9 242 8752

**Non-violent Resistance Network:** c/o David Polden CND, 162, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ England (020) 7607 2302 email: lrncnd@supanet.com www.nvrn.org

5.

## Nuclear Free Wales and Nuclear Proliferation

On the anniversary of the Declaration on February 23rd 1982, by all the County Authorities, that Wales should be nuclear-free, a cross party Statement of Opinion has been tabled in the National Assembly for Wales, welcoming the nuclear-free declaration and urging support for the forthcoming review conference for the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Britain has signed the NPT but, in violation of its Article VI that obliges all signatories to implement measures to reduce its nuclear arsenals, has actually increased its nuclear armaments since it was ratified. Ask your AMs to support the Statement of Opinion if they have not already done so and you may wish to congratulate those who have signed. It is important that the Assembly is seen to act on the issues which affect all our lives and our environment.

The Statement of Opinion and a list the AMs who have signed can be viewed on the National Assembly website <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubsstatementofopinion/index.htm> or is available from CND Cymru.



## book

### Depleted Uranium Deadly dangerous and indiscriminate - The Full Picture

Anne Gut and Bruno Vitale

#### Read about:

- The new crimes against humanity
- The origins and uses of DU
- The health and environmental effects of DU
- The dispersal of DU by the military establishment in the wars against people

Published by Spokesman  
ISBN 0 85124685 0  
price: £7.99

**Depleted Uranium - Deadly dangerous and Indiscriminate** is available from all good bookshops and from the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HS (0161) 237 8293



## Blair defines Britain as a 'Rogue State'

### Prime Minister's Questions:

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Prime Minister how he defines rogue states.

**The Prime Minister:** The phrase "rogue state" is generally used to describe those believed to be engaged in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, or those which support terrorism and offer succour to those who commit terrorist acts.

Hansard January 24th 2004

palestine

## A hand from Wales for the ears of Ahmad

CND Cymru Vice Chair, Ray Davies is desperate to help a 5 year old Palestinian boy named Ahmad, who has lost the use of his hearing. Ahmad lives in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus, which Ray regularly visits as a peace activist with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). ISM monitors human rights abuses in the Occupied Territories, escorts children through checkpoints and accompanies ambulances carrying those wounded in the violence. Ray also takes donations collected in Wales to give to the orphanages clinics and hospitals which are so desperate for resources.

On his visit in 2002 Ray was asked to spend two nights in Ahmad's home in Balata, arriving shortly after it had been wrecked by Israeli soldiers who were looking for Palestinian freedom fighters. Ahmad, then 4 years old, rushed into Ray's arms and stayed with him throughout the visit. Ahmad had been traumatised by the violence of the incursion. Soldiers from the Israeli Defence Force had 'shot up' every room in the house, including the child's bedroom. Ahmad is now 5 years old but cannot go outside and play with the other children in the refugee camp. While other children have learned the danger signals and scatter as they hear the rumble of approaching tanks, Ahmad cannot hear the danger. He has to watch the world from his upstairs window. His parents are desperately concerned for his health, his safety, and for his future.

There have been promises of help for Ahmad to have treatment in Wales and possibly to be fitted for a hearing aid; but there is still a huge mountain to climb before this can happen. Ahmad and his father will need passports and the money for the flight to Wales but they must first face the incredible difficulties involved in leaving the refugee camp. The camp has been under virtual siege for many weeks after being encircled and sealed off by the Israeli Defence Force. Food and medicine are currently being prevented from getting in to the refugee camp. Travelling within the Occupied Territories and the acquisition of the necessary documentation to get through army check-points, has become increasingly fraught. Ray together with Palestine Solidarity Cymru will continue to campaign for Ahmad to get the help he needs. His success could inspire hope in the thousands of other children trapped in the refugee camps who dream of a better life.

The future safety of Ahmad and other Jewish Israeli and Palestinian children can not be ensured by state sponsored or terrorist violence, but only by true justice and the restoration of human rights to all.

### heddwch action:

To make a donation or find out more contact Ray Davies, 172 Pandy Road, Bedwas, Caerffili, CF83 8EP; (02920) 889514; email: raydavies@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Cheques payable to: 'Palestine Solidarity Campaign'.



As a result of an initiative by Bridgend CND and Bridgend and Justice, the town Mayor, Suleman Hawas has written to Colonel Gaddafi. In his letter, Councillor Hawas congratulates the Libyan President on his decision not to construct weapons of mass destruction and to observe the nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty. The Bridgend mayor also supports Libya's call for "all countries" ... to follow these steps without exception or double standards". Councillor Hawas was born a Libyan citizen and believes he may be the first Welsh and British mayor from Libya.

Bridgend Town Council backed the gesture of friendship. Comments from supporting Councillors showed that they felt it would truly represent the feelings of the people of the town. The Mayor is hoping that Colonel Gaddafi will agree to strengthening ties between communities and establishing a civic link with the aim of cultivating peace and friendship between peoples.

### heddwch action:

Please copy this Early Day Motion (EDM) 442 and send to your MP (address on Page 18) and ask them to sign:  
LIBYA, IRAN, ISRAEL AND THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY 15.01.04  
That this House congratulates the Government for its sustained diplomatic efforts which have contributed to the decision by Libya to end its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes; commends the Government for making similar efforts which have encouraged Iran to sign an additional protocol allowing international inspections of its nuclear facilities; regards these positive developments as valuable confidence-building measures which will help the current peace negotiations in the Middle East; notes the recent statement by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed El Baradei, who used his interview with the Israeli newspaper Haaretz to call on Israel to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state; and therefore urges the Government to work with the USA and other allies, to encourage Israel to respond positively to the moves by Libya and Iran by relinquishing its nuclear weapons in order to help achieve comprehensive nuclear disarmament in the Middle East.



## Mehdi stops the war machine

Mehdi El-radhi, a British Iraqi living in Mid Wales, is currently facing trial by jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court in England, for taking non-violent direct action at the DSEI Arms Fair in London in September 2003. Mehdi's trial is expected to take place as 'heddwch' goes to print. The Arms Fair which takes place bi-annually, acts as a showcase for weapons and is supported by the British Government. Government representatives from all over the world were invited to the trade fair, many from countries with documented records of human rights abuses, such as Afghanistan, Israel, Syria, Turkey, Indonesia, India and Pakistan.

The charges against Mehdi have been brought under the Malicious Damage Act. He is accused with disrupting the running of the Docklands Light Railway by locking himself onto the train carrying delegates to this obscene event.

Mehdi, who was involved in many protests against the war in 2003, has family living in Baghdad and feels that their lives have been endangered by the proliferation of weapons and the blatant buying and selling of death with countries with terrible human-rights records.

### heddwch action:

Support Mehdi - contact CND Cymru (Contacts: PAGE18). Advertisements are already appearing in the defence press for DSEI 2005. A plan for future action has been formed by a number of people involved in the DISARM DSEI coordinating group who would like to see the campaign continue and grow. They envisage a wide range of protest from petitions and stalls to pickets and direct action. To get involved contact: BM Box 3679, London WC1N 3XX phone: 07817 652029 email: [disarm@dsei.org](mailto:disarm@dsei.org) Website: [www.dsei.org](http://www.dsei.org)

## Law or war - the long haul

Pembrokeshire peace campaigner Robbie Manson did not succeed in his attempt to bring court proceedings against Tony Blair, Jack Straw and Geoff Hoon for their part in "planning, preparing and initiating" the Iraq war.

Robbie had argued that all three had committed a "crime against peace" by supporting the US-led coalition in the war on Iraq "without even any serious pretence of justification of action needed in our immediate self-defence".

After a huge amount of work and research, Robbie launched his challenge before Carmarthen Magistrates in March 2003 and then, two months later, at Bow Street Court, London. Both courts decided the waging of an aggressive war is not a crime known to English law.

Robbie Manson's important work continues. He is keen to ensure that the Nuremberg Principles are recognised by British Law. He has been involved in the setting up of 'Lawyers against War', which recently held an inaugural meeting, chaired by Welsh MP Elyn Llwyd. It has set up an 'All Party Investigative Group' in the Westminster Parliament.

Robbie is a founder member of the Institute for Law and Peace, and more recently of 'Law against War' (both London based). He lives in North Pembrokeshire and is an active member of a local peace forum: Bro Emlyn for Peace and Justice.

