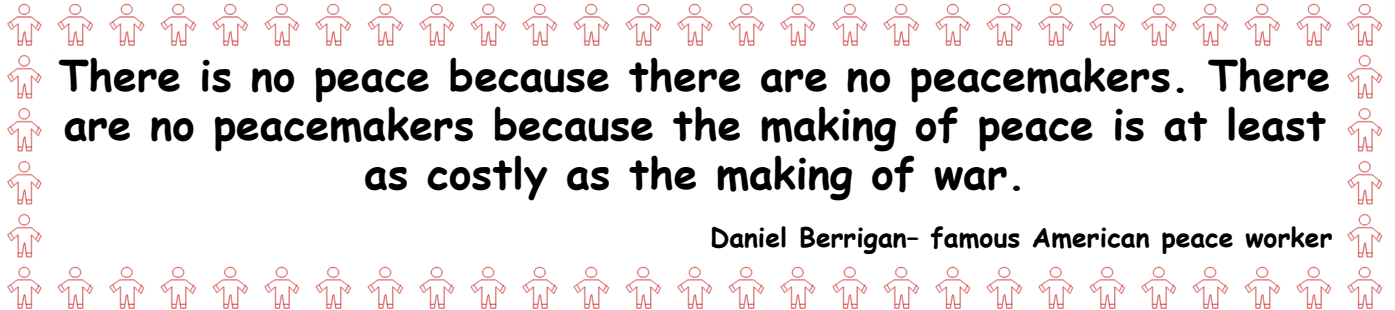


Merseyside CND Newsletter

April/May/June 2017

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There is no peace because there are no peacemakers. There are no peacemakers because the making of peace is at least as costly as the making of war.

Daniel Berrigan- famous American peace worker

Your MP needs your help

There are two subjects on which your MPs are woefully ignorant

1 The United Nations nuclear weapons Ban treaty conference

This conference has just begun in New York and our government who always says how keen they are for multilateral talks **isn't there!!!!** See p5 for a Nuclear Free Local Authority report on a poll which showed that 75% of people would want them there.

Then let Boris Johnson know how you feel—you can email him through the CND website <http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/globalban> or write to him: Foreign and Commonwealth Office London King Charles ST. SW1A 2AH

2 Trident nuclear weaponry

On p2 - Kate Hudson, General Secretary of CND explains how unsafe and irrelevant Trident is as our National Defence system. She also points to a new report they have published which your MPs need to see.

Your MP needs to have this information in a form they can take in quickly without reading the whole report so forwarding Kate's shortened version to your MP would be a start to get your MP interested. The full report is on the CND website

<http://cnduk.org/information/briefings/trident-briefings/item/2661-security-not-trident>

Read the report and share it on social media with the hashtag #StopTrident

Stop Trident Stall Support a Global Ban

With the help of Birkenhead CND we will be holding a stop Trident stall on Saturday 8th April from 11-2pm Milton Square, Birkenhead by the market, near the Bus Station. Help with this would be appreciated — further info Janet Laycock: 677 1133 or Merseyside CND 229 5282 www.mcnd.org.uk mcnd@care4free.net

Global Campaign on Military Spending

GCoMS is the new name for Global Day Against Military Spending and has been extended to run from April 18-28th. GCoMS main goal is to reduce global military spending working cooperatively with many and multifarious civil society organisations.

Merseyside CND will be holding a Stop Trident Stall as part of these GCoMS days of action on Thursday April 20th from 12noon - 14.00 outside Primark, Church St, Liverpool.

There is a stunning video on the 'demilitarize website' of the unequal money spending on world military and all other needy projects:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9po4ggUl-Ew&feature>

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Nuclear weapons get five times as much public research funding in the UK as renewable energy.



Trident Is Unsafe, And It's Not Just The Misfired Missiles

The recent news of misfired nuclear missiles, the ensuing government cover-up, and sustained silence about a serious accident, was symbolic of a wider truth: our decision makers haven't got a grip on the truth about Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system.

Though the misfires remind us that catastrophic nuclear accidents are a very real and present danger, some still argue that these risks are worth it to defend national security. But is that really the role Trident plays? This is the question we try to answer in our new **Security not Trident report**, released on Tuesday March .

In it we argue that real security begins with an honest account of the security threats we face in 21st century Britain. On this we agree with the government's National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security review assessment: the main threats are terrorism, climate change, cyber-attacks and global health security.

It's far from clear, however, in which ways Trident responds to these challenges. Far clearer are the threats and vulnerabilities posed by the Trident system itself.

