

heddwch

winter 2004-5
number 34
free (or donation)



the magazine of CND Cymru



graphic: Dai Owen

hope

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



heddwch

is the
magazine
of the
Wales
Campaign for
Nuclear
Disarmament
(CND Cymru).

**CND Cymru
works to rid
Britain and the
World of all
weapons of
mass
destruction,
for peace and
human and
environmental
justice.**

**Comment,
letters and
articles for
consideration
are welcome.**

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posted by**
Redkite Print
(01591) 610 844
redkite@onyxnet.co.uk

heddwch action:

A truly cross-party group of MPs is working to hold Blair to account. You can find details of the campaign and download the report, *A Case to Answer*, at www.ImpeachBlair.org. You can get actively involved: register your support online; urge your MP to support impeachment and write to the papers.

You can also campaign locally, which is exactly what's happening in Ceredigion through Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network - contact Kelvin Mason on (01970) 610 185 or kelvin.mason@tiscali.co.uk for ideas and to find out how to help. To buy a copy of the book, *A Case to Answer*, which includes the report on the potential impeachment of the Prime Minister and the legal opinion from Professor Conor Gearty and Rabinder Singh QC of Matrix, please visit www.impeachBlair.org.

heddwch2

Calling Blair to account

Oxford Dictionary

mislead to give the wrong impression
lie² to present a false impression
deceive to give a mistaken impression

*Mislead, lie or deceive, whichever term you prefer, according to the Oxford Dictionary ultimately the definition is the same - a false impression has deliberately been given. A report commissioned over the summer, *A Case to Answer*, will confirm that Tony Blair is guilty of all three of the above.*

The report conclusively relays the numerous occasions where Tony Blair misled Parliament and the public, about Iraq's WMD capability. It presents evidence to prove he gave us a false impression about his reasons for going to war and lists the countless occasions where he gave a false impression about the reliability of the intelligence upon which he based his far reaching claims.

An air of disbelief pervaded Parliament on 18 March 2003 when we were asked to vote on a motion which would lead to the invasion of Iraq, and for once the concerns of Parliament really did reflect the concerns of the public at large. The difference between then and now, thanks to the information uncovered by the Butler Review and several other sources of information that have found their way into the media over recent months, is that air of disbelief has given way to a certainty that is beyond doubt. Now we have the concrete evidence to prove Tony Blair *knowingly* misled, lied and deceived, and the only stockpiles we have discovered are stockpiles of further evidence of his deception.

How could a man of Tony Blair's intelligence and position interpret reports by the intelligence services that "Saddam has not succeeded in seriously threatening his neighbours", as "Saddam had enough chemical and biological weapons remaining to devastate the entire Gulf region"? How could he have declared in 2002, that Iraq had "stockpiles of major amounts of chemical and biological weapons" while the assessment of the joint intelligence committee at the time was that Iraq "may have hidden small quantities of agents and weapons"?

More importantly, how can the people put their trust and futures in the hands of this unapologetic, US apologist?

*A Case to Answer** considers a further 26 misleading statements which Tony Blair made in the run up to, during and since the war on Iraq and they all confirm that he knowingly gave a false impression.

The evidence against the Prime Minister is unequivocal, yet he and his Government refuse to allow us, as Members of Parliament to debate the issue. We are told time and time again that there have been four inquiries since the Iraq war, even though not one of them looked at the real issue in question; the Prime Minister's personal conduct. When we attempt to raise the issue of the Prime Minister's deception on the floor of the House, we are ruled out of order by the Chair.

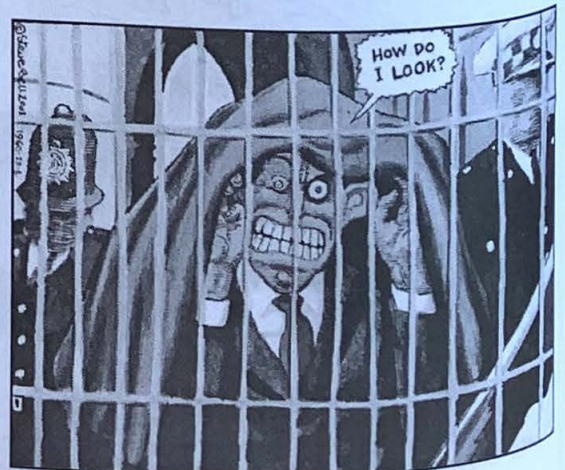
As Tony Blair and Geoff Hoon bow to the election behest of Bush and send 850 British troops to the triangle of death to fight under direct US command, trust in the Prime Minister has reached an all time low. Yet he responds with the threat of another five years in office, a weapon to mock democracy, catapulting apathy to another level, and reducing politics to a new low. As Members of Parliament we cannot allow a Minister, least of all the Prime Minister, to continue to mislead to such a degree, over such a serious matter as a war, which has caused the death of more than 12,000 Iraqi civilians. This is why we have turned to impeachment; the politics of last resort. Tony Blair can avoid impeachment by resigning. If he fails to resign, he must be impeached and removed from office and an office and government he has brought into disrepute.

Adam Price

Plaid Cymru MP for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

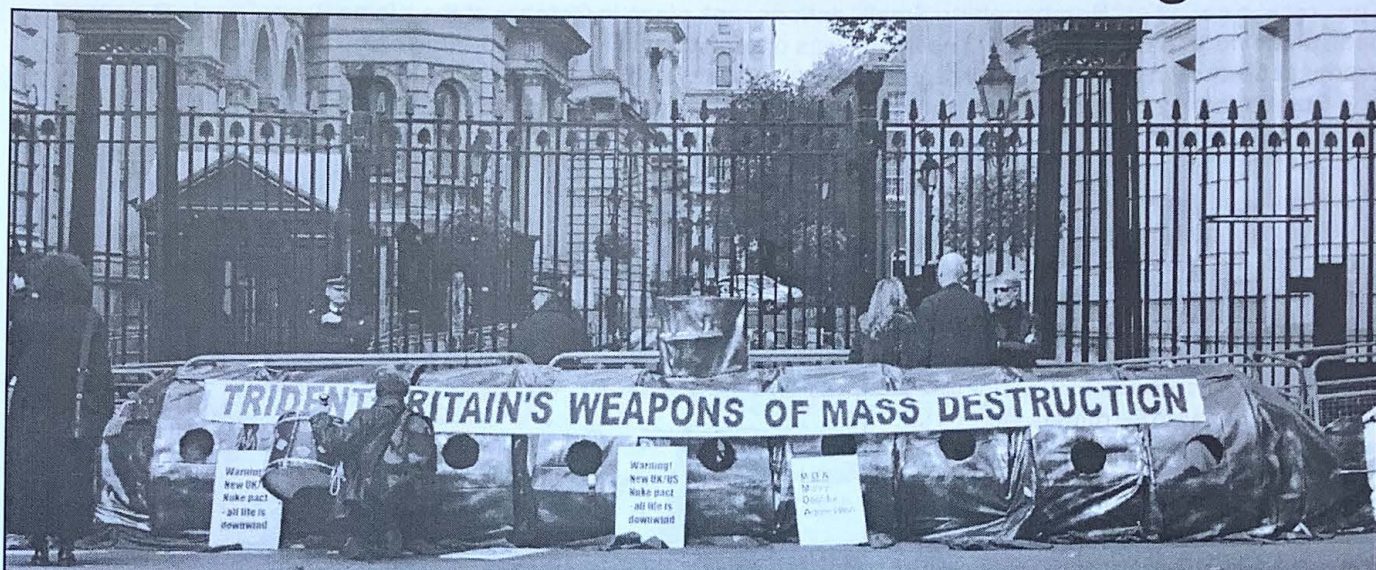
*Spokesman Press 2004 - £5.00 - ISBN 0 85124 704 0

stave bell (from A Case to Answer)



'all life is downwind'

Trident 'submarine' blockades Downing Street



On 11th October, peace activists from all over Britain took a huge model Trident submarine to the seat of British governance to challenge Labour to abandon its WMD and to comply fully with its international treaty obligations. Around 30 activists from Trident Ploughshares and 'Theatre of War' locked into their 45 foot model Trident sub, pleading with the police to uphold international law and immediately disarm the submarine, in compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

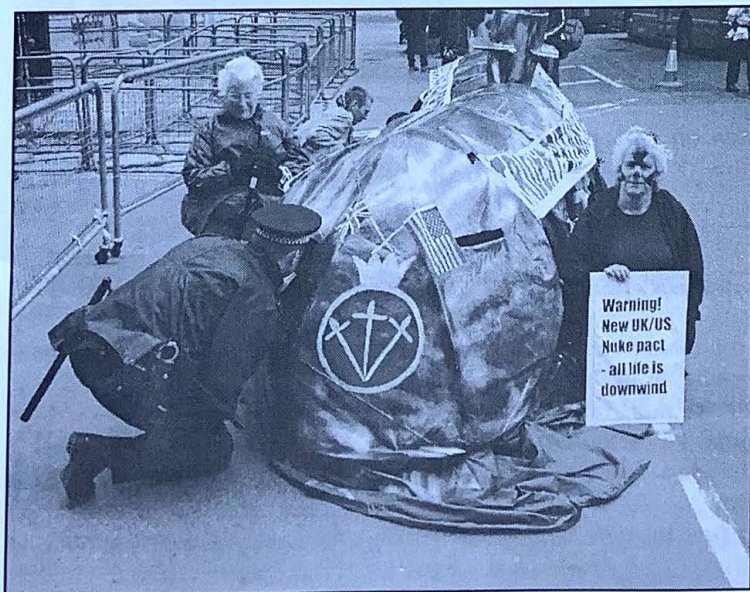
Trident Ploughshares supporters including Parliamentarians handed in a letter to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, calling on him to ensure that Britain will refuse to renew the 1958 nuclear cooperation pact (Mutual Defence Agreement ('MDA')) with the United States, and will comply fully with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ('NPT'), which requires Britain to take steps to engage in nuclear disarmament. (By contrast, renewing the MDA would see Britain continuing to work together with the world's biggest nuclear nation, the U.S.A., which shows no sign at all of fomenting or participating in disarmament.) The letter urges the Prime Minister to uphold international law, reject the pact's renewal and get rid of the Trident nuclear weapons system. This call

follows publication of an authoritative legal opinion from Matrix Chambers, which concludes that Britain will be in breach of the NPT if it continues with the MDA with the US, which both parties are set to renew this year.

