

#eddwch



the magazine of CND Cymru

Winter 1997
FREE (or donation)

Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Trident – Britain's £33 billion killing machine

The Trident nuclear weapons system now consists of 3 commissioned submarines each with the capability of carrying 96 nuclear warheads on 16 missiles. The 4th Trident submarine is due to be commissioned next year. The annual running cost of the Trident nuclear system is £1.5 thousand million. Each of the 4 submarines has a potential destructive power 640 times greater than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima.

**still deadly,
still costly,
still immoral,
still here**

INSIDE:

**News Updates –
Greenham –
Eisteddfod actions –
Blood in Llandudno –
Windscale 1957 –
... and more**



CND Cymru works for international peace and disarmament and a world in which the vast resources now devoted to militarism are redirected to the real needs of the human community

New Labour keeping old Tory promises

In June, John Spellar, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the MoD told Parliament that no more missiles would be bought until the Strategic Defence Review had been completed. Completion of that Review is not expected until next Spring.

This Autumn, Tony Blair's New Labour Government announced that it is to spend a further £150 million on 7 more Trident nuclear missiles. The Scottish National Party's Defence Spokesperson Colin Campbell is calling on the Prime Minister to explain this contradiction and has offered to provide the Government with list of areas where the money could be better spent.

Even if the Government honours its Election Manifesto Pledge by reducing the number of warheads on each Trident submarine by 50%, the world will not be a safer place and the risks to the environment and health posed by production, transport and storage will be as great. It has been said that on present form, multilateral (international) negotiations for nuclear disarmament will not begin until 2007. Those of us campaigning for a nuclear free future for our children feel horrified to realise that in 10 years time we could still have over 20,000 warheads on the planet – equal to half a million Hiroshimas.

Wales says 'Scrap Trident'

A 'Gallup' opinion poll commissioned by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities gave a clear mandate to the Labour

Government to seize the initiative and take bold and imaginative steps to rid the World of nuclear weapons. The Poll showed that 61% of Welsh people now agree that it will be best for the security of our community in Britain does NOT have nuclear weapons. 65% of Welsh people agree that spending £1.5 billion each year to maintain Britain's nuclear weapons is an unnecessary use of resources.

During a recent half – hour 'phone in' programme on BBC Radio Cymru it was not possible to find anyone to publicly support the spending of £150 million on these extra missiles at a time when education, social and health services in Welsh communities are being thrown peanuts.

✚ ACTION
Please write to your MP. Tell them why you consider nuclear disarmament is necessary. Tell them about the opinion poll (more details from CND Cymru), and express your hope that they will represent your point of view in Parliament.

Write to Tony Blair: The Foreign Office has promised 'a new momentum on arms control and disarmament' – ask him to carry this promise forward by playing a more active role in the international disarmament process.

"Lobby" – The Parliamentary Newsletter of British CND, provides information and ideas to use in lobbying your MP and the Government. It is available free from: Justine Cole, CND (0171) 700 2393. 162, Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.

Eleven years in solitary confinement for Vanunu: international vigil in Israel

Sixteen activists from around the World joined with Israelis for a week long series of vigils to demand freedom for the anti – nuclear whistle blower Mordechai Vanunu. In 1986, Vanunu was kidnapped by Israeli secret police and charged with treason and espionage for giving information about Israel's nuclear weapons production to the Sunday Times newspaper.

From September 24 – 30th Vigilers stood outside the gates of Ashkelon Prison where Vanunu has spent the last 11 years in solitary confinement in a 2x3 metre cell. They also vigiled at other sites related to the case: the Ministries of Justice and Defence, embassies and the homes of the Prime Minister and President.

The largest anti-nuclear demonstration in Israeli history took place at the Dimona nuclear facility in the Negev Desert on September 27th.

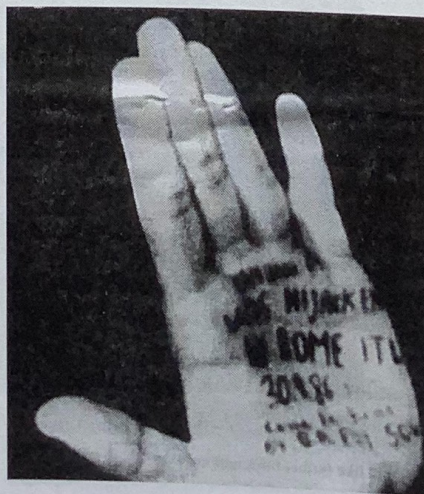
There was an angry response from many Israelis on the street. Government propaganda has ensured that Vanunu is seen as an 'atom-spy' and traitor, yet some individuals felt that 11 years was enough and he should be released. There were also gestures of Peace from passers by; thumbs – up and peace signs from passing drivers and thanks to the vigilers, one man telling them that Vanunu is the greatest man in Israel, a hero.

The rock band U2 performed a concert on the 11th anniversary of Vanunu's imprisonment. Bono, the lead singer made an eloquent appeal to 40,000 assembled fans which was widely reported in the media the following day.

Many thanks to Felice Cohen Joppa.

✚ ACTION
Please, send letters of support to Mordechai Vanunu, Ashkelon Prison, Israel.

More information is available from CND Cymru and from Campaign to Free Vanunu & for a Nuclear Free Middle East, 89, Borough High Street, London SE1 1NL



Who's the Captain?

(On hearing of the tourist plans for Trawsfynydd Lake near the old Nuclear Power Station)

Bang in the middle of the National Park
There's a lake that is deep and blue
But to say that it's safe for cruises, boys,
Is blatantly untrue.