We now know that Trident is vulnerable to emerging underwater drone technology. One of the big arguments in favour of submarines as a 'platform' for carrying our nuclear weapons has been that they are undetectable under water. When the current system was being built in the 1980s and 1990s, no doubt that was the case. But in the 21st century, how can anyone imagine that a massive metal submarine can remain undetected? As former Defence Secretary Lord Browne warned in 2015, citing a cyber

resilience report from the US's Department of Defence, Trident could be rendered obsolete by cyber-attacks. The worst case scenario is a hostile, cyber take-over of our nuclear weapons system. This is more likely to succeed if



an adversary manages to install a malware programme during the building phase that would activate at a later date. We still routinely hear Trident described as Britain's independent deterrent. The truth is it's neither independent nor a deterrent. Decades of conflict have proved that Trident doesn't deter war. As former British Army officer General Sir Hugh Beach says 'of the 190 states party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) all but five have committed themselves to non-nuclear weapon status permanently. Many of them have the economic, industrial and scientific capacity to become nuclear weapon states if they wished, but have chosen not to. They seem to have suffered no disadvantage from nuclear blackmail. In fact non-nuclear weapon states have often defied possessor states.'

Some MPs voted in favour of replacing Trident on the false belief that Britain's nuclear weapons are a symbol of the country's independence and ability to act

alone. But Trident is neither politically nor technically independent. Much of the system relies on technical support from the United States. The missiles are leased from them; the UK warhead is a copy of the US one, with some components directly bought from Washington. It is inconceivable to imagine a British Prime Minister firing a nuclear missile without permission from the American President, and the rest of the world knows this.

It will always be a government's priority to keep its citizens safe. But what is true security in the 21st century? As the world becomes more inter-linked than ever before, it is becoming the norm to cooperate with other states on the challenges facing us, rather than battle against each other. The actual security threats identified by the government and in this report are complex and will not be solved overnight. But Britain does have the capability to overcome them.

What the country does not need is to spend billions replacing Trident. Disarming could not only provide political leadership to the rest of the nuclear-armed states, but would be a practical guide for how to do it, a blueprint for the rest of the world drafted by our experts and politicians. Britain disarming could even provide impetus to the United Nations' plans for a nuclear weapons-free world. A treaty to ban all nuclear weapons will be negotiated in March and June 2017, which will force the nuclear states to confront their possession of these weapons.

This would be the vital first step to Britain rethinking its approach to security in the twenty-first century.

Kate Hudson—CND General Secretary

Playing with Fire Nuclear Weapons incidents and accidents in the UK

The Nuclear Information Service (NIS) have released a report discussing the accident record of the UK's nuclear weapons programme over its 65 year history, looking across the full scope of the programme and describing the most significant incidents in detail.

The report describes 110 accidents, near misses, and dangerous occurrences that have occurred over the 65 year history of the UK's nuclear weapons programme, comprising of:

- **14 serious accidents** related to the production and manufacturing of nuclear weapons, including fires, fatal explosions, and floods.
- **22 incidents** that have taken place during the road transport of nuclear

weapons, including vehicles overturning, road traffic accidents, and breakdowns.

- **8 incidents** which occurred during the storage and handling of nuclear weapons, including instances when nuclear weapons have been dropped.
- **45 accidents** that have happened to nuclear capable submarines, ships, and aircraft, including collisions, fires at sea, and lightning strikes. 24 of these accidents involved nuclear-armed submarines.
- **21 security-related incidents**, including cases of unauthorised access to secure areas and unauthorised release of sensitive information.
- **In addition, there have been 17**

incidents involving US visiting forces and nuclear weapons in the UK and its coastal waters.

These figures include 27 fires and eight explosions. Seven workers have died in industrial accidents at the Aldermaston nuclear weapons factory, and at least nine have died as a result of suspected radiation contamination. A further 100 are estimated to have died from cancers caused by the 1957 fire at the Windscale reactor which was producing fissile materials for nuclear weapons.....

Given the nature of nuclear weapons, the risks that they pose to public safety are substantially greater than those posed by conventional weapons.... Cont.p3

..Playing with Fire cont. from p2..

Nuclear weapons contain not only radioactive materials, but also high explosives and toxic chemicals. The principal radiological hazard arising in an accident where a nuclear weapon is damaged would arise from the combustion of plutonium and uranium and their subsequent release into the environment as airborne particles. The impacts of such an accident are difficult to quantify, but they would be severe socially, economically, and politically.

This report aims to take a holistic approach to nuclear weapons accidents and examines all the stages in the operational life cycle of a nuclear weapon, documenting mishaps that have occurred during the manufacture of nuclear weapons, their transport between locations, storage and handling, and their deployment on submarines, ships, or aircraft. We also look at incidents where the security of nuclear weapons has been compromised, and briefly examine the nuclear accident record of United States visiting forces based in Britain. Seven detailed case studies are given to illustrate each section of the report:

- **The 1957 Windscale fire** - the UK's most serious nuclear accident to date, which happened because of short-cuts taken as Britain raced to produce military nuclear materials for its hydrogen bomb programme.
- **An accident in 1987 when a truck** carrying two nuclear weapons skidded and overturned on an icy road in Wiltshire.
- **An incident which took place at RAF Bruggen** in Germany in 1984 when a container containing a nuclear bomb slid off a trailer because personnel had ignored procedures for securing the container to the trailer.
- **The story of why nuclear weapons were taken to the Falklands Islands**, despite the risks involved, by the Task Force which set out to recapture the Islands from Argentina in 1982.
- **Details of the underwater collision** which took place in the Atlantic Ocean between a British and a French submarine, each nuclear armed, in 2009.
- **One of the most serious security breaches** in the history of the UK's nuclear weapons programme, when

three peace campaigners managed to break into the control room of a Polaris submarine in 1988.