Trident Ploughshares spokeswoman Angie Zelter, said: *"When two treaties are incompatible, one has to give way! Britain cannot claim the moral high ground on proliferation while it plans to extend its own arsenal. The nuclear collaboration with the United States has to stop and both countries must face up to their obligations under the NPT."*

The protestors hope to make it politically impossible for the government to stay in the nuclear-WMD business without at least a serious public and Parliamentary discussion about whether we in Britain ought to violate the NPT and hold onto our illegal nuclear weapons, or not.

While Iraq has now been conclusively shown not to have had any WMDs, Britain has them aplenty, and — in flagrant disregard of international law and treaty obligations, like an outlaw state — is doing nothing to rid itself of them. On the contrary, it is co-operating with the reactionary Bush regime to expand its WMD capacity.



heddwch action:

more information from Trident Ploughshares:
www.tridentploughshares.org

or Theatre of War:

thepeaceforce@theatreofwar.org
www.theatreofwar.org

more Trident Ploughshares details on page 11

Bomb spotting

The first in a series of "Bombspotting Small" actions took place in October at the Kleine Brogel nuclear weapons base in the north east of Belgium. The action was organised by the Bombspotting campaign and Forum voor Vredesactie and was carried out by representatives of Belgian organisations including Greenpeace, and Oxfam. The Bombspotting campaign uses nonviolent direct action in order to halt the nuclear weapon policies of Belgium and NATO.

The action began shortly before 8am, as 10 representatives from Belgian NGOs (11.11.11 - the umbrella organisation for development NGOs, Greenpeace Belgium, Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie en Milieubescherming (JNM), Netwerk, Oxfam Solidariteit, For Mother Earth, and Forum voor Vredesactie) entered the base and made their way to the runway. Once on the runway, the activists spread small red disks in order to prevent the planes from taking off. Pilots at Kleine Brogel train every day to use nuclear weapons, and this constitutes a preparation of war crimes. The objects placed on the runway carried the names of the 95 organisations that had signed the "support declaration" for the campaign, in order to show the broad support that the Bombspotting campaign has received.

Over the past 7 years, several thousands of people have taken part in Bombspotting actions at Kleine Brogel. The "Bombspotting Small" action was an unannounced act of civil disobedience, which prevented the preparations of war crimes. The action is the first in a series that will take place over the coming months. The activists were arrested and removed from the runway within an hour, and were released later in the day.

On 27th November, the support for these actions will be made more visible in an "Everyone is a Bombspotter" day. People all across Belgium will visit their local police stations in order to make an official complaint against the presence of nuclear weapons, and the participation of the Belgian government in NATO nuclear plans. "Because the government has so far failed to take steps to halt its illegal nuclear weapons policy, we are forced to take steps ourselves to prevent these crimes against humanity. We are all Bombspotters, and declare ourselves also responsible for the



Bombspotting actions that are designed to prevent war crimes," stated a spokesperson for the Bombspotting campaign.

On 16th April 2005, the "Bombspotting XL" action will take place. Just before the NPT Review Conference (May 2005) there will be a massive, international, Bombspotting action at the three places in Belgium related to nuclear weapons: the NATO headquarters in Brussels, SHAPE (the NATO military headquarters) in Mons, and the nuclear weapon base in Kleine Brogel.

heddwch action:

More information: see

www.bomspotting.be or contact
CND Cymru (page 18)

BOMSPOTTING SMALL
vanaf oktober 2004

Swansea says no to racism

Around a thousand people marched through Swansea on October 9th to protest at the horrific racist attack that killed an Iraqi Kurdish refugee in early September. Kalan Kawa Karim a 29 year old disabled refugee was killed in what police said was a racist assault.

The event was organised by Swansea United Against Racism and was supported by more than 40 organisations. The march stopped for a two-minute silence outside the Potters Wheel pub, where Mr. Karim was attacked, and flowers were left on the railings.

At the rally in Castle Square Gardens speakers called for the maximum unity against the racists and bigots who have done so much to scapegoat and threaten refugees and members of ethnic minority groups. Assembly Members Andrew Davies and Leanne Wood were among those addressing the demonstrators. "The march in Swansea is making an important statement," said Ms Wood, who represents South Wales Central. "To us on this march, racism is abhorrent - we will fight it, and we will defeat it." Osman from the Kurdish community in Swansea spoke at the end to thank all those who had marched and supported the family and friends of Kalan Kawa Karim. Martin Chapman from the organising committee said "... our supporters have been addressing school assemblies and leafleting in their streets and workplaces." "Swansea will be united against racism."

No More Hiroshimas - Poems and Translations

James Kirkup

Sometimes when attending Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative events – where we paint shadows, float candles, make paper cranes... we are left speechless, our minds and our mouths unable to shape the words which might express our feelings of horror, disgust and of profound sadness. This book of clear and accessible poems and translations by James Kirkup would go a long way towards filling some of these sad, wordless moments.

Kirkup writes in his preface 'My A-Bomb Biography': "These poems all have their roots in one late afternoon at the 'War Ag' land workers' hostel outside Ponteland, Northumberland. The gang of workers had just returned from another sweltering day of "labour on the land" – draining and ditching. As we entered the hostel we got the news that the first American Atom Bomb had been dropped... on the city of Hiroshima. It was the first time we had heard of that place that was to become a universal symbol of man's inhumanity to his fellow man."

If we needed it these poems are a clear reminder of how that inhumanity continues.

Not every one of the 29 poems are directly about the dropping of the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but by juxtaposing other poems with those that are, Kirkup makes connections between war preparations and wider injustice. Four are translations of 'Four Atomic Bomb Poems' by Toge Sankichi who directly addresses bomb victims while describing their fate to us with hard, brutal passion.

Like many of us, Kirkup is angry. Each poem in 'No More Hiroshimas' is fierce and honest; the language is uncomplicated and stark. The message, which speaks the name of the work we do, is as unambiguous as the title.

Jill Stallard

**"Not for us to rant of war's bad taste,
To issue pleas for decency, fair play.
If we permit our governments to arm for peace,
We sanction war, and must expect
unpleasantness."**

from: 'Not Cricket' - written in Hiroshima

No More Hiroshimas James Kirkup 2004 ISBN 0 85 124 689 3 Spokesman Books £6.99

Sailing candles, picnicking and planting forests to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki

In August, world-wide, events were held to commemorate the victims of the US nuclear bombs exploded on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When the bombs exploded on 6th and 9th August 1945, 250,000 civilians died immediately and it is estimated that around 400,000 hibakusha (survivor victims) still remain, with thousands still dying each year from the effects. In Wales, candles were floated on Roath Park Lake with some Iraqi visitors, other events were held in Newport, Trefdraeth (Pembrokeshire), Wreccsam, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Swansea and Llandrindod, where the CND group planted their 23rd commemorative tree remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Côr Cochion Caerdydd in Roath Park

359 farms in Wales still affected by Chernobyl

Remembering Chernobyl on Hiroshima day, the Farmer's Guardian called for non-nuclear forms of energy production while reminding readers that 359 farms in North Wales along with 9 in England and 14 in Scotland are still suffering the effects of the April 1986 Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion. There are some 50,000 hectares in Snowdonia still affected by the radioactive particles carried by the wind in the wake of the disaster. All the sheep brought off the mountain grazings for selling have to be tested for their becquerel count. If they exceed the recognised 'safe' level they are marked with red paint and left to graze out the radioactivity on 'clean' lower land.

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Opportunities for peace and justice

Peace and disarmament campaigners will be well aware that the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference will be taking place in 2005. Under this Treaty, Britain is committed to an 'unequivocal undertaking ...to accomplish the total elimination of (its) nuclear arsenal' and the conference offers another opportunity to highlight the lies of the British Government and to call for nuclear disarmament. 2005 will also see the 60th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In addition to a possible general election in Britain, a number of major events with implications for peace and justice will be taking place next year and will offer opportunities to present our agenda and to lobby those in power:

- April – The Commission for Africa Report published
- July – Britain hosts the G8 Summit in Scotland
- July – 20th anniversary of Live Aid
- July – December Britain holds the presidency of the European Union
- September – UN Millennium Development Goals Special Summit

This autumn, 'Cynefin y Werin', the all - Wales peace and justice network held a meeting to bring together activists to discuss the emerging opportunities. Speakers explained how peace is made impossible and abuses of human rights and social, economic and environmental injustices around the world are caused by globalisation and the power of governments and corporations.

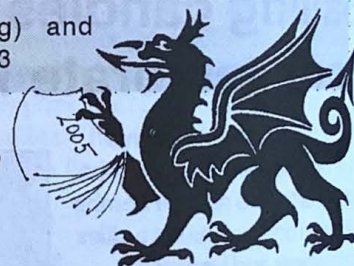
Following discussions, a plan of action for 2005 was drawn up:

- * To produce a 'manifesto' – '2020 Vision Cymru' with demands for peace and justice, trade, environment, and political accountability. This will be taken to the National Assembly and presented to other elected representatives and prospective parliamentary candidates.

- * To produce a wall calendar, detailing the key dates of 2005 to be sent to Assembly Members, MPs, and organisations and pressure groups in Wales and to act as a year-round reminder of our demands and the significance of 2005.
- * To build support in Wales for our demands, during the run up to the G8 Summit, with a 'road show' and resources to help raise awareness. Many were keen to join the 100,000 plus protestors expected in Edinburgh on July 2nd.
- * To lobby elected representatives on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) – an international agreement on trade that puts profit before peoples' basic needs and rights. A decision on GATS is expected to be made in 2005.

James Maiden
Cynefin y Werin

heddwch action: To join the Cynefin y Werin network contact jamesmaiden@wcia.org.uk (02920) 228 549
www.cynefinywerin.org.uk
More information:
www.makepovertyhistory.org) and
British CND: (020)7700 2393



2005 – a year to make poverty history?

