



Heddwch



the magazine of CND Cymru

Summer 1994
25p

RADIATION SOURCES

This cover design is also produced as a campaigning leaflet with more detail and a membership form, and is based on the Wales Tourist Board's 'Wales - Land Of Inspiration' leaflet

HOME GROWN

Wylfa Nuclear Power Station

North Wales railway network
- nuclear waste transport

Trawsfynydd

Nuclear Power Station

Llanishen AWE, Cardiff

IMPORTED

Chernobyl Fall-Out

Sellafield now with
THORP - contaminating the Irish Sea

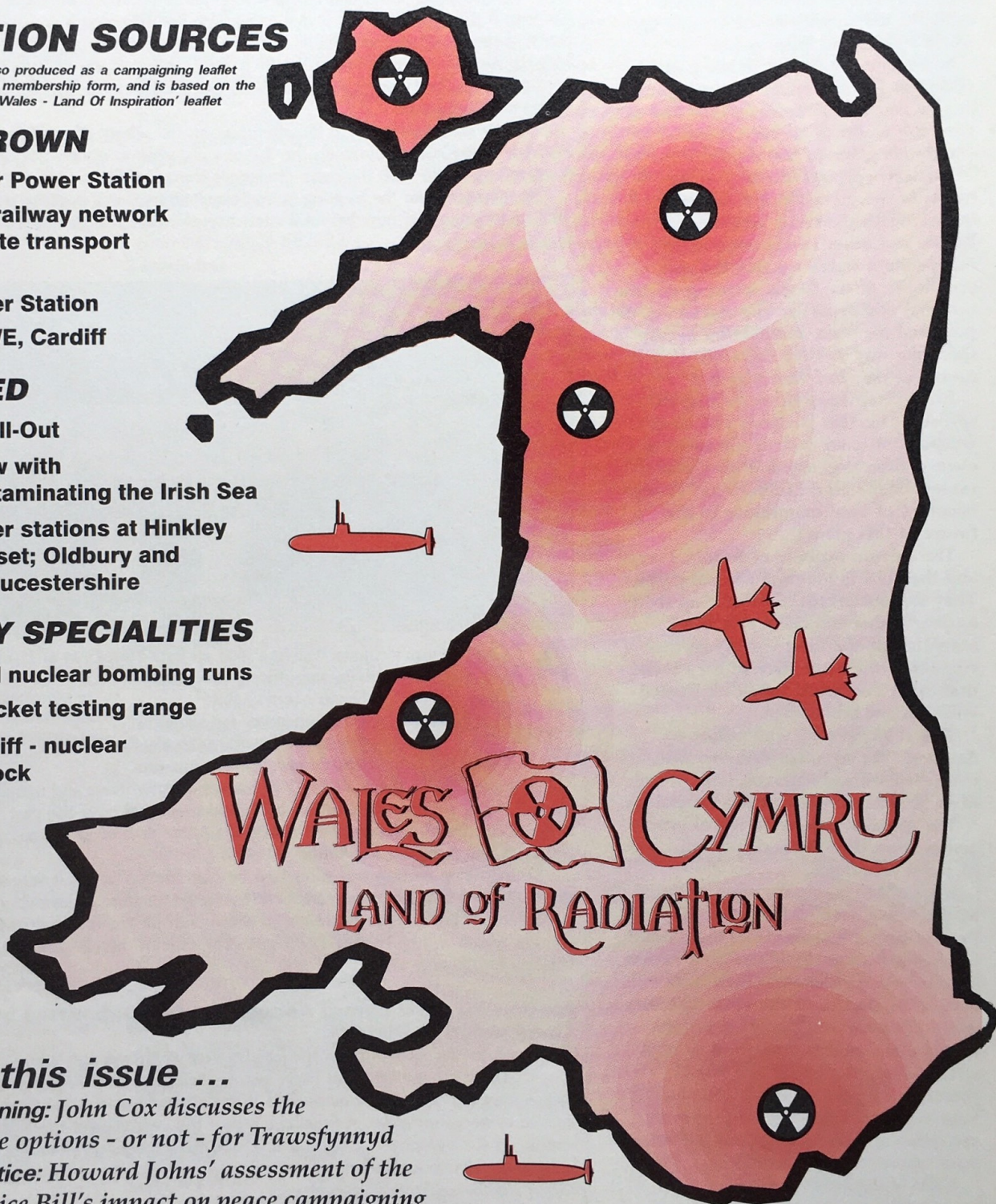
Nuclear power stations at Hinkley
Point, Somerset; Oldbury and
Berkeley, Gloucestershire

MILITARY SPECIALITIES

RAF low level nuclear bombing runs

Aberporth rocket testing range

Z Berth, Cardiff - nuclear
submarine dock



Also in this issue ...

