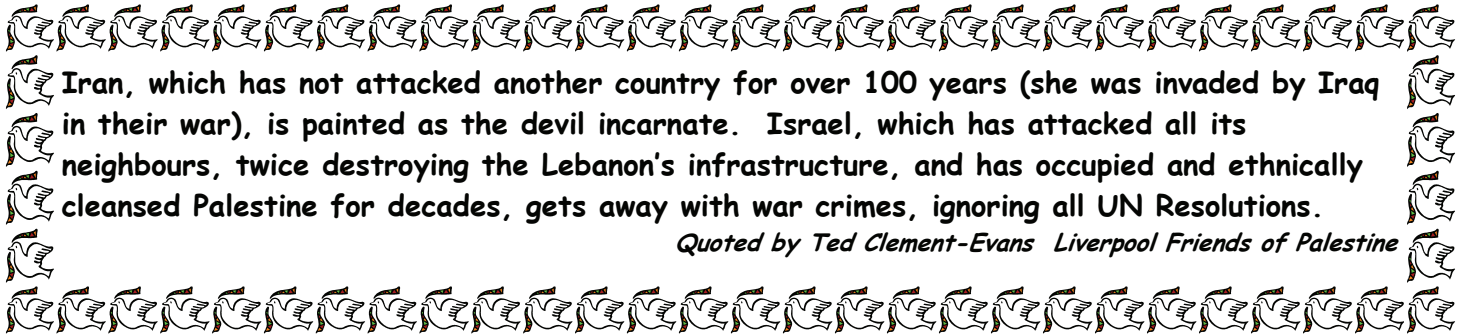


Merseyside CND Newsletter



Jan Feb 2012

54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD 0151 702 6974 mcmd@care4free.net



Iran, which has not attacked another country for over 100 years (she was invaded by Iraq in their war), is painted as the devil incarnate. Israel, which has attacked all its neighbours, twice destroying the Lebanon's infrastructure, and has occupied and ethnically cleansed Palestine for decades, gets away with war crimes, ignoring all UN Resolutions.

Quoted by Ted Clement-Evans Liverpool Friends of Palestine

Merseyside CND AGM

Thank you to the select few who joined us on December 3rd to enjoy music, snacks and the film 'Beating the Bomb'— a historical trawl through the anti-nuclear movement featuring many old campaigning friends. We took away the message 'Now more than ever' and to that end decided to concentrate on 4 or 5 key CND events in 2012 backed up by street stalls and a presence at other groups' events. Cards 'Helping MCND' were filled in — see below — We'd welcome more offers! Gina Shaw, Gerry Poole and Peter Wilson were re-elected as Co-chairs and Janet Laycock as Treasurer. We, officers and office volunteers, wish all our members and friends a healthy and as peaceful as possible 2012.



Epetitions

"Ban all defence and military expenditure"

Responsible department: Her Majesty's Treasury

We no longer have an empire to defend and we no longer need defence: no-one will attack us if we treat others fairly. All we need is sufficient expenditure to support UN peacekeeping forces. The resulting savings will be both financial - over £30 billion a year - and human - no more unnecessary war deaths and injuries. The money saved will help social and economic development and the retention of our shrinking public services.

Sign the petition at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/7780>

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Help wanted

- Staffing Street stalls in Liverpool , for a couple of hours bi-monthly
- Carrying MCND banner or Placard on Demos in Liverpool
- Leafletting in the street, at demos and door to door in Liverpool
- Staffing stalls at union or party conferences, other group events
- Helping regular MCND events - Hiroshima Day, Remembrance Day, Peace and ecology Festival etc.
- Letter writing to press, MPs, Councillors,
- Volunteering in Office - regular 4 hours per week
- Training to speak

Contact MCND as above

We regret that our website is temporarily out of action. For up to date information use NCND website: www.cnduk.org

National CND Council Meeting Saturday 26.11.11

St. Mellitus Parish Hall in Finsbury Park.