Have you heard? It's the big one. Next year, could be the chance to change the world, once and for all. Britain is going to be taking up its biggest role on the world stage for many years, with an unprecedented combination of events bringing political influence our way. For everyone interested in a fairer, more peaceful world, with an end to the chronic and increasing inequality we see at the moment, this could be the moment things change direction.

G8 and European Union

In 2005, Britain is chairing the G8 – the self-selecting summit of 8 world leaders – and taking over the Presidency of the European Union for 6 months, giving our Government the power to set the agenda for the rich and powerful. With the right push we might have the possibility of concerted global action on poverty, instead of for war or economic dominance.

Sticking plasters not enough

Behind the scenes the big aid agencies, various key celebrities and others are working towards a build up for a popular call to action called 'Make Poverty History'. This should be an initiative for lasting change – as opposed to the sticking plaster effect of the emergency help provided by the Band Aid events in the 80s. The aim is to take campaigning out to new audiences and build a massive show of support to get our Government to take the lead on working for trade justice, providing more and better aid and giving complete cancellation of majority world debt. Major issues that characterise the injustice of our world economy.

Not just the walk

It's a tall order – but already the British government seems to be taking world poverty more seriously than before. At the Labour Party Conference this year Blair, Brown &, of course, Bono were all heard giving voice to the need to act.

The issues that 'Make Poverty History' are pushing on have been the subject of sustained campaigns over a number of years. This government, more than any other, has got talking the talk while not walking the walk down to a fine art.

Trade Minister, Patricia Hewitt, loves singing the praises of Trade Justice and the need to do more. Yet Britain has supported the EU in its efforts to use the GATS agreement to lock developing countries into opening up their water supply to private control – a policy that in many countries has caused water shortages and encouraged the spread of disease.

It was this Labour government that made a great leap forward by untying aid – so the money was spent according to need and not to benefit British business. But the same government introduced the policy of linking aid payments to conditions demanding poor countries restructure their economies according to the wishes of the Washington elite running the World Bank and the IMF. 2005 does present huge opportunities to change the course of the world, but the unpalatable fact is that too easily this could turn into another success for our government spin machine with little change of any substance.

Eliot Whittington

Campaigns & Parliamentary Officer World Development Movement

Climate Injustice

Have you noticed how erratic the weather's been lately? Daffodils are opening earlier than usual, our summers are hotter and winters are wetter. A conveyor belt of unusually fierce hurricanes has hit the Caribbean and the United States and 14 million people in Bangladesh have been made homeless or marooned by flooding this year. Yet the weather is set to change even further as the impacts of climate change kick in with gusto.

Dwindling resources = more Weapons of Mass Destruction

Climate change is caused by rising levels of greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere. It is now widely accepted that the burning of fossil fuels, mainly in the 'developed' world, is contributing to climate change, yet the people who will suffer the most from its effects are those from developing countries who have done least to contribute to the problem. The World Health Organisation has said that a sea level rise of one metre, as the ice caps and glaciers melt, would lead to the complete disappearance of the Maldives, and displace 24 million people in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia. A secret US defence report from the Pentagon predicts that abrupt climate change could bring the planet to the edge of catastrophe as countries develop more weapons to attempt to defend and secure dwindling food, water and energy supplies. The report suggests that nuclear conflict, mega-droughts, famine and widespread rioting will erupt across the world.

Nuclear power – no thanks

A major source of carbon dioxide is the energy generation industry. We in Wales could significantly reduce this by investing in renewable energy, of which Wales has plenty in the form of wind, tidal and wave power. Supporters of the nuclear industry claim we should turn to nuclear power for our energy needs. Nuclear technology is expensive, intimately connected to nuclear weapons, could be open to a terrorist attack and leaves a legacy of radioactive, toxic waste for tens of thousands of years. It is simply not worth the risks when we have such an abundance of readily available renewable resources.

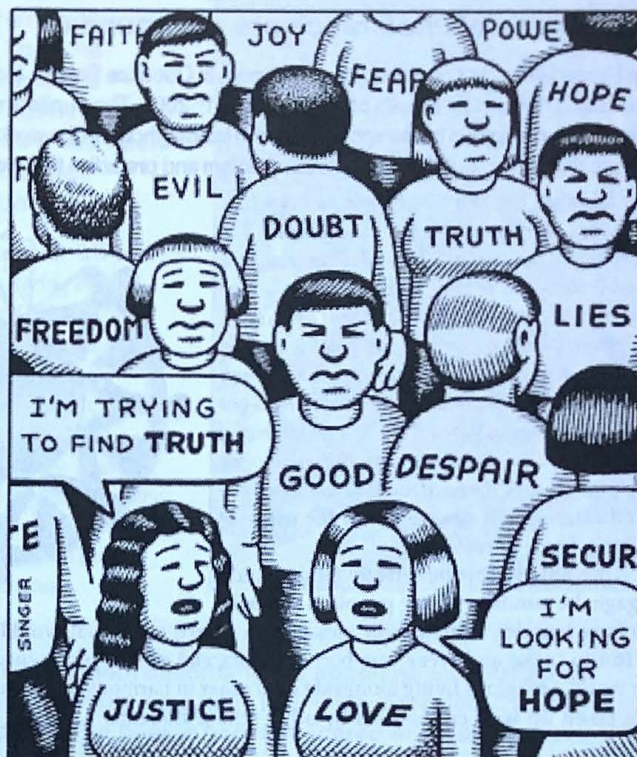
Forked tongues

A recent survey by Friends of the Earth Cymru and the Welsh Consumer Council, *Climate Concern*, showed that 66% of people in Wales were either very or fairly concerned about climate change and 85% think that our changing weather patterns are proof that it is happening. Friends of the Earth is working with others to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and is calling for tough political action to be taken to counter the worst affects. The British Prime Minister says that climate change is "the world's greatest environmental challenge", yet his Government continues to subsidise the fossil fuel industry, and is keen to expand the aviation industry, another key contributor to climate change. 2005 presents us all with a number of opportunities for putting climate change high on the political agenda. The Climate Coalition, consisting of a range of environmental, development and faith groups, amongst others, is working to highlight both the environmental and social effects of climate change.

Raoul Bhambral

NO EXIT

© Andy Singer



heddwch action:

* **As a priority:** reduce your energy consumption. Urge elected representatives to develop serious, workable policies which invest in conservation and energy reduction measures.

* Switch to a renewable energy supplier to reduce the demand for fossil fuel derived electricity.

Phone (020) 7490 1555 for recommended suppliers.

* Lobby your Assembly Members to support renewable energy projects and oppose nuclear power. Call on the Assembly to sponsor a public education campaign about the impacts of climate change as part of a wider strategy to encourage low carbon lifestyles.

Find out who your Assembly Members are by phoning (02920) 898 200.

* For copies of Friends of the Earth Cymru's *Renewable Energy* booklet, or the *Climate Concern* report, phone (02920) 229 577 (or download from www.foecymru.co.uk).

Deep Peace

This music CD is a compilation of tracks from Scottish bands, including Calamateur and Frog Pocket, contributed especially for Trident Ploughshares.

Classy and interesting. Comes with an introduction to the TP campaign. For your own pleasure - and tailor made gifts.

Price £7.50 (includes p&p) from David Mackenzie
(0845) 45 88 366 or (01259) 753 815
email: davidmc@enterprise.net

peace mala

World peace begins in Llanelli

"The voices of intolerance are all around us - the voice of tolerance needs to be louder"

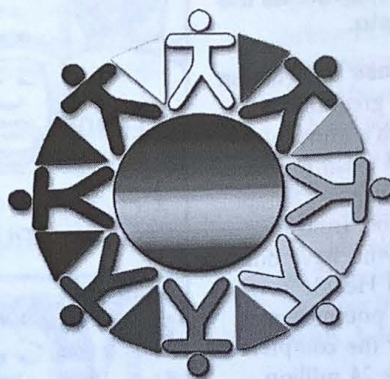
The Peace Mala was conceived in a classroom in Coedcae School, Llanelli when Pam Evans, Head of Religious Studies and her students were discussing the terrible events of September 11th 2001. The pupils and their teacher concluded that something needed to be done to prevent prejudice and religious intolerance. The rise in Islamophobia in the world was to be expected, as a response to the attack. What was more shocking was the rise in religious fundamentalism, racism and prejudice that we are faced with today.

Pam takes up the story - "I soon realised that our local community had not escaped the aftermath of September 11th. Islamophobia and racist taunts had become common place in our school. Members of the local Muslim community had experienced extreme abuse. The mosque suffered a racist attack and one man had died from a heart attack probably brought on by the stress suffered during this shameful incident. Within the same year, the synagogue in Swansea was desecrated. It was one of the worst attacks on a synagogue in the whole of Britain. I was appalled."

As something simple but effective that would engage the minds of young people; a symbolic rainbow bracelet, loaded with messages, a 'peace mala' that would be fun to make and wear was born. The bracelet simply represents the world's religions living alongside each other in harmony, the idea was taken up with enthusiasm by other school students.

Wider support

Members of faith communities across South Wales welcomed the Peace Mala as a positive move in the right direction to encourage respect and harmony in the community. As further endorsement, a "Prince's Trust Millennium Award" of around £15,000 was granted to



the initiative in October 2002 to set up a wonderful youth project to promote peace, tolerance, respect and religious harmony in the local community. Imran Sheikh, a Muslim who had experienced racist taunts, became one of the leaders of the Youth Team. Since its launch, the Peace Mala has gone from strength to strength and has been praised by the Carmarthenshire County Council, The Co-op Community Dividend Award and ChildLine Cymru. Others endorsing the initiative include the Pope, the Dalai Lama, Jill Evans MEP (CND Cymru Chair), The Board of Deputies of British Jews, Srila Sivarama Swami, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and Sheikh Maulana Muhammad Nazim al Haqqani.