There's Caesium 137 in the lake, you see,
(What the lambs are still tested for)
It's all dissolved – a dose of salts!
Take a drink! There's much, much more.

For in the sediment down in the depths
There's a cocktail of delights...
There's Plutonium and Americium, boys,
On this cruise they say Last Rites!

So come on in and have a swim,
"It's ever so safe!" they bleat.
But don't breathe in as you're coming out
Loose particles in this heat.

Bang in the middle of the National Park
There's a boat, and a Captain in blue:
Look very closely, – it's a skeleton
Steering innocent children, and you.

Nesta Wyn Jones
(CADNO Anti – Nuclear Group)

CND Cymru Annual Meeting, September 20th 1997

This year's well attended CND Cymru Annual Meeting was held in the Temple of Peace, Cardiff. It was preceded by an extremely interesting open meeting. Molly Scott Cato of the Low Level Radiation Campaign spoke of the effects of civil and military nuclear technology on the environment and the importance of women in campaigning. Rhodri Glyn Thomas of Plaid Cymru pointed the way forward for CND and expressed hopes for improved representation and accountability within a new Welsh Assembly.

At the Annual Meeting the discussion about the possibilities for successful campaigning for the Welsh peace and environmental movements continued. More questions than answers were posed during the discussion and many ideas were aired, including the idea of drawing up a "Declaration of Intent". Such a declaration could include such general principles of human rights, freedom of information and an environmentally sustainable Wales, and would be offered to Assembly election candidates to accept, and to the new Assembly to endorse.

Chairperson David Morris recalled the first ever Anti - Nuclear Bomb Rally in Aberystwyth, 43 years ago, reminding us that today the World was much more dangerous than in 1954. He enjoined us to renew the campaign to ban nuclear weapons. It was particularly interesting to hear that a European Parliament Peace Group and CND Group has recently been launched.

Congratulations and many thanks to the newly elected CND Cymru Officers:

Chair: David Morris MEP

Vice Chairs: Dave Andrews, Olwen Davies, Ray Davies and Rod Stallard

Treasurer: Jean Bryant

ACTION

If you are interested in the idea of a "Statement of Intent", please contact CND Cymru.

The idea of an all-Wales 'Civic Forum' has been proposed, which would work along side the Welsh Assembly acting as a sounding board and conduit for social concerns. In other countries such fora already exist to encourage participative democracy. If you are interested in learning more about this idea please contact Ben Gregory (01222) 626961.



Nuclear Flights danger over South Wales

New and frightening information made available to CND Cymru has detailed flights of aircraft carrying radioactive nuclear materials over highly populated areas of South Wales. "Special Nuclear Materials Flights" travel to and from the USA from Brize Norton (Oxfordshire) - overflying the Cotswolds, Chepstow, the northern edge of Newport, Caerphilly, the northern edges of Cardiff and Port Talbot then down the Bristol Channel out into the Atlantic. The flights are meant to be a secret.

The exact nature of the cargo remains a secret but the containers are those used to transport nuclear material. The "Special Nuclear Materials" come from or are destined for the Atomic Weapons Establishments at either Burghfield or Aldermaston. From this information it is assumed that the material is either Plutonium or Highly Enriched Uranium.

An accident involving one of these aircraft could permanently devastate South Wales and the South West of England. Because of the potential devastation posed by such flights, the US Government has banned the transport of nuclear materials by air over US territory. Once again, the nuclear 'deterrent' that was set up to protect us is threatening our lives.

ACTION

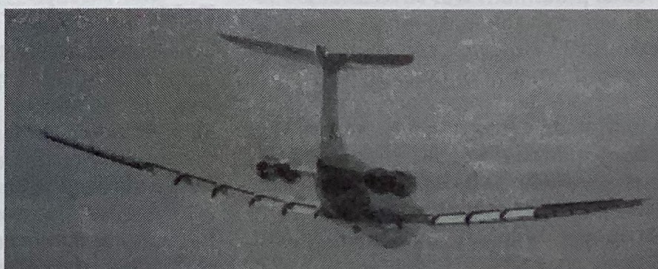
If you live in South or South East Wales, write to your elected representatives, ask them what emergency planning procedures are in place to deal with the outcome of such an accident. Ask your MP why these flights are considered necessary. Please send copies of any replies to CND Cymru, if possible. We can also help with follow up letters or more information.



■ Special nuclear materials convoy bound for RAF VC10 aircraft at Brize Norton 8 August 1997



■ Preparing to load the materials



■ The VC10 just after takeoff on its journey to Dover USAF Base, Delaware, USA.



Cardiff: City of Peace

In October, CND Cymru was proud to be represented at the unveiling of a stone by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff to dedicate the capital as a Sri Chinmoy Peace Capital. The event was part of a visit to Cardiff by the Sri Chinmoy Peace Run, a global relay by men women and children from over 70 countries. A torch is carried which as a dynamic expression of commitment to the ideal of world peace by countless people, athletes, runners, peace lovers and individuals from all walks of life.

Cardiff is now one of many focal points within various communities world wide which have been dedicated to peace as 'peace blossoms'. Such sites include the Mekong Delta, Puerto Rico and the 200km border between Russia and Norway. Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester are all Peace cities in Britain. Snowdon is a peace mountain. Cardiff is now a peace capital, along with Edinburgh, Ottawa, Canberra, Wellington, Reykjavik, Harare and Suva. Congratulations Cardiff!