Decommissioning: John Cox discusses the debate and the options - or not - for Trawsfynydd

Criminal Injustice: Howard Johns' assessment of the Criminal Justice Bill's impact on peace campaigning

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

From David Morris
MEP, Chairman of
CND Cymru



Dear Friend

Many of us hoped and believed that the fall of the Stalinist

Dictatorship in Eastern Europe and the old Soviet Union which destroyed one super power bloc could have helped establish the conditions for making the world a safer and fairer place.

Sadly, the experience of the past few years has had the effect of making most people feel less safe, less secure and to view the world as an even more dangerous place to live in.

Nuclear weapons are now in the hands of more countries than ever before. With the crime epidemic in Russia and other newly established independent states we face the real possibility of the Mafia securing nuclear material and expertise and marketing its potential for mass annihilation in just the same way as they currently exploit means of personal destruction.

In these circumstances, halting the spread of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction takes on even greater urgency and next year's review of the Non Proliferation Treaty becomes of vital importance to the future of this planet.

The current attitude of Britain, France and the USA is immoral and dangerous. They are not prepared to give up their nuclear status and claim that it is essential for the future safety of their citizens at the same time as they insist that other countries cannot be trusted with nuclear knowledge.

This is interpreted, with justice, as meaning "We are Caucasian, therefore, more civilised and judicious. Only we are fit to be the custodians of this technology."

The greatest danger to world peace comes from those who display this sort of racist arrogance.

If we are to create the atmosphere of trust that we need to renegotiate the Non Proliferation Treaty in 1995, there could be no better move by the present nuclear powers than to relinquish their own nuclear armouries. At the same time they and other arms manufacturing nations should enter into an agreement to stop selling weapons to poor 3rd World countries - a practice which has diverted huge resources from the battle against starvation and disease towards obscene wars, oppression and civil strife.

CND is the leading peace organisation in this country. We still have the major role of persuading political leader and the general public to put the world on the pathway of trust and mutual confidence.

Beside the seaside

CND Cymru Annual Meeting

The last issue of Heddwch Action News invited you all to our meeting at Aberystwyth. Those of you who didn't attend missed an invigorating day with like minded people.

The usual business of 'electing' officers was dealt with rapidly. The important matters of campaigning were then addressed. Janet Bloomfield, the chairperson of British CND spoke about campaigning with special emphasis on 'A Nuclear Free World or a Nuclear Free For All'. Pippa James and Howard John led a discussion on the implications of the Criminal Justice Bill. This Bill is due to become law this month and will criminalise many of the activities that are essential to our reaching the public with our message. Many police spokespeople have said that enforcement of the Bill will be impossible. We must prove to the Government that it can and should not be enforced, and that we will continue to campaign.

A happy hour was spent in the afternoon on the windy Aberystwyth Promenade. We distributed leaflets outlining the dangers of radiation in the Irish Sea which will be increased by 900% with the extra discharges from THORP.

The message from the meeting is that campaigning for a peaceful nuclear world is of vital importance. Act now before it's too late. We owe this to our children!

Rod Stallard



At CND Cymru's Annual Meeting held on June 18th 1994 at Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth, the following officers were elected:

Chair	David Morris MEP
Vice Chairs	Dave Andrews, Ian Campbell, Olwen Davies, Ray Davies, Rod Stallard
Treasurer	Jean Bryant

We would like to thank all CND Cymru officers, workers and members for their support, time, energy, commitment and good friendship over the past year. We also congratulate Dave, Cilla and Sam Andrews on the birth of little Kim, on 14th June - and wish him a nuclear free future!

The following motion was submitted by Llandrindod CND. It was agreed to remit the motion to Cyngor on September 17th due to pressure of time. If you have any comments on the motion please get in touch with Jill Stallard, and/or come along to Cyngor which will be held at 11.00am in The Friends' Meeting House, Temple Street, Llandrindod, Powys.

Motion for CND Cymru Annual Meeting submitted by CND Llandrindod & District:

That with the recent reports of the large release of nuclear gas from Wylfa Nuclear Power Station; of the nature of likely cancer producing emissions from the two incinerators which could be authorised at trawsfynydd; of the chemical explosion at the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield; and of the ever present threat of another meltdown at Chernobyl - CND Cymru launches a campaign to inform the public of the human and environment dangers of nuclear power, and the contrasting safety of wind power for the generation of electricity.

