

#eddwch

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ONE STEP FORWARD

Bob Cole

The Summit agreement between the USA and Russia to cut their strategic nuclear weapon arsenals must be welcomed by CND members. Along with the unilateral scrapping by the British Government of all nuclear depth charges carried on Royal Navy ships, it is a sign that the dis-armament process is continuing.

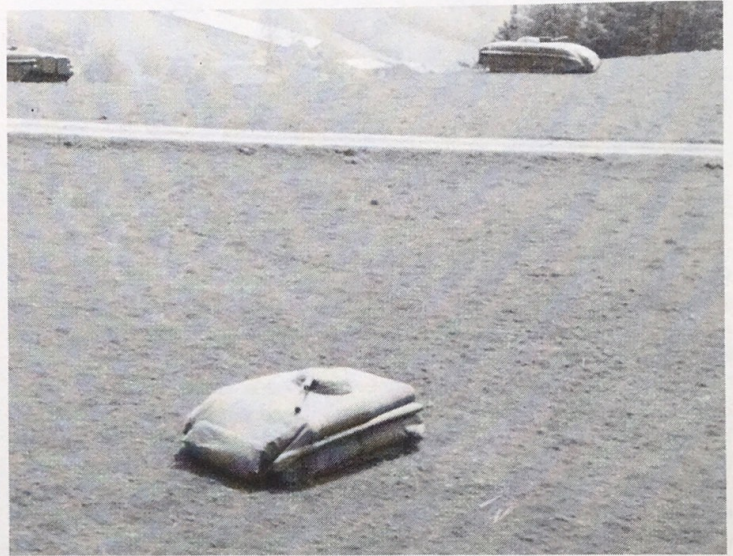
The peace movement should see it as a step in the right direction, but we should not be complacent. Only the delivery systems will be destroyed – the warheads remain intact. And the agreement still leaves the USA and Russia with 3500 intercontinental weapons each. (This is more than enough to destroy the world and three times more than when CND was formed).

Similarly, the fact that Britain

is indulging in unilateral disarmament – albeit of only a small proportion – of its arsenal allows us to press for more. If we don't need nuclear depth charges, then why do we need free fall bombs and the escalation of Trident?

That CND has still got a role is beyond question, but we do need to constantly question our direction and assess the implications of international and national developments. Despite the cuts, improvements to weapon systems continue and the threat of proliferation is always with us.

A comprehensive test ban treaty and strengthened non proliferation treaty are both objectives for which we should campaign. The world may be a safer place after the summit but the chaos and killing in the former Yugoslavia shows that we still have a long way to go to win a peaceful world.



View from the air – inflatable 'Russian' tanks photographed by CND Cymru vice-chair Rod Stallard during Operation Cardinal

Hot air

Rod Stallard

Operation Highland Cardinal was a low flying military exercise carried out by the RAF with some US and Netherlands Air Force involvement during two weeks in May over Mid and West Wales.

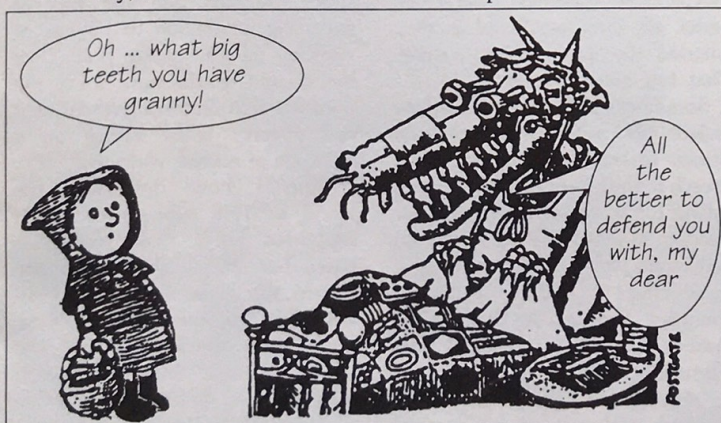
The aim of this exercise was to train air and ground crews to fly low onto 'enemy' targets. A total of 800 sorties were flown over a period of 10 days. The running costs of the aircraft alone for this exercise are estimated at £6 million. Each aircraft sortie emitted as much carbon gases as any one car would do in an average year.

The RAF accepts that the Russian Federation is no longer a threat but they maintain there is a possibility of attack from anywhere. Within the military establishment there is an

obvious need to 'create' an enemy so that the military empire is maintained. Low flying is a tactic still practised despite reports that it failed in the Gulf War.