### heddwch action:

If you would like to know more, or to get involved in a Wales-based 'LAW network, contact Robbie Manson: (01239) 821 066 email: [robbie@brynymor58.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:robbie@brynymor58.freeserve.co.uk) Further legal background added to the case [www.bepj.org.uk/rmanson/](http://www.bepj.org.uk/rmanson/)

## Sellafield

### Putting core principles on the line

In an inspired and lonely direct action in April 2003, Martin Forwood of Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment (CORE) chained himself to the railway line at Barrow docks in Cumbria to obstruct a shipment of 20-year-old spent nuclear fuel from Italy reaching Sellafield to be reprocessed. In December, after his defence used the Human Rights Act to argue that the action was a justified protest as the only way of drawing attention to a greater wrong, Martin Forwood was given a £250 fine with £1,500 costs. The judge, who praised Martin's sincerity and good nature allowed the defendant to explain why he had taken the action and why the import of "waste" into Britain from Italy was both illegal and wrong. Both the action and the trial had attracted extensive coverage in the press making the action well worthwhile.

The issue itself remains unresolved. A total of 57 tonnes of spent fuel are being imported to Sellafield from Italy in 13 shipments over two years, under a contract signed in 1980 when it was expected that uranium and plutonium recovered from spent fuel would be reused as new fuel in nuclear reactors. Italy has since closed down its nuclear industry following a post-Chernobyl referendum. The large quantities of spent fuel it has are an embarrassment, and it cannot find a suitable long-term storage site in Italy because of public opposition - a situation mirrored in Britain. CORE believes that the material will never be returned to Italy, but will end up with the many tonnes of similar material already accumulated at Sellafield. Storing and guarding the nuclear materials will create considerable dangers and costs, for an infinite period of time. Martin Forwood and CORE are to be congratulated for a brilliant action.

### heddwch action:

Martin Forwood and CORE: 98, Church Street, Barrow, Cumbria LA14 2HT (01229) 833 851 [info@core.furness.co.uk](mailto:info@core.furness.co.uk) [www.corecumbria.co.uk](http://www.corecumbria.co.uk)

## Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development (WYFSD)

This Forum has been created by young people to empower all young people in Wales by giving them an opportunity to speak out on education and on issues of sustainable development. Young people feel that they have an obligation to try to push the issue of sustainable development because it is they who will live with the legacy of today's decisions. Meetings so far have discussed local and global issues.

Meetings have been held with the Welsh Assembly Government.

WYFSD is working towards an official launch at an international conference in Cardiff at which the National Assembly of Wales hopes to bring together regional governments from

SUSTAINABLE all over the world who are DEVELOPMENT committed to sustainable development. Members of WYFSD will seek to demonstrate that young people should always be consulted and can have valuable input.

### heddwch action:

Get involved! Contact the Youth Forum: Cathy Madge, aged 18, based in Newtown, Mid Wales: email: [cathy@wyfsd.org](mailto:cathy@wyfsd.org) Phone: (01686) 650 724 Rhys Richardson, aged 19, based in Pontypridd, South Wales: email: [rhys@wyfsd.org](mailto:rhys@wyfsd.org) Phone: 07745 183 778 Nick Edwards, aged 17, based in Machynlleth, Mid Wales: email: [nick@wyfsd.org](mailto:nick@wyfsd.org) Phone: (01654) 703 684

fairford

## Activists in court

A year ago, Margaret Jones and Paul Milling allegedly sabotaged a number of military support vehicles at United States Airforce (USAF) Fairford base in Gloucestershire. The vehicles were about to be used to fuel, arm and generally prepare the US bomber aircraft to drop bombs on the Iraqi people. The peace activists' defence will be one of 'lawful excuse' - that they acted with the intention of preventing a greater international crime and are therefore not guilty.

Margaret writes about the shambles of the judicial system: Last September, the "Fairford" cases - arising from anti-war actions at Fairford air base in Gloucestershire - were moved from Gloucester Crown Court to Bristol. The judge in Gloucester ordered a one-week hearing on legal issues surrounding the Iraq war. A High Court judge, Mr. Justice Butterfield, was assigned to the cases.

In spite of all the MoD lawyers lurking in the Crown Court in Gloucester at the last hearing there - and in spite of the withdrawal of the capable Judge Tabor, who expressed his regret at being taken off the cases - the defence teams were optimistic. It really looked as if things were moving.

Then on December the 15<sup>th</sup>, all the lawyers were summoned to a Directions hearing in Truro, (where Mr. Butterfield happened to be trying another case at the time). "Someone's got to take hold of this," Mr. Butterfield said - and promptly withdrew from all three Fairford cases. In effect, six lawyers and four defendants went all the way to Cornwall to be told, "You need a judge."

A trial starting date was set for March 8<sup>th</sup> - nearly a year after the defendants were charged with conspiracy and criminal damage - but this plan has now been abandoned. A new date of June the 21<sup>st</sup> has been given for Milling and Jones, with a trial for Phil Pritchard and Toby Olditch (charged with attempting to disarm a B-52) following two weeks later. Josh Richards - arrested in a separate

RAF/USAF Fairford is one of only 3 forward bases (outside the US) used for B2 'Stealth' bombers. The other bases are in Guam and Diego Garcia. The B2 has released B61 and B83 bombs in tests. These bombs are the first of a new generation of more militarily 'useable' nuclear weapons. On 3rd and 4th March 2003, fourteen B52 bombers from USAF 23rd Bomb Squadron 'Barons' arrived at RAF/USAF Fairford to prepare for the aerial bombing of Iraq, which began on the 20th March. On April 24th 2003, after 142 flights and 54 days, they left.

incident while "going equipped" to disarm a B-52 - won't get a trial until the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, at the earliest. At least a new judge has now been appointed - a Mr. Justice Grigson. As for the famous Preliminary hearing on legal issues - a date for it is promised "soon." However long it takes, we're going to see this through. Thank you to CND Cymru, for your generous moral and financial support!

Margaret Jones

### heddwch action:

Moral and financial support is needed for these cases: contact: (0117) 94 66 885 or 07711 214 168. It is hoped that supporters will attend the hearing on March 8th. [www.fairfordpeacewatch.com](http://www.fairfordpeacewatch.com)

### NOT OUR CHILDREN



NOT THEIR CHILDREN  
[www.art-for-a-change.com](http://www.art-for-a-change.com)

### heddwch action:

Fairford Coach Action is a group of 60 passengers who have collectively decided to pursue a Judicial Review case against the police's action on 22nd March 2003. Full background information is available on the website: [www.fairfordcoachaction.org.uk](http://www.fairfordcoachaction.org.uk) from Jane Laporte : 07817 483 167 or Dave Jones 07779 599 560. 'heddwch' will report the outcome of this case

## Police enforce dress code

The High Court is poised to consider the lawfulness of police containment tactics before an anti-war demonstration last March.

The hearing will focus on events near USAF /RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, but will have a much wider impact: the would-be protestors argue that the Human Rights Act prevents the police from relying on 'common law powers' to detain them.

### That tell - tale frisbee

On 22nd March 2003, three coaches carrying about 150 peace campaigners were prevented by the police from attending an anti-war demonstration outside a US airbase at Fairford. Police stopped and searched the coaches about 6 miles from their destination. Officers claimed that the items seized during the search led them to believe that a breach of the peace would occur at the airbase. These 'offending articles' included white paper overalls, scarves, some plastic toy soldiers and a frisbee.

### No place to hide

Officers then forced the coaches back on to the motorway and surrounded them with police vans and motorcycle outriders all the way back to London. Some of the passengers dialed 999 to report that they were being kid-napped but were told that they were not being detained but were 'free to go wherever they liked'! However, attempts to negotiate even a toilet break were rebuffed. One woman passenger had to resort to urinating into a sandwich box in full view of police with video cameras.

### Human Rights

About 60 passengers are involved in the legal action. They claim that the police's actions breached articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, guaranteeing freedom from arbitrary detention, the freedom of speech and assembly, and respect for physical and psychological integrity.

A solicitor representing one of the passengers commented: "...that the Police should consider it lawful to forcibly detain and frustrate the democratic right to protest of 120 people who had committed no crime whatsoever...on the grounds that some of them were wearing white suits is barely credible...Policing of this kind can have absolutely no place in a democratic society."



## trident ploughshares

# Flower of Faslane

Actions by Trident Ploughshares campaigners and subsequent court cases continue. This January, a veteran peace campaigner was fined at Helensburgh District Court for blockading the entrance to Faslane naval base, home to Britain's Trident nuclear weapon submarines.

Helen Steven and Ellen Moxley, from Stoer near Lochinver, were both on trial for taking part in the blockade of the base on April 22nd last year.