- **A Cold War air crash** which took place at RAF Lakenheath in 1956 when a US Air Force bomber collided with a storage igloo containing three nuclear bombs.

Although this report is not a rigorous quantitative analysis of the accidents which have befallen the UK's nuclear weapons, it is possible to draw some general conclusions from the study. They may seem obvious to many, but they nevertheless deserve to be clearly stated and presented.

- The risk of failures and accidents increases when equipment reaches the end of its operating life - be it a submarine, truck, nuclear processing facility, or merely a length of pipework.
- Risks also increase when equipment is in short supply and is overused.
- Accidents are more likely to occur when operations are hurried or are conducted under pressure.
- Workers sometimes may not follow even the strictest instructions and procedures.

Accidents involving British nuclear weapons have happened for all these reasons. Some broader themes also emerge.

The first of these is that it is impossible to guard against completely unpredicted and unforeseeable chance accidents. Nuclear weapons are complex technical systems, which themselves are part of wider systems of even greater complexity. 'Normal accident theory', developed by Charles Perrow, postulates that accidents are inevitable in complex and tightly linked systems. With nuclear weapons we are dealing with extremely complex systems, and the potential consequences if things go wrong are grave.

A second theme is that when operational needs come up against the demands of safety, operational imperatives consistently trump safety. Under these circumstances, when operational essentials confront safety needs the balance will always fall in favour of keeping the operation going.

The third theme to surface relates to the honesty with which the authorities will report on nuclear accidents. Government sources have invariably underplayed the seriousness of accidents involving nuclear weapons and refrained from telling the whole story.

To address these concerns we make three recommendations to the government:

- Introduce procedures for publicly reporting accidents involving nuclear weapons. In order to remove the cloak of official secrecy which surrounds nuclear safety in the Ministry of Defence, safety regulators should prepare a quarterly report describing and evaluating all accidents with an International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) rating of one or more which have occurred within the MoD's nuclear programmes.
- Place Ministry of Defence nuclear programmes under external regulation. We propose that regulation of the military nuclear → programme should become the responsibility of an expanded Office for Nuclear Regulation, and visibly subject to the same regulatory standards as the civil nuclear sector. Such a step would help reduce the conflict of interest that the Secretary of State for Defence faces in managing nuclear programmes and redress the balance between meeting operational requirements and maintaining safety standards.
- Support an international ban on nuclear weapons. NIS believes that the only way of eliminating the risks posed by an accident involving one of Britain's nuclear weapons is to eliminate nuclear weapons themselves. This year negotiations will commence at the United Nations on a nuclear ban treaty which will prohibit the use, deployment, and manufacture of nuclear weapons. The ban treaty gives us an opportunity to get rid of nuclear weapons for once and for all, and Britain should embrace this opportunity.

Editor note—some of this article has been cut—full details:
www.nuclearinfo.org

Here's another Fine Mess they've got us in!

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) is very disappointed that the public purse will have to fork out over £100 million due to the bungling of contracts for decommissioning Magnox nuclear reactors by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). After losing a July 2016 legal case in the High Court, amidst comments by the judge that NDA had "manipulated" and

"fudged" the contract process when offering the 14 year contract to Cavendish Flour, the NDA has now agreed to settle with Energy Solutions and Bechtel. The legal claim and costs are estimated to be £85 million to Energy Solutions and £12.5 million to Bechtel. A further £50 million may have to be paid to other bidders to reclaim their costs - all of which is public money. UK Ministers have also decided that the NDA will have to terminate the contract altogether with Cavendish Flour after

discovering a "significant mismatch between the work that was specified in the contract . . . and the work that actually needs to be done". As ever with nuclear decommissioning work, the full costs of cleaning up the Magnox nuclear reactors is now expected to cost significantly more than the budgeted £6.1 billion after the discovery of large quantities of asbestos and other significant environmental issues. NFLA Press Release 28.3.17

Fukushima clean-up falters six years after tsunami

Barely a fifth of the way into their mission, the engineers monitoring the Scorpion's progress conceded defeat. With a remote-controlled snip of its cable, the latest robot sent into the bowels of one of Fukushima Daiichi's damaged reactors was cut loose, its progress stalled by lumps of fuel that overheated when the nuclear plant suffered a triple meltdown six years ago this week.

As the 60cm-long Toshiba robot, equipped with a pair of cameras and sensors to gauge radiation levels was left to its fate last month, the plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco), attempted to play down the failure of yet another reconnaissance mission to determine the exact location and condition of the melted fuel. Even though its mission had been aborted, the utility said, "valuable information was obtained which will help us determine the methods to eventually remove fuel debris".

