



Walking Towards the Light

The scale of the parliamentary rebellion against Trident replacement on March 14th must give us all confidence that we are winning the argument against nuclear weapons. Forced to rely on Conservative Party support to get the vote through, the government faced the largest back-bench rebellion on a domestic issue since Labour came to power in 1997. Indeed, the size was of historic significance: it was also the biggest rebellion on defence policy since Labour first entered government in 1924.



John Cox, Jill Evans MEP, Dai Davies MP, Julie Morgan MP, Cllr. Sue Lent and Cllr. Ray Davies lead the March against Trident. Cardiff February 17th

Even better news is that this parliamentary opposition is just the tip of a massive iceberg which represents greater opposition to nuclear weapons than ever before. The size of that iceberg was revealed, in an early March opinion poll as 72% of the population being opposed to proceeding with a replacement of Trident. Our work over the past months has shown us that the iceberg is made up of people from all walks of life, from trade unions and faith communities, from across all political parties and from people who oppose Trident replacement on grounds of morality, legality, costs and security. Those arguments have convinced people that our future safety cannot be provided by weapons of mass destruction and that they are irrelevant to our security needs. Many have demonstrated that their minds are open to change, to new ideas, now our government has to come in line and abandoned its Cold War thinking.

Reversible

What is striking is the obvious lack of confidence displayed by the government on this issue - it is clearly aware that it is on the back foot. This is not surprising as it has been losing the debate throughout the country and numerous votes on television and radio programmes. This is nicely

summed up by the Foreign Secretary, who pointed out that the decision to replace Trident was 'not irreversible'. Indeed it is not. We are working to reverse that decision and we will be successful.

Nuclear Free World

There must be two strings to our campaigning bow in the months ahead. The pressure is on to encourage the government to pursue genuine multilateral disarmament initiatives. The Defence Committee Report on Trident replacement called for a 'stronger forward narrative' on multilateral disarmament, and internationally there have been calls from Kissinger, Gorbachev, ElBaradei, Annan and Blix for progress towards a nuclear free world.

The second part of the government's motion on March 14th called for progress on our nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

commitments, and this can be helpful to our campaigning, providing we take care not to endorse erroneous government claims to have made progress already on disarmament. Our goals for the next phase of campaigning are absolutely clear: we must organise to reverse the decision to replace Trident and to

advance multilateral disarmament initiatives.

Think Different

We are in a strong position to achieve these goals because the alliances we have helped to build against Trident replacement are broad and strong. And we can build on them further. Our case is based on a practical vision of a different future, where we can take steps to shape a world which moves away from brutality and mass destruction. We are not willing to accept government policies which will lead to nuclear proliferation and ultimately nuclear war, neither are the majority of the British people. The vote on March 14th was a key step on the road to that victory, for a world of peace and justice, free from the fear of nuclear annihilation. Take pride in that achievement, and carry it forward.

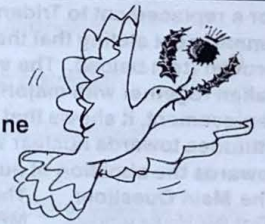
Kate Hudson, Chair British CND

inside:

- * What the Assembly can do
- * Jane Davidson AM speaks out
- * Faslane365 News
- * Post election Scotland
- * Youth Action
- * and more

Nuclear Free Future

The nuclear weapons issue received very little attention in the recent National Assembly for Wales elections. This was in contrast to the Scottish parliament elections where the Faslane nuclear submarine base is high on the political agenda. A strong anti-nuclear stance was one of the reasons given for the Scottish National Party (SNP)'s strong polling and ultimate success in becoming the biggest party in the Scottish Parliament. It represents a big step forward for the abolition of nuclear weapons and although defence is still reserved to the Westminster Government, there are ways that the Scottish Parliament can make it difficult for British nuclear weapons to remain in Scotland.



The election result has sent a clear message to the Labour government that its policies of more nuclear weapons and continuing wars are unacceptable to the Scottish people. It also shows that taking a strong stance against nuclear weapons makes a party electable and not the other way around.

The post-election SNP cooperation agreement with the Scottish Green Party has made opposition to the building of

new nuclear power stations the top core issue of concurrence between them. Their anti nuclear weapons and nuclear power stance was described at the launch of the agreement as "the foundations for a progressive new politics for Scotland".

There have been 745 arrests at Faslane during the year long blockade - and we're only half way through! Thousands more have protested at the site from all walks of life, parts of Britain and beyond.

If it is to grow in both power and status, the National Assembly for Wales cannot continue to ignore issues which affect all our futures and on which Wales should take a stance even if it does not yet have the powers to act.

It is simply unacceptable that the renewal of Trident, which would go against the British commitment to disarmament made 37 years ago in signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty and would cost

£billions of taxpayers' money - has not even been discussed in the National Assembly.

We need to grow up as a nation and take responsibility for our future - in energy and in international affairs. We in the peace movement have to make sure that the new Assembly Members in our Senedd take these issues seriously and work to make Wales nuclear free.