There is an acceptance that an enemy must be killed before they have a chance to attack 'us'. It appears to be immaterial that large numbers of civilians are killed and the environment despoiled. Over 200,000 people were killed in Iraq by air attack and many more are still dying as a result.

The RAF personnel accepted CND Cymru's presence at their 'Press Facility'. The low flying demonstrated was in a wide open space with aircraft at 250 feet flying at 400 mph – probably not at full throttle. The interference and noise levels appeared significantly less than from those aircraft diving to 100 feet in a narrow valley. However, a helicopter flight for the press crews back to Rhaeadr was a new experience which I did enjoy.



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



Dangerous illusions

CND Cymru is in decline. Branch meetings thin out, activities fall off, and many branches are no more than paper listings. Why is this? Denis Martin puts things in perspective.

Of course it has been a long time since the early Aldermaston rallies, and even Greenham Common is passing into history. A momentum in any movement is difficult to sustain. But an important factor is the feeling that the cold war is over and it is only a matter of time before nuclear weapons themselves are brought under control.

It is, unfortunately, a dangerous illusion as the world stands on the threshold of an uncertain and violent future.

The above feeling stems from the false premise that the Soviet Union threatened world peace before. Since Russia and the other independent states are pursuing the path of democracy, we have less to fear from this quarter, while the rest of the world is safe in a manageable alliance. The reality is something quite different.

shiver of fear

The October Revolution in 1917 was something unique in that for the first time the land, the banks, transport, communications and manufacture were nationalised without compensation. This sent a shiver of fear throughout the world of big business. So, from that day forward, Soviet Russia became the enemy of the capitalist world – in the words of Winston Churchill 'it was necessary to strangle the Bolshevik baby in its cradle'.

Fourteen nations of the Entente and the Central Powers (while still continuing the war against each other) combined to bring the Bolsheviks down, and after the armistice they invaded the young Soviet republics. It failed because the war-weary troops of the various armies were sick of war and mutinied; trade unionists around the world supported the Bolsheviks and revolution broke out in Europe itself.

So tactics were changed. The USSR was blockaded and a professional indoctrinated army was set up to have another crack. That was done by the Nazis. It has

to be remembered that when Germany had a democratic government, the policy was to 'squeeze Germany till the pips squeak'. When the Nazis came to power, millions flowed into Germany from the British and American governments and their big business. When Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in 1941, Germany had become inflated with the products and the armies of all the occupied countries, and the combined army thrown against the Soviet Union was the largest gathered together in history.

That, too, failed, but at an enormous cost to the Soviet Union. When the war finished there were 20 million Soviet people dead and Churchill then planned to continue the war against the immensely weakened Soviet Union. But the American and British armies were composed of civilians in uniform who would not have fought shoulder to shoulder with the Nazis against their war-time ally. It was necessary to set up a professional indoctrinated army to do the job and that was done through NATO, containing a German contingent of half a million men.

'Operation Dropshot'

The Pentagon eventually opted for 'Operation Dropshot', which called for the dropping of 100 nuclear bombs on towns and cities in the USSR followed by occupation by NATO troops, to be implemented no later than 1 January 1957. That, too, failed, for by 1957 the Soviet Union had breached the nuclear monopoly.

Then we lumbered into the era of the nuclear arms race. There now exist more than 50,000 nuclear weapons capable of destroying the entire planet several times over. Even hawkish imperialists were driven to despair for it seemed impossible to smash the Soviet Union without also smashing the USA.

A rethink of policy was called for. Penetration of Communist parties by the CIA and the destabilisation of

states with a progressive orientation (e.g. Chile under Allende and Iran under Mossadeq) have been quite successful. However, the CIA was thwarted 'inside target (i.e. Soviet/Satellite) countries because of the effectiveness of the communist internal security services' (Philip Agee, 1975).

So it was necessary to think of something else. That was 'information imperialism', the monopolisation of the media by giant corporations. The intention is to popularise private enterprise as a natural and eternal state of human development and to explain why the

propaganda

developing countries need the assistance of the transnationals.

This swamping of foreign culture by American ideology led to tensions in the UN. UNESCO tried to set up an alternative to the all-powerful all-pervading American propaganda, so the Americans (and the British – of course) walked out of UNESCO.

From 1973 onwards a violent ideological battle took place through Radio Liberty, Radio Free Europe, Voice of America, the BBC and other European stations together with satellites beaming downwards powerfully persuading the peoples of the Socialist and newly-emerging independent countries how much better off they would be if they adopted the 'free' market system. That, too, failed to work.