The Scorpion mishap, two hours into an exploration that was supposed to last 10 hours, underlined the scale and difficulty of decommissioning Fukushima Daiichi - an unprecedented undertaking one expert has described as "almost beyond comprehension". Cleaning up the plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl after it was struck by a magnitude-9 earthquake and tsunami on the afternoon of 11 March 2011, is expected to take 30 to 40 years, at a cost Japan's trade and industry ministry recently estimated at 21.5tr yen (\$189bn). The figure, which includes compensating tens of thousands of evacuees, is nearly double an estimate released three years ago. The tsunami killed almost 19,000 people, most of them in areas north of Fukushima, and forced 160,000 people living near the plant to flee their homes. Six years on, only a small number have returned to areas deemed safe by the authorities.

Developing robots capable of penetrating the most dangerous parts of Fukushima Daiichi's reactors - and spending enough time there to obtain crucial data - is proving a near-impossible challenge for Tepco. The Scorpion - so called because of its camera-mounted folding tail - "died" after stalling along a rail beneath the reactor pressure vessel, its path blocked by lumps of fuel and other debris. The device, along with other robots, may also have been damaged by an unseen enemy: radiation. Before it was abandoned, its dosimeter indicated that radiation levels inside the No 2 containment vessel were at 250 sieverts an hour. In an earlier probe using a remote-controlled camera, radiation at about the same spot was as high as 650 sieverts an hour - enough to kill a human being within a minute.

Shunji Uchida, the Fukushima Daiichi plant manager, concedes that Tepco acquired "limited" knowledge about the state of the melted fuel. "So far we've only managed to take a peek, as the last experiment with the robot didn't go well," he tells the Guardian and other media on a recent visit to the plant. "But we're not thinking of another approach at this moment."

Robotic mishaps aside, exploration work in the two other reactors, where radiation levels are even higher than in reactor No 2, has barely begun. There are plans to send a tiny waterproof robot into reactor No 1 in the next few weeks, but no date has been set for the more seriously damaged reactor No 3. Naohiro Masuda, the president of Fukushima Daiichi's decommissioning arm, says he wants another probe sent in before deciding on how to remove the melted fuel. Despite the setbacks, Tepco insists it will begin extracting the melted fuel in 2021 - a decade after the disaster - after consulting government officials this summer.

But Shaun Burnie, a senior nuclear specialist at Greenpeace Germany who is based in Japan, describes the challenge confronting the utility as "unprecedented and almost beyond comprehension", adding that the decommissioning schedule was "never realistic or credible". The latest aborted exploration of reactor No 2 "only reinforces that reality", Burnie says. "Without a technical solution for dealing with unit one or three, unit two was seen as less challenging. So much of what is communicated to the public and media is speculation and wishful thinking on the part of industry and government."

"The current schedule for the removal of hundreds of tons of molten nuclear fuel, the location and condition of which they still have no real understanding, was based on the timetable of prime minister [Shinzo] Abe in Tokyo and the nuclear industry - not the reality on the ground and based on sound engineering and science." Even Shunichi Tanaka, the chairman of Japan's nuclear regulation authority, does not appear to share Tepco's optimism that it will stick to its decommissioning roadmap. "It is still early to talk in such an optimistic way," he says. "At the moment, we are still feeling around in the dark."

'The situation is not under control'

On the surface, much has changed since the Guardian's first visit to Fukushima Daiichi five years ago. Then, the site was still strewn with tsunami wreckage. Hoses, pipes and building materials covered the ground, as thousands of workers braved high radiation levels to bring a semblance of order to the scene of a nuclear disaster.

Six years later, damaged reactor buildings have been reinforced, and more than 1,300 spent fuel assemblies have been safely removed from a storage pool in reactor No 4. The ground has been covered with a special coating to prevent rainwater from adding to Tepco's water-management woes.

Workers who once had to change into protective gear before they approached Fukushima Daiichi now wear light clothing and simple surgical masks in most areas of the plant. The 6,000 workers, including thousands of contract staff, can now eat hot meals and take breaks at a "rest house" that opened in 2015.

But further up the hill from the coastline, row upon row of steel tanks are a reminder of the decommissioning effort's other great nemesis: contaminated water. The tanks now hold about 900,000 tons of water, with the quantity soon expected to reach 1m tons.

Tepco's once-vaunted underground ice wall, built at a cost of 24.5bn yen, has so far failed to completely prevent groundwater from leaking into the reactor basements and mixing with radioactive coolant water. The structure, which freezes the soil to a depth of 30 metres, is still allowing 150 tonnes of groundwater to seep into the reactor basements every day, said Yuichi Okamura, a Tepco spokesman. Five sections have been kept open deliberately to prevent water inside the reactor basements from rising and flowing out more rapidly. "We have to close the wall gradually," Okamura said. "By April we want to keep the influx of groundwater to about 100 tonnes a day, and to eliminate all contaminated water on the site by 2020."