I arrived at 9.30 to find Bruce Kent trying to contact a plumber and an electrician to fix the boiler which had packed in. He managed to find a double bar convector heater and so we all set the chairs as near the heat as possible and started more or less on time.

The officers gave their reports in a very informative way. The meeting started with a minute's silence in memory of Bob Russell of Christian CND who died recently after a short illness. Kate Hudson, told how she had attended all 3 political party conference fringe meetings and that unfortunately Trident did not formally appear on any of their agendas. Sadly the Lib Dems, who in 2010 had introduced the Trident debate on their agenda, left it off this year.

The Labour policy forum is working to change Labour party policy. Jeremy Corbyn is trying to meet up with Jim Murphy, shadow defence minister, to persuade him to at least debate the issue of the renewal of Trident, which at a low estimate will cost £100 billion. It will be very difficult as Jim Murphy has very strong views on the so called 'independent nuclear deterrent.' Certain government ministers and officials still talk [mistakenly] of our 'independent nuclear deterrent'.

CND have been working very hard on linking the massive cuts in the public sector and the obscene cost of the renewal of Trident and will be very much involved in the national Public sector strike on Nov. 30th CND is working with Faith communities and the World Council of Churches.

The International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) have supported CND in calling for a conference on creating a nuclear free zone in the Middle East and established offices in Jerusalem and Cairo to promote this. Finland has offered its services in setting up this meeting.

*** A serious development has happened regarding the setting up of missile defence systems in the Czech Republic and other parts of Eastern Europe by NATO. They have refused to allow Russia to take part in the joint running of the Missile system.

*** See note from Dave Webb on back page

Jeremy spoke at the Scottish CND conference on Nov. 12th about the dangers of war with Iran and the obvious nuclear connection of Israel's possession of nuclear weapons on the allegation that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. The only way forward is dialogue. I suspect the most

effective forms of dialogue will come from non nuclear countries such as Brazil or South Africa.

I asked Jeremy where the figure of £100 billion was obtained for the updating and renewal of Trident. He stated that these were the Government's own figures and recorded in Parliamentary reports but if inflation is added, based on the present rate, then the figure would reach £160 billion.

The decision on whether or not to go ahead with Trident replacement is not due until 2016. But the MOD is behaving as if it has already been taken. This is an affront both to MPs who are due to make the decision and to the British people who deserve no less than an open and transparent debate on this issue. To spend ever increasing sums on a project which has not even been authorised is a shocking act of bad faith particularly at a time of such savage government spending cuts.

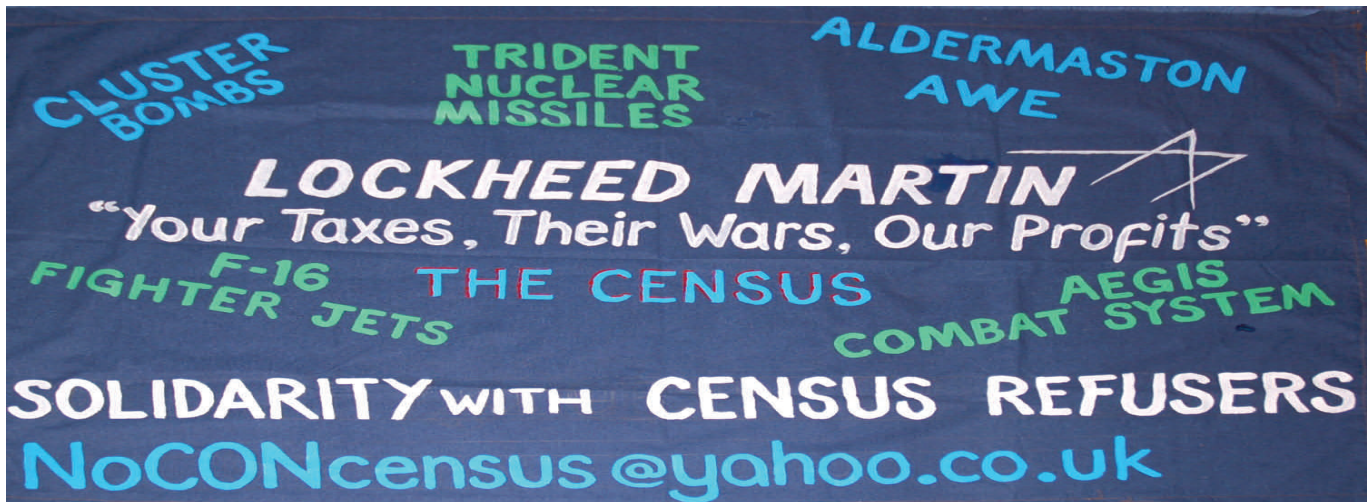
"The icing on the cake of Government bad faith is the news that the outcomes of the Lib. Dem led Trident Alternatives Review will not be published according to a statement by Defence Secretary Philip Hammond. This is suppression of debate, pure and simple. One is forced to conclude that the Government is afraid of the debate and fears it will be defeated if exposed to genuine discussion and review. By suppressing the debate and spending ahead of a decision, presumably, the Government wishes to create a fait accompli of replacement. This cannot be allowed to happen and CND calls for a full and transparent strategic review of Trident and UK nuclear weapons possession and an open public debate on our security needs. This is not an issue where democratic corners can be cut". Kate Hudson in a recent press statement.

