

Merseyside CND Newsletter



May/June 2012

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*It takes two to speak the truth - one to speak,
and another to hear"*

Henry David Thoreau 1849

The Library

We on Merseyside CND Co-ordinating Committee have decided to donate our library, diligently collected and catalogued since the mid 1980s by Roger Stephenson, to Liverpool Hope University's Sheppard-Warlock Library. Hope University includes the Desmond Tutu War and Peace Studies Centre. Few people have borrowed books from our library recently. We expect more use will be made of it by students and the wider public in its new home. It will be widely publicised through the Hope University Library website and each book will have a bookplate acknowledging our donation. Any Merseyside CND member will be allowed access to it via arrangement with Merseyside CND office.

Recent New Acquisition

"Nuclear Power is not the answer" - by Helen Caldicott
See page 5 for an extract from an interview she gave

Peace and Ecology Festival Saturday 21st July 12-6pm St. Bride's Church, Catharine/ Percy St. L1

Stalls, Music, Speakers,
Refreshments, Children's area.

Volunteers wanted from 10.0am to 7pm to
help setting up the room and clearing up,
fetching and carrying from cars, selling
raffle tickets, etc. etc.

Contact Kai or Janet at MCND office
details above

MCND newsletter to go quarterly

As of the next issue the CND newsletter will be going out quarterly. To save on postage, printing and paper we are asking members if you are willing to receive it by email either from the mcnd website or we could email it directly to you as a pdf. If this would suit you please email us and let us know which you'd prefer.

Also would you be willing to go on our members' and supporters' email list by which we can keep you up to date with local events. This usually means a couple of emails per week telling or reminding you of MCND and related events which you might be able to attend or help us with.

We are also considering more hand deliveries - could you offer your services?

Contact Janet in MCND office.

Office move?

We are hoping before the year is out to move to somewhere more accessible i.e. ground-floor or premises with disabled access - ideally the Bold St area would suit us best. Anyone hearing of anywhere suitable, please let us know.

Contents

P2/3 - The Nuclear Menace in the Middle East

P3 - Quilting for Peace

P4 - Climate Jobs Caravan

- Save Jeju island

P5 - Interview with Helen Caldicott

- Book review - Joseph Rotblat

P6 - Groups, events etc.

The Nuclear Menace in the Middle East

Introduction

Given the controversial nature of Middle East politics, it is important to stress that, as a Peace movement, CND has no political position on this issue. We do however believe profoundly that there is no international conflict that is not made immeasurably worse by the possession of nuclear weapons by one, or all of the protagonists.

Nuclear weapons are intrinsically evil and have the potential to destroy human life on this planet. Nuclear weapons institutionalise mass murder - it becomes an acceptable tool of government and, in those countries that claim to be democratic, implicates every citizen in that terrible decision. Above even this, nuclear weapons have the potential to destroy the ecological and social systems on which civilization depends.

CND believe therefore that there are no circumstances in which the possession of nuclear weapons can be justified and that all nuclear weapons should be scrapped.

The Threat

CND was born of what used to be called The Cold War. Today the situation is much more dangerous. There are not just two nuclear arsenals; nine countries now possess between them 5000 nuclear weapons, 2000 of which are kept in a high state of alert - enough weapons to incinerate the earth 5 times over.

CND therefore oppose nuclear weapons everywhere, and, in the Middle East specifically because:

they cause nuclear proliferation - If it's OK for *them*, why not *us*? Under the logic used by existing nuclear states, Israel's and Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and NATO's Middle East military bases surrounding Iran are enough to justify any Iranian nuclear weapons programme. In the insane logic of the nuclear arms race - it becomes

legitimate national self defence.

They make bad situations much worse - Israel and Pakistan's nuclear weapons and NATO's military bases already contaminate Middle East politics and make any settlement much harder to achieve.

They don't provide security - they breed fear and insecurity and mistrust between states and are a major contributor, rather than a solution, to the tragedy in the Middle East. On a practical, physical level, any nuclear war in the Middle East would destroy the land that was being fought over - everyone would lose, the Israelis, the Palestinians, the Iranians, the Iraqis.