Cassini, Blue Peter and the rape of Saturn

Despite a huge protest all over the World, a Rally at the White House in Washington and attempts to party on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, the Cassini space probe carrying 72 pounds of lethal plutonium was successfully launched in October. As reported previously in *Heddwch*, this plutonium is the largest amount of radio active material ever sent into space. After orbiting twice around Venus, Cassini will be sling-shotted on to Saturn, passing closely by Earth on its way back in 1999, possibly close enough to enter our atmosphere. What can NASA be thinking of?

Welsh children, Hannah Jefferies and Emily Freeman were among many who

inundated BBC TV children's programme *Blue Peter* with complaints when a trip to the launch was offered as a competition prize. Disappointingly, their complaints were poorly answered, suggesting that the programme did not fully understand the implications of the launch. It was a sad lesson for the many children who will have been disillusioned by *Blue Peter's* absolute inability to admit that they may have made a mistake or that there were any grounds for concern.

Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice pointed out that the half life of plutonium far exceeds the expected life of any spacecraft known to man, and asked: "Even if Cassini makes it safely to Saturn it will inevitably fail at some future point. Where will it end up? Why are we unnecessarily polluting space with radioactive material?" (The space craft is expected to land in a sea on the planet Saturn - perhaps we can then arrange to twin this sea with the Irish Sea.)

ACTION

More information from Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, PO Box 90035, Gainesville FL 32607.

Enlightened anti-nuclear policy in Gwynedd

Gwynedd Council has agreed to oppose any plan to build a nuclear power station or storage site for nuclear waste in the county. In 1991 the Welsh Office had deleted Gwynedd's inclusion of anti-nuclear clauses in the County's Structure Plan. The new Unitary Authority is now attempting to re-include these clauses. This latest statement by the Council illustrates the determination by the Council members to represent the feelings of their communities and would give a statutory basis for the council to oppose any new plans submitted by the nuclear industry. Councillor Lew Huxley, a member of Gwynedd's Policy and Resources Committee, reminded the Council of the Nuclear Free Declaration of Local Authorities made 15 years ago, and expressed the hope that those in power in the Welsh Office would not disregard the rights of local communities.

Taking a geiger counter to bed

When asked at a National Eisteddfod Science presentation, to estimate the levels of radiation in the area around Bala, Alun Ellis, Manager of the decommissioning Trawsfynydd nuclear power station made us all think very carefully. He revealed that the human body was a significant source of radiation, and warned: "If you're concerned about the effects of radiation you're better off sleeping on your own".



Welsh MEP: a politician of principle

A six point code has been drawn up by the Labour Party executive to "ensure the smooth running of the European Parliamentary Labour Party" up to the 1999 elections. Only 4 rebel (all English) MEPs have so far been asked to sign the Code

David Morris, MEP for South Wales Central and Chair of CND Cymru has told *The Western Mail* that "there were certain things in the Code, such as a commitment to abide by the Party's pledge to retain the Trident nuclear deterrent" that he could not sign up to.

Welsh Local Councils call for action on radiation

A September meeting of the Welsh Conference of the National Association of Local Councils resolved that strong and urgent representation be made to the Government and to statutory bodies for artificial radiation from any activity to be kept to a minimum and called on the National Association of Local Councils to "...address itself to the present and potential dangers to human life by man-produced radiation".

Trecwn - blowing hot and cold

The 504 acre ex-Royal Navy armaments depot with 56 underground storage tunnels is on the market again. It is situated in the 'unemployment blackspot' around Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. After a great deal of controversy and speculation it may apparently become a business park, leisure centre and housing development, creating up to 250 jobs over two years. Since its closure in 1995 the site has been proposed as a storage facility for archives, computer and aircraft production, a theme park and a site for processing chemical waste. During the 'Falklands War' in 1982 the railway line from Trecwn was busy day and night transporting weapons which had been stored in the tunnels. Women from Brawdy Women's Peace Camp paid many visits to both sides of the fence around Trecwn. The site has always been shrouded in secrecy, and it is important that now that all secrecy is shed and that any plans for the future of the site are for the benefit of the local people and their environment.

Trident parts missing

Pressure is being put on the Government to launch a full independent inquiry into how thousands of key components ordered for the Trident nuclear weapons system went missing. Police have not been called in to investigate and MoD police tell us that no employees will be prosecuted or disciplined.

The lost components raise huge questions over security at Faslane and the Trident weapons system. Protesters at the Faslane Peace Camp commented that the blunder 'highlighted the complete nonsense of Trident' and came as no surprise to them. 'The thing about the nuclear submarine is that nothing is minor. The submarine is quite a precarious machine. The only time Trident is safe is when we finally get rid of it.'

✚ ACTION

Support for the Peace Camp (financial, material & moral) and ideas to prevent eviction to: Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbarton (01436) 820 901

Plutonium and childrens teeth

The Science of the Total Environment' Journal has published research revealing that plutonium is to be found in the teeth of children. The levels of contamination depend directly on the distance of the children's homes from Sellafield.

Operation Phoenix – Trident & Overseas Aid

This campaign aims to link the two issues of scrapping Trident and increasing overseas aid, emphasising the need for a redirection of resources from armaments to meeting human need. Volunteers are asked to write to the Prime Minister once a year for five years urging the Government to scrap the Trident programme and to raise official overseas aid to the UN target of 0.7% of GNP.