Multi faith

The award winning Peace Mala now has a registered office, a centre and a beautiful peace garden where activities and workshops take place. In August, members of all the faiths joined to celebrate the achievements of Peace Mala since its launch. Robert Williams, Archdeacon of Gower described the occasion as one of the most moving experiences of his life. He, and Lama Khyimsar Rinpoche lit a candle for world peace in the presence of all the faith representatives.

heddwch action:

A Guide for Teachers: 'Using the Peace Mala in the Classroom' (including classroom activities for KS2, KS3 and KS4, CD Rom Power-Point Presentation, Double Rainbow Peace Mala and explanatory booklet). £15.00 (plus p&p). The mala may be bought ready made or as a "kit" which the student assembles with or without the guidance of a teacher.

***Double Rainbow Peace Mala** - 8mm glass beads and explanatory booklet - £3.00 (plus p&p)

***Double Rainbow Peace Mala** - 6mm glass beads and explanatory booklet - £2.50 (plus p&p)

***Double Rainbow Peace Mala kit** - 6mm glass beads and explanatory booklet - £2.00 (plus p&p)

Cheques payable to Peace Mala Check on availability of products and cost of postage before ordering.

All money received is put back into the project. Offers to help this initiative to fight prejudice and intolerance are welcome. Contact: Pam Evans, Head of Religious Studies Coedcae School, Trostre Road, Llanelli, SA15 1LJ (01792) 774 225 e:info@peacemala.org.uk

Peace begins with each one of us. Wear your Peace Mala with pride!

The purpose of the peace mala

The word "mala" is Sanskrit and means garland of flowers. In some parts of the world a mala is a string of beads which may be used in meditation or prayer. Each "flower" or bead on the mala can represent a mantra or prayer. Our mala is different. Its purpose is not for devotional use though it may be used in that way if the wearer so wishes. The Peace Mala is a fashion item to wear on the wrist and also a practical teaching aid which can be used with young people to help promote awareness, tolerance and respect between all communities.

It is hoped that the Peace Mala will stimulate interest and encourage youngsters and adults to find out more about the faiths represented on each bead.

The meaning of the rainbow beads

The coloured beads create a double rainbow of the faiths. The rainbow is an important symbolic link between heaven and earth in many cultures. The Peace Mala is made up of fourteen coloured beads with a central white bead between the symbolic knots. Malas of the individual colours of the rainbow, representing the individual faiths, are also available. In these arrangements, the central white bead becomes symbolic of the rainbow and represents all the other faiths. For those who prefer a less colourful mala, a mala of 14 black beads and a single white bead is available. The message is the same. The Peace Mala represents all spiritual paths and their peace messages for the world. The final single clear bead is used like a toggle to bring the band around the wearer's wrist. This represents unity, harmony and peace.

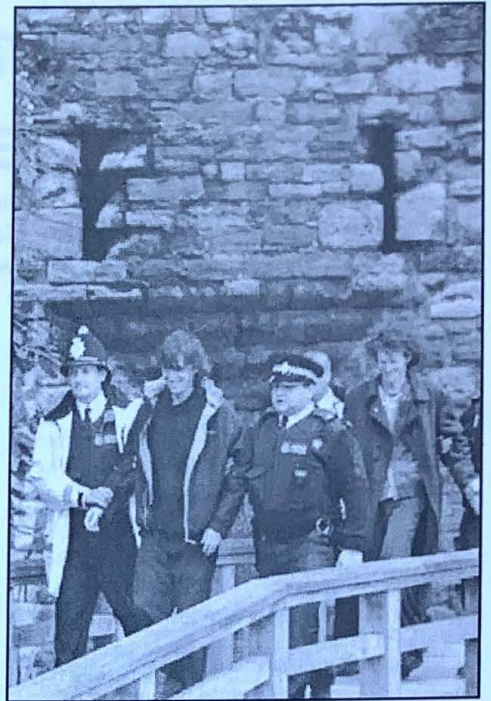
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Beaumaris 9 – a perfect protest

The Beaumaris 9, who were awaiting trial for blockading themselves into the castle for 36 hours in June have had the case against them withdrawn by the Crown Prosecution Service and North Wales Police. The nine Bangor University students had carried out their protest against the occupation of Iraq and of Palestine. Cadw, the government agency, which looks after the castle, claimed it had lost £1,700 in revenue as it had been forced to close the castle to the public over 2 days, but no damage whatsoever had been caused during the peaceful occupation.

This very successful totally non-violent protest drew a huge amount of publicity. From June 26th – 28th huge banners had been hung over the curtain wall for passers by to see with slogans including 'HEDDWCH', 'NO MORE LIES' and 'STOP THE OCCUPATION'. North Wales Police sent in helicopters and at one point there were 30 police officers around the castle in the normally quiet town on Ynys Môn focussing even more attention on the castle occupation.

Protestor Gwilym Morus said: "We wanted to protest against the suffering of the ordinary people in the Middle East – in Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan and the action being taken by the British Government". The Beaumaris 9 (Gwilym Morus, Alan Cawlishaw, Alice Gray, Phillip Jones, Thomas Fernley- Pearson, Jonathan Baines, Patrick Carmichael Fry, Elizabeth Griffiths and Steve Collings) are to be heartily congratulated on their brilliant action and its outcome.



heddwch action:

Steve Collings, currently visiting Palestine has written from Bethlehem describing the appalling and terrifying conditions that ordinary people in the Gaza Strip are having to endure on a daily basis. He appealed: "To all the Peace groups in Wales PLEASE, PLEASE show acts of solidarity. The people here are scared and don't believe anyone cares about them. Show them they are wrong and they have friends out there. Individual acts of protest, occupations, speeches, solidarity hunger strikes, embassy marches, open letters in newspapers, boycott actions, pressure on European MP's to support the Spanish initiative, leafleting - It doesn't matter if it is coordinated or not, small scale or large, individual or group - Please help the people of Gaza." More information about Steve is available from Bangor Peace and Justice Group (01248) 490 715

Oes Heddwch? – a peace project for Wales

The all Wales peace and justice network Cynefin y Werin has launched a project "Oes Heddwch" initiated as a result of its recent research into the feasibility of setting up a volunteer peace service for Wales. During its first year the project aims to raise awareness of and understanding and commitment among people in Wales to non-violent intervention.

Peace and social justice movements have a long history of creative responses to violent conflict, including mass protest, strikes and boycotts, symbolic action and non-violent disobedience. This tradition is strong in Wales, with its long history of socialism and pacifism, solidarity organisations, and the strong strand of pacifism in the nationalist and welsh language movements. More recently peace movement activists, many from Wales, have taken part in non-violent intervention in conflicts including former Yugoslavia, Palestine and Iraq. However, despite the growing number of people involved in this type of peace work,

there are very few organisations actually promoting and developing the knowledge and understanding of nonviolent intervention techniques. 'Peace Brigades International' is probably the best known and highly respected organisation – it recruits around 17 people a year, although it receives applications from many more. 'Non-violent Peaceforce' was established four years ago to train and pay teams of peace workers. Its first team of 10 peaceworkers are now in Sri Lanka, and it aims to recruit 40 more next year. There are centres for Non-violence in Scotland and in Northern Ireland.

A launch event will be held in Aberystwyth on 29th January 2005. There will be an opportunity for activists to share and learn from each other's experience; to work together to draw a wider range of people into nonviolence training in our local areas; and to network with similar organisations from Scotland, Ireland and elsewhere. A bilingual directory of organisations, training and resources for nonviolent intervention will be produced, and a series of training events in north, mid and south Wales are planned.

Del Harris



heddwch action:

For further information please contact Clare Sain ley Berry (02920) 821 055 claresainleyberry@wcia.org.uk. The working group organising the launch and other aspects of the project is still open to volunteers!

peace pledge union

heddwch9

Whitehall plans military air corridor over south west Wales

In August, a spokesman for a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) testing facility to be built at Aberporth, Ceredigion, confirmed that there are plans to establish an air corridor between Aberporth and the military ranges on Mynydd Epynt (Sennybridge) in Powys. However, reassurances that UAVs are being developed to meet the anticipated growth in civil applications simply don't stand up to close scrutiny.

The CIA has already used 'Hellfire' missile armed UAVs in Afghanistan and also, illegally in Yemen where 6 people in a car were targeted and killed by a UAV carried missile remotely piloted from Djibouti and the missile fired by a user equipped with a remote video terminal. US defence officials have said that the armed UAV will be used against 'high-value time critical targets' (Jane's Weekly November 2002).

Collision Avoidance

The technology that would be needed to allow these robot drones to operate safely in civilian airspace is still in the research and development stage, and thus many years away from being commercially available; in the words of Drew Carmichael of the British Defence Procurement Agency, "industry must crack the nut of collision avoidance" – or, as a recent paper on the subject puts it, "the problem of detecting, sensing and avoiding other aircraft during flight is a crucial challenge that must be overcome before civil aviation authorities permit UAVs to fly in civil airspace". It is difficult to see how development can proceed on a commercial version of this military favourite, if the crucial software and circuitry enabling its integration into civilian air traffic doesn't yet actually exist? The US Air Force's *Global Hawk* UAV is theoretically permitted to fly routinely in civil airspace, but this is a drone that operates at altitudes of some 60,000 feet, several

thousand feet above commercial air-traffic (although the UAVs still have to climb to that height!).

Civilian Safety

The *Global Hawk* brings into focus the overriding concern relating to the testing of UAVs above populated areas: the issue of civilian safety. Pentagon data on the number of crashes per hours flown shows that the *Global Hawk* has a crash rate some 50 times higher than the F-16 fighter. In addition to this disturbing statistic, UAVs are demonstrably vulnerable, not just to ground fire, but also to the elements; the build-up of ice on wings or control surfaces has brought down a substantial number of American UAVs, both in Balkan airspace and over Afghanistan. This, of course, is a factor that applies directly to the planned mid-Wales air corridor – meteorological measurements have shown that, during the winter months, Sennybridge is often the coldest spot in Britain.

Military low flying without pilots

Ordinary people living in rural Wales are already subject to the unacceptable effects of military low flying and although we know differently, the MoD assures us that no health and environmental damage is caused by that abhorrent form of military testing and training. The environmental effects of all military activity are among the most damaging on the planet, and as such, affects the safety of us all, wherever we live.