Jill Evans, Chair CND Cymru

Why I am Opposed to Trident

Jane Davidson AM

When I took the decision to join the Labour Party in 1983 the party had rejected the use of nuclear weapons. Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, I had joined CND marches and lain down in Queen Street on more than one occasion – at least one of these times was when Queen Street still had traffic! I hadn't previously been a member of a political party, although working as a teacher in the early Thatcher onslaught was definitely politicising me in the opposite direction. It was Michael Foot's commitment to unilateral disarmament which finally persuaded me to throw in my lot with the Labour Party.



The recent decision by parliament to back the replacement of Trident is in my view wrong and I strongly support Helena Kennedy QC that "a nuclear strike cannot make distinctions between combatants and non-combatants – so innocent civilians face death, irradiation, burns, cancers, destruction of their environment and fallout on neighbouring states – the whole vista is too terrible to contemplate".

We need nations to work together to combat climate change and it is within our capacity to address international difficulties by means of diplomacy and persuasion. Nuclear weapons are not only unnecessary, but the continuing commitment to maintain them in the so called "strong states", I believe gets in the way. I strongly believe that there is no requirement to have any nuclear bases or weapons on British soil or in British waters.

The Trident missile programme was devised in the context of the 1960s and the Cold War, but now that is over and who is supposed to be deterred by these weapons, and against whom could they potentially be used? It seems to me that any potential victims of these weapons are not the leaders of a superpower or "rogue state", but innocent civilians with no part to play in the affairs where such weapons may be used.

The 1983 Labour Manifesto stated an intention to "Cancel the Trident Programme, refuse to deploy Cruise missiles and [to] begin discussions for the removal of nuclear bases from Britain, which is to be completed within the lifetime of the Labour Government". I stand by this principle to this day. In the new political landscape the post May elections, these questions can, and should, be asked of the new administration in Scotland; they can and should be asked of the candidates seeking high office in the Labour Party and can and should be asked by parliament before making a specific spending commitment. Michael Foot told me last month that he has not changed his view. I have not changed mine. I will continue to campaign alongside others in the Labour Party to try and change enough views to reverse this decision.

No Trident Replacement

On 14th March, 161 MPs voted against the government motion calling for a replacement to Trident to go ahead, and 167 voted for an amendment stating that the case for Trident replacement has not been proven (text below). The scale of opposition is extremely significant. Taken together with majority public opinion against Trident replacement, it shows that there has been a sea change in British attitudes towards nuclear weapons. This is a key step on the road towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, in Britain and world-wide.

The Main Question: That this House supports the Government's decisions, as set out in the White Paper The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent, to take the steps necessary to maintain the UK's minimum strategic nuclear deterrent beyond the life of the existing system and to take further steps towards meeting the UK's disarmament responsibilities under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The following Welsh MPs voted against this motion: Martin Caton (Gower), Dai Davies (Blaenau Gwent), Paul Flynn (Newport West), Dai Havard (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney), Siân James, (Swansea East), Elfyn Llwyd (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy), Julie Morgan (Cardiff North), Lembedi Ôpik (Montgomeryshire), Adam Price (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr), Betty Williams (Conwy), Hywel Williams (Caernarfon), Mark Williams (Ceredigion), Roger Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire), Jenny Willott (Cardiff Central)

The Proposed Amendment: Exactly as the Main Question as above then: 'but believes that the case is not yet proven and remains unconvinced of the need for an early decision.' Welsh MPs who voted for this amendment were the same as for the Main Question, with the addition of Chris Ruane (Vale of Clwyd) who was absent for the Main Question vote.

Why can't Rhodri be more like Ken?

Ken Livingstone and Rhodri Morgan have much in common. Both gained office despite Tony Blair and both have made no secret of their wish for his early retirement. Rhodri's desire for "clear red water" between Westminster and Wales and Ken's left-Labour policies clearly indicate that they share a similar outlook on a whole range of domestic and international issues.

Yet their records, as leaders of the London and Welsh Assemblies, are very different. Ken, as Mayor of London, has used his position as a platform to oppose Tony Blair's policies on Iraq and Trident and to provide backing for numerous good causes and campaigns that most members of CND Cymru would support.

He has appeared many times on TV and radio arguing against the invasion of Iraq and the proposed upgrading of the Trident nuclear weapons system and on Stop the War and CND platforms.

The Mayor of London's office has hosted the worldwide Mayors for Peace conference in Britain and in May 2005 was part of the delegation of representatives from 23 countries at the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT) opening at the United Nations in New York. Incidentally, even Torfaen County Borough Council, was represented at that event by Cllr. Yvonne Warren. What a pity that Wales was not represented at this event or any other occasions when the voice of Wales could and should have been heard for peace.

Why has Rhodri not spoken up for Wales in the same way? The only two reasons (excuses) that I have heard are that (a) this would not

be supported by cabinet colleagues, (b) such activities would be outside the remit of the National Assembly.