✚ ACTION

If this interests you contact Alan Litherland, Operation Phoenix, Old Damery, Spring Hill, Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 0LU.

Who said the world was a safer place these days?

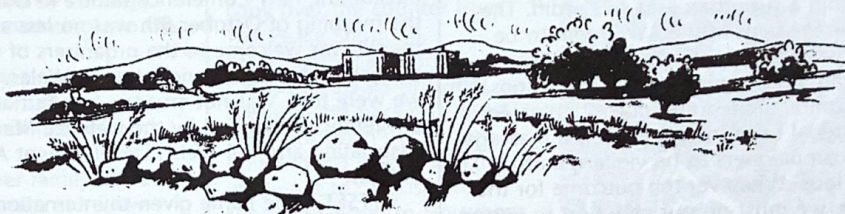
Despite having signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a prime purpose of which was to prevent the continued development of newer and "better" nuclear weapons, the US is constructing a \$1.2 billion laser facility at the Lawrence Livermore laboratory. A

Trawsfynydd

Snowdonia National Park have decided not to endorse Magnox Electric's view that the building of safe stores at the decommissioning Nuclear Power Station did not need planning permission. Magnox has decided that to save itself (and, it kindly says, the National Park Authority) money, it will not contest the decision but is to submit a planning application for the safe store building and an adaptation of the ponds building.

✚ ACTION

For more information contact Rod Stallard, CND Cymru (see Contacts). Send your views to The Snowdonia National Park Planning Authority: National Park Office, Penrhyndeudraeth Gwynedd LL48 6LF



series of "Subcritical" tests started in June, and is to continue. These tests quite clearly violate the spirit, even if not the letter, of the CTBT. The cost of this programme is more than \$4 billion annually. The whole program to 2010 will have cost more than was spent building new nuclear weapons during the Cold War.

The total Pentagon budget for 1998 has been increased to \$269 billion, to include Star Wars projects and laser technology to destroy space satellites. This is another horrifying twist in the high tech arms race which threatens our planet in the name of security. In the 1960s the then US President John Kennedy said "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind". Of course his actions belied his words, but his successors haven't learned any lessons from the years since.

World Disarmament Movement

Increase in radioactive contaminants in the Irish Sea

As Britain announced that it was to halt radioactive discharges into the sea in 20 years' time, British Nuclear Fuels' environmental monitoring figures for the first quarter of 1997 reveal alarmingly raised levels of Technetium 99 (Tc 99) in seaweed sampled off the West Cumbrian coast. This is the result of years of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel from Magnox nuclear reactors (such as Trawsfynydd, Hinkley, Oldbury and Wylfa).

This measurement may not even reflect the maximum level to be found in the Irish Sea, but it indicates that levels of radioactive contamination will also have risen in all sea food.

Tc 99 has a radioactive half life of 213,000 years. It does not occur naturally to any extent and disperses in the oceans over long distances in a short period. The EU Intervention Standard (for the sale of contaminated

foodstuffs following a nuclear accident) is currently set at 1250 Bq/Kg. The latest levels found in seaweed in the Irish Sea is 180,000 Bq/Kg.

For Love and Life: Resist Trident

Disarmament activists gathered at Elliot Bay Park, Washington State, at noon on Hiroshima day this year to protest at the arrival of the USS Ohio Trident submarine and its load of 24 Trident nuclear missiles. As the submarine berthed, the protesters tolled a bell 192 times to witness the presence of the 192 nuclear warheads on board the vessel, each warhead 5 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.

The Ohio had been met in the harbour by a flotilla of Greenpeace vessels and on land by activists from a broad coalition of peace organisation. A continuous vigil was held throughout the visit of the submarine to the port.

Dave Hall, MD, President of Physicians for Social Responsibility in the US said "Trident rests at the apex of our web of violence. Ironically, the Seattle City Council declared August 6th Seattle Peace Day – this is like displaying a slave ship on Martin Luther King's birthday".

Martin Fleck, of the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) commented:

"For the sake of our children, we Americans must get past our denial about nuclear weapons."

● WPSR 4554 12th Avenue Northeast, Seattle, WA 98105, USA

Keeping vigilant and curious: the decommissioning of Llanishen (Cardiff) AWE

"Non-contaminated assets" from Llanishen Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) where nuclear warhead casings were made for almost 40 years have now been sold off and

dispersed as part of the "Post Operative Clear Out" of the site. Machinery is also to be transported to Aldermaston AWE.

Cardiff City Council are involved in the investigations into the degree of contamination on the site, and the possible future uses. Such investigations are to include a full study of the history of the site and the drilling of bore holes to find the extent of contamination. Studies are to be conducted within a 3 km radius of the site, which is situated within a suburban area of Cardiff. The Management of the AWE seem to be conscious of public pressure which could affect their plans for the disposal of contaminated and uncontaminated material from the site. This is a message to campaigners to be vigilant and curious. Whatever the outcome for the site, we must do our very best to ensure the safety of future generations of children, women and men living in the area.

⚡ ACTION

Do not hesitate to express concern to Mr. P. Huish, General Manger of AWE Cardiff, Llanishen, Cardiff, your MPs and Councillors, and Rob West, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Pollution Control Division, Wood Street, Cardiff CF1 1NQ

Nuclear material transport in Germany – the struggle continues

Earlier this year saw an astonishing mass protest in Germany against the transport of nuclear materials. Heartened by the success at Gorleben, protesters are continuing to demonstrate that when direct action has widespread support it is unstoppable. A Hamburg evening paper reported recently that notwithstanding the danger of contact with the overhead power cable, demonstrators hung a banner above the track as a very public protest against the anticipated passage of nuclear flasks bound for La Hague, France or Sellafield.