They divert resources from really important problems - such as, in the Middle East, the plight of Palestinian refugees and the economic and social disintegration of Palestine. \$1.63 trillion was spent worldwide on all armaments, not just nuclear, in 2010, of which the US accounted for \$698billion (43%). In fact the US has increased its arms spending by over 80% in the last decade. Governments in the Middle East spent \$111billion in 2010 with Saudi Arabia the biggest spender. Think of the health and social programmes within Palestine and in the refugee camps and indeed across the developing world that that sort of money could fund!

They create secrecy and internal repression - Mordechai Vanunu an Israeli nuclear technician, was sentenced in 1986 to 18 years in an Israeli prison (11½ in solitary confinement) for revealing to the Sunday Times what was one of the worst kept secrets in the Middle East - Israel's nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Menace

Israel has them, India has them, Pakistan has them. NATO, which has over 40 military bases surrounding Iran, derives its influence from the numbers of them its members

possess.

The possibility that Iran might be able to develop their own is being used to justify a Pre-emptive military strike.

Paranoia about Iraq's supposed development of WMDs led to the disastrous invasion of that country. A recent alarming report in the Guardian shows there is a fear, even within the International Atomic Energy Agency, about the use that the US and Israel might make of reports of Iran's progress towards a nuclear programme and by implication, nuclear weapons capability.

Once again a conflict between those within the Agency who want a more measured approach, who want more definitive evidence of a weapons programme and those who want to use the existing reports to justify pre-emptive action. A conflict with even more catastrophic potential consequences than in Iraq!

Middle East myths

Iran cannot be trusted not to move from nuclear energy to nuclear weapon production ie not to follow the example of Israel, India, Pakistan etc etc

Iran cannot be trusted with nuclear weapons - why single out Iran? The last 50 years of nuclear escalation, proliferation, near accidents and brinkmanship should have taught us that no nation can be trusted with nuclear weapons.

An Iranian nuclear capability would destabilise the area - as if the existing nuclear presence in the Middle East and the involvement of existing nuclear powers was not already doing so! Iran's alleged nuclear ambitions are the product of an already unstable situation, not the cause. Israel, Pakistan and India's **actual** nuclear weapons, on the other hand, make a very dangerous and unstable situation immeasurably worse.

A Nuclear Free Zone

Can the Middle East ever become a nuclear free zone?

- Not unless Israel admits its nuclear capability and dismantles it. As long as Israel has nuclear weapons it will sit tight in its occupied territories and not take seriously any moves towards a two nation solution. As long as it has nuclear weapons it feels it can demand that America attack Iran or, at the very least, support Israel if it chooses to do so.
- Not unless NATO removes its military bases and its implied military threat in support of the status quo - a status quo which is

becoming increasingly unsustainable.

Other Thoughts

- The more besieged Iran feels the more likely it is to want to acquire nuclear weapons. Perhaps Iran feels besieged precisely because it is!
- The development of 'usable' or 'limited' tactical nuclear weapons will further erode the line between advanced 'conventional' weapons and nuclear and will increase the likelihood of a nuclear strike.
- Depleted uranium has already been used by the USA in the

region with devastating affects on peoples health.

- In modern warfare, the overwhelming majority of casualties are civilians - you cannot attack an abstraction (terror/Islamic extremism/ the axis of evil/ Zionism) without bombing actual people, the vast majority of whom are neither extremists, or terrorists, or fundamentalists.

*Peter Wilson
Co-Chair Merseyside
CND*

*Paper delivered at Health and
Conflict Student Conference*

Quilting for Peace

Dear All

I recently came across a book called "Quilting for Peace" and remembered seeing in the 1980s a quilt made by Russian and American women as a protest about the threat each nation was posing to the other.

In the 19th century, American women who did not have the vote had to find another way to make their political views known. The traditional and communal craft of quilting became a subversive act that could be used to state their views and raise awareness about political causes from abolition to prohibition. Janet Gordon was an anti nuclear activist, who had grown up downwind of the Utah testing ground: her brother had died of cancer caused by the radiation from nearly 200 atomic bombs tested in the 1950s. One of her lectures in 1981 was attended by two women, Anne Hausrath and Diane Jones. In a 1986 interview Diane said: "Here was this nice patriotic woman whose whole life had been changed by nuclear weapons. I turned to Anne and said, 'Someone ought to do something', and she said, 'Why don't we?' The Boise Peace Quilt Project was begun, and is still

going today. Several hundred people have taken part, not all women, and peace quilts have been presented to a number of well-known workers for peace, including, Rosa Parks, Dr. Helen Caldicott and Pete Seegar.