The latter is easily answered: although the National Assembly has limited powers to do anything, there is absolutely no restraint on what it can say. If, for example, CND Cymru were to be asking the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to halt nuclear-related activities at (say) St. Athans, we might expect a brush-off on the grounds that it was outside WAG's jurisdiction. Nevertheless, there is nothing in the statute book to prevent the National Assembly, should it wish to do so, adopting a statement regretting these nuclear-related activities and calling on the Westminster government to implement its obligations as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The first reason/excuse for inactivity was blown asunder by WAG Education Minister Jane Davidson in a pre-election TV interview when she confirmed her personal opposition to Trident replacement. In fact, all but one of the retiring members of the WAG cabinet are known to be personally opposed both to the invasion of Iraq and Trident replacement. So why has Rhodri remained silent?

The real answer, I fear, is a subliminal subservience to Westminster and the Labour Party machine. Whereas Ken Livingstone stood up to the Labour Party machine and won – through his election by a popular vote, Rhodri's advancement has relied on his remaining more or less acceptable to the Labour Party hierarchy in London. The irony is that this has become his Achilles' heel.

Had he been bolder and, for example, resisted the imposition of a "New Labour" candidate on Blaenau Gwent, he could have had a Labour AM there today - possibly the same person as now - and his Labour Party would have suffered less from its association with warmonger Blair.

But there are straws in the wind. During her interview, Jane Davidson claimed that Rhodri had approved her 'personal' statement in opposition to Trident. Rhodri himself made public (what we all knew anyway) that he 'probably' would have voted against the Iraq war. We must hope that whoever heads the next Welsh Assembly Government, Wales will speak for peace alongside the London Assembly during its next four years.

John Cox
CND Cymru Vice Chair

Trident 'destruction improvements' underway

Trident is being secretly upgraded to increase accuracy and ability to attack a wider range of targets.

While Government ministers have repeatedly denied there are plans to refurbish Britain's nuclear warheads, and argue that it will be up to the next parliament to make a decision, the MoD has now admitted that a new firing device developed by the US is to be installed in Britain's nuclear weapons system by scientists at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston in Berkshire, England. Analysts said the device - called the Arming, Fusing and Firing (AF&F) system -

would make the Trident system more effective because the weapons' power, impact and radioactive fallout could be changed depending on the target. '...Hans Kristensen, of the Federation of American Scientists' Nuclear Information Project, commented: "The bottom line is that the new [device], which we now know is being added to the British system, is part of an effort to increase the warfighting effectiveness [of the Trident missiles]."

"It will broaden the range of targets that can be held at risk with the weapon." The new firing mechanism would make the weapon more accurate and nuclear bombs could be exploded with relatively little radioactive fallout.' John Ainslie, coordinator of Scottish CND, said it was "astonishing" that the MoD was secretly upgrading the existing Trident warhead without telling parliament. Source: The Guardian Richard Norton-Taylor. 14th March 2007 [www.politics.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,329744446-110]

Rebellious Scots?



What the Scottish Nationalist Party victory in the Scottish elections means in terms of how they will run the devolved executive as a minority administration, remains unclear at the time of writing. What is certain is that the situation has the potential to have a positive impact on the cause of nuclear disarmament worldwide.

What makes Scotland significant is not (sadly) any very marked superiority in progressive politics. True, Scottish opinion polls on Trident regularly show a much greater opposition than generally in Britain, but little is translated into action. We are as afflicted by the culture of contentment as anywhere else in Britain. A good deal of anti-Trident activity in Scotland is actually generated by people who live or originate elsewhere. The significance is down to the siting of the submarine base at Faslane/Coulport, which has meant that protest and disarmament action has stood a better chance of affecting the public consciousness, and to the devolutionary arrangements.

I have deliberately avoided the term "devolutionary settlement" for the precise reason that the nature of the arrangements is more fluid than generally imagined. A good example of this was the stance taken by Jack McConnell last year over the treatment of asylum seekers. Immigration matters are "reserved" to Westminster but with his fairly outspoken criticism of Home Office policy the First Minister was able to have some, temporary, influence on how the issue was to be handled. The message was clear. Strong public pressure can blur the effective distinction between reserved and non-reserved matters and transform the dynamic of devolution.

Trident highlights these tensions. The special protocols on defence issues which give final say to Whitehall on issues otherwise under the control of the Holyrood Parliament, and which affect Trident, e.g., environment, economic planning and roads, tend to highlight the problems with the devolutionary arrangements. Even the Scots who do not favour constitutional independence are alienated by a positive decision to ignore public opinion in Scotland, especially since it is a decision raising critical questions of international law.

Since September 11th 2001, a recognition has begun that security is not a one-department or even two-department reactive issue but one permeating decision-making across government and society. Scottish devolved government, unlike its Westminster counterpart, has the potential to integrate the concern essential for security in the modern world. We are entitled to consider holistically what makes us safe, whether it is sustainability in the primary sector of the economy, the status of a society working credibly for global harmony and equality, or the fostering of communities based on participation and economic justice, or the development of models of active citizenship. Trident ties us to the past. Chaining Scots to Trident means the deprivation of their fundamental right to take responsibility for their own security, since it foists on them under the guise of security a weapon system designed (however ignorantly) to guarantee interests which are alien to them.