Why Wales?

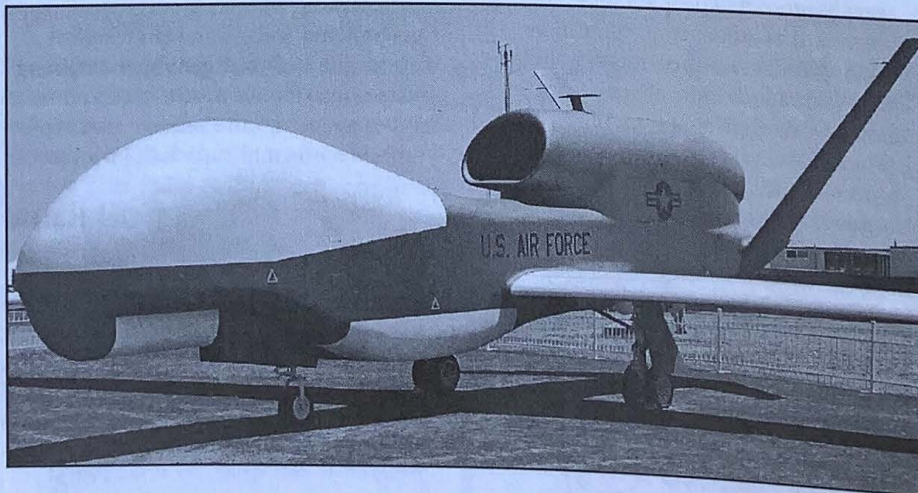
Epynt represents a very small area over which the public and farming community have partial access and which is populated by farm animals and wildlife. Any accidents or mishaps concerning UAVs will directly affect those in or around the military ranges. Would people living under the 'air corridor' (which would be over Powys and much of Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion) be evacuated when tests take place – if not, then what guarantee is given that nothing will go wrong? It may be politically expedient for those in power, but is it morally and environmentally acceptable for people living in areas of low population to be subject to such training? If the applications are civilian, what is wrong with using Filton, Bristol (where Concorde was developed)?

Too dirty for Wales too dirty for anywhere

All this is quite apart from the moral implications inherent in developing technology to control and to kill people remotely. Remote killing is even more unethical than more direct methods as it permits personal denial of any responsibility by the operator-killer. This sort of technology is not compatible with an environmentally sustainable future. Is this a matter of jobs at any cost? Do we in Wales really want to be a part in this sort of dirty business?

Jill Stallard

with thanks to Joe E. Mellor for permission to incorporate an edited version of "High Spy with my Little Lie" which appeared in the September edition of 'The Free Flyer'.



heddwch10

'Global Hawk'

heddwch action:

If you live between Aberporth and North Carmarthenshire or South West Powys, write to your AMs and MPs about these plans to test UAVs over our homes, asking lots of questions! Please send CND Cymru copies of any replies.

Work at nuclear weapons base stopped again

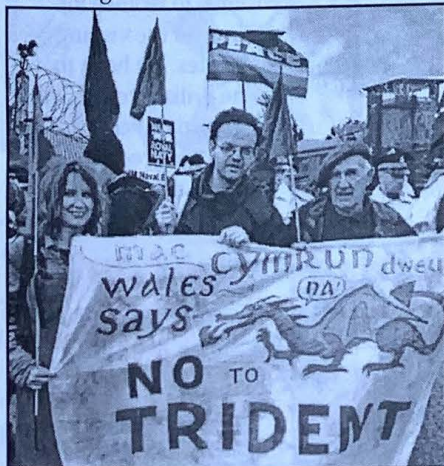
CND Cymru vice chair, Ray Davies was arrested again at August's 'Big Blockade 2004' at Faslane Trident nuclear weapons base in Scotland organised by Trident Ploughshares and Scottish CND.

Ray had joined hundreds of other peace activists from around the world, including several Scottish MSPs who had gathered to block the six gates to the base in a series of non-violent actions aimed at exposing British government hypocrisy over the issue of weapons of mass destruction.

He was locked on with other protestors by means of steel and plastic tubes and chains, and sat on the road in front of the main North Gate for seven hours before being arrested. The protest succeeded in bringing work at the base to a halt for many hours. At the same time anti-nuclear protestors swam to within 15 metres of Trident nuclear weapons carrying submarines at the top security berths.

Ray said "I came on this blockade not only to represent CND Cymru, but on behalf of my wife Wendy, my young children Tad and Carwyn and all the children of the world. The only sane option open to the planet and its governments is to begin disarming all nuclear weapons, and Britain should show the way forward by being amongst the first to set an example to the rest of the world."

Ray is also expected to be arrested for non-payment of fines incurred in three other peace actions: for breaking into Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment; breaking into Devonport Naval Docks in an effort to prevent a nuclear submarine from leaving for the Middle East; and for a previous blockade of Faslane in 2003. He has refused to pay the £1400 fines, as to do so would be to accept that his peaceful resistance to our government's weapons of mass destruction was wrong.



Latest Statistics for Trident Ploughshares

(September 2004)

214 Pledgers from 14 countries
2,184 arrests
497 trials with many still pending
2,154 days spent in prison
excluding time spent in police cells
£71,836.50 in fines and
'compensation'

heddwch action:

Trident Ploughshares is a campaign to disarm the UK Trident nuclear weapons system in a non-violent, open, peaceful and fully accountable manner. get involved!

Contact: Trident Ploughshares
42-46, Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR
(0845) 45 88 366 or (0845) 45 88 364
www.tridentploughshares.org
info@tridentploughshares.org

Honouring Waldo

1904 - 1971

Waldo Williams was born one hundred years ago in Haverfordwest. It wasn't until the family moved to Mynachlog-ddu on the southern edge of Mynydd Preseli, where Waldo attended the local school at seven years of age that he became fluent in the Welsh language. After reading English at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth he returned to Pembrokeshire to become a teacher and a poet. Waldo had been raised by radical chapel and pacifist parents who were strongly opposed to the First World War. He himself became a conscientious objector in World War II and was imprisoned for his stance against the Korean war in 1950. Waldo's horror of war was made evident in the poetry he wrote during this period - notably Y Tangnefeddwyr (The Peacemakers), which describes "Abertawe'n fflam" ("Swansea aflame").

It is probable that Waldo is the only Welsh language poet to be quoted by an Archbishop Of Canterbury. In an attempt to define 'what is life' during a sermon in an international conference in New York in 2003, Rowan Williams stated that the Welsh poet was as close as any to the definition in his poem Pa Beth Yw Dyn (What Is Man), when he wrote 'Cael neuadd fawr/Rhwng cyfyng furiau' ("Inhabiting a great hall/ between narrow walls").

This September a week of events was held in Pembrokeshire and elsewhere in Wales to commemorate the life of Waldo. These ranged from public lectures, a sharing of memories and recollections of Waldo by his friends and family, the performing of a drama and readings of his poetry.

Trident: The British Nuclear Arsenal

4 nuclear powered submarines.

3 of which are always operational.

14 nuclear missiles on each submarine.

Each submarine carries 48 x 100 kiloton nuclear warheads
(and can carry 96).

Each nuclear warhead can hit a different target.

Total nuclear warheads = 384.

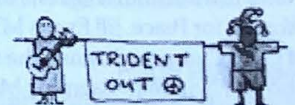
One Trident warhead = 8 x more powerful than nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

Total killed instantly in Hiroshima = 140,000 people.

Total Trident capacity = 3,072 Hiroshimas.

Total immediate killing capacity of Trident if all nuclear weapons used = 430 million people.

In addition, warheads are always available 'in store' or being refurbished.



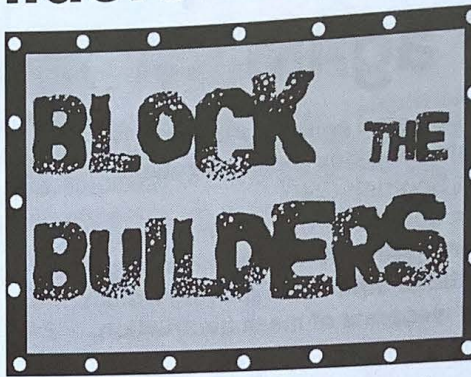
new british nuclear weapons

Block the Builders at Aldermaston !

Block the Builders is a campaign co-ordinated by Aldermaston Women's Peace camp (AWPC) which aims to non-violently prevent the building of a new laser facility, "Orion". This is the first stage of a series of new developments at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment where British Trident Nuclear Warheads are currently refurbished. We know construction is planned to start in 2005 but we don't know exactly when. Later stages include a hydrodynamics centre, a material science laboratory and a supercomputer. These will enable scientists to collect data that could previously only be gathered from nuclear testing, and as such will undermine the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The Defence White Paper, December 2003 said:

Decisions on whether to replace Trident are not needed in this parliament but are likely to



be required in the next one. We will therefore continue to take appropriate steps to ensure that the range of options for maintaining a nuclear deterrent capability is kept open until that decision point.

In June 2002, an Aldermaston AWE spokesperson told The Guardian newspaper that the new facilities would provide Aldermaston with the capacity to design and produce lethal but smaller 'more-useable' nuclear weapons. The existing production

complex at Aldermaston is sufficient to build and service Trident nuclear warheads for many years ahead, so we can only conclude that the new equipment is for a new nuclear programme.

The Block the Builders campaign aims to increase awareness of these new developments and to mobilise for non-violent direct action against them. AWPC is collecting pledges from those willing to take part. Pledges can be made by anyone prepared to take action – whether in arrestable or supporting roles.

heddwch action:

A comprehensive briefing sheet 'Block the Builders' which includes the pledge is available from BtB c/o AWPC, 5, Caledonian Road, London N1 9DY.

email: btb@aldermaston.net

phone: 07969 739 812

<http://www.blockthebuilders.org.uk>

Israeli and Palestinian women join together for peace

On 31st August this year sixteen people died in the twin suicide bus bombings in Beersheba, Israel. A week later fourteen Palestinians died in Gaza city when missiles were fired from an Israeli combat helicopter. The cycle of violence seems unending. And yet these thirty deaths are thirty compelling reasons to look again at how to make peace break out.