So a final throw of the dice came in June 1982 when Reagan came to Britain to make an unprecedented speech to both houses of parliament, calling for 'a worldwide crusade for freedom in which the US would aid democratic forces in both right-wing dictatorships and communist countries'. Emphasising that NATO must be strengthened he stated; 'The ultimate determinant in the struggle now going on for the world will not be bombs and rockets – but a test of wills and ideas – a trial of spiritual resolve'.

The policy did the trick without having to fire a single shot. Eight years later Socialism had collapsed

in Central Europe and the Soviet Union itself. It had cost tens of thousands of millions of dollars but no Americans had been hurt and Bush could now proudly proclaim 'The Cold War is over – but we won'. The world was safe (for the moment anyway) for capital – particularly American capital.

Socialism, with all its imperfections, had provided ordinary people with full employment; security; cheap rents, transport and telephones; free education and health care; subsidised holidays; and something virtually unknown in the West – culture accessible to ordinary people. Life was not a rat-race. They did not have Walkmans, jeans, violent and sexual movies.

They – in particular the youth – were assured that if they overthrew their stultifying Communist governments they would retain what they already had, but would get access to those things which they could not get.

religious bigots

The reality we now see today. Civil war sweeps the former Socialist states led by narrow nationalists and religious bigots, the economy is totally collapsed. Even during the war the Soviet people were fed, but now hunger stalks the land and the ILO is expecting 45 million to be out of work by the end of the year. Thus the second world now joins the third world in simmering resentment and poverty while sitting on a stockpile of nuclear weapons.

America now dominates the world as THE superpower (albeit supported by a shaky economic base), but the situation otherwise returns the globe to the pre-1914 era except that the rival powers are now more centralised under the USA, the EC, and Japan each warily facing each other while nuclear weapons proliferate and the new armed blocs grow outside the orbit of NATO.

Not! The euphoric feeling is not justified. CND Cymru is as needed now as it ever was.

GOODBYE TO ALL THAT

Hard work, sacrifices, fear and a great deal of radical inspiration have all been part of the long story of Caerwent and the peace movement. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, looks back.

Closure of the arms dump is now inevitable. The ending of the Cold War has robbed it of its function as the advance base for arms intended to be used by NATO forces to fight the third world war in Europe against the Warsaw Pact armies.

From 1937 to 1962 it was a military base, producing cordite in the war years. The first protests followed the announcement that the Americans were taking over the site in 1967.

Tony Simpson was one of the small band who marched through the village protesting at its new role and highlighting the threat that nuclear bombs might be stored there. Local people were unmoved and the American presence was largely accepted. Mis-named RAF Caerwent, it was a US Base with one token RAF officer acting as landlord.

The original Greenham Common march from Cardiff paused and picnicked on the grass outside. The terrified RAF officer at the time

briefly showed his face to take a message from marchers to cries of 'mass murderer' and 'American lickspittle'.

A year later, in 1982, a peace camp was set up. Joan Ruddock and John Cox set up the camp sign and welcomed the first residents. Predominately made up of members of Chepstow, Newport and Cardiff CND groups, the camp was also home to people from other parts of Wales – including Brig Oubridge of the Green Party. For six months the camp was a focus for the activities of the Welsh peace movements.

The evidence for the presence of nuclear weapons at Caerwent was never convincing – for one thing, security was too lax. But a major concern of the peace campers was the escalation in the production of chemical weapons, including nerve gases, which were to be advance-based in Britain. Work at the base convinced the campers that new stocks of chemical weapons were heading for the base.



'Wheels around Wales' protest outside the US arms depot at Caerwent, near Newport, 1986

Relations with local people were sometimes strained. The camp was twice attacked at night and Councillor Ray Davies ended up in hospital after one assault.

The camp was one of a dozen at American bases at the time. This was the height of the Cold War insanity, with the two superpowers constantly escalating their nuclear arsenals.

Spasmodic protests have continued since. After one, persistent protester Roger Ayres of Newport cheerfully served a prison sentence of two weeks. The camp defences have been breached by peace demonstrators many times.

Week-end meetings and events during the Gulf conflict were attended by hundreds from South Wales. A declaration of (Welsh) independence was proclaimed on 4

July 1991 in protest at the military and cultural colonisation of Wales.

Anxiety about Caerwent included fears about the heavy movements of ammunition on local roads and rail. Recently a navy jet crashed only a mile from the base.