Helen told the Justice of the Peace that Trident was still illegal under the ruling of the International Court of Justice in 1996, in spite of the opinion of the Scottish High Court on the Lord Advocate's reference after the trial of the Trident Three. Her Christian conviction made opposition to Trident imperative. In her words it represented "a loss of mind and a loss of soul".

Unsurprisingly, in spite of the evidence that her actions had been peaceful - she had, after all, been dressed as a flower at the blockade, she was found guilty of a breach of the peace and fined £100, with a Supervised Attendance Order coming into force automatically should she fail to pay.

Ellen, who is one of the Trident Three famously acquitted in 1999 after disarming the Trident research barge Maytime, was next on trial. The Procurator Fiscal pointed out that during Helen's trial it had been stated that she had been locked on to Ellen, and so it would be prejudicial to try her before the same magistrate on the same day. He said she should not be put to the inconvenience of travelling all the way south again for another trial and accepted her plea of not guilty.

Another long distance traveller to the court was Adam Conway, from Kilkenny, who is a voluntary worker with the Irish environmental and social justice campaign "Glúaiseacht". When he arrived he learned that the

case against him had been dropped because a Crown witness was missing. He did however volunteer to the court that there was a warrant against him for failing to pay a fine of £175 imposed on him for a blockade of the Coulport nuclear weapon depot in August 2001, and that he still refused to pay. Instead of jailing him the JP transferred the fine to his local court, be Kilkenny in the Irish Republic, passing the buck even further than usual!

Also in January, Scottish author Angus Calder was fined £75 for taking part in a mass blockade of Faslane naval base. The 61 year-old poet and historian was one of the 170 people arrested at the Really Big Blockade of the Trident nuclear weapon base on 22nd April last year. He admitted he had lain in the roadway but said that his action and the whole protest had been peaceful. He had been exercising his right under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Procurator Fiscal argued that this right applied only if it did not contravene domestic law and that Angus could have demonstrated on the pavement without fear of arrest.

A Trident Ploughshares spokesperson said: "Of course we do not believe that a peaceful and non-violent blockade of Faslane breaches the peace and contravenes domestic law. It only breaches this court's erroneous and prejudiced interpretation of the law. People who lie in the roadway at Faslane should be as free from arrest as those who stand on the pavement."

**Trident Ploughshares** challenges the UK's illegal and immoral possession and threatened use of nuclear weapons. TP activists pledge to dismantle the UK's nuclear arsenal in a peaceful, non-violent, open and accountable manner. Latest Statistics (September 2003): 2,000 arrests. 372 trials, with many more awaiting. 1,970 days spent in prison, excluding time in police cells. £59,917 in fines and compensation (15th November 2003) 202 pledgers from 14 countries.



## Weapons of mass destruction - blockading a storage site

On 19th January, three activists blockaded the main gate at RNAD Coulport, the storage facility for Trident warheads for two and a half hours from 6.55 am till 9.25 am. As works traffic tailed back in the pouring rain, it took some time for the MOD cutting team to cut the three free from two steel lock-on tubes using a steel cutting saw. All three were arrested for a breach of the peace and held in the base at Faslane for a few hours.

One of the activists said, "Only Weapons of Non-Existence have so far been found in Iraq. Meanwhile Britain blatantly stores and loads WMD from here, ready to be used at any time against innocent civilians in any country deemed to be a threat. We ask whose interests are being served here!"

## heddwch action:

- \* Become a Trident Ploughshares Pledger.
- \* Come to the mass actions.
- \* All who want to protest non-violently against Trident are welcome to join mass actions. As well as giving lots of support and encouraging noises for those being arrested, you may want to consider joining in the action. If this is a possibility then attend a 'mini-training' - an enjoyable few hours spent ensuring that you know what to expect.
- \* Give money and Raise Funds There is an ongoing need for campaign funds. Please send donations (cheques payable to 'Trident Ploughshares 2000') to the address below.
- \* Petitions of Support for Trident Ploughshares for individuals, organisations, parliamentarians, celebrities, spiritual leaders and academics are available to sign.
- Contact Trident Ploughshares for more information:  
Trident Ploughshares, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR (0845) 45 88 366 or (0845) 45 88 364  
Info@tridentploughshares.org  
www.tridentploughshares.org



## atomic weapons establishment aldermaston

Stop the next generation of weapons of mass destruction!

March from London to the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, and non-violent direct action Easter 2004

Friday 9th to Bank Holiday Monday 12th April

The British Government is now gearing up to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment near Reading. Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and other local peace groups plan to show how people feel about Britain preparing to build new weapons of mass destruction - with a march from London to Aldermaston over Easter weekend 2004. The march will begin with a major rally at Trafalgar Square on Friday April 9th, and will move through London to Southall, to Slough

then Reading and thence to Aldermaston. The entire route from London is about 50 miles and easily accessible from major public transport links at all times. The protest will finale with an encirclement of the Aldermaston Establishment on Bank Holiday Monday April 12th.

This is going to be a great opportunity to get together the amazingly diverse groups of people who have been so active this year, to get to know each other better, and jointly highlight the hypocrisy and lies of the British and US military machines.

For more details or if you want to organise a "feeder march" from your area see [www.aldermaston2004.net](http://www.aldermaston2004.net) contact the organisers: 18, Greenway Road, Bristol BS6 6SG PHONE??XXX info@aldermaston2004.net Transport from Wales may be available: Contact CND Cymru or Delyn Harris (01970) 880 834. Donations towards organising the march are part of the action. If you'd like to add your voice to this public demand for disarmament by making a donation, please send a cheque payable to "Aldermaston 2004", to the above address.

## treaty breaking news

# British plans for new weapons of mass destruction

The Ministry of Defence is planning to develop Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) near Reading, to research and test materials for new nuclear weapons.

Now that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) prevents underground nuclear tests, a new laser and associated labs. are to be built as part of the AWE Sites Development Strategy Plan.<sup>1</sup> The scheme also includes a supercomputer, hydrodynamics facility, conference centre, accommodation block and landscaping. Key to the project is the recruitment of 100+ scientists, who AWE hope to attract by offering state-of-the-art equipment and close co-operation with scientists working on the United States nuclear weapons' programme.

### Planning

In October 2003 the MoD submitted an Outline Plan to West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) for comment. Although the council cannot refuse planning permission, it can refuse to comment, triggering the Deputy Prime Minister's office to step in and call for a public inquiry. Three petitions and 200 objections to the plans - all calling for a public inquiry - have so far landed on deaf ears at WBDC. On 17<sup>th</sup> December, the planning committee voted unanimously to raise no objection to the first in a series of plans, for a laser complex to be built at Aldermaston.

### "Just in case"

To date no parliamentary debate or announcement has taken place on a successor to Trident or the

development of a new more "usable" weapon. In its recent Defence White Paper, the government says it may make an announcement during the next parliament. The current position is that 'AWE needs the infrastructure ready to develop a new weapon in case a decision is made'. These developments are in direct contravention of the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and we know that new more 'useable' nuclear weapons would make the threat of nuclear weapons being used in war more likely.

### Legacy

All Britain's nuclear warheads were built at Aldermaston. Currently AWE is slowly servicing the 180 or so Trident warheads based at Royal Naval Armaments Depot Coulport in Scotland and decommissioning old warheads and production plant. Along with its verification skills, AWE is needed to contribute these decommissioning tasks to the practical nuclear disarmament process. So it cannot close tomorrow! Additionally, the contaminated site and nuclear waste store requires security, ventilation and monitoring for many years to come.

Last but not least, over 50 years of radioactive discharges from AWE have left a legacy of cancer-causing

plutonium and uranium in the environment. Gaseous discharges have gone round the world, raising background radiation levels for everyone. In the local area, liquid and gaseous discharges have left radioactive hot spots and leukaemia clusters nearby. Discharges of plutonium, uranium, tritium and other radionuclides will continue into the River Thames at Pangbourne until 2005.

### Weapons of mass destruction

This nuclear weapons development project portends a new nuclear arms race that is unjustifiable legally, financially, militarily and morally. And it certainly does not follow the logic of a government asking other countries to disarm their Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Di Macdonald

1. AWE Strategy plan is at: [http://www.awe.co.uk/main\\_site/scientific\\_and\\_technical/publications/pdf\\_reports/20885-sd-plan-update.pdf](http://www.awe.co.uk/main_site/scientific_and_technical/publications/pdf_reports/20885-sd-plan-update.pdf)

Di Macdonald is the Executive Director of the The Nuclear Information Service (NIS), an independent analysis and advocacy organisation which researches and provides a critical examination of Britain's military nuclear policies, developments, transport, armaments and disarmament.