For anti-Trident activists within and outside Scotland there are clear implications. A new administration may be so pre-occupied with its own survival, or its own mainstream credibility, that ethical issues such as Trident are pushed to the margins. We must make sure that this issue does not drop off the agenda. This is precisely not the time for folding our arms and leaving it to the politicians.

I hope that the Parliament and the new First Minister will be hearing from those outside of Scotland that the eyes of the world are on them in expectation. Is anyone up for organising a non-Scott delegation to Holyrood with the simple message: "You are the key"?

David Mackenzie

heddwch action: For a start, why not write to MSP First Minister Alex Salmond, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP Scotland

nuclear power

The world's longest seesaw ride?

Now in its third decade of action against Wylfa B, the PAWB (People Against Wylfa B) campaign against the construction of a new nuclear power station on Ynys Môn continues to seesaw alarmingly from hope to frustration and back again (but we never despair!). Heartened by the success of the Greenpeace court action against the government, which confirmed that the latest energy 'consultation' had been a sham, a public meeting in Menai Bridge on 17th February drew a good crowd to hear Hugh Richards of WANA and Neil Crumpton of FoE Cymru.

However the months of March and April, preceding May's Assembly elections, were depressing. The candidates, the unions and the press focussed on the question of jobs to the exclusion of other crucial issues. In doing this they were playing exactly the role demanded of them by the pro-nuclear lobby's PR campaigners. The statistics they used were alarmist, in that they did not take into account the continued employment of the existing Wylfa A workforce in decommissioning. They also included the figures of the workforce at Anglesey Aluminium at Holyhead, even after the manager of that plant put out a public statement saying that the future looked robust and was NOT dependent on nuclear new-build.

Electioneering

The Labour candidate, Jonathon Austin, launched a gung-ho pro-nuclear (and pro-low-flying by RAF jets, incidentally!) campaign with adverts in the press deriding Plaid Cymru for being anti-nuclear. Instead of combating these arguments effectively, Plaid candidate Ieuan Wyn Jones came out in conditional SUPPORT of nuclear rebuild, an astonishing volte-face which caused dismay amongst many Plaid supporters and amongst PAWB members of all political persuasions. The only candidate to oppose Wylfa B was Mandi Abrahams, a Lib Dem. The Greens, who have been vocal opponents of Wylfa B, were only available as a list-choice. At a Llanelwini hustings organised by Climate Chaos, most of the candidates (well, the Tory, James Roach, did not turn up) revealed that they had not done their homework on the environment, for

example by investigating what kind of reactors were in the frame for new-build. The pro-nuclear candidates claimed public support throughout their campaign, but during radio phone-ins the voices were overwhelmingly against Wylfa B.

Appeal to Plaid Cymru

Well, come 3rd May 2007 Jonathon Austin's rabid pro-nuclear stance only brought him 17.4% of the vote. Ieuan Wyn Jones managed to hang on to his seat in the Assembly... so PAWB now appeals to all Plaid members to press for a consistent and coherent anti-nuclear policy in the future, and to anti-nuclear Labour Party members and trade unionists to make their voices heard also, especially as all sorts of coalitions are being mooted in the wake of the election.

Get on board

PAWB campaigners feel a revival of anti-nuclear sentiment on the island is under way and have a growing number of people prepared to lend practical support to the campaign. The lessons are still there to be learned. Twenty years after rain from Chernobyl fell on the hill farms of North Wales, the restriction on movements of sheep has just been extended for another 10 years.

Never forget. The seesaw is definitely coming down on our side, this time, so please jump aboard and lend your weight!

Phil Steele

PAWB t: 01248 490 715

phil_steele@btinternet.com



St Athan Military Academy and the Future of Wales

In January 2007, the Westminster government announced the success of the St Athan and Metrix bid to establish a new military training academy in the Vale of Glamorgan. In Wales, the first Minister Rhodri Morgan and the economic minister Andrew Davies sprayed Champagne outside the Senedd in celebration. The impression given in the Western Mail newspaper was that this was just about the best thing that had ever happened to Wales: £15 billion worth of contract and around 5,000 jobs.

But just how will this military academy contribute to the Assembly's proud goal of achieving sustainable development?

What exactly is Wales committing itself to when it signs onto the St Athan deal?

- * a future based on militarism?
- * a stand against the international victims of British military aggression?
- * a commitment to selling Welsh youth for military work?
- * an acceptance of 'green-washing' over genuine environmental accounting?
- * a commitment to military privatisation?
- * a welcome mat for the world's largest missile manufacturer?

What will be the impact of the academy on local quality of life – on traffic congestion, for example, and housing affordability? What will be the impact on Welsh education, and the social and political values that are taught to Welsh children and youth?