There was a long and passionate debate on a resolution raised by Greater Manchester CND on a leaflet issued by CND entitled The Great Trident Job Threat. This had been accepted by the Unite Trade Union who had offered CND a free stall at the Union's sectional conferences in the run up to the November 30th demonstration. The briefing will be a vital part of making an impact within Unite and has already received favourable feedback. It is seen as a serious attempt to address the real concerns of trade unionists. This was a milestone as up to now we have never been invited to have such a document at their conference. Since amalgamation of the T & G Workers Union and Amicus to

form a new union, Unite, in January 2007, this is the first time we have an agreement to scrap Trident. At that meeting held in Salford, I pointed out that this new union had a massive problem. My union, the T & G, which had a history of supporting CND and voted for nuclear disarmament under leaders such as Frank Cousins, Ron Todd, and Jack Jones, all members of CND, joined Amicus to form the largest union in Britain, to be renamed Unite. Unfortunately, the Engineering section of Amicus has passed a resolution to work on the Trident nuclear submarines. It has taken from January 2007 until now for Unite to finally concede that Trident should be scrapped and to allow the Great Trident Job Threat leaflet to be distributed at their conference. Manchester CND welcomed most of the points mentioned in the leaflet, but raised a number of issues such as why is CND defending jobs in the armed Forces and conventional defence manufacturing sector and why is CND headlining the problem of 'Cuts in Defence Jobs?'

CND's response was that the question of jobs is the recurring question for a number of Trade Unions and working people who would otherwise automatically be against Trident. It has been an obstacle to the affiliation to CND by major trade unions and to the broadening of our support in these major civil society organisations which share many of the values of the peace movement. The aim of the briefing is two-fold: to tackle the misperception that we are calling for thousands of people to be sacked, and to end the myth that Trident is a job provider when it is actually a job destroyer. This is what the briefing does in a factual manner and it puts the ball in the court of the pro-Trident lobby that exploits the jobs issue for their own ends by requiring them to justify why they would spend billions on a project that employs such a small number of people and obstructs investment in huge growth areas, like sustainable energy production. The briefing does not argue in favour of conventional defence jobs. It outlines the consequences for jobs of retaining nuclear weapons. Trade unionists need to have this information if they are to make informed choices about whether or not to back Trident on the basis of employment arguments.

Cont. on back page ...



NoCONcensus

OUTSIDE

It was a wet and windy morning in Liverpool so all credit to the 20-odd people who turned up in spite of the weather to support Sarah Ledson outside court, including people from Liverpool Occupy who were battling against the elements to stop their camp from blowing away that morning.