# 'Welsh Human Shields' return from the streets of Baghdad

Kevin Williams and Helen Kirby from Newport, Gwent have returned home to Wales after spending 4 months working with street-children in Baghdad. Kevin and Helen are well known for their anti-war work in Iraq in February and March 2003 when they chose to 'shield' a Baghdad water purification site which at that time provided safe drinking water for 3 million people.

On their return to Baghdad in October, the couple found that the US and British attack on Iraq had resulted in over a thousand vulnerable children living on the streets of Baghdad and many of these children had turned to glue sniffing and taking alcohol and hashish. There are now widespread reports of child abuse.

While in Baghdad, Kevin and Helen worked on the streets with children, helping to alleviate some of the effects of the British and US attacks upon the city by finding some children places to sleep and live. They also helped buy, collect and deliver supplies for orphanages and homes. They have spoken to disillusioned and discontented US army soldiers.

As politicians admit that there may have never been any danger

to the security of Britain, or the US from Weapons of Mass Destruction, the suffering and death in Iraq is thrown into even sharper relief.

In February 2003, Secretary of State for Defence Geoffrey Hoon told the House of Commons that he would not rule out the use of British Nuclear Weapons in attacking Iraq. It is obvious that politicians prepared to attack people and cause widespread devastation and murder on a doubtful suspicion can not be trusted to have weapons of mass destruction. The environmental, health and social effects of any war are too great a risk to take, and it is time for the international community to start work on the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction throughout the world.



photograph: Helen Kirby & Kevin Williams

Street children: Baghdad November 2003

Quite apart from the suffering caused by the destruction of homes and infrastructure, the number of Iraqi people who have died following the attacks on Iraq is now estimated to be over 10,000 with over 1,500 violent civilian deaths in occupied Baghdad (<http://www.iraqbodycount.net/>)

## heddwch action:

Helen and Kevin's regular diaries and photographs from Baghdad are available by email from CND Cymru ([press@cndcymru.org](mailto:press@cndcymru.org)) or from Kevin and Helen themselves. They are available to speak to anti-war and peace and justice groups. To contact them: phone: (01633) 857 566 or email: [welshhumanshields@hotmail.com](mailto:welshhumanshields@hotmail.com) [www.ourhome-iraq.blogspot.com](http://www.ourhome-iraq.blogspot.com)

## st. david's day 1954

# US 'Bravo' hydrogen bomb test



March 1st 2004 marks 50 years since the 'Bravo' hydrogen bomb test conducted by the United States of America on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. It was the largest weapon ever tested by the United States. Bikini Atoll is one of the 29 atolls and five islands that compose the Marshall Islands. The atolls of the Marshall Islands are scattered over 357,000 square miles north of the

equator in the Pacific Ocean. The area is referred to as Micronesia.

### Lucky Dragon

The Japanese fishing boat, 'Lucky Dragon' was fishing about 100 miles from the test

location. All 23 crewmembers in the boat were irradiated by the nuclear test. Many of the fishermen fell sick and one later died. The incident created international outrage and highlighted the dangers of radioactive fallout from atmospheric tests. Huge demonstrations in Japan followed and the first anti-nuclear test campaign groups were set up in Britain.

### Bikini Island

Meanwhile, less concern was shown about the site of the test itself. The Bikinians were evacuated to other locations throughout the Marshall Islands, many to live in overcrowded ghetto areas. Quite apart from the terrible health and environmental affects on the Islands and its peoples, the sociological dislocation of the communities has had disastrous consequences. In 1968 some of the islanders were returned to Bikini but by 1977 levels of radionuclides in their bodies were found to be so high that they were evacuated once again. On March 5th, 2001, the Nuclear Claims Tribunal awarded the islanders \$563,315,500.00 following a

lawsuit brought by the Bikinians against the United States for damages. However, it is uncertain whether the United States will honour the claim.

### Nuclear colonialism

The locations where nuclear testing has been conducted around the world have largely been areas populated by disempowered indigenous peoples: the native Americans in Nevada and the Pacific Islanders of the Marshall Islands; the Kazakh population near Semipalatinsk in the Soviet Union; the Uighurs near the Lop Nur test site of China; the Aboriginal populations of Australia where Britain conducted its tests; are only some examples.

# Ireland Shannon Airport actions

*"The poor tells us who we are,  
The prophets tell us who we could be,  
So we hide the poor,  
And kill the prophets"*

Phil Berrigan

On December 6th 2003, four hundred protestors gathered at Shannon airport in County Clare. Official figures had shown that over 125,855 US troops had passed through the airport on their way to attack and occupy Iraq last year.

There have been continuous protests in Ireland objecting to the central role 'neutral' Ireland has played in supporting the US war machine. Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said that Ireland had provided landing facilities for U.S. military aircraft for 40 years, and he had no intention of withdrawing the privilege as long as the United States observed United Nations mandates.

## Eoin Dubsky

In September, Eoin Dubsky painted peace signs on a United States Hercules aircraft at the airport. He was found guilty of damage and fined 1000 Euro but is currently appealing that decision.

## Mary Kelly

Several non-violent peace protestors have spent time in prison following protest and disarmament actions. In May 2003, nurse and mother Mary Kelly helped to expose Ireland's complicity in U.S. military violence by taking a hatchet to a U.S. Navy cargo plane. The US military is claiming that she caused \$1.5 million worth of damage to a military aircraft. At that time, Mary was part of Shannon Peace Camp which aimed to focus attention on the use of the airport for the refuelling of U.S. military aircraft. It was alleged that Mary Kelly scaled a perimeter fence and used a hatchet to attack the nose cone, front wheel and hydraulics system of the U.S. Navy C 40 Boeing 737 aircraft.

Mary's July first trial ended after the jury returned an undecided verdict and a re-

trial was called for early this year. Mary was denied extended legal aid for the preliminary hearing for her retrial. The judge has refused to accept expert testimony and has ruled crucial video evidence inadmissible. Application for a judicial review has also been refused. The Ireland on Sunday newspaper commented: "It's a good job Mary Kelly doesn't belong to al-Qaeda or Shannon Airport would be a smouldering chasm by now."

## A moral and political response

Fintan Lane of the Cork Anti-War Campaign was released from Limerick prison this January having served 45 days of a 60 day sentence for participating in an anti-war trespass at the airport in October 2002. On his release, Fintan said: "My involvement in the mass trespass was an act of conscience, and I never had any intention of paying a fine for the right to protest against the integration of an Irish civilian airport into the US war machine. Civil disobedience is a morally and politically appropriate response when human lives are at stake."

## Catholic Worker Five

In January Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Damien Moran and Ciaran O'Reilly (known as "The Pit Stop Ploughshares") faced two charges of \$2½ million and 200 Euro worth of criminal damage, in a Dublin Court. They face a possible 10 years in prison and/or a ten thousand Euro fine under Irish law if found guilty. These charges followed their non-violent disarmament of a U.S. Navy war plane at Shannon Airport, Co. Clare, Ireland on February 3rd 2003. Ciaran O'Reilly commented: "The Iraqi maimed and slain remain uncounted, their civil society smashed and infrastructure pillaged by U.S. corporations. We, like many other anti-



*war resisters in the U.S., Britain and Israel remain on trial for speaking truth to power with non-violent non-cooperation. Shannon Airport remains a pit stop for the U.S. war machine!"*

The Catholic Workers carried out many other direct actions at Shannon airport in 2003 including the construction of a shrine to the Iraqi dead and the planting of a bed of potatoes by the runway.

## Constitutional Challenge

Edward Horgan, (retired Irish Army Commandant) unsuccessfully challenged the decision of the Irish Government to allow the use of Shannon airport and Irish airspace by US forces in their war against Iraq. Despite the ruling, the high court judge awarded 50 per cent of Edward Horgan's costs to him and ruled that the Government was to pay its own costs because Edward Horgan had "successfully identified a principle of international customary law, requiring neutral states to prohibit the transit through their territory of large numbers of troops, and munitions, of one belligerent state en route to war with another state".

Edward Horgan commented: "... I fear that the balance of power may be shifting too far in favour of Government at the expense of the Court and ultimately at the expense of the citizens of Ireland.... One consequence, it seems to me, is that the Government may now be even more vulnerable to pressure from more powerful States to go along with them in times of crisis and to violate international law without any constitutional restraint. International law reflects the standards of behaviour generally recognised as being necessary for civilised existence in a dangerous world. If those standards are undermined we are all the losers."