Those who are committed to a nuclear-free Wales should be aware that the Royal Navy's Maritime Engineering School, which contains the Nuclear Systems Group, is projected to move from HMS Sultan to St Athan by 2017. The Nuclear Systems Group trains the Naval Officers responsible for operating the nuclear submarines that are the cruel heart and bitter soul of Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system.



Faslane 365

heddwch action:

Meetings are planned to discuss the way forward for campaigning on this issue. Contact Cynefin y Werin: jamesmaiden@wcia.org.uk for more information on how to get involved. [www.cynefinywerin.org.uk]

International Youth Action Academy

26th-30th July Faslane nuclear base



Five days of workshops, action, networking and fun with young people from across Europe and Japan!

This summer, the European youth network for nuclear disarmament (or BANG: Ban All Nukes generation) will be holding an 'Action Academy' for young people from Britain and the rest of Europe, supported by Japanese students from Peaceboat, the 'Global University' and interacting with the Trident Ploughshares annual Coulport Camp.

Those taking part will have the opportunity to learn and practice Non Violent Direct Action, creative campaigning and possibly a bit of rebel clowning too! The Academy will be based in Glasgow for two nights and at the Coulport Camp (quite near the Faslane Peace Camp) for the final three, with meetings with the peaceboat students and a talk from a Hibakusha (a survivor of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings) on the 27th and 28th.

The programme is flexible, allowing creative ideas from participants to be incorporated into the general action, with plenty of time for socialising and discussing ideas with people from other countries (including cooking together and camping!).

We will be showing the government that disapproval for weapons of mass destruction goes far beyond the Scottish and British borders, and that there is an international call for sanity and disarmament.

For the first 20 applicants, accommodation (in own tents) and food is free, and there will be a discount on travel costs for the under 28s (with priority for overseas travellers). So apply soon!

heddwch action: For more information or to apply, contact [Emily emfremman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emfremman@hotmail.co.uk)
For information about Faslane: [www.faslane365.org] and/or about Peace boat: [www.peaceboat.org]



We also need your help! Organisers, volunteers and media and financial support is essential if this project is going to be a success in getting the British Government to listen to reason. Please spread the word and contact the email address above if you want to help out!

Wrexham Peace Women

A new group has been set up in Wrexham under the working title 'Wrexham Women for Peace'. As women, we hope to bring a new dimension to peace campaigning in the area, and we will be working closely with existing peace networks. All women are welcome to join us. We will be campaigning against Trident replacement and for an end to army recruitment which targets children. For more information, call 0845 330 4505 or email wow@lists.riseup.net



CND Cymru Membership Secretary

Heartfelt thanks to Monica Bradley for her diligent work as CND Cymru Membership Secretary. She is standing down from the post for personal reasons and so now CND Cymru is looking for a new membership secretary. This voluntary task is computer based and materials and expenses are provided. If you are interested, contact John Cox, (page 6).

The NPT Preparatory Committee 2007

The British government statement to the 2007 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Prep Com held in Vienna from 30th April to 11th May, sought to defend the decision to replace Trident, stressing that it remains 'fully committed to a safer world free of nuclear weapons' and that the Trident replacement decision 'does not mean that an irreversible decision has been taken.' However, lack of government will to make a case for disarmament was highlighted when it stated 'we do not believe that the circumstances currently exist for the UK to unilaterally renounce our nuclear weapons' and despite this, failed to outline any clear initiatives or proposals for progressing multilateral disarmament negotiations.

The British statement also argued that the government does not prioritise non-proliferation over disarmament but the British Ambassador highlighted that Britain has ensured the strengthening of the non-proliferation pillar through 'a broad range of counter-proliferation tools (to) complement the provisions of the NPT'. However the government continues to oppose complementary tools for the disarmament pillar, such as a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which it argues 'could risk cutting across the existing NPT regime.'

The NPT Prep Com Chair included worries about nuclear arsenal modernisation in his summary on the final day:

"Concern and disappointment were voiced about plans to replace or modernise nuclear weapons and their means of delivery or platform, the increased role of nuclear weapons in strategic and military doctrines, and the possibility of lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons. In response to those concerns addressed to the United States and the United Kingdom, they provided their clarifications and explanations on their efforts towards nuclear disarmament. Concern was also expressed about nuclear cooperation with States not party to the NPT, and calls were made for adherence to obligations under the Treaty."

Reflecting upon the whole conference, Dr Rebecca Johnson of The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy commented informally that there had been 'many frustrating moments, but all in all this was a successful outcome, and it is a First (I think) to have the UK named and shamed (however mildly phrased) in the NPT context for its nuclear weapons programme. So much for the Foreign Office claiming there was no problem.'

heddwch action: This disappointing statement must be challenged; CND Cymru urges you to write to your MP and to the Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett, asking the government to reconsider its position on a Nuclear Weapons Convention. (See Page 6 for addresses). [www.acronym.org.uk]

note from the usa Mental Colonization

On some level we are what we have been taught. When my son Julian was just a tiny baby I realized that virtually everything I did and said was absorbed by him like a sponge. What a tremendous responsibility it is to be a parent.