(Llandrindod CND submitted this motion because of the strong public protest about windfarms. They are concerned that very little comparison has been made between the environmental effects of wind farms and nuclear power stations, and feel that it is time that CND Cymru counter the protests about windfarms with the facts about nuclear power.)

Campaign Updates

Military Low Flying

Remember – if you are upset and disturbed by such low-level flying, COMPLAIN to: Low Flying Complaints, MOD(D. 5c. 8C), Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB, or phone them – (071) 218 6020.

Wales also has its very own RAF Community Relations Officer – Brian Sidebotham, Room 2-21, New Dolanog House, Severn Road, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7DA (0938) 556363.

When complaining, ask for your objection to be logged, as the MOD would be quick to announce that complaints are falling in number. Do ask the MOD why the peace and security of those of us on the ground is so easily sacrificed to the so called 'defence' of British economic interests. The RAF are presently declaring how vital the threats of bombing 'the Serbs' are to the cease-fire in Bosnia. Anyone reading the newspaper will know that the bombings have actually hindered the peace process.

Wylfa Nuclear Power Station

On May 8th yet another accident occurred at Wylfa. This incident involved a reactor servicing machine. We have been 'reassured' that there was 'no unauthorised leak'! At a recent meeting of the local liaison committee it was also announced that 20 million had been spent to bring Wylfa up to latest standards, but that more work needed to be done, especially in improvements to reactor pressure circuits, shut down and cooling systems and resistance to hazards like fire, earthquakes and the release of hot gases'. A spokeswoman for Nuclear Electric also stated that the building of a new PWR at Wylfa is 'not ruled out'.

Nuclear Review

The terms of reference have at long last been announced. It will take the form of two reviews – one by the Department of Trade and Industry, which will focus on the feasibility of privatisation and the viability of new power stations (such as Sizewell C), waste liabilities and decommissioning liabilities. The other, by the Department of the Environment will include health and environmental issues involved in waste management and disposal. Comments and submissions are invited : send yours, by 30th September, to: Michael Morgan, Room 2. 3. 6, DTI, 1, Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE. More information from Dave Andrews (see contacts list).

Trident

The Greenpeace vessel Solo twice delayed the first British Trident submarine test firing of an American-made Trident II missile at Cape Canaveral on May 26. Greenpeace inflatables and a helicopter

were immediately above the British submarine HMS Vanguard in international waters off the coast of Florida. The US supply the British with designs, equipment and testing facilities, at the same time as preaching non-proliferation to North Korea, Israel, India and Pakistan!

Charge against Anti-Nuclear Activist Dropped

Rod Stallard, CND Cymru Vice chair person who was arrested and charged with criminal damage at a demonstration outside Nuclear Electric's Headquarters in Gloucester on Chernobyl Day, April 26th 1994, has condemned the decision to drop all charges against him as 'a face saving move'. His case was due to be heard at Gloucester Magistrate's Court on June 27th but Rod was served a notice of discontinuance on the grounds of 'insufficient evidence' on June 15th. The decision was made despite statements to the police by two eyewitnesses and the existence of a security video recording of the alleged action. Could it be that publicity highlighting the dangers of nuclear power would make it unattractive to future investors in Nuclear Electric plc?

THORP

An accident with nitric acid has destroyed so much equipment at the plant that it cannot yet function as intended. 2,000 of those THORP workers who celebrated at the announcement of THORP's go-ahead, are very bitter about the announcement of 2,000 job losses at the plant. An Anglican vicar from Workington said: 'On the one hand BNFL is the main employer but on the other it is the main deterrent to bringing in more jobs to the area'. (THORP is set to cause the deaths of 2,000 people in the world in 10 years, because of increased radiation discharges into the environment (Government figures).)

Trawsfynydd

As we go to press, the incinerators, reported in the previous Heddwch Action News have yet to be given the final go-ahead by local councils. There is still time to voice your concern about the burning of radioactive waste. Write to : The Department of Trade and Industry, Electricity Division, 1, Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE. Decommissioning : 7 spent fuel flasks have now been transported to Sellafield across Wales and England by rail. Nuclear Electric have also reported 'small amounts' of radioactive material at the railhead at Trawsfynydd. Apparently, this is not at all hazardous, but has been removed to 'alleviate any concerns'. It may have been removed from the railhead, but with what, to where and by whom ? Are your concerns alleviated?