Mutual understanding

With this in mind, *Women to Women for Peace* – a British-based women's peace movement – is linking up with women who are active in Peace Organisations in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Eight delegates from Israeli and Palestinian peace groups visited Wales this autumn as guests of Women to Women for Peace. Jill Evans MEP and Chair of CND Cymru welcomed the women. They also met National Assembly Members and members of Muslim and Jewish communities in Cardiff and spoke at public meetings.

Peace from the people

The youngest visitor was a twenty-year-old Israeli refusenik whose views are not supported by her family. She has just finished doing her alternative Community Service in a democratic kindergarten. Another member of the group pays weekly visits to monitor the "disastrous" checkpoints in the Occupied Territories. Undermining the stereotype of Jew against Muslim, one Israeli organisation sent a

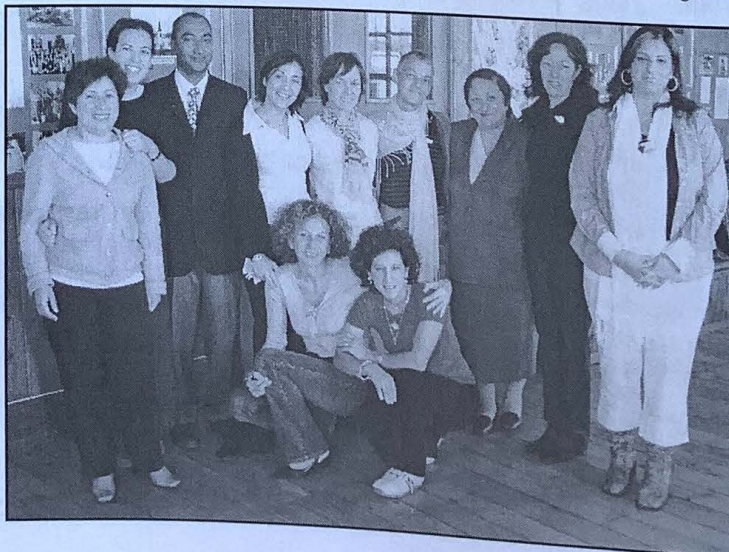
representative who is a Palestinian Muslim single parent; two Palestinian delegates are from the Christian community. Rivka, an Israeli mature student said: 'The peace should be friendly and come from the people, not only a diplomatic arrangement'. Jill Evans has already visited Israel and Palestine and hopes to do so again in the near future. She said: "I am delighted to welcome our friends from Israel and Palestine and hope they will have every opportunity to talk to as many people as

possible about the work they are doing for peace and justice."

Courageous work

The main aims of the visit are to raise awareness of the work these women are doing for peace and to gain support for them in their struggle for mutual understanding and justice. There is the quiet but courageous work for peace, reconciliation and understanding that goes largely unreported.

The *Working Towards Peace* project is the start of more sustained links between members of Women to Women for Peace and the visiting delegates. We hope that some British women will be able to travel to the region next year, consolidating this work for peace.



heddwch action:

**Women to Women
contact: Jane
Harries (co-Chair)
ejharries@hotmail.com
tel. 07779-010206**

Global warming is the problem - nuclear power is not the answer

Calls by the Government's scientific advisor David King, James Lovelock and various institutions for a massive programme of new nuclear reactors in Britain are in danger of derailing our 'renewables and energy efficiency' energy policy. Recently the Prime Minister has disclosed that the US Government is pressing Britain to look again at the nuclear option.

Bankrupt

Get real. The nuclear industry is bankrupt and doesn't have a viable 'product'. British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) is pretending that its (generation III) concept reactor the Westinghouse AP1000 is 'ready for deployment', but it hasn't been built or operated anywhere in the world, and they won't even apply for a British license. The last thing that BNFL want is for our Nuclear Installation Inspectorate (NII) to get their hands on a design that in order to cut costs, omits safety features regarded as essential for Sizewell B. They are hoping that, now that George Bush has given the AP1000 'certification' in the US, Tony Blair will say 'never mind the NII, that'll do nicely'.

Safety Shortfall

The problem for the Prime Minister is that you cannot have both rapid deployment of untried reactors that omit safety features and public acceptance of them. Attempts to interfere with the independence of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate are bound to deepen public fears.

The judgement about whether a new reactor design is acceptable for use in Britain is made on the basis of keeping the risk to workers and the public 'As Low As Reasonably Practicable' (ALARP). The most fundamental requirements are: to shut down the reactor and to maintain it safely shut down; and to not exceed radioactive dose limits. A plant design which lacks safety provisions provided on earlier plants violates the ALARP principle.

The AP1000 lacks safety features judged 'reasonably practicable' at Sizewell B, and therefore violates the basic safety assessment principle of the NII.

Novel safety features such as those in the AP1000 would be assessed 'strictly' under British licensing principles.

These features would require a great deal of operational data to demonstrate their effectiveness. This data would need to be gathered on the components and the way in which they interact, not just in normal operation, but in fault conditions.

As neither the AP1000, or its predecessor design the AP600, have been built or operated there is no operational data available, to inform the judgements of the NII, on the reliability of the novel features upon which they depend.

The most obvious safety feature of the AP1000 is a massive tank of water on the roof. In the event of a reactor accident water is released onto the outside of the steel containment vessel to cool it down, and prevent radioactivity escaping, but by

then the reactor has 'cooked'.

Cost cutting involved stripping out the pumps and valves that keep reactors such as Sizewell B from overheating in the event of an accident, leaving an untried pressuriser system as the only line of defence. If that fails then the result cannot be predicted. The Finns have already rejected the AP1000 design as its containment is judged unable to withstand the impact of an aircraft.

Bulk Buying

To get the costs down, the nuclear industry wants a series of at least ten AP1000's, but series ordering of Westinghouse reactors is commercial suicide, and all the industry's other cost assumptions have been rejected as wildly over-optimistic.

Speculation

The 2002 Energy Review stated that it was difficult to assess the contribution that new nuclear reactors could make to a low carbon future. Concerns about radioactive waste, accidents and terrorism may limit or preclude their use, but new (generation IV) reactors in 15-20 years could be more competitive than those available today.

Proven benefits

Renewables and energy efficiency are robust, cost effective, and terrorist proof. They are the right policy for Britain, so let's not get distracted by the old nuke-men's pipe dreams.

Hugh Richards
Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance

A seminar organised by PAWB and CND Cymru on global warming and acceptable solutions is planned for February 19th 2005
for details contact:
Linda Rogers (01248) 490 715 or
Rod Stallard (01550) 750 260.



'It's an MoD world' available for holidays

This summer, a multi-million pound army training range near Kircudbright in Scotland was hired out to a young people's group for holidays to generate extra income for the MoD. There are also future plans to encourage visitors to hunt and fish on the ranges. The ranges themselves are heavily contaminated with depleted uranium left by the testing of tanks and heavy weapons, the continuing testing of depleted uranium projectiles and of the 'electromagnetic gun'. So, if your child's youth group plans a holiday in Scotland next year, check carefully exactly where they'll be going.

report from baghdad

Just how did the 'west' mess up so very badly?

Kevin Williams from Newport was a 'human shield' in Iraq and spent time working with Street Children in Iraq just after the US/British attacks in 2003. He has just returned from visiting Helen who continues with their work in Baghdad.

The main thing that I can report from Iraq is that things are not getting better, there is no "Reconstruction" and things have even deteriorated.

Violence

While in Baghdad I noticed an increase in violence since I was last there – much of which is going unreported. Two bombs exploded very close to our apartment, one of which blew out our front window. Iraqis were the victims as usual. Whilst we were on the street, another bomb exploded only 300 metres from our apartment. This time we were about 80 metres from the explosion. The US vehicles sped off at top speed, only to return some 20 minutes later with reinforcements. We saw one of two dead bodies and saw around nine injured Iraqis. When NBC reporters turned up, they were told, in my presence, that "the taxi driver's arm was injured". NBC were too cowed to cross the road to film the pool of blood. Another soldier said that 2 or 3 were injured. So much for freedom of the press!

Disease

As a result of this upsurge in violence, the US has ceded large parts of, not just Iraq, but also Baghdad. They would rather do this than draft in more soldiers on the run up to the election.

As for the ordinary Iraqi, things are much worse. In our apartment there are fewer of us compared to most blocks of flats and we have larger water tanks. Helen pays extra to be connected to the "street generator". Yet despite this there was only water for 2½ days during my last 14 days in Baghdad! During 3 of those days we had no water, electricity or telephone. Without water you cannot drink, wash, clean or cook. This results in increasing outbreaks of infective diseases.



helen williams

Liberation?

Street crime is out of control, and there is no domestic police force. It is not safe for Iraqis to go out at night. So much for liberation! Fury amongst Iraqis is growing. British politicians, in their distant offices, still bumble about the resistance and Al Qaeda – but they really don't know what they are talking about. The insurgents sense victory, while the Americans sense defeat and both parties know their opponents' opinions.

As for the Iraqi election, there is no chance of a comprehensive or fair election. And as for democracy – the Iraqis have no history of it and the Americans and British governments certainly don't set a good example. In Iraq many don't have solid identification, forgeries are common and cheap to purchase, bribery is rampant and the Americans can't get access to large parts of the electorate. Alawi, or 'Sadaam without the moustache', as the Iraqis call him, hasn't even declared that he intends to use 30% of the required number of polling stations suggested by the UN. I honestly believe, that without the PR spin that Blair uses, were Sadaam and his "New Ba'ath Party" to stand in the election, they would win with a landslide! How on earth did the West mess up so very badly on 'removing such a vile dictator'?

Kevin Williams

Labour party sides with war and occupation

Peace campaigners expressed grave disappointment that the September Labour Party Conference had missed a vital opportunity to reflect global opinion and had failed to put pressure on the Government to withdraw British troops from Iraq. Whilst in a recent Mori Poll 71% of British people wanted to see a date set for withdrawal of British troops, 85% of Labour delegates voted against a composite that would have set such a date. Delegates at the Labour Party conference also rejected a motion which called on the British government to recognise that the continued occupation of Iraq is unjustifiably destructive of both lives and resources and called on the Prime Minister to name an early date for withdrawal of British forces.