I've spent most of my adult life trying to decolonize my mind. Between my own Republican military family's influences and living behind the barbed-wire gates of military bases, watching the airshows and parades all through my youth, I have a lot of militarism inside of me to sift through.

My own father's alcoholism and violent explosions gave me more to deal with. Climbing under desks, preparing for the nuclear attack from the Soviet Union that never came filled my little brain with more distorted images.

Corporate branding has to be washed away. How can I ever forget watching my Saturday baseball games on TV as a kid and having the beer commercials drummed into my head - from the land of sky blue waters.....

Or how about the book series I read as a kid - the 'We Were There' series of patriotic American warrior stories. We Were There at Lexington and Concord, The Alamo, The Battle of the Bulge. And then John Wayne movies, The Rifleman, Combat, Gunsmoke, and other TV shows filling my eager and half empty vessel with violent and imperialistic images of America saving the world from the Nazis and Communism. And today kids are learning that in order to 'fight the evils of terrorism' we must take extraordinary security steps here at home to ensure our protection - even if they shred the constitution.

So I have created an image for myself to explain how it happened - lift the lid on the head, pour, close the lid. The mind is now open for colonization. Please come right in and have a seat and make yourself at home.

So what is the reverse image for me? Lift the lid, stand on my head and drain the mind? Dig into the dusty file cabinets and corners of my brain and dental floss out all unwanted images? What about the hard to find mental plaque that is tough to get out? Is there a mind wash, like a mouth wash, that I can just use to rinse and cleanse my mind?

The bottom line is that I want my mind back. The corporate society might control everything around me but at least I can own my own mind. So I continue with my effort to decolonize my mind. It's a long rocky road home. I'm trying to enjoy the walk as best I can.

Bruce Gagnon

Global Network Against Weapons
& Nuclear Power in Space
[<http://www.space4peace.org>]
e: globalnet@mindspring.com

Faslane 365



Faslane 365 is a one year continuous peaceful blockade of the Trident base at Faslane from 1st October 2006 to 30th September 2007. Those taking part represent a wide range of local, national and even international group from all sections of civil society who come to Faslane committed to stay and make their visions for a just and peaceful future visible for at least two days.



19th March: Vikings from York blockaded both entrances to the Faslane nuclear submarine base. Spanish protesters sang, danced and shouted encouragement to the Vikings as 12 were arrested.



8th March: Clergy against Nuclear Arms The Bishop of Reading celebrated a Service opposite the gates of Faslane and spoke of how he applauded those who make a little trouble for those who want us to put our trust in evil nuclear weapons.



Alternativa Antimilitarista MOC from Spain did a colourful paint job at North Gate on 17th March. The enthusiastic participation of international groups emphasises just how Trident is an international, global issue that many people around the world actively resist. Scottish politicians need to bear in mind that if nuclear disarmament started in Scotland it would have massive international support.



13th April Trident Ploughshares blocked the road leading up to the South Gate. 24 people were arrested, and another 15 or so people took part in support roles and preparations.

26th March: French Group

Le benjamin du groupe, dans les bras de Thierry Le Clainche. The youngest child of the French group in the arms of Thierry Le Clainche

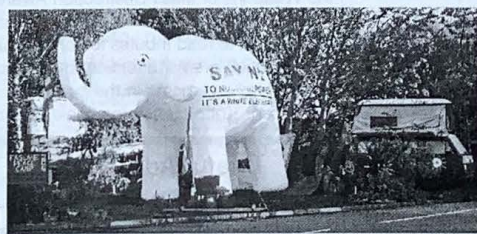


April 1st: Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA) A gaggle of Clowns from Aberystwyth, Byddin Boncars Clowniad Cymru (BBC Cymru) joined Scottish, Irish, English and International comrades from NUTO at Faslane to make safe nonsense of non-safe 'sense' - if only for a day.



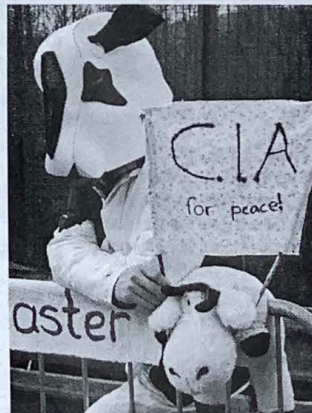
9th April Easter Monday: Flag waving cows and cowherds

The multi-national but mostly Swiss group CIA (Cows in Action) were brought to Faslane by a part-time cow herder. Calling for nuclear free hay for all cows, these are actually serious environmentalists, many of whom work for Greenpeace. After two days of fun and games they boarded a bus for home but doubled back to chain themselves across the North Gate by surprise, after the police had left.



10th April: CIA & Friends blockading North Gate

This action saw the 700th arrest since October 2006. 10 people from CIA and friends were arrested



26th April: Chernobyl Day A coalition of Environmentalists, including Friends of the Earth, World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, the Green Party and Children of Chernobyl made the link between nuclear weapons and nuclear power. After a four minute die-in in the road some of the dead refused to rise and were hauled off by the police.