Dale Street Magistrates Court is on a busy junction and, once all the banners were up, we were very visible to both foot and vehicle traffic with lots of support from the drivers of passing cars, vans and buses. Banners pointed out Lockheed Martin's track record as a company which profits from war and death, for example killing children in Palestine and making the nuclear weapons that threaten all life on earth. Hardly surprising, therefore, that people oppose its involvement in the Census.

We'd been told by a couple of journos the night before that Dale Street Magistrates court were saying that the case was to be heard at a different court about 5 minutes walk away. Sarah hadn't been informed about this and would have struggled to walk between the courts in any case, so we turned up at Dale Street as planned, Sarah stayed outside with the demonstration until 5 to 10 and the hearing did in fact take place there. We haven't got to the bottom of this bit of mis/disinformation.

There was a fair amount of media interest outside the court with BBC Radio Merseyside, Radio City, the Liverpool Echo, Granada TV and BBC TV turning up. Not sure how

much of it translated into media reports, but BBC put 2 minutes on the evening regional TV news. Unfortunately, the media influenced the whole event as well as reporting on it. Walking in or out of the court for a second time so the cameraman could get his shots was a minor inconvenience. Being whisked away to Radio Merseyside studios so the interview with Sarah could be filmed under more conducive conditions and to give 'variety' or something meant that Sarah didn't have time to talk with her supporters after the hearing, which was a real shame. At least it did make it onto the news - after over an hour spent getting there, setting up and filming, the reporter announced that there was every chance the story might be dropped from the list.

All that was later though...

INSIDE

Back inside the Magistrates Court at 10am, we ascertained that we could be waiting all morning as there was no running order. "Don't worry" said Sarah. "They'll want our demonstration out of the way soonest. I don't think we'll be waiting long." She was right. 10 minutes later she was called in, but not before we'd discovered another census refuser waiting for his case to be heard. We only had time to tell him Sarah was planning to plead not guilty and to hand him a flyer before it was Sarah's turn. She answered 'not guilty' to the charge, **the trial date was set for 17 January**, there was a bit of a discussion about how long might be allocated to hear her case, with the District Judge suggesting that she would have 'the rest of the morning' after the first census refuser's case had been

heard (so that was another one), unconditional bail was given to the 17th of January and Sarah was free to leave.

As we left, we spoke for another minute with the census refuser we'd seen earlier; then he was called in. He decided to plead not guilty too and we caught up with him outside the court afterwards. His case had been adjourned to 18 January, indicating that the judge had allocated the whole rest of the day on the 17th to Sarah's case.

BACK OUTSIDE

It was raining fairly hard as we came out of the court and people were cold and wet, so the demonstration was abandoned and people went off to find places to dry off and warm up. Some of us, including Sarah, her husband and three other census defendants from around the country met up for a debrief in the Unite union building cafeteria at lunchtime before heading across the road afterwards to say thank you to Occupy Liverpool for their support. They were just taking delivery of sandbags as we arrived...

MORE INFO AND FUTURE CASES

For more information about the campaign, contact on email: NoCONcensus@yahoo.co.uk.

Next hearing:

Roger Grenville and Marcus Woo in Birmingham Magistrates Court on 5th January.

Sarah Ledson in Liverpool Magistrates Court, Dale St. on Jan. 17th 9.30am – supporters much appreciated. Bring banners, flags and placards.

**Report: Genny Bove—
NoCONcensus**

Picasso's Anti-War Art and Peace Campaigning

Part III The Korean War

Rival imperialist powers, Russia, Japan, the United States and Britain, had been looking to gain control of the ancient kingdom of Korea since the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Japan occupied Korea from 1910 until its defeat in World War II in August 1945.

During the occupation there had been nationalist and communist resistance movements. After the liberation of Korea by the Soviet army, these, with the help of the Soviet Union, formed the Korean People's Republic, which was based in Seoul and had people's committees throughout the country.