*"Ireland, having assisted the attacking forces, must accept its share of responsibility for the cluster bombs and missiles dropped on the people of Iraq."*

## heddwch action:

To show your support, or contact for more information:

Eoin Dubsky, Whitewalls, Ballymoney, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland phone: +353 (0)55-25176, or +353 (0) 87-6941060 email: slack@redbrick.dcu.ie

Shannon Peace Campaign: 19, Inis Ealga, Shannon, Co. Clare, Ireland phone: +353 (0)61-365871 www.shannonpeacecamp.org

Mary Kelly: c/o Orla N Chomhrail: nichomhrail@eircom.net or Newpal@eircom.net or Aoife N Fhearghail +353 (0) 87 7955013

Pit Stop Ploughshares actions have attracted a huge amount of interest worldwide - Pit Stop Ploughshares, Catholic Worker Cottage, 53, Rialto Cottages, Rialto, Dublin, Ireland + 353 (0) 87 918 4552 email: ciaronx@hotmail.com www.ploughsharesireland.org

Karen is the only British member of Pit-Stop Ploughshares. She is a Trident Ploughshares pledger and a Faslane Peace Camper who has already spent 3 months in Limerick prison. Severe bail conditions have forced her to remain in Ireland until trial. Donations towards Karen's costs in Ireland payable (£s sterling) to: "Karen Fallon", c/o Graham Kayes, Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, nr. Helensburgh, G84 8NT. Individual letters of support can be sent to Karen at 24 The Spinnaker, Alverno, Castle Ave., Clontarf, Dublin 3, Ireland.

Edward Horgan: Conor Joyce phone: +353(0) 86-6039 143 email: conor.joyce@oceanfree.net

**martin luther king day 2004**

## **Pointing fingers at guided missiles and misguided men in the USA**

The entrance of the US Naval Trident nuclear weapons Base at Bangor, USA was successfully blocked with an actual-size replica of a Trident D-5 missile during a demonstration commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King on January 17<sup>th</sup>. A long banner bearing quotations by Dr. King included the statement: *"When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men."*

Demonstrators also carried large cardboard figures, representing hospitals, schools and public services, to show how resources and technology should be applied to meet basic human needs instead of being used for war.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor is located 15 miles west of Seattle on the west coast of the USA, and is the Pacific home for 9 Trident submarines and 1,760 nuclear warheads.

The base is currently refitting submarines for deployment of the Trident D-5 missile system and the deployment of Tomahawk cruise missiles on four older Trident submarines.

Twelve demonstrators were arrested. Local prosecutors have been unable to get convictions against non-violent activists arrested at Bangor following the previous three actions and subsequent trials as it has been discovered that those defendants have the legal right to redress grievances under International and US law with non-violent direct action.

At this action, members of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action were mindful of friend and colleague Jackie Hudson, who on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2003 was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for a demonstration at a Minuteman III nuclear missile silo in Colorado. The campaigners are especially grateful for the Veteran for Peace member who placed his body in front of a car approaching demonstrators on the highway. His non-violent act may have prevented harm to others. The next planned direct action at Bangor will be on Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2004.

### **heddwch action:**

**Contact:** Ground Zero for  
**Nonviolent Action:** +1 360 377 2586  
**email:** [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org)  
**web:** [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

**Martin Luther King Day is 15th  
January. For a list of events marking  
the birth of King, who was dedicated  
to peace and justice:**

[www.unitedforpeace.org/  
calendar.php?caltype=16](http://www.unitedforpeace.org/calendar.php?caltype=16)

**For more information about  
Britain's military nerve centre at  
Northwood (including map) see the  
links:**

[www.reclaimthebases.gzzzt.net/  
nbases\\_0.html](http://www.reclaimthebases.gzzzt.net/nbases_0.html)

## **Drama at Britain's military 'nerve centre' at Northwood, England**

Peace activists marked the 13th anniversary of the 1991 Gulf War and Martin Luther King day with a series of short theatrical protests outside Britain's military headquarters at Northwood, London.

The protests, assisted by a wide range of colourful characters including Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and Jeremy Paxman, as well as the voices of some of the victims and survivors of Britain's wars, examined Northwood's role in the Falklands war (1982), the bombing of Serbia and Kosovo (1999) and the attacks on Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (1998, 2003). The finale took the form of a celebration of an alternative vision of the future in which Northwood's role in coordinating future wars will no longer be necessary. This included a multi-faith event with readings on non-violent action for justice and peace.

Andreas Speck, who helped organise the event, said 'The war on Iraq is the past, but the occupation of Iraq is the bloody present. At the same time, the politicians and the military are planning for new operations in 'theatres' all over the world. At such a time protest at military bases is important because they show that war is not only fought abroad - far away from home - but that war, and preparations for war, are the daily business of military personnel all over the UK.'

### **Are young people in Wales among the most 'peace conscious' in Britain?**

When asked in a survey what they would like as a perfect Christmas present if they could have absolutely anything, 34% of Welsh people in their twenties chose world peace over a lottery win. Only 28% chose a winning lottery ticket and 13% wanted 'unlimited shopping'.

In London, only 8% chose world peace, in East Anglia, 7% and in Scotland 5%.



# Globalisation

Globalisation is meant to work for the poor, so our political leaders keep telling us. It is instructive to look at where globalisation has come from, and where it is going.

## Money markets

Globalisation is a process with its roots in war, specifically the Vietnam War. The US, unable to fund the war from its own coffers, needed a regular supply of money from other sources. This led to a change from the Bretton Woods arrangements – a system of fixed exchange rates – to floating exchange rates, and foreign exchange markets. These grew at a staggering rate, from \$15 billion a day in 1973, to \$1,500 billion (one and a half trillion) today. 98 per cent of this is speculation, only 2 per cent is needed for trade payments.

## Reduced trade

The idea of globalisation has not gone unchallenged. Some academics point out that the proportion of trade globally is now less than it was before the First World War. They argue that global trade is really trade between three blocs – the US, Europe and Japan. To these can be added 11 developing countries which have benefited from export led growth in Foreign Direct Investment.

## China

Despite this qualification, something radical has happened over the past two decades. Some say globalisation is working in China. GDP in China has grown by an average of 9 per cent annually for 20 years. It used its new economic prosperity to lift 250 million people out of poverty. Last year China overtook the US as the leading destination for Foreign Direct Investment. China has achieved this terrific growth by not following the IMF and World Bank formula, the so called Washington consensus of privatisation, cutting public services and opening up markets. China has been careful with trade barriers, opened its markets at its own pace, avoided opening up its financial sector, and so avoided being hit by speculators.

## US and multinational interest

Globalisation is a process which has been politically shaped to US interests, and the interests of MNCs in general. These aims have been delivered in poor countries by structural adjustment programmes, drawn up by the IMF, and funded by the World Bank and the rich countries. These policies have had full backing from the British Labour Government. In reality the multilateral institutions, the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO, already answer to the agenda of the MNCs, of which the 200 largest now control a quarter of global wealth.

## Financial objectives

The IMF and the World Bank were set up at the end of the Second World War. The IMF was to help provide global financial stability, and the World Bank was to provide

loans, first to countries recovering from the war, and then to fund development in the post colonial countries.

## IMF failure

The IMF has failed comprehensively in its brief. It has not prevented over 100 financial crises in the past quarter of a century. After IMF advice in 1997, the East Asia financial crisis saw unemployment increase fourfold in Korea, threefold in Thailand, and ten fold in Indonesia. Indonesia's GDP fell by 13.1 per cent, Thailand by 10.8 per cent. Russia, emerging out of the old Soviet empire, followed an IMF course of shock therapy, to introduce 'the market' to the country and its citizens. The scale of the tragedy which has engulfed Russia since then is rarely appreciated here. From 1940 to 1946, during a war when 20 million Soviet citizens died, industrial production fell by 24 per cent. From 1990 to 1999, industrial production fell by 60 per cent. Life expectancy has fallen by three years.

## World Bank failure

The World Bank's record is equally lamentable. Whilst a third of the population of East Timor in Indonesia was being slaughtered, the World Bank was providing \$360 million worth of funds for 'transmigration' from other Indonesian islands to East Timor, to undermine the local population. The IMF and World Bank have also failed on debt. In 1999 the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative (HIPC), brokered by the two organisations, was going to solve the debt crisis for the poorest countries. The rich countries promised \$110 billion of debt cancellation, and a new start was trumpeted. So far only \$36 billion has been cancelled.