Critics of the clean-up note that 2020 is the year Tokyo is due to host the Olympics, having been awarded the Games after Abe assured the International Olympic Committee that Fukushima was "under control". Mitsuhiro Tanaka, a former Babcock-Hitachi nuclear engineer, accuses Abe and other government officials of playing down the severity of the decommissioning challenge in an attempt to win public support for the restart of nuclear reactors across the country. "Abe said Fukushima was under control when he went overseas to promote the Tokyo Olympics, but he never said anything like that in Japan," says Tanaka. "Anyone here could see that the situation was not under control."

"If people of Abe's stature repeat something often enough, it becomes accepted as the truth."

Justin McCurry—Guardian

BAE Warton

Activists released on bail after attempt to disarm BAE fighter jets bound for Saudi Arabia.

Daniel Woodhouse, a Methodist minister from Leeds, and Quaker activist Sam Walton have been released on bail pending charges after breaking into BAE's Warton site. The pair were **arrested** at BAE Systems' airbase in Warton, Lancashire, in the early hours of Sunday 29 January after entering BAE Systems' Warton site in order to disarm warplanes bound for Saudi Arabia.



The aircraft are part of a multi-billion pound deal between BAE Systems and the Saudi regime, and were due to be shipped to Saudi Arabia within weeks. Their action came as a panel of UN experts warned that the devastating Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen, which have caused a humanitarian catastrophe, may be part of "a broader policy of attrition against civilian infrastructure" which may "amount to war crimes."

On their release, the Reverend Daniel Woodhouse and Sam Walton said:

BAE security found us just metres from war planes bound for Saudi Arabia. We're gutted that we couldn't disarm a plane and stop it being used to carry out airstrikes in Yemen. We could have saved lives by preventing Saudi war crimes in Yemen.

The UK government has blood on its hands and we need to do everything we can to stop the transfer of weapons and show these sales are illegitimate. By providing weapons and support Britain is deeply complicit in Saudi war-crimes, and it's vital that we bring an end to this immoral, abhorrent trade.

The pair released a statement in advance of their action explaining their intentions. Today we intend to enter BAE Warton, to locate warplanes bound for Saudi Arabia, and disarm them. We take this action in order to prevent the export of weaponry that will almost certainly be used in war crimes.

This day in 1996, three women entered the same site to disarm a plane being sent to Indonesia to be used in the genocide in East Timor. It is symbolic that we take action on this day to mirror the rightness of their action, which a jury found to be lawful.

Eurofighter Typhoons and Tornados sold to Saudi Arabia are being used on combat missions in Yemen. BAE also supplies Saudi Arabia with Hawk jets, used to train the Royal Saudi Air Force, which will almost certainly have been used in Yemen in their ground attack capacity. Typhoons and Hawk jets are known to be on site being prepared for imminent delivery to Saudi Arabia, and we have seen Saudi Tornados there ourselves.

By stopping or even delaying Saudi Arabia having more planes with which to bomb Yemen this action will save innocent lives and prevent war crimes. Our action is therefore necessary to prevent a greater crime. We are clear that the real crime taking place is arming despots, who frequently use arms on their own people, are known to use torture and the death penalty, and who will be using the planes sent from BAE Warton to continue to commit crimes against humanity.

Even if we do not manage to disarm a plane bound for Saudi Arabia, we hope that by openly trying to do so we will endanger future arms deals. The Saudi rulers are notoriously touchy about criticism - they don't tolerate it at all in their country. Furthermore, they are not just buying arms - they are also buying legitimacy. That is why whenever we want to seal a big deal senior royals and government ministers must fly out and persuade them to buy weaponry. We need to do everything we can to show these sales are illegitimate and stop the government pushing for more sales. We hope that by shining a light on British complicity in Saudi war-crimes we will contribute to ending arms deals with this regime. Therefore even if we do not manage our primary aim of stopping or delaying a plane being used in war crimes through physically rendering it incapable of doing so, this action will still less directly in the future prevent war-crimes by stopping weapons being sold to those that perpetrate them.

This action has been planned over many months. We do not take these steps lightly, but we have no other option. We have been active in opposing the arms trade to Saudi Arabia for years, and in the face of wilful government denial that there is a problem with arming Saudi, including willingness to suspend our own due process of law, and complete unwillingness to consider stopping arming Saudi Arabia, we must take this action.

It is absolutely beyond a shadow of a doubt that BAE's Typhoons and Tornados are being used by Saudi Arabia in their war in Yemen, where, again beyond a shadow of a doubt, they are committing war crimes - 78% of deaths in Yemen are civilians, 69% of civilian deaths and injuries were caused by air-launched weapons, over 99% of civilian deaths and injuries from airstrikes were by those perpetrated by the Saudi-led coalition. That means 53% of those people killed in Yemen are civilians killed by Saudi airstrikes - a war crime.