Many frustrated Labour Party members and backbench MPs are disgusted at the behaviour of the Labour Government on the issue of Iraq. British CND Chair Kate Hudson commented: "Global opinion recognises that the continued presence of British troops is part of the problem and not part of the solution. The occupation will not bring peace and security to the people of Iraq. The reality of the situation for the people of Iraq is horrific. The invasion and occupation have been responsible for an escalating cycle of violence and insecurity and not peace and security. We must reflect the views of the British people and global opinion by setting a date for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq."

Psst... according to Blair and Bush, Iraq had...

March 2003:	"Weapons of mass destruction."
June 2003:	"Weapons of mass destruction programs".
October 2003:	"Weapons of mass destruction-related programs".
January 2004:	"Weapons of mass destruction-related program activities".
October 2004:	"Weapons of mass destruction-related program activities desires".

thanks to David McKnight

Joined up protest

Joel Kenrick joined over 250,000 demonstrators and thousands of delegates and journalists on the streets of New York to 'welcome' the Republican Convention earlier this autumn.

US Party politics

A popular slogan on badges, t-shirts and stickers in the USA is simply 'Re-defeat Bush in 2004'. With September 11th 2001 clouding our previous memories it is worth remembering that Bush lost the popular vote to Al Gore in 2000 by over a million votes. Indeed he only won through the complex electoral college system after the Supreme Court 'handed him' Florida. With many progressive Americans fearing the same will happen in a few weeks time, the 'Anyone But Bush' doctrine has shaped the tactics of many democrats and campaigning groups.

When I visited New York at the end of last month to join activists from across the USA in opposition to the policies of the Bush administration, I was unsure of what to expect. This was the country that gave birth to a new phase of the global justice movement in Seattle and saw millions of people take to the streets against the War, yet it was also the country of the PATRIOT Act, a crackdown on civil liberties, and is the heart of global capitalism. I was in a city deeply scarred by the events of 9/11 and I was unsure of who would take to the streets under the continuing threat of terrorism. More importantly how would the people of New York and, through the media, all Americans view the demonstrators they had heard labelled as dangerous anarchists?

Mass protest

I was met by a grassroots response to the Convention far bigger than I had imagined. Never before had I seen such a consistent level of demonstrations, rallies, meetings, art shows and creativity in a national action. A week-long programme of actions had been planned by dozens of different groups with a common desire to see Bush out of the Whitehouse.

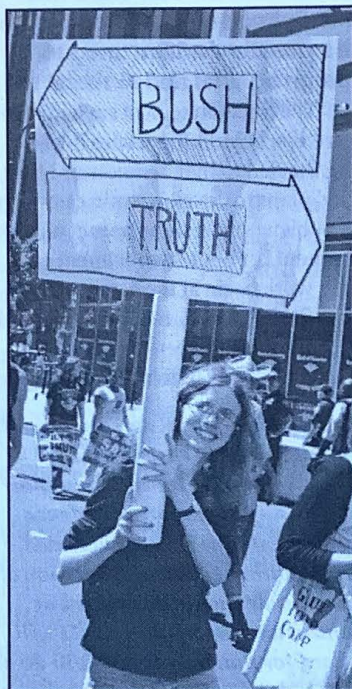
A 'critical mass' cycle ride attracted over 5,000 cyclists highlighting the environmental agenda. The following day over 15,000 took to the streets in a pro-choice women's march. The day the Republican delegates arrived they were met by the biggest demonstration ever seen at a Party Convention. Between 250,000 and 500,000 (as always, estimates vary) people marched past the convention site in a protest organised by 'United for Peace and Justice', a broad based coalition opposed to Bush's policy of 'permanent warfare and empire building'.

Home made banners and placards dominated the protest. Veterans against Bush marched together with Students, Quakers with Muslims, trade unionists side-by-side with feminists and environmentalists and former Republicans near anarchist youth. The march snaked for miles through central Manhattan, parts were full of music, street theatre and dancing while in others a thousand coffins draped in the Stars and Stripes, representing the American soldiers killed in Iraq, were carried through the streets.

Later, 5,000 people marched under the 'Still We Rise' coalition of New York housing groups, AIDS campaigners and immigrant

groups and 4,000 people took part in an unofficial 'Poor People's March from the UN to the Convention site.

Many thousands of people took part in dozens of non-violent direct action events. The police arrested over 1,000 people in that single day. At a silent vigil and procession from Ground Zero to Madison Square Gardens over 200 people were surrounded and arrested by police – despite being on a sidewalk and following all police instructions. I only narrowly avoided being arrested by chance being on the other side of the police pen.



The following morning a 5,000 strong single-file 'Unemployment Line' snaked for miles from Wall Street down Broadway to the convention site – unemployment has increased by over a million during Bush's time in office.

A group of New York artists planned an 'Imagine' festival with over 50 different art events, theatre shows, parties and films. There were readings of the names of all those killed in the 'War on Terror', and a powerful street exhibition of 1,000 army boots, along with civilian shoes – to represent those killed in Iraq. In many ways the American movement seemed imaginative, all-inclusive and both fun to be a part of and with serious aims. Throughout my time in the USA I was struck by the difference between the progressive movements in the USA and in Europe. In Europe the abolition of the Death Penalty is enshrined in treaty, HIV/AIDS treatment is assumed, a women's right to choose is widespread and Universal Healthcare is a standard. Yet to declare these things in many parts of the USA is to be branded as a dangerous radical. A discussion

about the merits of progressive taxation and welfare benefit might end with 'no, but that's communism'.

Scepticism

It is a fair bet that many of the diverse collection of protestors were many of the 50% of Americans who chose not to vote at the last presidential election. It is well worth remembering the silent majority who don't vote. Kerry has certainly not got the support of these people, and has not reached out to them for fear of alienating 'middle America'. Despite America being very polarised by the two party system, there is little between Kerry and Bush on the War and many other issues. While some are supporting Nader, others think that support for him will just hand the Whitehouse back to Bush.

It seemed to me as a European that the United States of America has so much catching up to do, and surely defeating Bush had to be the start.

Joel Kenrick graduated from Atlantic College near Llantwit Major in 2003 where he played a leading part in the anti-war campaign and won a Royal Society 'Young Leader' award for his 'exceptional contribution made to community life and wider society'. He is now a student at the London School of Economics and LSE Students' Union Environment & Ethics Officer.

'Fighting for Space'

CND has launched a new report: *'Fighting for Space- The developing threat of space weapons'*. The report details the alarming plans to place weapons in outer space and explains how British support for the US "Missile Defence" system is helping the US in their stated aim of "full spectrum dominance" and "control" of space.

Written by Yorkshire CND, the report explains how the US plans to deploy the world's first working space weapon - the experimental 'NFIRE' - in 2005. The NFIRE is a test weapon being deployed under the guise of US 'Missile Defense', which will supply data on the effectiveness of what the US calls "kinetic-kill technology" - a satellite based weapon capable of attacking other objects in space.

The report includes details of past cold war attempts to deploy space weapons and disturbing plans and proposals for space weapons of the future. The US, it explains, is keen to control and dominate space and to deny others access to space. This will provoke nuclear proliferation on Earth as well as a space arms race.

heddwch action:

Copy of the report are available from CND for £2, Contact:
British CND : (0207) 700 2393 or
Yorkshire CND : (01274) 730 795;
or available free online at:
www.cndyorks.gn.apc.org/yspace/overview.htm

Little trust in US missile plans

An official ICM opinion poll commissioned by Yorkshire CND suggests opposition to space weapons and a lack of trust in US pronouncements on Son of Star Wars. ICM polled 1,008 people of different age groups, asking them whether they believed that countries wanted to use space to gain a military advantage, whether the world would be a more dangerous place if weapons were put into space, and whether America would defend its allies with a missile defence system. 72% of respondents felt that the world would be more dangerous if weapons were placed in space, while 56% of people said they did not believe that the United States would use a missile defence system to protect its allies. Yorkshire CND says the figures show huge opposition to the missile programme, which will rely upon the spy base at Menwith Hill and missile tracking system at RAF Fylingdales.

Full results of the poll:
www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

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Secret British/US missile 'defense' deal

CND has reacted with outrage at news that Tony Blair has secretly agreed to host US Star Wars missiles at Fylingdales. All non-violent means possible will be used to campaign against and to resist the move. The decision to host such missiles, the secretive, behind the scenes deal-making that led to that decision and the reported plans to develop a spin campaign to win public support show how cynical this Government is. Should deployment or building work begin at the base for these missiles, CND has declared that Fylingdales will become 'Blair's Greenham Common'. Kate Hudson, Chair of British CND commented:

"Just as with the initial agreement for the Fylingdales radar to be used for Star Wars, and just as with Iraq, Tony Blair has made a hugely important defence policy deal with the US behind closed doors and without debate. A decision of this magnitude should be debated in parliament and the country. CND will push hard for that debate and will do all it can to resist deployment of Star Wars missiles in Britain"

Neil Kingsnorth, British CND's 'Missile Defense' campaigner said:

"To base these US missiles in Britain will not provide another layer of defence, as Blair will tell us when his spin machine kicks in, but will make Britain a greater target for attack. Britain does not need to be the front-line of defence for the US homeland and Tony Blair needs to start putting the interests of the British people before those of US foreign policy."

The US National Missile 'Defense' system is designed not for 'defence' but for control and securing the position of the United States as sole superpower. It threatens to provoke nuclear proliferation and to lead to the placing of weapons in space. CND argues that Britain should not only refuse to play any part in the system but should openly oppose it on the international stage.

Menwith 'radome' stolen

WoMenwith Hill woman Annie Lee has written an indignant letter to the Menwith Base Commander, the Defence Estates Agency and Harrogate Council about the removal of a 'golf ball' radome from the US Airforce Base at Menwith Hill.