The prolonged peace campaigns centred on Caerwent during the period of maximum world terror provided an oasis of sanity for many of us in a world that seemed to be going mad.

The work and idealism of the many friends who demonstrated there will remain a permanent inspiration and a fond memory.

The reward will be to see, very soon, weapons of war banished from Caerwent and the old fields and woods of St. Tathan returned to peaceful pursuits.

WASTE AND DANGER

Buying Trident means exposing local communities to another 30 years of nuclear hazards and a radioactive waste legacy for thousands of years. That was the message of a conference held in Glasgow in June by Britain's 'nuclear-free' local authorities.

The organisers pointed out that Trident means the continuation of nuclear weapons research, development and production at Aldermaston and Burghfield in Berkshire and at Llanishen in Cardiff, with the risk of radioactive and toxic chemical discharges.

It means the transportation of nuclear weapons components and warheads between these sites and on through England and Scotland to the Trident base at Faslane, with the risk of a serious accident involving the dispersal of plutonium.

Trident continues the danger of an accident on board a nuclear-powered submarine in port or at sea. It

increases the amount of spent nuclear reactor fuel to be transported for reprocessing at Dounreay and Sellafield.

In these ways, they said, Trident represents 'a completely needless hazard to local communities and a tragic drain on public funds so desperately needed to secure healthy towns and cities.'

The conference began with an analysis of how hopelessly unsuited Trident is to the international security environment in the 1990s and went on to discuss the £17,000 million saving to be made by abandoning the programme.

Speakers also focused on the local cost of the Government's failure, at the end of the 'Cold War', to develop a sustainable civil industrial strategy and the conference ended with discussion of the steps local authorities can take to promote

economic development and public safety.

- The National Steering Committee of Nuclear Free Local Authorities has published a new handbook covering all aspects of its campaign for public safety and environmental protection.

Available in either English or Welsh, the booklet reinforces the importance of local, democratic campaigning – through elected bodies – against nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Anyone interested in encouraging – or badgering – their elected representatives to do more should get a copy.

'Nuclear Free Local Authorities Campaigning for Public Safety and Environmental Protection' is available (price £1.50) from the Nuclear Policy and Information Unit, Manchester City Council, Town Hall, Manchester M60 2LA.

SELLING FOR PEACE

Heddwch is looking for someone to sell advertising space in the paper. We believe there is a big untapped pool of potential advertisers who would be interested in contacting our 6,000 (or more) readers. This could generate income to subsidise the considerable cost of publication and distribution.

If you would be willing to contact potential advertisers – in writing and by phone – please get in touch with Mary Jones (0792 774687). We would be prepared to offer a commission arrangement.

WHAT PEACE?

Over the few years since the end of the 'cold war', there seems to have been an increase in the number of 'local wars'. These have led to great suffering by civilian populations due to military killings, food shortages and the destruction of basic utilities. They have also resulted in terrible abuse of the environment.

I am reminded of an article I read in 1989 about the poor prospects for workers in the arms industries. At about the same time a NATO leader stated that the Soviet Union was no longer an enemy but that the 'establishment' must look for a new enemy.

When arms manufacture and sales are reduced, the profits of a number of national and multinational companies are threatened. The controllers of these companies appear to have considerable influence in the world. They can mobilise the workforces to resist cuts in arms expenditure. They can get round the arms trade embargoes. Can they influence groups of people to change power structures in potentially unstable countries by military means?

It is obvious from news reports that in the 'small wars' that are being fought in our world, armaments and ammunition are readily available, yet the people are starving. Aid charities contribute food, medical supplies and technical aid to the civilian population while the same population is being killed by new weapons.

Britain has a Civil Service organisation called the Defence Export Sales Organisation which employs about 100 Civil Servants to facilitate the sales of arms by British manufacturing companies to foreign regimes.

These armaments are used to kill people. Our Government sanctions these arms sales. We elect our Government. We are involved in the killing that we see reported on the news bulletins, in the 'local' wars.

To stop wars, we must stop the arms trade.

Rod Stallard



On the spot – Bob Aldridge outside the Atomic Weapons Establishment

Bob Aldridge visited Wales in June and took part in the weekly vigil at the Cardiff Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), where Trident warheads are made.

Before quitting the nuclear industry in 1973, Aldridge worked on the US Trident system. Since then he has been a tireless campaigner for peace.

On a visit to the Cardiff Peace Shop, he described the British Trident as no more than 'an extension of the US Trident system – a forward base for the US system.'