## World Trade Organisation

The third international 'giant', the WTO is made up of 12 separate trade agreements. Its recent summit in Cancun failed, for a number of reasons. Firstly, a group of 23 countries led by Brazil, China and India, stood firm in not wanting to see new issues on the agenda. Secondly, the African countries objected to the continual decimation of their agricultural industry. When the EU tried to 'bulldoze' new issues onto the agenda, a Zambian delegate reacted furiously, saying 'What part of 'no' don't they understand?' War on Want said the intransigence of the rich countries was to blame for the meeting's failure. A survey of developing country delegates showed that 83 per cent believed that the "WTO is not democratic."

## Development goals

Four years ago the leading powers announced the UN Millennium

Development Goals, one of the 'fruits' of globalisation, which are meant to halve poverty, hunger, illiteracy etc. Today, 54 countries are poorer than they were in 1990; in 21, a larger proportion go hungry; in 14, a greater number of children are dying; in 12, primary school enrolment is shrinking; in 34, life expectancy has fallen. Even with economic growth, poverty has increased in some countries. Inequality has worsened in 33 out of 66 countries. In October last year, the UN announced that the number going hungry has started to grow again, up from 815 million in 2001 to 840 million in 2002. A child dies every 7 seconds.

## Alternatives

The IMF, the World Bank and the WTO are agents of globalisation, and should be abolished. Replacements for the WTO are thick on the ground. One of the key UN institutions which has been sidelined by the WTO is UNCTAD. It has remained dubious of de-regulation, saying 'the efficacy of the economic reforms on which so many lives and livelihoods now hang is, and must remain, an act of faith.' A strengthened UNCTAD could regulate MNCs. Globalisation has really been a process of de-regulation, or indeed, regulating countries for the benefit of companies. This is why issues nothing to do with trade, such as intellectual property rights and investment, are part of the WTO. *What is needed is the regulation of companies for the benefit of countries and their citizens.* The re-instatement of an International Trade Organisation under the UN Economic and Social Council has been proposed as a replacement for the WTO. Colin Hines has suggested a World Localisation Organisation, George Monbiot a Fair Trade Organisation. Monbiot also proposes an International Clearing Union as a replacement for the IMF. This returns to Keynes' original ideas for Bretton Woods.

## US domination

In case you think globalisation can be made to work for the poor, consider two final views. The US National Intelligence Council has recently described its expectations of globalisation. *"Its evolution will be rocky, marked by chronic financial volatility and a widening economic divide."* The US military establishment, in the notorious 'Space Command's Vision for 2020', published under Clinton, stated that the need to dominate space was necessary because *"the globalisation of the world economy" would lead to "a widening between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'."* It would be hard to put it plainer.

Ben Gregory

This article is based on an address at the United Nations Reform Conference in Aberystwyth in November 2003. A full text is available from [benica@gn.apc.org](mailto:benica@gn.apc.org).

## Acronyms Unlimited:

GDP: Gross Domestic Product    US: United States of America    IMF: International Monetary Fund    MNC: Multi-National Corporation    WTO: World Trade Organisation    UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development    UN: United Nations

## Bangor & Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group

Autumn 2003 and New Year 2004 have seen weekly meetings of the Peace and Justice Group in Bangor, stalls, petitioning, and the continued lobbying of Albert Owen MP (Labour, Ynys Môn). The autumn saw a demonstration in Bangor against the Israeli Wall, with students and other activists recently returned from Palestine addressing the public as a high steel fence was erected around them and the Clock tower. A large and vocal audience attended a November debate on the future of international relations, with Malcolm Harper (Chair of the UNA) and Sir Harold Walker (former British ambassador to Iraq). The group is currently working with the Bangor Islamic Centre to provide relief for the victims of earthquake at Bam, in Iran. Campaigning on behalf of the Belmarsh and Guantanamo detainees is seen as a priority.

Forthcoming events include a lecture *Building Bridges in Bosnia* by Donald Reeves, Monday 26th Jan 6.00pm Lecture Room 3, Main Arts Building, University of Wales Bangor. Group campaigning meetings are normally held on Mondays at 6.30pm in Y Ffynnon, next to the Anglican Chaplaincy, Prince's Road, Upper Bangor, and all are welcome. The political way forward is a matter of continuing debate amongst group members. There is interest in the Galloway-Monbiot convention to be held in London on 25th January and also in the Peace and Progress organisation, which has established the Human Rights Commission currently investigating the legality of the Guantanamo detentions in the USA. Peace and Progress is arranging a symposium on *Internment without Trial* in London on 15th February. Another symposium is being organised at Aberystwyth on 20th March, in co-operation with CND Cymru and the Aberystwyth Peace Network, as part of the World Action Day. (Details from Linda Rogers (01248) 490 715)



## Mordechai Vanunu will soon be free!

Mordechai Vanunu, a former Israeli nuclear technician, is now serving the last year of an 18-year sentence in an Israeli prison for 'blowing the whistle' on the Israeli secret nuclear weapons program. Captured by Israeli agents on September 30th, 1986, he spent more than eleven and a half years in solitary confinement.

Vanunu went to work as a young man in the Dimona nuclear "research centre" in the Negev Desert. The facility harboured a strictly secret plutonium separation plant. He became increasingly troubled as he realised his work was part of Israel's nuclear bomb programme. In 1985, he took extensive photographs inside the factory in order to document the truth for his fellow citizens and the entire world and then left Dimona.

The Sunday Times heard of his story and sent a reporter to see him. In England British scientists familiar with nuclear weapons checked his photographs and facts. 'Vanunu's story', published on October 5th 1986, confirmed authoritatively that Israel had become a major nuclear weapons power, with material for as many as 200 nuclear warheads of advanced design. Israeli secret agents abducted and drugged Vanunu and took him to Israel where he was convicted of espionage and treason at a closed-door trial.

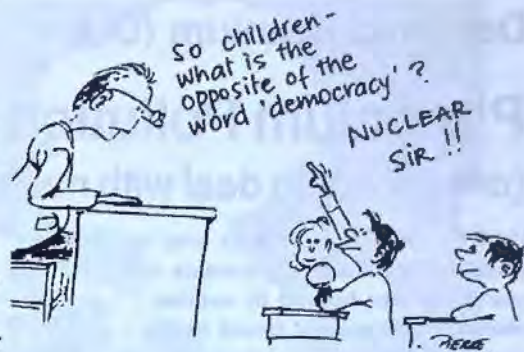
For the first eleven and a half years of his imprisonment Vanunu was held in solitary confinement and completely denied human contact. Since March 12th 1998, he has been released from solitary confinement but was still denied contact with Palestinian prisoners, is not permitted use a telephone and his mail is censored.

Despite years of isolation, Vanunu remains steadfast in his belief that what he did was necessary and right. His release date is April 22nd, 2004.

### heddwch action:

On 13th March 3rd April 13th April, CND Cymru, Caerffili CND and Côr Cochlon Caerdydd are holding a Weekly Vigil Singing to collect funds for the campaign petition until Vanunu's release. More information phone: (02920) 889 514

Campaign to Free Vanunu and for a Nuclear Free Middle East, 185, New Kent Road, London, SE1 4AG phone: (020) 7378 9324 email: [campaign@vanunu.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:campaign@vanunu.freeserve.co.uk)



## The Social Forum Movement in Cardiff

Cardiff Social Forum (CSF) was launched from the South Wales Coalition to Stop the War in May 2003. It is a network of activists for social justice and against global corporate domination modelled on the Italian social fora, which built the huge anti-G8 demonstration in Genoa. The forum is a space for debate and education and plans actions and organises practical workshops. It is democratic in its methods and open to all individuals and groups who share its aims.

Since its launch, CSF has mobilised for the G8 summit at Evian, France and organised parallel events in Cardiff. In September 2003 CSF was involved in protests about the 'DSEI' arms fair in London and played a central role in the anti-'MRO' space and aviation protest at the Cardiff International Arena.

CSF was the first Social Forum in Britain, remains at the forefront of building links between existing fora and encouraging the setting-up of new fora. On February 1st, CSF organised an "Alternative Assembly"; a day of campaign workshops and opportunities for like minded people to get together and to help unite campaigns in the Cardiff area.

### European Social Forum (ESF)

Thanks to Monica Bradley, CND Cymru was represented in the Autumn ESF when 60,000 people gathered together in Paris. CND had a stall and was involved in workshops raising the issues of militarism and peace.