Photograph: Michael Probst, Associated Press

Blood on their hands – Wales' part in the arms trade

Some of the biggest names in the World's arm's manufacturing business were in Llandudno this Autumn.

Wide media attention given to the demonstration outside the new Conference Centre in Llandudno on the morning of October 8th was no less surprising than it was welcome to the organisers of the protest – the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales. This event, we were told, was not an arms fair, but an OFFSET Conference organised by the Defence Manufacturer's Association and the Welsh Development Agency (WDA).

OFFSET is the name given to international agreements supported by the Government in the case of defence contracts. It often works like this:

- If the Ministry of Defence buys armaments from an overseas company, a condition in the purchase agreement is that the vendor buys the same value of 'defence' goods from Britain – thus bolstering the international arms trade.
- In the same way, if a British company sells arms abroad it will contract to buy goods from the purchaser's country for up to or even above the value of the contract. These could be requirements for licensed production of specific components or purchase of non-defence goods. (By introducing overseas competitors, this could actually threaten jobs in this country.)

Not only is this a Government – sanctioned trade involving workers in a cycle of death and suffering, but according to recent research OFFSET does not make long term economic sense.

At Llandudno, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales called on the WDA to establish a Welsh Defence Diversification Agency: "This would help the 5,000 defence workers in Wales by assessing new markets and developing new products in emerging markets, such as the rapidly expanding market for environmentally friendly products and processes."

Secrecy was supposed to surround the start of the Llandudno Conference, where some of the biggest names in armaments were assembling (Boeing, BMW/Rolls Royce, Lockheed Martin....). A 'leak' 24 hours before the event meant that by 8.30am on the opening day Welsh and English radio, television and newspapers had sent reporters to record the event and the action of the 12 protesters assembled to present leaflets to the hundreds of men (and a few women) making their way into the Conference Centre. Many of the delegates were there to clinch lucrative arms deals and agree OFFSET terms.

Ann Clwyd MP has strongly criticised the WDA for promoting this conference. She said that some of the companies present at Llandudno were involved in the production of anti personnel landmines and in the co-production of torturing equipment for repressive regimes. The Welsh Development Agency has blood on its hands.

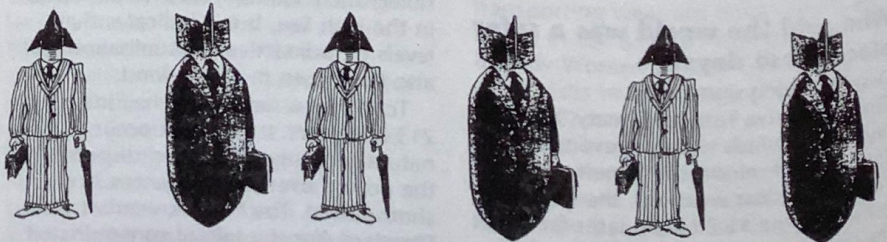
About 11.30am on that same morning a representatives from the Defence Manufacturers' Association and the WDA met and talked with protesters, agreeing to take note of the objections and to pass on the comments... what chance?

But the fact that Welsh and English language newspapers continued to report this almost spontaneous protest for the next 10 days must surely mean something.

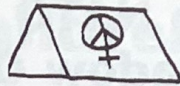
Rhoda Jones

⚡ ACTION

Write to the Chairman, D. Rowe-Beddoe, WDA: Principality House, The Friary, Cardiff CF1 4AA (0345) 775577 or (01443) 845500.



Remembering Helen Thomas



On August 5 1989 the women at Yellow Gate, Greenham Common were busy preparing to commemorate the anniversaries of the first nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Amongst them was Helen Thomas, a young Welsh woman. She embodied the struggle for non-violent resistance to nuclear arms and militarism, always stretching herself to the limit and using her mother tongue, Welsh, to expose oppression. She was a woman of immense courage and understanding who committed herself unstintingly to the cause of justice and peace for all people.

At 1pm that afternoon Helen was killed by a speeding police vehicle as she stood at the side of the road, on a clearly marked hatched area which vehicles were prohibited from entering.

Her death was a tragic loss not only for her family but also for the whole peace movement and the Women at Yellow Gate, whose lives she enriched.

Côr Cochion Caerdydd and Caerffili CND have organised a sponsored walk from the main gate of Cardiff castle to Castell Coch, Taff's Well, at 11am on New Year's Day 1998. We hope to raise sufficient funds for a memorial to Helen in the Peace Garden at the Temple of Peace, Cardiff, in the Spring.

Please support the enclosed sponsorship form and/or join us on the walk! Contact Rayd Davies (see Contacts).

1957 Windscale fire remembered

In October, Teifi Preseli CND and Dyffryn Teifi Friends of the Earth staged an action to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the uranium fire at Windscale nuclear processing plant. The fire raged out of control in atomic pile number 1 and caused a massive release of radio nuclides into the atmosphere. Windscale had been built to produce plutonium for Britain's nuclear weapons. The whole programme was an experiment with untried technology. £100 million had been committed to this programme without Government approval or the consent of the population at a time of great suffering and deprivation.

The population of most of Wales, England and parts of Ireland were contaminated by fallout from the 1957 fire. It has been estimated that over 8000 people in Britain may have died or may still die prematurely because of the Windscale fire. Some cancers and illnesses caused by the fallout will only now be developing. Monitoring of radiation at the time was poor or non-existent, secrecy and ignorance were then, as now, a vital part of the nuclear weapons programme.