See [www.faslane365.org] if you want to get involved! Or contact Genny Bove t: 0845 330 4505 e:vg@genny.force9.co.uk if you are interested in going with a group from Wales.



MSPs on Greenpeace Boat in Gare Loch February 2007



Autonomous environmentalists Also on April 26th, a group of students (including one from Wales), from Stirling, Edinburgh and St Andrews' Universities blocked all roads in to Coulport nuclear weapons depot for 2 hours using two tripods, lock-ons and super-glue. This was the morning after Jackie Baillie MSP, in a public meeting about Trident jobs, urged protesters to blockade Coulport instead of Faslane.



photos: www.faslane365.org

diary dates

June Campaign

Against the Arms Trade 2007: Clean Investment Campaign Launch

Details of arms company shares held by Local Authority pension funds will be made available, along with figures for charities, unions and religious and health organisations. e: deaninvestment@caat.org.uk [www.caat.org].

June 2nd 12.00 - 1^{pm} Cardiff Women in Black Vigil.

National Museum steps. t: 02920 831 653, e: fanddhibbert@tiscali.co.uk

June 3rd - 13th Amos Trust Trip to Palestine and Israel.

Contact: John Butler, Bangor Anglican Chaplaincy 01248 370 566 [www.amostrust.org/]

June 9th London Say ENOUGH to the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian Territories Demo and Rally, 1.30pm

meet Lincoln's Inn Fields, Assemble Lincoln's Inn Fields at 1.30pm for the march to Trafalgar Square [www.enoughoccupation.org]

June 10th Campaign Against the Arms Trade Day of Prayer

This year's theme: Saudi Arabia. Leaflets and packs available from Alun: christian@caat.org.uk

June 11th 7.15^{pm} Talk by Ben Gregory on his recent visit to Nicaragua

Y Ffynnon, Prince's Road, Bangor: Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace & Justice Group. t: 01248 490 715 e: phil_steele@btinternet.com

June 23rd Cymdeithas y Cymod Pilgrimage to Epynt.

In June there will be official 'celebrations' of 25th anniversary of Britain's 'victory' in the Falklands. Cymdeithas y Cymod will mark the occasion with a repentance service on Mynydd Epynt. Epynt is used (and abused) to train soldiers to kill and maim. Welsh speaking soldiers fought each other in the war in the Falklands. The British army included young people from Wales and people of Welsh descent from Patagonia went as part of the Argentinian army. Guto Prys ap Gwynfor will lead a Service at Capel y Babell on Epynt at 1^{pm}. People from all parts of Wales very welcome. Meet at Llanwrtyd town square at 11^{am}; visit the remains

of the *Drovers Arms* pub on Epynt for a picnic before moving on to Capel y Babell. e: post@cymdeithasycymod.org.uk [www.cymdeithasycymod.org]

June 28th 5.30pm Cardiff - 'Belarus: The Last Dictatorship in Europe' Jim Dingley

Anglo-Belarusian Society. UNA Wales talk at Temple of Peace, Cathays Park e:una@wcia.org.uk t: 029 2082 1055 [www.wcia.org.uk/UNAWales]

June 30th University of Leeds 1:00 pm - 6:30 pm World Development Movement annual conference - Activism past, present & future

Speakers: Ngugi wa Thiong'o, George Monbiot & Mohau Pheko Free Event: Celebrating & learning from global justice campaigns - portrait exhibition, music & campaign stalls. Sessions on slavery, apartheid, climate justice, struggles against privatisation, music. [www.wdm.org.uk/wrr] t:020 7820 4900

July 7th 12.00 - 1^{pm} Cardiff Women in Black Vigil.

(see June 2nd)
August 4th - 11th Flintshire National Eisteddfod 2007 Pentrehobin CND Cymru Stall/Tent Welsh speakers and Welsh learners. To help please contact Del Gwynfyd Harris or Kate Gwynfyd Sidford 01974 831 575

August 10th - 12th Machynlleth: *El Sueño Existe*.

A festival of music, culture and politics from Latin America. [www.elsuenoexiste.org.uk]

22nd September, Y Galeri, Caernarfon: All Wales Peace Festival.

Organised by Arfon Peace & Justice Group. More information: 01286 882 134 or benica@gn.apc.org. **BE THERE!** Details in next edition of 'heddwch'.

September 29th - 30th Faslane 365 End of Year Conference:

How to continue the energy of Faslane 365 for resistance to nuclear weapons in Britain. On Saturday 29th: an evening of creative celebration, song dance and storytelling. Sunday 30th September - action preparation for autonomous groups who wish to join in a celebratory

blockade of blockades to end the year of resistance. All welcome. e: info@faslane365.org [www.faslane365.org]

Until December 2007: London Friends House, Euston Road, Turning the Tide Non-violence Training Programme.