Walk and Talk for a Nuclear Free Irish Sea

The Irish Sea not only holds the dubious record of being the most radioactive sea in the world, it looks set to increase its radioactivity by at least 900% with the starting up of THORP.

The increasing transportation of nuclear materials by ship to Sellafield, and nuclear submarines carrying nuclear weapons patrolling the seas around Wales add to the terrible risk of an accident from which life could not recover.

Julian Goodfellow, a member of CND Cymru, is walking from Newport, Pembrokeshire, to Aberystwyth to highlight the dangers of a radioactive Irish Sea, and to raise essential funds for CND Cymru. This is where YOU come in.

Please:

- Sponsor Julian or send a donation, by returning the enclosed form as soon as possible to Jill Stallard (see contacts list). Please ask your friends and relations to sponsor him too.
- Come and help us leaflet and campaign at each stop on the route, or just come and say hello.

Itinerary

- August 19th** – Newport (Pems.) to Cardigan
- August 20th** – Cardigan to Newquay
- August 21st** – Newquay to Aberaeron
- August 22nd** – Aberaeron to Aberystwyth

- For any further information, queries or offers of help, please contact Rod Stallard (see contacts list).



Non proliferation of nuclear weapons -

CND's 1994 - 95 Campaigning agenda

The Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference will be in April 1995. For the first time in 25 years the international community will have an opportunity to construct a new non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime.

At present the policy of the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS), including the British government and the Labour Party, is for an unlimited extension to the NPT.

CND is opposed to this for three reasons.

1. An unlimited extension would leave the NWS under no pressure to disarm.
2. It would freeze the current division of the world into the nuclear haves and have nots which will ensure that there will never be universal adherence to, or respect for, the current NPT.

3. An indefinite extension is a contradiction in terms. The NPT was always meant to be superseded by a Treaty of general and complete disarmament under Article VI.

We believe the NPT should be extended for 10 years only and that time used to negotiate a global ban on nuclear weapons.

The political precedent would be the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention which, as Albert Einstein Peace Prize winner Professor Joseph Rotblat agrees, is in many ways harder to verify than a nuclear weapons ban.

'Blueprint for a Nuclear Weapons Free World' is CND's latest publication, (now available) which sets out a number of interim steps which could be taken during the extension period. All these would help to build the international political climate

supportive of such a global Treaty. The alternative may be that the 1995 Review Conference breaks down or that members are forced to vote on an indefinite extension due to the lack of consensus. The NPT would not be respected and the problem of states not wishing to be part of it would not be solved.

We have the best opportunity for 50 years to move towards disarmament. It is a chance that must be grasped. MP's should all have received a copy of our Blueprint. Write to your MP's now, asking them to consider the document and support our campaign for a global ban on nuclear weapons.

Janet Bloomfield
Chair British CND



Nuclear free world or nuclear free for all

CND london rally October 29

October 29 is shaping up to be the biggest CND event in years but to make sure - we need you

Our political message is clear. 1995 is the time for a Global ban on nuclear weapons. The only way to avoid the nuclear free for all is to get rid of nuclear weapons once and for all!

We are all working furiously on publicity materials, seeking support from other organisations, writing articles, getting speakers and entertainers.

So far speakers include Tony Benn, Simon Hughes, Janet Bloomfield, Bruce Kent, Adi Roche. Music etc from the Levellers, and Freshblood. We are hoping to include a speaker from South Africa and the South.

We hope to start the march at 12.00 midday, depending on the police, followed by the rally at 1.00 in Trafalgar Square.

Thankyou to those who have given to the Rally fund. So far over £3,000 has either been contributed or promised. With contributions from existing campaign budgets we have raised over £6,000. While this will ensure a successful day we still require more during August to put forward our vision as clearly as possible.

Please order the flyers and posters for local distribution. The flyers are free! CND needs this to be a big day . . . see you there.

Malcolm Reid, Campaign Worker British CND

- Copies of 'Blueprint for a Nuclear Weapons Free World' and Rally materials are available from CND 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ Tel: 071 700 2393

CONTACTS

CND CYMRU

General Secretary, Jill Stallard. Nantgaredig, Cynghordy, Llanymddyfri, Dyfed SA20 OLR (05505) 260

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

NORTH WALES

Dave Andrews (0978) 310491

SOUTH WALES

Ray Davies (0222) 889514

MID WALES

Olwen Davies (0970) 611994
Ian Campbell (0970) 871360
Rod Stallard (05505) 260

PEACE EDUCATION

Mary Jones (0792) 774687



TRADING

Jan Henderson (0970) 830330

Heddwch

- The next issue of Heddwch Action News will appear in October 1994
- Please send contributions to Mary Jones, 9 Idris Terrace, Swansea SA6 8LT. Tel: 0792 774687.
- Contributions on computer disc are welcome. Please contact Jill, or Mike Southern (0222 222782) for details.
- The copy deadline is September 17th 1994.
- All help with editorial gratefully received.

