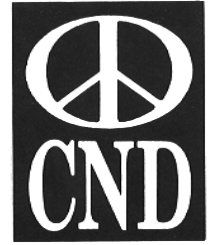


Merseyside CND News Update

February/March 2017



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TRUMP AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS - A NEW ARMS RACE?

Well, the unthinkable has happened! We used to think Donald Trump was a joke, - an egomaniac with bad hair whose, bigotry, belligerence and misogyny would surely make him unelectable. How wrong we were. Thanks to America's disaffected and desperate, he is now the most powerful man in the world and it's not funny anymore.

Why? Because Donald Trump is now in charge of the most powerful nation on earth - a nation with enough nuclear weapons to destroy civilization and, on the evidence so far, he appears willing to unleash a new nuclear arms race upon the world!

Mr Trump has said that he wants the United States to "greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes." But the US already has over 7,000 nuclear warheads - enough to destroy all life on earth, so what on earth is the point of increasing the US arsenal? Does President Trump really feel that we will all sleep more soundly knowing the US will soon be able to destroy the world several times over?

As for the world coming to its senses regarding nukes, that, as President Trump knows, is humbug. Of the 193 UN member states, only 9 have nuclear weapons. The other 184 states have recently voted overwhelmingly in the UN General Assembly to start negotiations on a global nuclear weapons ban treaty. The nuclear 9 either voted against, or abstained. The UK and the US are refusing to take part in any negotiations. The truth is that it is the nine states and particularly the US and Russia, as the most heavily armed, that need to come to their senses regarding nukes and not the rest of the world.

He has also publicly threatened to tear up the recent agreement with Iran designed to ensure that that country does not develop nuclear weapons. Ripping up that deal could lead to nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. But that doesn't appear to worry Mr Trump because he actually believes that more countries should get nuclear weapons. Referring to Japan and South Korea, he has said that he would be 'OK' with a nuclear arms race in Asia. In Trump's new America, nuclear proliferation is to be actively encouraged!

We know that President Trump supports the 2nd Amendment that says that America's democratic freedoms can only be preserved by allowing every American to bear arms. Now, bizarrely, the President appears to want to apply this right globally - by suggesting that world peace can best be preserved if we all joined the nuclear arms race rather than relying on America for 'protection'.

By we, President Trump means of course the 'good guys' and not the 'bad guys'. And in Trump's eyes, any state, organisation or individual that questions American right to impose its will is a 'bad guy'. Throughout his campaign, Trump accused Barack Obama of being 'a pussy' in foreign affairs and allowing America to be laughed at throughout the world! It is not yet clear who will be chosen by Trump as the chief international villains, though his recent belligerence towards China, Iran and 'Muslim terrorist states' is ominous.

These are deeply worrying attitudes, based on ignorance, prejudice and a profound disregard for the wider world - symptomatic of a man who shoots from the hip, who lives in a world of winners and suckers, of good guys and bad guys, and whose ego is so fragile that he

indulges in a childish and futile argument about the numbers at his inauguration.

Unfortunately, having antagonised the rest of Europe our Government thinks that it has no choice but to ingratiate itself with President Trump. By flattering him, for example with the pomp of a full State Visit, the hope is that he will be persuaded to allow the UK a soft and lucrative trade deal. Theresa May thus becomes President Trump's representative on earth - witness her recent lecture to her NATO allies on the need to increase their military spending in line with the President's wishes.

Donald Trump is threatening to return the world to the dark days of nuclear escalation. As we cannot rely on our present Government to "speak truth to power" about the insanity of a US led nuclear arms race, CND, more than ever, needs to speak out loudly and clearly.

CND will be campaigning vigorously to make clear to our Government that they have a duty to stand up to Trump's nuclear posturing. Internationally CND is making common cause with others throughout the world, and within the US, who feel equally threatened by President Trump's 'New World Order'.

Together, we need to stand up and be counted and present a convincing alternative. Because, if our planet is to survive, we need a world order based on justice, mutual respect and co-operation rather than the bullying, bigotry and extreme nationalism represented by the 45th President of the United States.

Peter Wilson
Co-chair Merseyside CND

Coming Events Wednesday March 1st

Pax Christi Ash 'Oppose Trident Renewal' Meet 12noon top of Bold St process towards Queen Elizabeth Law Courts stopping for readings and reflections on the way. Placards and banners available or bring your own.
Info: Jan Harper: 0151 263 5623
janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

Merseyside CND Co-ord Meeting
2.30pm MCND Office 151 Dale St.
Members welcome. NB Later time

Merseyside CND Stalls
Monday March 13th 12—2pm Crosby shopping square near The George
Sat. April 8th Birkenhead venue tbc

Local group planning meetings

Wallasey CND 2pm Mar. 6th
4 Taunton RD. CH45 3JN
Contact: Barbara 0151 638 3967
Birkenhead CND 8pm Tues. Mar 14th
9 Holt Hill Terrace, CH42 5LB
Contact: Cathy: 0151 378 1760
cath.page@phonecoop.coop
We all send Shirley love and best wishes for a speedy recovery from her recent road accident.



National CND Lobby of Parliament March 1st calling for a Global Ban on Nuclear Weapons

Write to or visit your MP, ask them to press the government to join in the UN conference to negotiate a Treaty to ban nuclear weapons starting in New York in March. Whilst claiming to support multilateral nuclear disarmament, the government ignores attempts to actually bring it about. See MCND newsletter Jan-Mar 2017 and sign the online petition : <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/175096> [1]
www.cnduk.org

Farewell old friend

We have recently lost Denis Anderson whose long and active commitment to left wing causes including CND and Cuba Solidarity were celebrated at his funeral, a most uplifting, inspiring occasion. Our thanks to Penny for naming Merseyside CND as one of the benefactors of donations in his memory. Obit to follow in April mag

Fukushima Mar. 11th 2011

We haven't forgotten this important anniversary and will be marking it on our stall in Crosby on March 13th

Thanks to Peter, Neville and Andy for helping with this extra news letter, Janet

Manchester Peace Trail

SUNDAY 26 MARCH Meet 1.30 VICTORIA STATION (under the tiled map). Finish Piccadilly Gardens around 4.00. **No need to book just turn up with your friends. Fully accessible.** More info. contact Steve Roman: 07939 059844
www.discoverpeace.eu

Affiliate to Merseyside CND

How about asking your Union Branch or Church, local Community or Student, group to affiliate to CND. Many members agree with CND's aims and would show their approval of our campaigning even though they have little spare time to get more involved themselves. As a group they can join Merseyside CND for £10 per year paying either by cheque addressed made out to Merseyside CND or by Bankers Order. Both forms are on our website or click this link:
<http://www.mcnd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/MCND.Affiliation.-1.pdf>

Britain has the best-defended floods in the world.

£ 205 billion to replace our nuclear weapons. Fortunately, there isn't anything more important we could spend it on.