UN MONDE  
POUR TOUS  
UN MONDE  
DE TOUS  
LES DROITS  
DE L'HOMME

### heddwch action:

Interested? Get in touch with Cardiff Social Forum Contact via: [www.cardiffsocialforum.org.uk](http://www.cardiffsocialforum.org.uk)

## Depleted Uranium (DU)

# Plutonium Pollution

(or how not to deal with nuclear waste).

How did plutonium find its way to Kosovo? Transuranic elements like plutonium are formed in nuclear reactors and are not found in the earth's crust. When the UN environment programme found traces of plutonium and other highly radioactive particles in Kosovo the MoD and the US department of energy admitted that the material came from DU shells but denied that the uranium had been reprocessed. The uranium had been "accidentally contaminated" in containers containing reprocessed materials (1). Two months later the UN Environment Programme report on sites in Bosnia referred to "huge variations" in plutonium levels in pieces of munitions found.

### What is DU?

Explanations of "accidental contamination" became unnecessary in November 2001. The British Environment Agency commissioned and published a report "Depleted Uranium: a Study of its Uses within the UK and Disposal Issues" (2). In an opening paragraph of a general description of depleted uranium the report states "Depleted Uranium ... is the main by-product of the uranium enrichment process wherein the content of the fissile isotope U235 is enhanced in relation to the U238 content. In addition DU is produced from the reprocessing of Magnox reactor fuel in the UK." A similar extended definition of DU appeared in September 2001 when the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published policy proposals for the management of radioactive waste (3).

### Military use

DU has a density 1.7 times that of lead. It is toxic as well as being radioactive with a half-life of 4.5 billion years. In spite of the toxicity and the ability to cause cancer and genetic mutations the military found it useful to increase the penetrating power of shells and bullets and even to improve the armour on military vehicles. DU munitions were test fired in Britain and the USA in the 1980's and used in Iraq in 1991, in Bosnia in 1996, in the Kosovo conflict in 1999, in Afghanistan in 2002 and in Iraq in 2003. It was estimated that the amount of DU used in the 1991 Gulf war was 340 tonnes. In the 2003 attack on Iraq up to 2000 tonnes may have been used with up to 7 tonnes used in single 'bunker busting' bombs.

### Health risks

Servicemen and women's organisations and others interested in the health of service personnel and civilians questioned the consequences of battlefield exposure to

radioactive and toxic materials inhaled as dust or ingested with food (4). The Ministry of Defence (MoD) response was unequivocal. The risks were negligible except for persons who remained for a long period in a vehicle hit by such a weapon and the MoD denied the contrary findings of its own leaked report as "...a discredited draft prepared by a trainee" (5). But independent researchers took samples from service personnel indicating the ingestion of 15 times what the MoD had described as a "safe dose" of radioactivity. Most physicists agree that there is no such thing as a safe dose. Scientist from the UN Environment Programme called for recoverable fragments of DU to be removed from conflict sites. The Royal Society also called for sampling, clean up and monitoring (6).

### Alleviating civil nuclear waste problems

In his book *Sixty Years of Nuclear History* published in 1999 Fred Roberts, a former atom bomb scientist, described DU also as a product of the reprocessing of spent fuel from nuclear reactors (7). Within a few months Paul Brown, the environment correspondent of *The Guardian* after discussions with MoD staff but without attribution also described DU as a product of reprocessing (8). The awful truth was out. The nuclear industry and the MoD had not only found a new way of dealing with mildly radioactive 'natural' nuclear waste. It was helping to dispose of waste from reactors and reprocessing plants which would contain transuranic elements even allowing for the fact that at least some of the plutonium had been recovered.

### One million tonnes and growing

The Environment Agency report estimated world-wide stocks of DU at well over one million tonnes. The total is estimated to double by 2015. It is by no means the most troublesome of the nuclear industry's waste - plutonium is toxic, highly radioactive and an atomic bomb material. The British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry quoted the future cost of managing nuclear waste in Britain at £85,000,000,000 (9). No safe method of disposal has yet been devised. We can be sure that firing it at one's enemies will not solve the problem either.

### To 'protect' military personnel

The MoD justifies the use of DU because to desist from its use would expose British service personnel to greater risks. There is no doubt that guided weapons, satellite technology and the greater penetrating power of bombs and shells were major factors in the military supremacy which led to the rapid



defeat of Iraqi forces. But the use of toxic and radioactive materials is a form of chemical and nuclear warfare no different from the use of a radioactive 'dirty bomb' postulated as a possible terrorist weapon. The effects on the environment will last for thousands of years with many generations exposed to genetic effects. International agreement on the prohibition of such weapons and the release of civil nuclear materials for military purposes is needed and the countries best placed to bring that about are the United States and Britain.

Christopher Gifford

### Notes

1. Paul Brown *The Guardian* 18 1 01. He also quoted John Large of Large Associates saying that plutonium was 100 times more dangerous than uranium.
2. The Environment Agency: Technical Report P3-088/TR 27pp with 42 references. November 2001. Alan Martin Associates.
3. "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely" DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations September 2001. This document had little to say about military use of uranium metal but defined *depleted reprocessed uranium* as a sub-category of depleted uranium. In response to the DEFRA proposals I wrote "Explanations are now needed on the accuracy with which other transuranic radioactive material is removed from spent fuel before it is released for use as munitions and by whose authority it is released. We are here discussing what to do with nuclear waste and learning, in passing, that firing it at one's enemies is a legitimate method of disposal. Such use should be prohibited by the UK government and by international agreement."
4. Web site for the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium: <http://www.cadu.org.uk> e-mail address for CADU News: [info@cadu.org.uk](mailto:info@cadu.org.uk) phone: (0161) 273 8293
5. *The Guardian*: editorial 12 1 01.
6. "The Health Hazards of Depleted Uranium Munitions: Part 1". The Royal Society May 2001. Part 2 was published in March 2002.
7. "Sixty Years of Nuclear History" Fred Roberts 1999 Jon Carpenter Publishing
8. "Cheap and Lethal Nuclear By-product" Paul Brown *The Guardian* 12 1 01
9. Hansard House of Commons debates for 18 October 2001 Rt. Hon Margaret Beckett MP Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.



## Nuclear power news

### Hinkley Point B nuclear power station shut down... again

Stop Hinkley campaigners are demanding that Hinkley Point B nuclear power station on the North Somerset coast is permanently decommissioned following the recent shut down ordered by the environment agency because of a faulty radiation filter in a reactor workshop. The campaigners are calling for public support for the West Hinkley wind farm with 12 turbines generating up to 33 megawatts.

We must take responsibility for the energy we use; we must not bequeath a legacy of a polluted environment with crumbling radioactive monuments for our children. We need to support renewable energy projects and to actively support energy conservation.

#### heddwch action:

contact the Stop Hinkley Campaign c/o Jim Duffy (10984) 632 109 / 07968 974 805 email: [Stophinkley@aol.com](mailto:Stophinkley@aol.com)  
Information about West Hinkley Wind Farm: Yes2wind (01202) 549 090 email: [info@your-energy.co.uk](mailto:info@your-energy.co.uk) [www.your-energy.co.uk](http://www.your-energy.co.uk)

### Tablets: no answer to radioactive fallout

Local Authorities near nuclear power plants are drawing up plans to distribute Potassium Iodate tablets to all residents within 9 miles of nuclear power plants. In Wales, the distribution of tablets will affect those living near Oldbury (England, across the Severn from Chepstow), Wylfa (Ynys Môn) and Hinkley (England, across the Bristol Channel from Barry). The tablets should be taken in event of a radioactive discharge from a nuclear power plant and pre-delivery is being organised because emergency deliveries can not be guaranteed. However, the tablets only offer some protection from the ingestion of radioactive iodine. Protection from other radionuclides will not be provided. The only real protection for our people is to close down the reactors and isolate all human-made radioactive products from the biosphere.

#### heddwch action:

If you live within nine miles of a nuclear power plant, contact your local Councillor to ask whether these plans are a real answer to the problem or a 'smokescreen'.

### Ukraine

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which allocates public money for projects, has announced that it is considering participating in a 250 million Euro project to upgrade the unfinished K2/R4 nuclear reactors

Khmelnitsky 2 and Rivno 4 in the Ukraine, despite "... An expression of interest..." by the EBRD "...to undertake another environmental impact assessment for the completion of the two reactors."