The commemoration in Aberteifi drew attention to the widespread contamination from the fire. Forty black helium-filled balloons were floated over the town to symbolise the radioactive fallout, but were not released. The commemoration was well reported by the BBC and local newspapers.

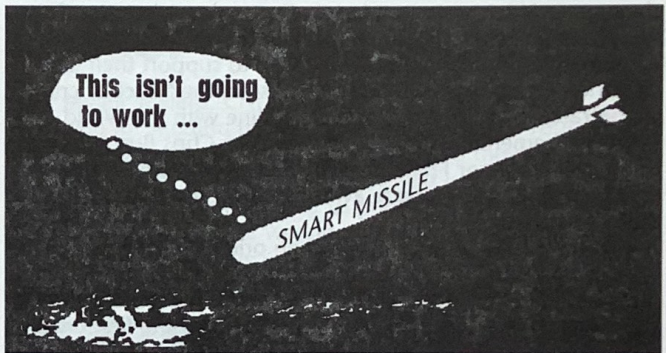
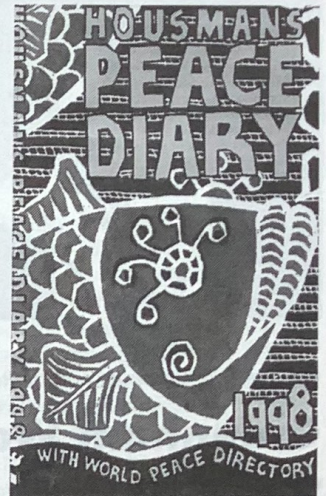
On October 11th, the same day as the Aberteifi event, The Women's Peace Camp at Sellafield handed over a document "Nuclear Secrecy - Not in the Interests of National Security" to the Atomic Energy Authority police at Sellafield (the renamed Windscale), banners and messages were tied to the fence reminding of the plant's terrible contribution to the nuclear bomb programme. Nigel Chamberlain, Cumbria and North Lancashire Peace Groups' Worker said "Despite the company's much-vaunted 'open and honest' policy, it is still extremely difficult to gather accurate information about British Nuclear Fuels' relationship with the MoD, something hardly mentioned in the visual wonderland of the new Sellafield Visitor's Centre".

Thanks to Paul Hawkes

1998 Housmans Peace Diary & World Directory

The 1998 Peace Diary includes notable dates and anniversaries and the World Peace Directory listing almost 2000 organisations in 150 countries.

The Diary costs £5.95 per copy over the counter from The Peace Shop, 56, Mackintosh Place, Roath, Cardiff, or £6.95 (includes postage and packing) direct from Housman's (discount for bulk orders) Paying by cheque made out to "Housmans" send your order to Housmans Peace Diary, 5, Caledonian Road, London N1 England.



Cartoon by David Austin, Guardian

Weekend of action against military low level flying

Teifi-Preseli CND, Freedom of the Skies and CND Cymru took part in an international weekend of action to highlight the campaign against low-flying. Saturday morning shoppers in Aberteifi were leafleted by local activists and people queued to sign a petition against low flying. Continuing the protest on Sunday, kites were flown on Pembrey Sands by campaigners from all over Wales. Both events were reported well in the newspapers and on the television.



Photograph Paul Hawkes

■ CND Cymru kite on Cefn Sidan beach



Photograph: Myrta Eastland

■ Greenham Women outside Reading Crown Court Sept. 1997

Greenham Women on Trial

The trial of 4 Greenham Women accused of taking down several yards of fence and causing £37,000 worth of damage at Aldermaston ended in September when the Crown Prosecution Service withdrew its case. The women had assembled a huge amount of evidence to support their claim that their action was justifiable because of the "nuclear crime perpetrated by AWE Aldermaston" in line with the World Court judgement. Witnesses including Dr. Chris Busby, Tony Benn and Professor Frank Barnaby had been ready to give evidence. The women were awarded costs and had their bolt cutters returned.

Katrina Howse, one of the women originally charged said: "For 16 years we've been cutting fences at nuclear weapons establishments and nearly every time we were prosecuted. This is an historic moment as it is the first time that the prosecution has run away. They fear the consequences of going ahead with hearing the evidence that could lead to nuclear weapons being declared illegal and justify our action in cutting fences."

On January 5th there is to be a further Jury Trial of three women (Sarah Hipperson, Peggy Walford and Rosy Bremer) for a charge of fence cutting at AWE Burghfield.

ACTION

The women are asking for support - to go to the Court in January, and, most urgently, financial support is needed to help pay for transport costs for the women. Please make cheques payable to "Greenham Women" and send to Yellow gate, Greenham Common, Berkshire RG19 6HN. Phone (01635) 269 109 (Peggy Walford)

Greenham Common defenced

On September 13, the Greenham Common airbase fence was officially removed. The contaminated Common was returned to Newbury Council by the local MP David Rendel. None of the women from the Peace Camp were invited, but of course, they went anyway. They set up camp next to an official 'marquee' (not reminiscent of a bender) and watched while council workmen prepared a section of the fence for the official cutting. Two workmen were recognised as former bailiffs! Dignitaries arrived. Jean Kaye Greenham Woman observed:

"Speeches that followed pointedly avoided any mention of the Women's Peace Camp and it was left up to us to add our voices to those credited with bringing about the restoration of the Common....There was something bizarre about seeing men in suits cutting the fence - and not being arrested. It was also startling to hear the level of hostility still being directed at the women."