The British Trident missiles are being leased from America and Britain is buying the US Mark 4 re-entry vehicle which protects the warhead on its descent through the atmosphere.

The warhead (made at Cardiff, Aldermaston and Burghfield) is a

'clone' of the American W76. The 16 missile launching tubes on HMS Vanguard were made in California by Westinghouse and Bob Aldridge is convinced that the firing control system in the submarines will be designed or made in the USA.

Once operational, the British submarines will rely on the American extra low frequency radio system for communication at depths below about 50 feet. Before it could fire his missiles, the submarine's commander would depend on the US 'Navstar' satellite network to get an accurate 'fix' on his position.

The targets allocated to Britain's submarines are selected by US intelligence, using spy satellites. Even the missile trajectories would be worked out in America.

'Britain has been working with the US on testing bombs since the first bomb was designed,' Bob Aldridge

BOMB DESIGNER AGAINST TRIDENT

An American who worked on the design and testing of nuclear weapons plans a transatlantic anti-Trident network.

said. And he warned that America and Britain were pressing ahead with submarine-launched missile systems in spite of cuts in other nuclear weapons.

In order to stop Trident, peace workers in America and Britain need to co-operate. 'It would be much more newsworthy and impressive if an action in Cardiff was in solidarity with big actions all over the world.'

Another aim is to co-ordinate research so that peace campaigners can anticipate developments, rather than simply react to government decisions.

Copies of Bob Aldridge's 'Trident Resisters' Handbook' and information about the Anti-Trident Network are available from Rae Street, Calder Cottage, Hare Hill Road, Littleborough OL15 9HG (0706 378043)

Now for the good news: Wales rejects the Tories

The election brought mixed blessings for us in the disarmament movement. Once again the electorate rejected the Conservatives, with only 25 per cent voting for them; nevertheless they held onto 6 seats.

The Labour Party lost and gained seats and remains far and away the biggest party, with 25 MPs whereas Plaid Cymru gained one from the Liberal democrats with election of Cynog Dafis the first 'green' MP in Britain and a life long supporter of CND.

The Liberal Democrats ended with only one seat, losing not only Geraint Howells in Ceredigion but

Richard Livsey's seat in Brecon, this latter to the Tories by a handful of votes. Richard did not always agree with us, but was always helpful and supportive, when asked – which is more than could be said about some MPs in Wales.

The overall picture is that despite some set-backs we still have many supporters from Wales in Parliament and some were in action within days of the election, raising questions about low flying. Therefore, we are still well placed to keep disarmament on the agenda.

Should our MPs fail us, we now have the luxury of a CND member of the House of Lords, with the elevation of Dafydd Elis Thomas!

But with a little bit of co-operation from the opposition parties we could have cleared the Tories from Wales. Seats such as Brecon and Radnor, the Vale of Glamorgan – and even Wyn Roberts' seat in Conwy – could have been held or gained if sectarianism

had been overcome and co-operation broken out amongst the anti-Tory parties.

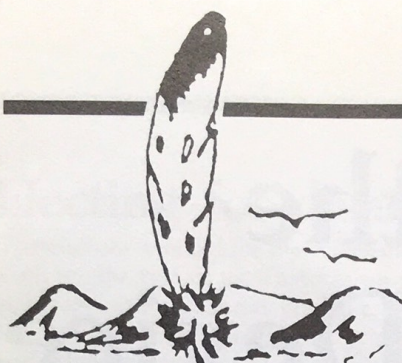
Many of Wales's politicians find it easier to disagree than to work together. I don't believe we have the luxury of time to indulge our egos in this way.

One of the most welcome developments was the Plaid/Green alliance in Gwent which if allowed to continue and take root could create the basis of a new politics for Wales.

Life, if it's about anything, is about renewal, about taking the best of the old, learning from our mistakes and improving and creating new structures and ideas to take us forward. It may not be popular to quote Marx but he was correct when he stated 'the only constant is change'.

We in the peace movement must never be afraid of change. It's time for us to seize the time.

Bob Cole



SUPPORT THE SHOSHONE

In September two Native American women will be touring Wales as part of a campaign to gain support for their struggle against nuclear bomb tests in Nevada.

The British and United States governments continue to conduct nuclear tests on Western Shoshone land, Newe Sogobia. Over 700 underground explosions have taken place since 1945.