Her letter says: "On 11 May 2004 I submitted a complaint that a 'golf ball' radome had been removed from USAF Menwith Hill without legal authority or permission...."

"I regret to have to inform you that today, 28 Sept 2004, I noted that the said missing 'golf ball' radome has not been returned. All immovable structures erected on USAF Menwith Hill are in law the property of Her Majesty's Government. Unless it is with the consent of the Secretary of State for Defence, the Federal Government of the United States has no statutory authority to remove or interfere in any way whatsoever with any property belonging to HMG, irrespective of the fact that the US authorities have paid for and developed the structures."

"It is evident that by now, after an interval of 20 weeks, it is not the intention of the USAF authorities to return HMG property. The 'golf ball' radome has been stolen in contravention of the Theft Act."

"From evidence presented in the UK Courts, at trials of peace activists accused of criminal damage to similar radomes, we are aware that the 'golf ball' radome is very valuable property with a value amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The UK Ministry of Defence has a statutory duty to administer the Defence Estate responsibly and to be accountable to the British public on whose behalf it is administered. The law does not exempt Ministers of State or Civil Servants from compliance with it any more than it does peace activists. Unless the radome is returned forthwith or adequate compensation made to HMG, then we intend to pursue a complaint of culpable negligence by the UK MoD to the Parliamentary Ombudsman."

Along with Anne, we eagerly await the reply.

Womenwith Hill Peace Campaign c/o
8, Somerville Terrace, East Busk
Lane, Otley LS21 Yorkshire, England
(01943) 466 825
FlossieMintballs@aol.com



mayors for peace

An emergency campaign to ban nuclear weapons

In 1970, the world's nuclear powers and nearly all other nations (now a total of 189) decided to eliminate nuclear weapons. This decision took the form of a bargain: the non-nuclear nations agreed not to develop their own nuclear weapons and the nuclear-weapon states (the US, the former USSR, Britain, France and China) agreed to get rid of theirs.

This bargain was articulated in the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, usually called the NPT. However, during the Cold War, the nuclear-weapon states claimed that their national security depended on nuclear weapons, so they continually put off their end of the bargain.

The final document adopted at the NPT Review Conference in 2000 included the promise of 'an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of the nuclear arsenals' as steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, for which the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have earnestly wished.

The US leads the way in irresponsibility

The United States, the only nuclear superpower, has publicly declared its willingness to launch a pre-emptive first strike with nuclear weapons and has openly stated its intention to develop small 'useable' nuclear weapons. North Korea has withdrawn from the NPT and has mentioned that it plans to build and possess nuclear weapons. All of these efforts are clear violations of the NPT and made it on the verge of collapse. We cannot see the positive outlook for the nuclear free world.

This behaviour is creating an extremely dangerous situation. It has provoked greater enthusiasm among the other potential nuclear-weapon states and terrorists to obtain nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

Nations, states, and cities around the world are tightening security in the effort to fight terrorism; many cities are overhauling their plans to respond to terrorist attacks. Although it may be reasonable for cities to make civil defence plans for attacks by biological or chemical weapons, no city can meaningfully prepare for a nuclear attack. Since there is no possible defence or preparation for a nuclear attack, there is only one way to protect

ourselves from these heinous, illegal weapons. We must get rid of them all as soon as possible.

Enter - the mayors

The Mayors for Peace Campaign, was launched at the Global Citizens' Assembly in Nagasaki in 2003. Since then, hundreds of mayors all around the world have signed up to support the initiative. Welsh Mayors who signed in 2003 included the Lord Mayors of Cardiff, Newport the Chair of Gwynedd County Council and the Town Council Mayors of Llandeilo, Fflint, Y Bala, Holywell and the Town Clerks of Nefyn and Rhyl. However, that was before this year's Local Authority elections.

heddwch action:

Please contact your local town/city mayor and/or your County Council Chairperson and ask them to support this international mayors' campaign. Bilingual 'Mayors' Declaration for a Nuclear Free World' forms, a sample letter and information are available from Owen Hardwicke 35/37 Ffordd Kings Mills, Wrecsam LL13 7NH (01978) 312 375. If you are successful, tell your local newspaper and let them know - if you need help contact CND Cymru (page 18).

FOUND! weapons of mass destruction*

USA: 10,640

Russia: 8,600

China: 400

France: 350

Britain: 200

Israel: 100 - 200

India: 30 - 35

Pakistan: 24 - 48

**and that's only the nuclear weapons*

Now let's get rid of them!



Join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Yes, I want to join CND Cymru.

name:.....

address:.....

..... postcode:.....

telephone:..... email:.....

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ ☐ payable to CND Cymru

☐ waged couple: £16 ; ☐ adult £12;

☐ low/unwaged and pensioners :£4; ☐ youth and students £4

Please return to:

CND Cymru Membership, 7, Brook Terrace, Mochdre, Newtown SY16 4JG
Website: www.cndcymru.org Phone: (01550) 750 260



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diary dates

November 15th: WRECSAM WPJF Planning Meeting 6pm Peace & Justice Centre, 35 Kingsmills Rd, Hightown. Contact: Genny Bove: (0845) 330 4505 genny@7times7.freesevice.co.uk

November 18th: WRECSAM WPJF Letter writing group, 7pm Trinity Church, King St.. Contact as above.

November 18th SWANSEA Public Meeting *The Abolition Of Nuclear Weapons*, 7.30pm Speakers: Bruce Kent, Jill Evans MEP, Chair of CND Cymru, Gloucester Room, Swansea Guildhall, Thursday. Organised by Swansea Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Contact: Loppy Garrard (01792) 561 229

November 20th - January 15th ABERYSTWYTH Exhibition: John Keane 'The Inconvenience of History'. Aberystwyth Arts Centre. Paintings from Gaza and the West Bank from two visits with Christian Aid, to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories in 2002. Contact: Eve Ropek (01970) 622 882 www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

November 22nd LLANDUDNO and District Peace Forum Meeting 7.30pm St John's Church, Mostyn Street. **Video and Workshop: War No More** Contact: Graham Morgan (01492) 872 599 morgan@postcards18.freesevice.co.uk

November 26th - 28th PONTYPRIDD How can we challenge the 'new world order' and build a people's Wales? Pontypridd Museum and Clwb y Bont, Taff Street. Communist University of Wales each session: £6 (£3 unwaged) All 3 days: £15 (£7 unwaged) Contact: www.welshcommunists.co.uk

November 26th - 27th NANT GWRTHEYRN, GWYNEDD Cymdeithas y Cymod (Fellowship of Reconciliation Cymru) weekend 'Vigil'. Starts on 26th at 4pm - meal 6pm Full price £45, with reductions low waged or day visitors.. Discussion on war and peace matters on 26th. Workshop in English by IFOR Women's Peacemakers Programme "Engendering the peace movement". Register by November 12th : (01286) 830913, e-mail: post@cymdeithasyccymod.org.uk.

November 27th: WRECSAM WPJF Stall in Town Centre for International Palestinian Solidarity Day. 10am - 1pm (to be confirmed). Volunteers needed please. Contact: see Nov. 15th Above.

November 27th: OSWESTRY Concert for Peace 7pm. - funds for rehabilitation centre in Fallujah. £5/£3.50 under 12s free. at Christchurch, Castle Bank. Contact: Oswestry Coalition for Peace (01691) 658 330 george.miller@virgin.net

November 27th, CARDIFF Women in Black Vigil. 12.00-1.00pm. National Museum Steps, Cathays Park. Contact Jill: (01443) 473 592

November 27th MANCHESTER. 'Current Conflicts: Peace Movement Responses'. Network for Peace conference 10.00am - 5.30pm. Cross Street Unitarian Chapel. -peace movement responses to conflict: political, educational, legal and direct action. £5/£3 in advance or on the door. Contact: (020) 7278 3267 nfp@gn.apc.org www.networkforpeace.org.uk. Join the Networkingforpeace elist: send a blank email message to: networkingforpeace-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

December 4th LLANDRINDOD Cyngor CND Cymru 11.00am-4pm members and delegates welcome contact CND Cymru (see Contacts column)

December 10th - 12th HARLECH. Spiritual Search & Practical Peacemaking. Seven steps on the way of peace. Coleg Harlech, North Wales. -a contribution to the World Council of Churches "Decade to Overcome Violence". £79 inc accommodation. contact: Student Admissions, Coleg Harlech WEA (N), Harlech, Gwynedd LL46 2PU. 01766 781900. http://www.scispirit.com/harlech.htm

December 10th - 13th MENWITH HILL Yorkshire Direct Women's Peace Campaign Action Weekend.Come and help prepare the future we choose -not the one Bush/Blair have in mind for all of us! All Women Welcome. Details from Helen John: (01943) 468 593 e: helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk

January 15th CARDIFF Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance Meeting 11.00am Atlantic Wharf. Contact: Hugh Richards (01982) 570 362

January 29th ABERYSTWYTH Launch of A Oes Heddwch/The Welsh Peace Project 10am - 4pm Y Morlan. Speakers: Adam Price MP, Mehdi el Rahdi & workshops. 'A Oes Heddwch' is a new project seeking to network those peace groups in Wales and abroad actively involved in promoting peace and supporting direct action. Details: benica@gn.apc.org (01286) 882 359

February 12th LLANTARNAM ABBEY nr. Cwmbran, Gwent **Public Meeting** organised by Pax Christi / Cardiff Justice and Peace / CAFOD More details : Teresa Mitchell: (02920) 705 458.

February 19th Venue to be confirmed Seminar on global warming and sustainable solutions organised by PAWB and CND Cymru details from: Linda Rogers (01248) 490 715 or Rod Stallard (01550) 750 260.

March 5th venue to be announced CND Cymru Cyngor 11.00am-4pm members and delegates welcome contact CND Cymru (see Contacts column)

KEEP IN TOUCH online with peace and justice news and events around Wales by joining the JUSTPEACE elist - send a blank email to just-peace-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

heddwch18



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If you have any queries or ideas or want information please contact your nearest CND Cymru vice chair.

For more information about joining CND Cymru, or how to receive 'heddwch' regularly please contact the CND Cymru Membership Secretary.