A legal analysis from Matrix Chambers found that the UK government is breaking international, EU and UK law by supplying arms to Saudi Arabia in the context of its military intervention and bombing campaign in Yemen. In June 2016, a Judicial Review of the government's decision to keep selling arms was granted and will be heard in February. In October 2016 two Parliamentary Committees said, "Given the evidence we have heard and the volume of UK manufactured arms exported to Saudi Arabia, it seems inevitable that any violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by the coalition have involved arms supplied from the UK. This constitutes a breach of our own export licensing criteria."

We probably won't even make it to a plane bound for Saudi; we will probably get caught and either thrown off the base or arrested, but we have to try. We will carry out this action in the safest way possible and, if we are spotted, we will comply with reasonable requests from BAE personnel and not resist arrest.

We intend this action to be accountable, just as we believe selling weapons to be used in war-crimes must be. Therefore, if we are not spotted we will alert the authorities, rather than attempt to 'get away with it.' We fully expect to be arrested and are prepared to spend time in prison if need be. It is for the sake of accountability that we have written this statement in advance and will carry it with us on the action.

'Shadow World'

A film about the relationship between politicians and the arms trade will be showing at Theatre Clywd on Wednesday 12th April 8pm as part of Wales One World Film Festival. A smart, hard-hitting look at the global arms trade followed by panel discussion with author Andrew Feinstein. Tickets free from Theatre Clwyd: 01352 701521 wowfilmfestival.com/en/nearby/mold

Remembering the fight for workers' rights: a Tribute to Union and Campaign activist Denis Anderson

Denis Anderson was a Liverpool docker. He began working on the Docks in 1951, he was 21 years of age and he worked for Scruttons then, the same company that my father worked for. But I first met Denis in the 1960s when I was still at school, because he used to meet regularly with the father of a friend of mine in the early 1960s. Alec Roberts, lived in Lee Vale Road, was one of the Dunlop Shop stewards, a member of the TGWU Executive Council, and more importantly, another member of the Communist Party like Denis. Even as teenagers we all knew the significance of these meetings, the importance of being in a trade union, and the power these men and women had in the local factories and the docks where we would all eventually look for work.

That same year, 1951, when Denis started on the docks TGWU officials appeared in Court to give evidence against seven dockers. These men had been arrested under Regulation 1305 Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act of 1875 and order 1305. They were charged at the Old Bailey with leading an unofficial wage dispute which had started on Merseyside earlier that year and had eventually spread to London. It was also well documented that the security services, especially MI5, had long infiltrated the dockers' union at official and rank and file level. When I started on the Liverpool docks in 1970 Denis had been there almost twenty years and he was

of a generation of post-war dockers' leaders such as Frankie Deegan, Alex 'Bunny' McKechnie, Bill Johnson, Jackie Lydon, Phil Batty, Billy Donegie and Denis Kelly. These men would struggle to organise within a union and an industry that would refuse to accept elected shop stewards on the dock until after 1967. They also had to contend with the reality of the 'Cold War', of the McCarthy witchhunts in the USA, matched by the bans and proscriptions imposed by the TUC and the TGWU in the UK on members of the Communist Party, of 'fellow travellers'. Communists were stopped from holding any office in the union from 1946 until 1969. At a time when dock employers openly discriminated against Catholics or Protestants in the hire of dockers in the pens little effort would be made to hire dockers who were Communist Party members. Arrest and imprisonment were often used against the dockers and in Denis' own words these dockers, 'didn't give up, they were a tremendous driving force.' Their struggles made it easier for all who followed them.

Interviewed in the 1980s for a Warwick University study Denis said, the dockers' belonged:

'To a union where we were getting kicked left, right and centre. But there was no point in having a union if you don't make it work. I don't agree with abusing people; to me if you want to abuse people you are not going to get your argument across.'

(Research material of Professor Fred Lindop on trade unionism in British docks, 1980-1985)

Denis Anderson was on the National Docks and Waterways Committee when he moved the resolution for a national dock strike in 1972 over the Pentonville Five. When I got to know Denis, he was always with his comrades, Kenny Kelly and John Hume and they were very similar men, quiet, intelligent and very well read like the vast majority of Liverpool dockers. They were highly principled men and Denis often used to tell his son, Shaun, how immensely proud he was to have been a Liverpool docker. Denis Anderson was an internationalist and his support of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign was a symbol of his commitment to workers' struggle and on the docks in Liverpool he took part and organised direct action in support of workers struggles in Chile and South Africa amongst many others. I always remember the many strikes and disputes on the docks where Denis would always be interested to know the detail, the analysis, what a struggle was about - he never failed to offer support and advice - he was part of this extraordinary generation of intelligent, dignified men and women who were capable of raising the standard of radical rank and file trade unionism on a global stage against human exploitation and capitalism.

Mike Carden 280317

Merseyside Cuba Solidarity Campaign Annual Fund Raising Meal

will be held on Wednesday 10th May at Blackburne House in Hope Place in Liverpool.

We are pleased that once again Geoff Bottoms will be our speaker and we will also have musical entertainment. The meal this year will be held in honour of Denis Anderson and Gordon Nash.