So, why don't we create a Quilt for Peace?

Members and Friends could work alone or start "Quilting for Peace" groups. Bring in people who are not part of the peace movement already. Squares can be embroidered, appliquéd or even painted with symbols or words that convey a message of peace or an image of the peaceful world we all hope for. Each square needs to be a 10cm square including a 1cm undecorated border for joining together.

If we get enough squares to make a quilt we will take it to Vienna for the NPT PrepCom, but we can make more than one. Think of the ultimate recipient. A Diamond Jubilee gift for the Queen (Now that would create media interest), a politician, a peaceworker? Send us your suggestions, but best of all get stitching, or sticking or painting.

Need inspiration?

See: ><http://tinyurl.com/77xmya5> which has an interview with artist Lea McComas who travelled to the United Nations in Geneva last year for an art quilt exhibition called "Peace Quilts." Her own quilt, "The Mending," was included in the show.

Also see: <http://www.quiltchallenge.org/>

<<http://www.quiltchallenge.org/>> about the Peace Quilts exhibition at the UN. As well as the usual CND or CCND symbol, you could do designs with doves, origami cranes, a tree of life and more. If you have a computer, Google 'peace quilt' and select images and see what comes up!

Please send any completed squares to: Patricia Pulham

Christian Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament

Mordechai Vanunu House,
162 Holloway Rd,
London, N7 8DQ

Tel 020 7700 4200/2393

Fax 020 7700 2357

Email: christians@cnduk.org

<<mailto:christians@cnduk.org>>

Web: <http://www.ccnd.gn.apc.org/>

*via email from Network for Peace
April 20th 2012*

Climate Jobs Caravan

One million Climate Jobs Caravan Liverpool 19 May 2012

What is the Climate Caravan?

Following the example of the **Trans Africa Caravan of Hope**, which carried the message of climate justice to the UN talks in Durban, the **Campaign against Climate Change Trade Union Group** is organising a **Climate Jobs Caravan** here in Britain.

Based on the **Million Climate Jobs report**, produced with the assistance of the CWU, PCS, TSSA & UCU trade unions, the Caravan will highlight how creating climate jobs can help us tackle the twin crises of the economy and climate change.

Details of the route, the Million climate Jobs report and Campaign against Climate Change can be found here: www.campaigncc.org/climatejobscaravan

When is it taking place?

The Caravan will be touring simultaneously in the North and South of the UK. It reaches Liverpool on 19th May

Who is involved?

A number of organisations have already pledged their support to the Climate caravan. In Liverpool, a number of local groups are already working to organise the Caravan stop on 19 May in Williamson Square, Liverpool city Centre. They include: Campaign Against Climate Change, Friends of the Earth, Liverpool Climate Action Network, PCS Union, UNISON, Oxfam, Greenpeace, Merseyside CND and many others have already expressed their interest.

What will happen on the day?

The day will focus around the presence of a low emission vehicle which will be equipped with audio / video equipment which will be parked in Williamson Square, Liverpool City

Centre. This will be surrounded by a wide range of stalls from a variety of backgrounds: organic food and drinks, ethical clothing, community groups, environmental groups, public transport bodies and environmentally friendly companies.

A number of activities and performances will also take place, including films & debates, composting and bike repairs workshops, health advisory session, education sessions... A full detailed programme will be available shortly.

For further information, please contact Clara Paillard, event coordinator on clarouf@yahoo.fr or telephone: 07910097607

NB We would like help running our stall on May 19th in Williamson Square. Please contact Peter in the office on Fridays or email mcnd@care4free.net

Save Jeju island

Stop US Missile Offence plans

Jeju is a beautiful World Heritage island off the coast of South Korea - just a few hundred miles from mainland China. The South Korean Navy, under pressure from the US, wants to build a naval base at the 450 year old village of Gangjeong on the southern coast of the Island.