On 15 August 1945 US General Order No. 1 called for the USA to take Japanese surrender in Korea south of the thirty—eighth parallel, which the USSR accepted. Thus the country was artificially divided into North and South.

US troops arrived on 8 September and started 'rescuing' the country from Communism. They supported the right-wing Korean Democratic Party and dismantled the people's committees in the south, creating a police state to protect the interest of the landlords. So, the United States occupied Korea from 1945 to 1948.

From March 1948 guerrilla rebellions against the American regime began in several parts of the country. This rebellion by Communists in the North and Labour Party members in the South turned into a war that was at the same time a civil war and a revolutionary war.

US journalist A.T. Steele wrote in October 1949 that "An unadmitted shooting war between the governments of the US and Russia is in effect today along the thirty—eighth parallel. ... It is smoldering throughout the territory of the new Republic of Korea ... only American money, weapons, and technical assistance enable [the Republic] to exist for more than a few hours." (quoted in 'Korea: The Unknown War', Jon Halliday and Bruce Cumings; Viking, London, 1988, p54)

However, while the Soviet Union supported the rebels because they were Communist they did not give them any backing with troops or equipment.

At dawn on 25 June 1950 there was a vast escalation of the fighting between the troops of the Republic and the rebels from the North all along the thirty—eighth parallel. (Later, each side would accuse the other of starting the War.) The UN Security Council met next day at the USA's request.

Before the Security Council met US Secretary of State Dean Acheson and President Truman agreed to increase military aid to the South and also commit American air and naval power to the Korean war. Thus the decision to further escalate the war was taken without UN or Congressional approval. The United Nations was then used to ratify the President's and the Secretary of State's decisions.

Picasso responded to the US invasion of Korea with a painting he titled 'Massacre in Korea' (Oil on plywood, 109.5 x 209.5cm), which he finished on 18 January 1951. He was an avid reader of newspapers and would have been well aware of what was happening in the Korean war in so far as it was reported. (As well as reading the Communist Party papers (he had joined the French Communist Party in October 1944) he was a subscriber to the clipping service "Lit Tout".) Significantly, he kept in his files a copy of a speech made by Alexander Fadeyev at the World Peace Congress in Warsaw in November 1950, which was a follow-up to the Congress he had attended in Sheffield a week earlier:

"Under our eyes, literally in a couple of months, an immense country, governed by men bursting with all the wealth and all the worldly goods, has transformed another country of thirty million inhabitants with a centuries-old past, into a heap of ruins, in dust and ashes. ... The country bathes in the blood of children."

'Massacre in Korea' shows a group of four women (one of them a young adolescent) and four children threatened by soldiers. The women and children are naked and defenceless. The soldiers are a futuristic firing squad dressed in a horrifying array of helmets and armour and wielding an evil collection of weapons that have come straight out of science fiction. Behind these figures a bare landscape stretches into the distance. Towards the horizon, at a point between the women and the soldiers, is the one remaining section of wall of a house that has been destroyed in the war.

The painting does not show bloodshed, but what it conveys most strongly is menace - the threatened massacre of innocents by an anonymous army of the future; and the coldness of death.

Though Picasso called the picture 'Massacre in Korea' he does not show a specific massacre in the Korean War, and from their appearance the women and

children are not necessarily Korean. The painting is an allegory for all wars. Picasso saw women and children as the primary victims of war. He was not being sentimental - in his report of October 1949 US journalist A.T. Steele had said: "torture of captured political antagonists is commonplace and women and children are killed without compunction by both sides."

In deciding on this image for his painting condemning the American invasion of Korea Picasso used Goya's 'The Shootings of 3rd May 1808', 1814/15, as a starting point. A firing squad from Napoleon's army which was occupying Madrid is executing a group of citizens who had attacked the French cavalry. It has been suggested that Picasso took his composition from Goya, but this is only partially born out by a close comparison of the two paintings. It is more likely that Goya's painting gave Picasso the idea of using a firing squad scene to convey the horror he felt at the War.