No NATO expansion - Shadow OSCE Conference Warsaw July 1997

Over 100 people from 15 countries attended an alternative conference to the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The main group of participants at the Shadow Conference had travelled from Helsinki on a bus, stopping to present street theatre on the way.

The Shadow Conference supported the work of the OSCE, particularly their work in the field of human rights, security and the prevention of conflict, tension diffusion and working for non-military solutions to conflict. However, the OSCE Parliament gave NATO expansion its approval while the majority of the members of the Shadow Assembly were opposed to nuclear armed NATO and its expansion. Discussion at the Shadow Conference concerning neutrality led to the setting up of a network of individuals and groups interested in the idea of neutrality.

Thanks Rae Street

ACTION

If you are interested please contact Mag. Thomas Roithner, Austrian Movement for Neutrality, Dinghoferstrasse 27, A 4020 Linz Austria fax +43 (0) 732-797391. email: friedenswerkst.linz@demut.orat. Rae Street can be contacted (01706)378043



Photograph - Rae Street

■ Members of OSCE Warsaw Shadow Conference from Finland and Estonia

National Eisteddfod Y Bala

A big thankyou to everyone who helped at the hot National Eisteddfod this Summer. Sharing a tent with Cymdeithas y Cymod, Gwerin y Coed and Gwynedd Stop the Hawks created a Pabell Heddwch ("Peace Tent"). There seemed always to be something going on. Hiroshima and Nagasaki days were commemorated, a huge greetings "Tony Blair" card signed by almost 1000 people was sent to Tony Blair, via the Labour Party representatives on the site, a "New Labour New Blood" action at the Labour Party tent attracted a great deal of media attention and comment.

ACTION

CND Cymru has a new Trident exhibition outlining the case against nuclear weapons. Copies of the 16 sheet Black and white A3 size bilingual exhibition are available. A larger glossier, laminated version is available for loan. If you can arrange a venue for the exhibition or have ideas where it could be displayed, please contact Jill Stallard (see contacts list).

Chernobyl Children in Wales

As part of a visit to Wales by many children from the contaminated areas of Belarus and the Ukraine, a group of teenagers all of whom were in respite from cancers visited the National Eisteddfod in Bala. This beautiful banner had been made with the help of local artists by the young visitors while staying in the Aberystwyth area.

Chernobyl: Child Mental Disorders increasing sixfold in Belarus

Professor Alexey Yablokov, Director of the Russian Centre for Environmental Policy believes that evidence shows that the health of 15% of the 400 million people in the ex-Soviet Union has been affected by the 1986 accident at Chernobyl. The average male life span in the ex-Soviet Union has dropped from 70.1 years in 1982 to 58 years between 1992-5; genetic anomalies have increased by 40% and all cancer by 70% over the same period. In one district of Moscow no other cause of



death is recorded but death caused by cancer.

Yablokov is disgusted by the way in which the World Health Organisation has refused to accept the serious effects of Chernobyl. In Belarus, congenital anomalies have increased by a factor of 3 and mental disorders have increased six fold and now 60% of children in Belarus now have mental disorders.

Professor Yablokov's answer to the huge sum required to clean up the earth, is to look to the Global Defence Budget. He said "This budget can easily pay for the Earth!"

Thanks to Radioactive Times

Diary Dates

December 1997 Signing of the Ottawa Agreement to ban landmines. The US are calling for a 9 year delay in the implementation of such a ban. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize) has argued that a delay of this length of time would mean an additional 234,000 victims. The United Nations Association has presented a petition to Tony Blair signed by thousands of individuals urging the British Government to work to secure a total ban on landmines. *More information: Working Group on Landmines, 601 Holloway Road, London N19 4DJ. (0171) 281 6073*

December 1997 Send a greetings card to your MP, wishing her/him peace and a nuclear free new year and tell her/him that 1998 is the year to scrap Trident! (c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA)

Monday January 5 1998 Reading Crown Court. **Jury Trial of three Greenham Women** (Sarah Hipperson, Peggy Walford and Rosy Bremer) for a charge of fence cutting at AWE Burghfield. Support is needed. See story. More information from: Yellow gate, Greenham Common, Berkshire RG19 6HN. *Phone (01635) 269 109 (Peggy Walford)*

February 21 1998 11.00am CND Cymru Cyngor (Council) Friends' Meeting House, Temple Street, Llandrindod, Powys. All members and delegates are very welcome. *Contact Jill Stallard for more information.*

Wednesday February 25 1998 Nuclear Waste Storage Conference, Reading, Berkshire - a one day conference organised by the Nuclear Advisory Group. Even if we stopped creating nuclear waste today large amounts already exist. Informed discussion needs to take place now. *More information from Pam Vassie (0118) 9780 148*

Saturday February 28 1998 Day Conference to highlight the nuclear issues now relevant to Wales, the work of the Nuclear Free Zones Forum and the ongoing campaigning being done by anti-nuclear, peace and environmental groups. *Further details to be announced. If you wish to be informed about the Conference please contact CND Cymru.*

March 1998 - August 1998 Trident Ploughshares: Mass disarmament of Britain's Trident submarine fleet. If you want to be involved or to find out more about this direct action contact *Trident Ploughshares 2000, 42 - 46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1NR (01603) 611 953. Financial support is also needed - cheques payable to "Trident Ploughshares" would be greatly appreciated.*