According to a mutual defence pact and Status of Forces Agreement, the US can use any South Korean ports and airfields and President Obama has declared the Asia-Pacific as a military "pivot" in his projection of power "to protect U.S. interests and investments." The US wants to use the base to berth their Aegis missile

defence ships and nuclear aircraft carriers. For five years, the villagers have been fighting the base 'destruction' through political and legal means, at the same time they have been using non-violent protest to resist each stage of the building process (see: Save Jeju Island and on Facebook: 'Save Jeju Island' and 'No Naval Base on Jeju'). The Navy and lead contractors Samsung and Daelim have taken over property; felled trees; destroyed greenhouses; and built miles of razor wired fence to prevent the villager's access to Guroembi rocks, their ancient, holy place of prayer.

We all need to take action. The navy is now planning to start blasting Guroembi rocks in the next day or two. The villagers are desperate. Please Save Guroembi. Save Yang Yoon-Mo. Do your part."

Contact:

Island Governor (Mr. Woo Keun-Min, Governor, The Government of Jeju-do, RoK, jejumaster@jeju.go.kr
President (Mr. Lee Myung-Bak, President, Republic of Korea, President@cwd.go.kr
Defense Minister (Mr. Kim Kwan-Jin, Minister, Ministry of National Defense, RoK Cyber@mnd.go.kr

Especially put pressure on the Jeju Island Governor to prevent the blasting of Guroembi rocks! Let them all know that the world is watching, and that destruction of the village to build a naval base needs to stop. As the people continue to plead: "Please save Gangjeong, the Life and Peace village."

*CND Campaign: Spring 2012
Copies available from Merseyside CND*

The Myths of Nuclear Power

In an interview recently Helen Caldicott answers questions relating to the publication of her book "Nuclear Power is not the answer"

Q The British government claims that nuclear power is a "carbon neutral" form of energy generation, and so does not contribute to global warming. Can you explain why, as you argue in your book, this isn't the case?

A. Carbon Dioxide is the main gas responsible for global warming. This is released into the environment at each step of the nuclear fuel chain - uranium mining, the milling and crushing process, the construction of the massive concrete reactor, the eventual decommissioning of the reactor after 30 to 40 years of operation, and the storage and transportation of radioactive waste. Most of the world's uranium is enriched by the US facility at Paducah, Kentucky. Here two 1,000 megawatt coal-fired plants are used to generate the necessary electricity, producing large quantities of CO₂. Also 93 per cent of the US output of CFC-114 - a gas that destroys the ozone layer and is banned under the Montreal protocol - is released from leaky pipes at the Paducah plant. The CFC-114 gas also adds to global warming. It is 10,000 to 20,000 times more potent a heat trapper than CO₂.

Presently a 1,000 megawatt nuclear reactor produces 30% of the CO₂ produced by a gas fired plant. Within decades, as the quality and concentration of the available nuclear ore decline, it is estimated that a nuclear plant will produce the same total quantity of CO₂ as a gas-fired plant.

Q You claim that the nuclear industry can only produce power at competitive prices because of massive government subsidies. Why do you think that the US and British governments are so pro-nuclear?

A, I think that they are pro-nuclear for three reasons. First, most politicians are scientifically illiterate and believe what they are told by nuclear scientists and the nuclear industry.

Second, nuclear power is an offshoot of the nuclear weapons industry. It has an enormous legacy of power and support from the upper echelons of government, the military and the military-industrial complex.

Finally, nuclear power was originally conceived in the 1950's to assuage the guilt of nuclear weapons scientists after the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were attacked with atomic bombs. Many of these scientists knew about the enormous dangers of radioactive waste but they became wedded to nuclear power because of their guilt.

Q Given the threat of global warming, you argue it is urgent that we move away from fossil fuel energy sources such as coal, gas, and oil, and use renewable energy instead. Do you think that this can be done given the time scale required?

A Yes, the technology for all renewable sources of energy now known is readily available, and is cheaper by orders of magnitude than nuclear power.

This technology could be installed in most dwellings and industries in the world within a few years, depending upon the drive, knowledge and altruism

of the politicians who are supposed to represent us.

Every cent or penny spent on the nuclear industry is stolen from the array of renewable energy forms that are now necessary to save our planet from global warming, and nuclear pollution of our air, food and water.

Q Many writers concerned about climate change champion individual life-style changes, such as switching to electricity suppliers that use renewable sources, or buying a smaller car. Do you think this is enough?