In October 1950 China had entered the War and on 27 November Chinese and North Korean forces inflicted a heavy defeat on the UN troops. Three days later President Truman said at a press conference that use of the atom bomb was under active consideration. He also said that the USA would not wait for, or depend on, UN authorization to use it.

In Paris the following year Picasso exhibited 'Massacre in Korea' in the Salon de Mai.

Roger Stephenson, November 2011

Footnotes

1 Musée Picasso, Paris

2 Oil on canvas: 266 x 345.5cm, The Prado, Madrid



National CND Council cont:

At this time of economic crisis and mass unemployment, CND cannot avoid the jobs issue. Indeed it is vital to the success of our work that it is tackled head-on.

In spite of a very passionate appeal by Tony Staunton, a Trade Union official from Devonport, who has faced a lot of aggression and threats by workers in the defence industry, to allow the leaflet to be on the stall at the Union's Sectional Conferences in the run up to the November 30 demonstration, the resolution from Manchester CND was endorsed by 19 votes to 12 to withdraw the revised new draft to be presented for approval at the next National Council meeting (31 March 2012).

I think a great opportunity to engage with the unions was lost.

Gerry Poole, Merseyside CND delegate to National CND Council

***** Addendum to this item *****

Dave Webb sent the following statement via email to all Council members:

"Dear All

I think I have misled Council when I said that the US plans to install missile defence components in the Czech Republic were going ahead The Czech government did pull out of US missile defence because it said its role had been downgraded. They do seem to be trying to negotiate a bigger role though and I have probably jumped the gun in saying that plans are going ahead now.

I'm sorry about that and hope I haven't caused any problems.

National CND Conference

in October re-elected Dave Webb as Chairperson; Daniel Blaney and Sophie Bolt as vice-chairs and Linda Hugel as Treasurer.

www.cnduk.org

OCCUPY LIVERPOOL

A movement of people demanding change in society
We are Based under Wellington's Monument, next to St. George's Hall, City Centre

What does OCCUPY plan to achieve?

- Put a stop to greedy bankers and company bosses
- Strike a fairer balance between rich and poor
- Establish real democracy that truly represents all members of society

General Assemblies: Mon. 6pm, Wed. 6pm, Sat 3pm
Come along and talk with us!

www.occupyliverpool.org

Maghull and Lydiate

Wishes everyone a very happy New Year

We hope to be meeting again soon

Contact: Sylvi: 0151 526 7293

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings : New Year Party 5th January 8.00pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd.

Feb meeting on 14th at Shirley's 8.00pm

Stall – none till March Contact: Shirley 652-3768

Wallasey CND

Sat Jan 7th 2pm AGM – members only, followed by **New Year Social: 3.30pm** – friends are welcome to join us at 4, Taunton Rd (Barbara and Dave's)

Planning Meetings 2012: Mon Feb 6th & Mar 5th 3pm at 4 Taunton Rd

Contacts Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winners: September draw: Tom and Ivy Griffin; October draw: Janet Laycock
Thanks to all members of the 50 Club for your continuing financial support.

For £5 per month you too could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 annual draw. For further information or a membership form contact Janet – 0151 702 6974

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below.

Name..... Phone.....
email.....

Address.....
.....

I/we wish to *join/ rejoin Merseyside CND.

Subscription rates: *waged-£4/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £1.

I/we *would/ would not also like a new member's pack at a cost of £1.

I/we understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £_____

Total Enclosed £..... (Please make cheques payable to Merseyside CND)

Signed..... Date.....

(* Delete as appropriate)

Merseyside CND, 54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD

MerseysideCND

**Next Co-ord Meeting
Wed. Jan. 11th 2012
2.00pm MCND Office
54 Mount Pleasant
All members welcome**

If you receive a separate renewal form with this newsletter it means your subs are due – Thankyou.

This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy Page and Janet Laycock & thanks to Barbara Hardcastle and Kai Andersen for duplicating it.