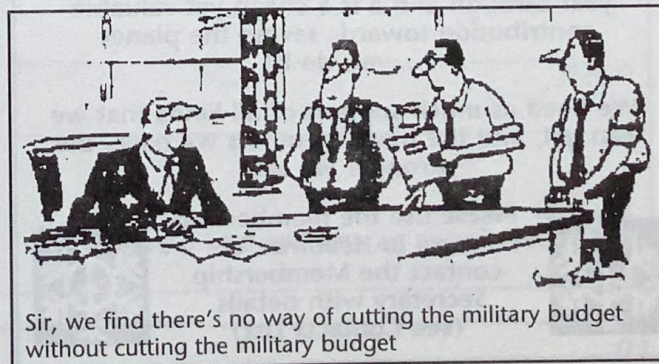
Letter from Japan

Dear Ms Jill Stallard, CND Cymru,
Thankyou for sending us nice photos and articles. Your letter attached was very informative, inspiring and moving. We will introduce it with some photos in our next newsletter. We very much appreciate your sending us publications - every copy of *Heddwch* - with all of us working together, we can reach the nuclear abolition in very near future!

Peace, Yuki Sato, Staff of Japan Council against A&H Bombs.



■ 'Signing for Peace - in a village' by Tomoe Yabe (1892-1981)



JOIN CND CYMRU TODAY!!

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____ I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____

payable to CND Cymru. Couple £15; Adult £10; Unwaged, pensioners,
youth £3. Return to CND Cymru, Membership, Brian Jones, 72 Heol Gwyn, Yr
Alltwn, Pontardawe SA8 3AN (01792) 830 330

CONTACTS

CND CYMRU



NATIONAL SECRETARY

Jill Stallard. Nantgaredig,
Cynghordy, Llanyddyfri, Sîr
Gaerfyrddin SA20 OLR. Phone/
fax (01550) 750260

CHAIRPERSON

David Morris MEP (01792)
643542

VICE-CHAIRS:

NORTH WALES
Dave Andrews (01978) 310491

MID WALES
Olwen Davies (01970) 611994
Rod Stallard (01550) 750260

SOUTH WALES
Ray Davies (01222) 889514

MEMBERSHIP

**Brian Jones, 72 Heol Gwyn,
Yr Alltwn, Pontardawe SA8
3AN** (01792) 830 330

AFFILIATIONS

Rhoda Jones (01766) 762739

TRADING

Jan Henderson (01792) 830330

TREASURER

Jean Bryant
16 Ty'n y Cymer Close,
Y Porth, Rhondda CF39 9DF

HEDDWCH EDITOR

Jill Stallard
More Information, Ideas or offers
of help? Please get in touch with
your nearest CND Cymru Vice-
Chair.

Want to complain about low level military jets? Get in touch
with the MOD (0171 218 6020)

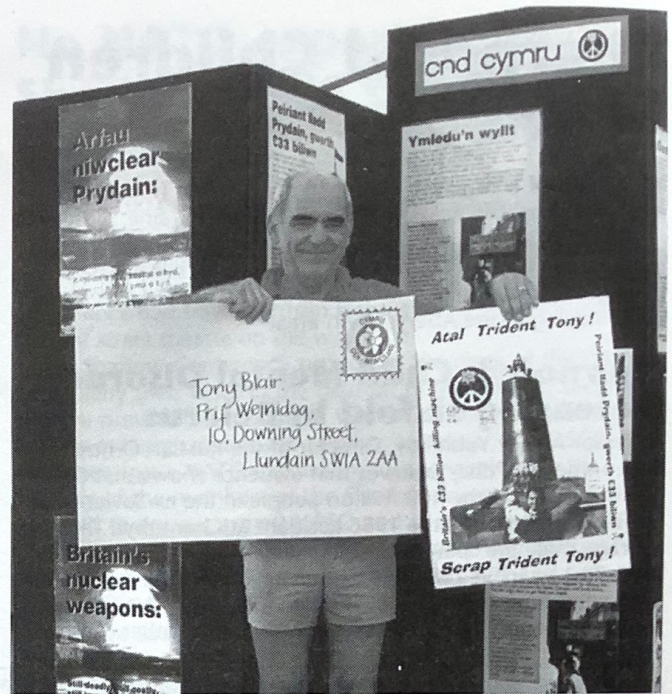
Christmas Present Problems?

Why not give a membership subscription to
CND Cymru to your friends and family?

Such a gift would be generous, lasts the whole
year through and is a cheap yet valuable
contribution towards saving the planet
... yes, do it!

We need as much support of all kinds that we
can get, and the more members we have, the
stronger we are!

Please use the membership
form in *Heddwch*, or
contact the Membership
Secretary with details
(see Contacts List)



■ National Eisteddfod 1997. Bala

Moving House?

Please let us know so we don't lose you
and your support – and you don't miss a
copy of *Heddwch*.

Please write to The Membership Secretary,
Brian Jones, 72, Heol Gwyn, Yr Alltwn,
Pontardawe SA8 3AN (01792) 830 330 to
update or amend your address. Thanks!



Heddwch contributions

- The next issue of **Heddwch** will be published in February 1998.
- Phone Jill for the next issue's copy deadline
- Please send contributions to Jill Stallard (see Contacts for the address): contributions on computer disk or email are welcome. Please contact Jill, or Mike Southern (01222 395453 email production@capricorn55.u-net.com) for details.
- All help with editorial gratefully received.
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