I want to join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____ payable to CND Cymru. Couple £15; Adult £10; Unwaged, pensioners, youth £3.

Return to CND Cymru, Membership, 3 Millbrook Court, Magor, Gwent NP6 3JN



Pili Pala

The Japanese Nuclear Agency is promoting its wares with a video cartoon character called Mr. Pluto. He is childlike, with cute red boots and a green helmet displaying Pu – the chemical symbol for plutonium. In one scene of a nuclear power promoting video, Mr. Pluto shakes the hand of a happy youngster who is drinking a mug of plutonium laced soda. The narration says that if plutonium were ingested it would pass through the body without harm.

Plutonium is the most toxic substance known to humans because it is absorbed by bone marrow. The inhalation of .0001 of a gram can induce lung cancer.

Mr. Pluto has also had a word with Nuclear Electric, who have suggested again recently that Trawsfynydd Lake could be used as a leisure facility with swimming, sailing or windsurfing. In the same Nuclear Electric Report they warn that a 'permanent reduction in the level of the lake could result in the drying out of the lake margin sediments leading to the possibility of contaminated dust'. Don't despair – they also tell us that any radiation dose from such an inhalation would be within acceptable limits.

Come on in – the water's lovely!!

The British Army is sending free teaching materials to school. Local Education Budgets are being cut and school fundraising activities are reaching frenzied heights. How is it that the MOD can spend hundreds and thousands of taxpayers' money to produce educational resources?

A PPU friend told Pili Pala that in New York, women invaded toy stores and swapped voice boxes of 'Barbie Dolls' and 'GI Joes'. Little girls heard their new presents boom 'No escape for the guilty. Dead men tell no tales. Vengeance is mine'. Mini mercenaries blanched as their hero lisped 'Let's plan a dream wedding'.

Peace Shop

56 Mackintosh Place,
Roath, Cardiff CF2 4RQ.
Tel: 01222 489260

We have the largest
stock in Wales of goods
from –

Traidcraft, Amnesty International, Anti-Apartheid, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, CND, Erathcare, Unicef. We also stock many books, magazines, hand-made jewellery and crafts, T-shirts and stickers.



The Criminal In-justice Bill

This new Bill, which is due for Queen's Assent and enactment soon, contains measures which will criminalise activities previously regarded as civil offences, give the police sweeping new powers and greatly increase the possibility of serious miscarriages of justice. The Bill will violate fundamental human rights defined by international human rights law, including freedom of movement, freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly, the right to a fair trial and the right to be presumed innocent, the right to privacy and the right to form a family.

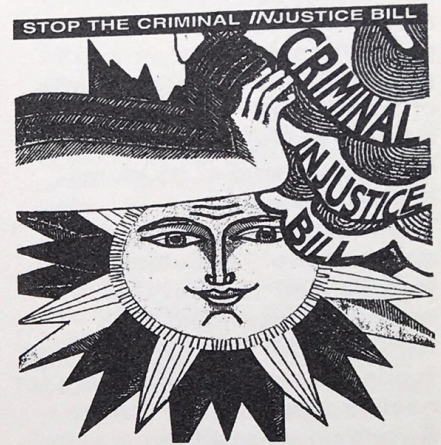
Two new offences are being created which will affect peaceful protestors. 'Aggravated trespass' means that anyone who disrupts a legal activity, whilst protesting, will be arrested without a warrant. We will no longer be able to protest if we are disrupting shopping, nuclear convoys, road building, fox hunting or any other legal activities. It will also be a criminal offence to disobey the orders of any police officer who has directed you to leave an area.

'Trespassory assemblies' empowers the police to obtain an order banning assemblies held on land without the owners consent which may result in 'serious disruption to the life of the community'. So if you wave a banner on someone else's land, or even in Trafalgar Square, to protest about Trident, the closure of a school or conditions of employment you may be committing a criminal offence which carries a maximum of 3 months' imprisonment and/or a fine. In addition, the police officer only has to 'reasonably suspect' that you intend to do so, for you to commit an offence.