Representatives of the Western Shoshone and the U.S. government signed the treaty of Ruby Valley in 1863. It wasn't particularly advantageous to the Western Shoshone but it recognised their territorial sovereignty and protected their aboriginal rights, i.e. their right to live on the land and survive from the land. That Treaty became law.

Today the U.S. has usurped almost 90 per cent of Western Shoshone lands using land grabbing strategies

not permitted by the Treaty. In 1979 the U.S. Secretary of the Interior accepted money on behalf of the Western Shoshone Nation as compensation for their stolen land. But the Western Shoshone never agreed to sell the land and have refused to accept the money for it.

Nuclear tests are carried out when the wind is blowing away from California and Las Vegas and towards Eastern Nevada and Utah. Western Shoshone tribal lands and reservations lie in this direction.

In parts of Utah, childhood leukaemia rates more than twice the national average have been documented. Over half of all underground tests have leaked radiation into the air and the test area has large craters caused by these supposedly safe explosions.

Ground water on the site is contaminated by tritium and plutonium.

It is probable that the contaminated water could move offsite in the order of 100's of years. Plutonium contaminants are radioactive and capable of causing cancer for 200,000 years.

The Western Shoshone have consistently resisted the destruction of their land by trying to negotiate with the U.S. government, conducting court cases, lobbying politicians, speaking tours, being arrested on the test site, opening peace camps/gatherings on the land, holding workshops and leading healing ceremonies.

Carrie and Mary Dann lost a 17 year court battle in June 1991. They have been asserting Western Shoshone national Sovereignty in the face of charges of trespass on land they and their grandmothers have used for hundreds of years.

On April 10 this year a group of

cowboys, accompanied by government officials, attempted to impound nationalised Western Shoshone cattle at the Dann Ranch. Carrie Dann climbed into the loading chute between the cattle and the truck, the men backed off.

What You Can Do:

- Write to the British government protesting at Britain's continuing nuclear testing programme.

- Join the Western Shoshone to stop nuclear testing in Nevada Oct. 2-12 or carry out support actions here.

- Support the September tour of Wales: 23rd Cardiff, 24th Aberystwyth, 25th Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Ideas for publicising the tour, media links, help with planning are welcome. Contact Sian Evans, 5 Heath St. Riverside, Cardiff, CF1 8LE (0222 396563).

Earth Summit 'bush-whacked'

The Earth Summit in Rio, never likely to achieve a great deal, turned into a fiasco with the U.S. wrecking almost every avenue of progress. Rather than being 'the first step in a positive process' as John Major claims, it has actually widened the gap between North and South and produced pitifully weak environmental conventions on global warming and biodiversity.

Many crucial issues were pushed off the agenda altogether: debt, fair trade, over-consumption in the North and population control in the South. And from the very start of the

negotiations, some two years ago, the US insisted that no military issues should be discussed at all.

The World's biggest ever Conference on Environment and Development was not allowed to discuss military damage to the environment, during manoeuvres or war; the pollution caused by the whole nuclear cycle, from mining through to testing; the hazard of nuclear weapons and reactors at sea, particularly those abandoned at the bottom of the ocean; the detrimental effect on development of the international arms trade; or, perhaps the most

crucial of all, the need to transfer resources from a military sector which currently spends 800 billion dollars worldwide every year while 14 million young children die of hunger and easily preventable disease, with a further billion living in abject poverty.

United States negotiators went through all the proposals for Agenda 21 before the conference began. This is the document which sets out a plan of action for governments to take us through to the 21st Century.

In line with the 'ten commandments' contained in a White House

memo, the negotiators deleted all references to links between poverty and environmental degradation; all suggestions of further controls on transnational companies; anything which might cost the US money or jobs; and any mention of the word 'military'.

Perhaps the most positive aspect of the whole Earth Summit process has been the experience in working together gained by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from around the world, attempting to strengthen the Conference agenda. This culminated in the biggest gathering ever of peace, green and development organisations which took place in Rio at the Global Forum.

There has been a great deal of media coverage in Britain of environmental and development issues and even occasional criticisms of the lack of discussion about excessive military spending.

These are developments on which we can build. We must strengthen our links with other campaigns, both within Britain and internationally and we must push the Government to fulfil any commitments made at Rio and to take further, bolder steps towards achieving 'real security'.

**Linda Walker, One World Centre,
13 Paton Street, Manchester M1
2BA. (061 236 1588)**



Princess Di in Sub Scandal Shock!

I've always been annoyed by the British government's decision to maintain its own nuclear arsenal, and the Trident programme, as an expensive and pointless increase in that arsenal, is particularly infuriating.