Monthly workshops for those working for social change. Workshops available as complete course or one-off events. Cost: £20 each; book in advance. Contact: Turning the Tide, 2BJ, 020 7663 1064/1061 e: sophier@quaker.org.uk [www.turning-the-tide.org]

Drawing Paradise on the Axis of Evil

The exhibition of print works by Emily Johns which started its journey through Wales in Tenby at the Little Wedlock Gallery, Tenby has been travelling across South Wales and will be in Wrexham by August.

The exhibition catalogue contains useful background information for understanding US/British policy towards Iran Available from 'Voices' at £4.50 incl p&p

Catch the exhibition in Wrexham at Wrexham Library and Arts Centre t: 01978 292 093 arts.centre@wrexham.gov.uk voices uk 5 Caledonian Rd, King's Cross, London N1 9DX t: 0845 458 2564 voices@vivuk.freemove.co.uk

Join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament!

There has never been a more important time to be part of the reasoned voice of sanity in Wales.

Join CND Cymru and support the biggest grassroots non party political campaigning organisation in the country.

Membership Rates:

Family/household/couple: £30
Individual: £20
Unwaged household/couple: £15
Pensioner/youth/student/unwaged single: £10

Make cheques payable to 'CND Cymru'. Send with your name and address to: CND Cymru, Y Drain Gwynion, Heol yr Eglwys, Talywaun, Pontypool NP4 7EF 01495 773 180

Janet Bloomfield

1953 - 2007



We've lost Janet - still young, still so active and yet she's gone. Perhaps a commemoration of someone shouldn't mention the shock and sadness, but it's so much in our hearts, and Richard, Lucie and Robin you are in our thoughts - that just comes before anything else at the moment.

First Janet was a woman, a human being who loved the world. Then she was a campaigner who did things her way, she never seemed to come from any politically ideological corner. She listened to her heart.

As a Quaker she seemed determined to enjoy and celebrate the world she wanted to save, especially savouring the international aspects of meeting people and making things work in a different way.

When I first met Janet, she had recently returned from a peace delegation to Hungary during the break up of the Eastern bloc. Her family was on holiday in Wales and we went swimming in the Afon Pysgotwr together. Good peace activities. Later, when Chair of British CND Janet came to speak at some CND Cymru meetings - I remember one in particular, where we held a blowy protest against THORP on Aberystwyth Prom, then drove back across the Cambrian Mountains to Llandoverly. We were colleagues and comrades.

One summer day in 1996, she and Pamela Meidell brought the Atomic Mirror Pilgrimage to our home in Carmarthenshire. I was with them for only a few hours but it was to be one of those indelible moments of special magic. The twelve pilgrims were en route to St. Davids. They brought with them gifts of sand from Hiroshima, an origami stork and other items from a previous peace pilgrimage to nuclear sites. We burnt candles. A film crew travelling with them interviewed my then 10 year old daughter Emily about when she had taken 250,000 Welsh signatures against French nuclear testing to the French Embassy earlier that year.

Last Summer I met up with Janet and Pamela (her soul sister if ever she had one) at the Hay Festival. We were making plans.

Janet, we'll keep trying to make your dreams come true. We should listen to what Janet would have said now; 'look we don't know what's coming, time is short, do it now, don't wait.'

Jill Gough

Janet was the Chair of British CND (1993-96), a member of the Global Council of Abolition 2000 since 1997, international campaign co-ordinator of Abolition Now!, and a key figure in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness Programme set up by Sir Joseph Rotblat. To give and to read tributes to Janet, many paying much greater attention to Janet's material achievements in the peace movement: [http://janetbloomfield.com/main/]

Useful Addresses:

Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London SW1 2AA

**Des Browne MP,
Secretary of State
for Defence,**
Old War Office,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2EU

Your MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster
London SW1 2AA

Your AM,
National Assembly
for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA

**Margaret Beckett MP,
Secretary of State
for Foreign and
Commonwealth
Affairs,**
King Charles St.,
London, SW1A 2AH



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

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

Editor:

Jill Gough

(01495) 773 180

heddwcheditor@cndcymru.org

Translator:

Sian Edwards

sian@derwen.demon.co.uk

Printed and posted:

Redkite Print

(01591) 610 844

redkiteprint@thefreelyer.com



cnd cymru contacts

chair:

Jill Evans MEP

(01824) 709 700

jievans@europarl.eu.int

vice chairs:

Brian Jones

(01792) 830 330

Olwen Davies (mid Wales)

(01970) 611 994

Llew Smith

George Crabb

(01446) 774 452

Ray Davies (south Wales)

(029 20) 889 514

John Cox

(01495) 773 495

membership & affiliations:

c/o John Cox

(as above)

trading

Kate Gwynfyd-Sidford & Del Gwynfyd-Harris
coney@gn.apc.org
01974 831575

treasurer:

Jean Bryant,

16, Ty'n y Cymer Close,

Porth, Y Rhondda CF39 9DE

national secretary

& heddwch editor :

Jill Gough, Y Drain

Gwynion, Heol yr Eglwys,

Talywaun, Pontypool NP4 7EF

(01495) 773 180

heddwcheditor@cndcymru.org