A. In my book I make reference to a study called Synapse. This study shows that 28% of the electricity currently consumed by people in the US could be saved simply by conservation.

This is free, easy and terribly important. Turn off the lights, turn off the TVs, computers, and so on, at night because these machines suck large amounts of electricity from the grid. Buy as small a car as you possibly can, or a hybrid which uses about one third of the amount of petrol of a normal car. Use public transport if you can.

Government should be actively subsidising solar collectors on roofs of houses, all hot water systems should be converted to solar power, and hybrid cars should become ubiquitous - supported by government subsidies. Instead of spending money on weapons to kill people, governments should accept the responsibility of saving the earth.

NB Helen's book is available from MCND Library - contact office

Book Review

"Keeper of the Nuclear Conscience - The life and Work of Joseph Rotblat" by Andrew Brown

Bruce Kent reviews this book in the recent edition of Campaign. Below are a couple of quotes

"In 1944 Rotblat went to Los Alamos to work on 'the bomb' believing it

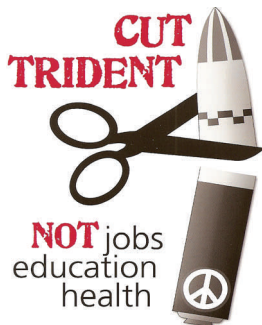
would be a deterrent, but he soon learnt that Hitler had no chance of producing one of his own. Instead he was told that this awful weapon would now be used to threaten the Soviets and might even be used on Japanese cities. As a matter of conscience he resigned and returned to Britain under a cloud of suspicion that he might have

Soviet sympathies."

"he was certainly not too respectable for activism, as his personal public support of Mordecai Vanunu showed. Not every professor would be willing to sit in a mock cage outside the Israeli embassy as he did."

A book to inspire.

NB We haven't got this book yet!



Have you sent off your Cut Trident campaign postcard to your MP yet???

Can you distribute some to your friends, family and workmates?
We have a large supply in the

Peace News Summer Camp

26-30 July, near Shrewsbury
Shropshire

Theme - "Making non-violent revolution" with whole day workshop co-facilitated by US activist George Lakey
Plus

- Eyewitness Afghanistan
- Diversity of tactics
- Chomsky's politics
- Occupy and the limits of consensus
- Smash EDO
- Inside prison
- Cake-making
- ...and much more!

Liverpool Friends of Palestine

Wednesday 16th May 7.30pm
(6.30 for refreshments)
Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, L1 3BT

Main Speaker: Zayneb Al Shala of Lifecourse (an organisation developing a movement for Palestinian water justice) If you or your group would like to sponsor this meeting please contact: Jeanette via MCND

'Olive Tree and Settlers - Life in the West Bank'

an eye witness account by Ann Farr
7.00pm Monday May 14th
St. Michael's Presbytery, Horne St. L6
Pax Christi: janharper1@yahoo.co.uk
0151 263 5623

Maghull and Lydiate

No meetings at present but contact is still kept up between local members who send greetings to other Merseyside CND members
Contact: Sylvi: 0151 526 7293

Birkenhead CND

Next meetings : Thur 22nd May 8pm at Shirley's, Flat 2, 14 Beresford Rd. No meeting in June.

Stall - May /June stall cancelled - Next stall at Peace and Ecology Festival at St.Bride's Church, Liverpool July 21st
Helpers needed: contact: Shirley: 0151 652 3768

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winner: March draw: No. 32 Angela Wylie

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

Wallasey CND

Planning Meetings: Tues. May 8th 3pm at Barbara's, 4 Taunton Rd. & Mon. May 28th 3pm at Eileen's

Tea in the Park: Sun. May 20th & June 17th 2pm- 4pm - with live music!

Cut Trident table in Liscard, Sat. May 19th 10-12

Peace One Day: Fri. Sept. 21st Concert at Park View Social Club. **Help much appreciated at all above.**

Contacts Barbara 638 3967 & Janet 677 1133

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

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 & donate £____

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

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

(* Delete as appropriate)

Merseyside CND, 54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD

Merseyside Co-ord meeting: Tues. June 12th 6pm Basement Room, 96 Bold St. Next door to News from Nowhere 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 and Janet & thanks to Barbara for duplicating it.