Tickets costing £20 will be available at our next meeting on Wednesday 12th April. If you will not be at the meeting and want to buy tickets please send a cheque made payable to Merseyside Cuba Solidarity to Penny Anderson 23 Acre Lane Bromborough Wirral CH62 7BX.

As well as being a good fund raising opportunity this is always a very enjoyable social event so I hope you will be able to join us.

Penny Anderson

Bob Tressell Festival

Fri. April 28 3.30-5pm
Rice Lane Farm

Wreath laying event at graveside and presentation of Robert Tresell 'Bust' by Nigel Sales with Liverpool Socialist Singers Followed by talk on "Working Class life in Victorian Liverpool" by Ken Pye

Evening Discussion Adelphi Hotel 7pm

Comparison between life in Liverpool in the 1880s when Tressell lived in Liverpool and today's Britain under Tory government austerity policy. Speakers: John McDonnell Shadow Chancellor, Tosh McDonald President ASLEF and Rebecca Long Bailey MP (invited)
Chair Alec McFadden Book online: www.BobTressFest.eventbrite.com
Info alec_stuc@hotmail.com
www.bobtressellfestival.org.uk

Bob Tressell Festival

Saturday 29th April
presents

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists

Liverpool Library 7-9.30pm

Adapted for stage by Tom McLennan and performed by Costal productions

Tickets: £10/£8 (concessions).

Book online:

www.wegottickets.com/costal

Contact: alec_stuc@hotmail.com

Merseyside CND would like to thank Penny and family for making us beneficiaries of donations at Denis' funeral shared with Merseyside Cuba Solidarity.



The UK citizens want UK participation

NFLA ask the question – if 75% of the public want the UK Government to go to the UN nuclear weapons ban treaty conference, why is the Government ignoring their wishes? And why is the media not asking them to attend?

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes an opinion poll commissioned by Abolition 2000 UK which shows that a full 75% of UK adults think the Government should be represented at nuclear disarmament talks due to begin at the United Nations next week. Only 9% said the Government should not attend and 16% were undecided. (1)

This comes after the Government confirmed in a Parliamentary answer to the Green Party Leader Caroline Lucas MP that not only would ministers boycott this important conference, but they would not even send Foreign Office civil servants to it. (2)

The conference at the UN in New York was agreed by over two thirds of UN member states in December, following ongoing frustration at the intransigence of nuclear weapon states stalling talks in the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conferences. The March conference follows information that has been gleaned from previous UN conferences on the dire humanitarian consequences if a nuclear weapon was ever used today. The conference takes place in March / April and then again in June / July and will consider the development of an international treaty to ban the use of nuclear weapons. In May there will also be a Preparatory Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in UN buildings in Vienna, which the UK will attend. NFLA, through its support of ICAN (International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and the Mayors for Peace will have a presence at these conferences.

The Abolition 2000 opinion poll unsurprisingly found that most people in the UK are unaware of the nuclear negotiations about to start in New York. This is unsurprising as

there has been next to no coverage of these matters in the print or broadcast media, in comparison to media in other countries.

What is particularly interesting is that the opinion poll showed that among those who voted Conservative in 2015, 79% are in favour of the Government taking part in these negotiations. Those who voted Labour were equally adamant at 79%. In terms of age, those who most want to see the Government contribute to nuclear disarmament worldwide are aged 65 and over, many of whom who can still remember the horrors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombing, as well as the radioactive contamination caused by atmospheric tests of the 1950s. Amongst younger people there was a higher percentage of 'don't knows', but they were still over 70% in favour of the UK actively taking part in the conference.

Despite the decision to renew the Trident nuclear weapons programme last year, the UK Government has a clear policy of supporting multi-lateral nuclear disarmament. It seems to NFLA churlish and counter-productive for the government to boycott this conference. In contrast, the NFLA welcomes the highly active involvement of the Republic of Ireland Government in this process, which keeps with the long-standing cross-party support in Ireland to seek to ban nuclear weapons. (3) NFLA notes the Chinese and Indian Governments are expected to attend the conference and is therefore particularly disappointed the UK has followed the same course of some other nuclear weapon states.

NFLA is disappointed with the lack of media interest in the UK to this important opinion poll. It is important to inform the public that the large majority of countries in the world are calling for nuclear disarmament.

NFLA are supporting a joint initiative of disarmament groups writing to the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson to rethink the UK's attendance at the conference in light of this opinion poll. (4)

NFLA Steering Committee Chair Councillor Ernie Galsworthy said: "This opinion poll clearly shows that the British public want to see its government take seriously the urgent need for multilateral nuclear disarmament. Such support for active engagement is as strong with Conservative supporters as for those of other political parties. NFLA believe it is essential to talk and negotiate for nuclear disarmament. It calls on Boris Johnson to think again and attend the upcoming conference, or at the very least send officials to it. Boycotting such talks sends out a worrying precedent at a time when the likes of North Korea are unilaterally trying to develop a nuclear weapons programme, with all the risks entailed in that. You can't claim moral superiority if you don't turn up to the meetings."