So it was important for me to attend the naming ceremony of HMS Vanguard, Britain's first Trident submarine, to demonstrate, disrupt, and generally do anything I could to say 'not in my name!'. The naming ceremony took place earlier this year at the Vickers shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, where Vanguard was constructed. Vickers had billed the event as a celebration for the town, with management, VIPs and even royalty in the shape of Princess Diana, attending. Also present were more than 300 anti-nuclear campaigners, who mounted a vigil at the shipyard gates as the toffs filed in.

The high point of the day came as Princess Diana arrived, to be greeted by a group from Faslane Peace Camp and Southampton Sea Action who promptly sat down and blockaded the royal limousine. The Princess' car was delayed as police moved the demonstrators, and Di (wearing a peach-coloured dress and matching hat) did not appear amused.

The police were kept busy dealing with sit-downs and dancing in the gateways throughout the morning, until the moment when Di actually named the submarine - cue for a silent die-in by the demonstrators. Following the die-in an alternative naming ceremony was conducted by CND Vice Chair Alistair Mackie, after which the demonstrators formed up into a procession to march around the shipyard and through Barrow.

By a happy coincidence the march arrived at the main Vickers' offices just as Princess Diana was about to leave, causing her to flee ignominiously through the back exit rather than risk another confrontation with the peace campaigners.

All in all the demo wasn't as big or as memorable as previous CND events in Barrow, but it left Vickers - and Princess Di - in no doubt that Trident is unacceptable to the peace movement and it left me, for one, glad to have been there.

Peter Burt

Disinvent the Dastardly Device

The Yeltsin/Bush deal on Nuclear Weapons will see the biggest cuts in the world's nuclear arsenals ever. This is wonderful news for everyone who has been working for nuclear disarmament over the past decades. The arms reductions involved are on a scale that we were told, only a short while ago, were "unachievable" and hopelessly "pie-in-the-sky" to argue or campaign for. Now it's happening - the redundancy of huge quantities of these terrible weapons is universally recognised and their decommissioning will soon be under way.

Even some of the pasts' more absurd expostulations in defence of the nuclear arms race I notice are also being chucked on the scrapheap alongside the hardware. One of the favourites, the concept of "Mutually Assured Destruction" is probably not the only case where an acronym was more accurate than the word combination

that gave birth to it. But it surely epitomises most vividly the mania that drove the arms race. Now it is being given the boot. Military experts and international strategists are appearing on the TV, to tell us that "Mutually Assured destruction" never was such a good idea really - that the build up of enough weapons to kill every human being on the planet many times over probably was a bit mad.

However, as some old atomic warrior thinking is abandoned, other tired arguments and principles are being re-set in nuclear bunker thick concrete. Perhaps, the most hackneyed and threadbare is "Well, nuclear weapons will always be with us, now. You cannot disinvent them, so we have to keep some".

This is the feeble thinking of the Lemming-minded. It has to be resisted by the Peace movement and all those who want to see this planet have a future. If it was really the case that human

beings cannot resolve to work together to renounce particular options, and devise ways of ensuring that we all play our parts in achieving agreed objectives, then we would indeed be doomed.

Apart from the nuclear nightmare, the coming century is going to present enormous challenges on the environmental and development fronts. Our only salvation is going to be working more closely together and agreeing to effectively "disinvent" some of the most harmful technology that has been produced. Atomic weapons were a terrible, wasteful mistake that will always threaten Armageddon as long as they are around. They deserve to be "disinvented".

However, I am not proposing a new slogan "Disinvent the Dastardly Device". I will stick with "Ban the Bomb".

David Morris MEP
Chair of CND Cymru

The real cost of Trident

Scrapping Trident would save £17,000 million - far more than the official total cost of the programme.

The Government published its figures for the cost of Trident at the end of April - £10,500 million at 1991-92 prices.

But an analysis by Greenpeace reveals that two thirds of the real costs have been left out of the official calculations.

Greenpeace say that over 30 years the Trident programme will cost the taxpayer more than £33,000 million. The huge difference is explained by what the Government has left out:

- Lifetime running costs of four submarines (over £11,000 million)
- Work at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (Aldermaston, Burghfield and Cardiff) (£1,400 million)
- Trident's share of the AWE's running costs to 2030 (almost £6,500 million)

The Greenpeace figures themselves do not cover everything,

for example, they leave out the cost of disposing of radioactive materials from Trident warheads and submarines. So far, no-one can estimate these costs because the Government has no idea how it will dispose of these materials.