#### heddwch action:

Ask your MEP (see page 18) to contact the EBRD demanding they abandon attempts to re-engage in the K2/R4 projects and instead assist the Ukraine with other energy sector projects, in particular, desperately needed energy efficiency measures.



merci - sortir du nucleaire

### Opposition to 'Nuclear France' increases

Recently, 15,000 anti-nuclear marchers on the streets of Paris demanded that the French Government does not support the building of a nuclear European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPRW) in Finland. The reactor is to be built by a consortium including the French, state owned ARVEA groups and the German Engineering giant Siemens at a cost of 3 billion Euro. It is expected that France will embark on the replacement of some of its 58 nuclear reactors with new EPWRs in the near future.

#### heddwch action:

contact the federation of 650 organisations campaigning against new nuclear build in France - or elsewhere: Réseau Sortir du nucléaire, 9, rue Dumenge 69004 Lyon, France [www.sortirdunucleaire.org](http://www.sortirdunucleaire.org)

### Chernobyl Misery continues

Eighteen years after the nuclear accident at Chernobyl on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1986, the situation in the region is worsening. Belarussian doctors continue to identify the following health effects from the Chernobyl disaster on the people since 1986:  
100% increase in incidence of cancer and leukaemia  
250% increase in congenital birth deformities  
1,000% increase in suicide in the contaminated zones  
2,400% increase in the incidence of thyroid cancer  
"Chernobyl AIDS" is the term doctors are using to describe illnesses associated with the

damage done to the immune system by the effects of the radioactive material Strontium 90. It is also a contributory factor to the increase in the number of cancer cases as a result of damage to the body's immune system. Doctors believe that the biggest health threat is caused by the incorporation in the human body of Caesium, which affects the heart and kidneys and influences the hormonal relationship in the mother-foetus-placenta system. Changes in hormonal status in the mother-foetus system leads to increase of pregnancy length, complications with birth & after birth development of the child.

In Wales there are currently 359 agricultural holdings with 180,000 sheep within the restricted area still affected by the radioactive fall out from the 1986 Chernobyl accident. (Hansard 20 May 2003)

### Chernobyl Heart

A film *Chernobyl Heart*, produced and directed by Mary-Ann De Leo details the ongoing suffering and plight in the wake of the 1986 nuclear disaster and is in the running for the accolade for the best documentary at the 2004 Oscar Academy Awards.

#### heddwch action:

more information from Chernobyl Children's Project, 2 Camden Place, Camden Quay, Cork, Ireland phone: (+353) 21 450 6411 [adiroche@adlccp.org](mailto:adiroche@adlccp.org) [www.chernobyl-ireland](http://www.chernobyl-ireland)

## diary dates

**March 1<sup>st</sup> Gwyl Dewi Bikini Day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Commemorated to highlight the effects of nuclear weapons and to draw attention to continuing work towards peace and justice and the elimination of nuclear weapons from the earth. (story page 11)

**Contact:** Japanese Council Against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyō) 2-4-4 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8464 phone: + 81 3 5842 6034 email: antiatom@twics.com

**March 6<sup>th</sup> Subud Centre, Brecon** 11.00am CND Cymru Cyngor Paid up CND Cymru members and delegates welcome.

Followed by lunch for all and **2.00pm Public Meeting: 'Nuclear Weapons Policy Today' led by Kate Hudson (British CND Chair)** All members and non-members WELCOME! More details from CND Cymru.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, Frodsham St. Chester** Public Talk - An Introduction to the work of Greenpeace both locally and nationally. All welcome. We are a friendly bunch. Contact: Mary on 01829 771750 email: cherylbuxton@hotmail.com

**March 19<sup>th</sup> Menwith Hill US 'eavesdropping' Base, Yorkshire, England** BLOCK THE BASE - Non-violent Blockade and demonstration at Menwith Hill, nr. Harrogate More details: Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 22 Edmund Street, Bradford, BD5 0BH phone: (01274) 730 795 e-mail: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk or www.blockthebase.org.uk

**March 20<sup>th</sup> Aberystwyth All Wales Action for Peace** supporting the 'Global Day of Action for Peace'

All Day event with Rally, speakers and symposium focussing on Peace, Human Rights and International Law. BE THERE! Details: CND Cymru. (See PAGE 3)

**April 8<sup>th</sup> 6pm Temple of Peace, Cardiff 'The European Court of Human Rights' (ECHR) - Legal Affairs Seminar** to consider the 1998 reforms and their consequences for those interested in taking a case to the ECHR. Details from: centre@wcia.org.uk, (029 20) 228 549

**April 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> London to Aldermaston March!!**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> - Rally in Trafalgar Square** against development of new weapons of mass destruction at AWE Aldermaston, Berkshire, England where Trident nuclear warheads are currently refurbished. (story page 10)

**April 12<sup>th</sup>: Aldermaston Base Non-Violent Action.** Be there! Local groups are being encouraged to take buses of campaigners from Wales to Aldermaston. Let CND Cymru know if you want to go or decide to organise or wish to share transport! Contact: www.aldermaston2004.net Aldermaston2004 c/o AWPC, 18 Greenway Road, Bristol BS6 6SG. phone: 07880 941 849; info@aldermaston2004.net or CND Cymru

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> Mordechai Vanunu set for release from prison in Israel.** Events planned in Israel and Britain. (story page 15)

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Chernobyl Day** (story page 17)

**April 26<sup>th</sup> - May 9<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference New York** CND will be part of the lobby calling on nuclear weapons states to abide by their commitment to disarm under the Treaty. Nothing less than agreement for the immediate and total elimination of nuclear weapons from the earth will do. For a safe future for our children and grandchildren and for all living things, there is no alternative.

A pack 'Countdown to Disarmament campaign' is available contact Christian CND (020) 7700 4200 or see: <http://cnd.gn.apc.org/>.

**31<sup>st</sup> May - 5<sup>th</sup> June Urdd Eisteddfod Ynys Môn** Agricultural Showground, Llangefni. Welsh speaking and welsh learners' help needed in Pabell Heddwach. Contact Awel Irene: (01766) 772 902 email: awel.irene@virgin.net

## Useful addresses:

**Your MP:** House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA email via: <http://www.locata.co.uk/commons>

**Tony Blair:** 10, Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

**Geoff Hoon:** Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

**Jack Straw:** Foreign & Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AL

**Your MEP:** European Parliament, Wiertz-Straat, B-1047 Bruxelles, Belgium for individual addresses in Wales contact CND Cymru. For email addresses: <http://www.db.europarl.eu.int>

**Your AM:** National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA for email addresses: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/>

**If you have any queries or ideas or want information please contact your nearest vice chair. For more information about CND Cymru, or how to receive 'heddwch' regularly please contact the CND Cymru Membership Secretary.**



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## Data Protection Act 1998 CND Cymru Policy

We value your membership of, and support for CND Cymru - the Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. CND Cymru needs to hold data about you, to (keep you informed of developments in the campaign. The Data Protection Act legislation obliges CND Cymru to inform you of what information is held and how we might use it. The policy will not change the way in which CND Cymru operates.

CND Cymru holds information such as name, address and in some cases e-mail address, and bank details, etc. about our supporters in order that we can function as a campaigning organisation. Such information will be used for CND Cymru purposes only, which may include, but are not limited to, CND Cymru mailings, administration of membership and the provision of information regarding events and fundraising. We aim to keep this information as accurate and up-to-date as possible, and ask your assistance in ensuring this. We will do everything we can to prevent this information from being used in any unauthorised or unlawful way.

We will not sell or give your information to any individual or organisation except:

- officers of CND Cymru who need the information to fulfill their roles (e.g. membership administration, mailings, etc.);
- local CND groups who wish to contact supporters in their area;
- any individual or organisation that CND Cymru has engaged for particular projects under the auspices of CND Cymru;
- organisations who share our aims and with whom CND Cymru has a formal arrangement.

In the event of CND Cymru as an organisation ceasing to function, all membership information will be transferred to British CND, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 you have the right to object to the use of your data for any or all of the above purposes. Any such objections should be made in writing to the address below.

In particular, you have the option of informing CND Cymru if:

- you do not wish to be sent CND Cymru fundraising appeals;
- you do not wish for your information to be passed on to the individuals or organisations described above;
- you do not wish to receive any further information from CND Cymru.

If you feel we are using information about you in any way which you believe may cause you or another person damage or distress, please contact us immediately at the address below to request that your records are no longer used in this way.

You also have the right to a copy of the information we hold on you. We will provide you, free of charge, with all the information that we have on you on receipt of a written request from you.

If you would like to know more about how we are complying with the Data Protection Act, if you wish to opt out of some uses of your data, or if you would like a copy of the information we hold on you, please write to:  
Data Protection, CND Cymru membership, 72 Ffion Gwyn, Yr Alltnewydd, Pontardawe, SA8 3AN