Ends - for more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary, on 0161 234 3244.

Notes for editors:

(1) Abolition 2000 UK media release, 20th March 2017. This is attached with this media release and will go on the NFLA website <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>.

(2) The Independent, 15th March 2017, 'UN nuclear disarmament talks: UK Government not attending discussions labelled 'reckless and irresponsible' by Green Party leader Caroline Lucas' <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/un-nuclear-disarmament-talks-uk-government-not-attend-caroline-lucas-mp-reckless-irresponsible-123-a7631546.html>

(3) Irish Times, 18th March 2017, 'Ireland is right to lead the way against nuclear weapons' <http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/world-view-ireland-is-right-to-lead-way-against-nuclear-weapons-1.2854643>

(4) The joint ICAN UK led letter was submitted to the Foreign Secretary on the 24th March.

Birkenhead CND

Shirley Johnson—following her accident in January, she is making a good recovery but has decided to leave Wirral and go to Reading where some of her children live.

So we have a new Chair—Joan Goodier : Tel: 200 2312 e; joangoodier@hotmail.com and Secretary--Cathy Page: Tel: 378-1760 email: cath.page@phonecoop.coop

Next meetings: @18 Southdale Rd. Tranmere CH42 3XW Tuesdays 11th April, 9th May, 13th June at 8pm

Stall on Saturday 8th April 11-2pm Milton Square by the market and near the Bus Station

Peace Education on Merseyside

We are finding it very difficult to be invited into schools and colleges who regularly invite the military with a message that militarism is good - 'join up for an exciting career' 'helping conflict solving all over the world' a message that totally ignores the violent methods used to solve problems.

We hope to have a meeting with the CND's new Peace Education Worker and have made contact with Brian Kelly who works as a volunteer PEW from Warrington hoping to go into local schools to present a different approach to international conflict resolution. If you'd like to be part of this new project please let Barbara know: 638 3967 or through the office: 229 5282

Meanwhile the shopping centre in Runcorn has been exhibiting local school children's art work. One school, Windmill Hill Primary, have made and displayed peace cranes. There's no mention of Hiroshima or Sadako Sasaki in the exhibit but it might be worth contacting them to see if they might allow someone to go to the school and tell them the story behind the cranes: contact Andy through the office for fuller info.

Merseyside CND 50 Club

Recent winner: Jan: Rita Walker; Feb: Judy Patterson For £5 per month you too could be a winner of £50 per month or £250/£100/£50 in the annual draw.

Thanks to all members of the 50 Club and if you'd like to help this fund raiser for Merseyside CND please contact the office (11am -3pm) for a membership form - 0151 229 5282 mcnd@care4free.net

Liverpool Pax Christi

Meets on first Tuesday each month at Sacred Heart Church, Low Hill, Liverpool 7 at 7pm
We do have a day on active nonviolence in May,
Further info: Jan Harper: 263 5623
Email: janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

Wallasey CND

Planning Meeting: Monday April 10th 3pm and May 8th 2pm at 4 Taunton Rd. CH45 3JN

Stalls: Sat. April 8th 12-2pm Milton Square Birkenhead—see Under Birkenhead CND

Sat. April 29th 12-2pm New Brighton—near the bus stops by Morrisons.

Tea in Park: 2-4pm 3rd Sundays in the summer months: April 16th, May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, Aug. 20th and Sept. 17th in the Walled Garden at Central Park. We're also invited to have a cake stall at the "Lark in the Park" every 1st Sunday- May 7th, June 4th, July 2nd, Aug. 6th and Sept. 3rd. Help baking in advance or working on the sales tables - much appreciated.

Contacts: Barbara 638 3967, Janet 677 1133

Merseyside Peace Network

Meeting: Tuesday April 11th 5.30pm at Liverpool Friends Meeting House, School Lane. To discuss—GCoMS (see p1); local exhibition about Conscientious Objectors of World War 1 & CO Day May 15th; Armed Forces Day June 24th—this is being held in Liverpool this year. Do we respond? Forces Watch would like us to. Info: contact Pax Christi (above) or MCND

Manchester Peace Trail

3 of us from Merseyside joined Steve Roman's tour last Sunday. It was most informative and enjoyable. Steve is willing to run one for a group of us if we like. So let us know if it appeals to you and we'll put you in touch with others to sort a date out. It takes about 2-3 hours starting at Victoria Station and ending in Piccadilly Gardens, passing memorials to Peterloo Massacre, Abraham Lincoln, Alan Turing, new and old Peace Gardens and much more ...

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-£5/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £2.

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, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AHD

MCND Co-ord: 2pm
Wednesday April 5th
CND Office 151 Dale St.

*If you receive a separate renewal form with this newsletter it means your subs are due. - Thankyou.
We will try to remember to remind email members too.*

This edition of the newsletter run up by Cathy and Janet.