• The Royal Navy has plans to use Trident in a 'tactical' role - in other words, nuclear missiles could be used

against third world countries. Some Trident missiles may be fitted with single 'tactical' warheads, which would cause destruction on the scale of Hiroshima.

Whatever its configuration, Trident represents a massive unilateral escalation of Britain's total nuclear strike force, as the table below shows.

	Polaris	Trident
No. of submarines	4	4
No. of missiles per boat	16	16
No. of warheads per missile	2	up to 8
Theoretical no. of warheads on 4 subs	128	512
No. of warheads actually deployed	96	none yet
No. of targets	48	up to 512
Warhead yield	40-100Kt	100Kt
Missile yield	80-200Kt	up to 800Kt
Yield of four submarines (Hiroshima equivalents)	300-750	up to 4000
Missile range (miles)	2500	6000
Warhead accuracy (yards)	1000-1500	within 200
Missile flight time (minutes)	up to 15	5-12

Listings

AUGUST

1st/8th CND Cymru stall at National Eisteddfod. Help still needed. Ring 0970 611994 with offers!

6th Hiroshima Day

12-13th Wimmin On The Road For Peace visit Wylfa (see article on page 7)

16th Wimmin On The Road For Peace visit Caerwent (see article on page 7)

17th Wimmin On The Road For Peace visit Pontyates, Llanelli (see article on page 7)

17th Kite Flying Kidwelly Castle 3pm Organised by Freedom of the Skies campaign against low flying. Contact 00269 861290 for details.

SEPTEMBER

5th CND Cymru Cyngor

24/25/26 Stop Nuclear Testing on Our Land Speaking tour by Shoshone women. Cardiff 24th (Info. 0792 774687) Aberystwyth 25th (Info. 0570 45576) Blaenau Ffestiniog 26th (Info. 0766 831356)

26th Arms Conversion Day School. Swansea. Sponsored by David

Morris MEP and Adult Education Dept. UCW Swansea. An opportunity to learn from experts in this field...with plenty of time for discussion on an issue which is vital to the development of our campaign in Wales. Ring 0792 774687 for details.

OCTOBER

10th Trident Rally Cardiff. Details from The Peace Shop, Cardiff Tel. 0222 489260.

NOVEMBER

21st UNA International Fair. Temple of Peace, Cardiff

28/29 British CND Annual Conference. Cardiff Institute of Higher Education, Cyncoed, Cardiff.

To celebrate Wales's 10th Anniversary as a nuclear-free zone CND Cymru is hosting the CND Annual Conference in Cardiff.

As the host we will be providing accommodation for delegates as well as arranging a social on the Saturday evening. A local working group is being formed to begin some of the many tasks involved

in hosting such a large event

This major event will be a good focus for our campaign in Wales but we need the help of all our members and supporters in and around Cardiff to make it a success!

We need to hear NOW from anyone willing to

• help with planning

• offer accommodation

• be a steward at conference

Please contact CND Cymru Campaign Worker Mary Jones on Swansea (0792) 774687 with offers of help or further information - or leave a message at The Peace Shop, 56 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff, Tel. 0222 489260.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Following Bob Cole's retirement as General Secretary, CND Cymru has been working out new ways of co-ordinating the campaign and keeping in touch with members, affiliates and groups.

The new General Secretary, Jill Stallard, will concentrate on the internal co-ordination of the campaign (Tel. 05505 260). Our worker, Mary Jones, will co-ordinate public campaigning and contacts with the press (Tel. 0792 774687).

The vice-chairs will be responsible for keeping in touch with campaign groups and individual members in their areas. They are - North Wales: Ann Hall (Tel. 0766 831356); South Wales: Brian Jones (Tel. 0792 830330); Mid and West Wales: Medi James (Tel. 0970 832725), Ian Campbell (Tel. 0970 871360), Rod Stallard (Tel. 05505 260).

CND Cymru

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament



AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR A NON-MILITARISED WALES AND A PEACEFUL WORLD.

Contributions for Heddwch should be sent to
*Bob Cole, Brynlltyd, Tanygrisiau,
Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 3TW.*

To advertise in Heddwch, please contact
Mary Jones, 9 Idris Terrace, Plasmarl, Swansea (0792 774687).

For campaigning literature or general information, write to
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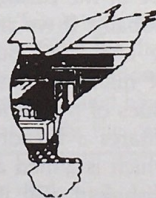
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