The Bill will also remove our traditional right to silence when arrested, so that if we refuse to answer questions when we are arrested, it will be taken as a sign of guilt. Police stop and search powers will also be greatly extended, so that the police will not have to suspect the person they are stopping, and it will be a criminal offence to refuse to cooperate with such an examination.

Two other new offences will be created: 'possession of information which is likely to be of use to a terrorist' and 'possession of articles which might be used by a terrorist'. This could be ordinary household objects or simply the name and address of a prominent individual. It will be up to those charged to prove to the courts that they could not be used by terrorists.

Along with this multitude of new criminal offences The Criminal Justice and

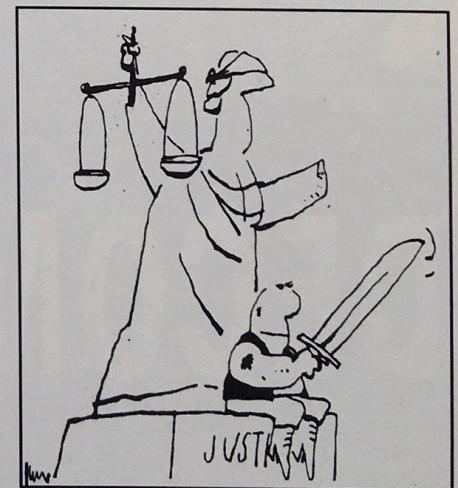


Public Order Bill will also: give landlords the right to evict squatters with just 24 hours notice, using violence to gain entry 'if necessary'; criminalise festivals, free parties and unlicensed raves, re-direct anyone within a 5 mile radius, confiscate equipment and arrest anyone believed to be preparing for, waiting for or attending an 'illegal gathering'; and arrest travellers on private land. The police will also be able to confiscate and destroy vehicles and possessions and charge for this 'service'!

This Bill is a serious threat to the rights of all people living in Britain and if we value our democracy we must oppose it. Write now to MP's, MEP's, Peers, Lords and the Press

- For more information contact:
Advance Party – 081 959 7525
Freedom Network – 071 738 6721
Liberty – 071 403 3888

Howard Johns



The history of the nuclear industry is full of ironies.

The first atomic bomb was built to prevent one country dominating – yet, even before Hitler was defeated, it was known that Germany had no atomic bomb and the fear was groundless. Ironically, the USA then dropped its atomic bombs on non-nuclear Japan and itself became the dominant world power by virtue of its atomic bomb monopoly.

The first 'commercial' nuclear power station, at Calder Hall, was claimed as proof that nuclear energy could be harnessed for peace – but it was funded to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Ironically, Britain now has all the plutonium it needs and the nuclear industry has no commercial use.

The decommissioning debate has mirrored the twists and turns in the history of the nuclear industry. Over four decades, the pro- and anti-nuclear lobbies have changed sides several times – the only common feature being their opposition to each other. It is worth recalling some of this background.

John Cox, Vice-President British CND

History

Back in the 1950s and early 1960s, few people thought of nuclear power as a problem. At that time, the big danger was from nuclear **weapons' tests** which, every year, discharged Strontium-90 into the atmosphere and caused bone cancer and other radiation-linked diseases. Few now dispute that test nuclear explosions caused the deaths of thousands of children worldwide.

During this period, opposition to nuclear power (the so-called 'peaceful use' of nuclear energy) centred on its rôle in supplying plutonium to nuclear weapons – it was not seen as a danger in its own right. It was only after 1965, when atmospheric nuclear weapons tests were banned by the Partial Test Ban Treaty, that nuclear power began to receive critical scrutiny.

By the early 1970's, the anti-nuclear lobby was divided in emphasis between those still preoccupied by nuclear weapons and those inspired primarily by environmental concerns. As the public became more conscious of the **operational dangers** of nuclear power plants, the main thrust of contemporary campaigning was for their immediate closure.

To counter our case, the pro-nuclear lobby then highlighted the risks and costs of closure (if workers were laid off and the plant mothballed) – whilst we tended to downplay the problems. During that brief period they exhibited a more realistic attitude than we did!

Expansion

During the 1970s, the industry expressed greater confidence that decommissioning problems could be solved – whilst some voices in the anti-nuclear lobby argued that nuclear power stations should be left standing for decades. In practice, both positions may have had something to with postures at Public Inquiries than technological reality.

In retrospect, the threat of empty nuclear power plants littering the coastline proved to be a very effective argument and helped to turn the tide of public opinion against nuclear power. In the 1980s the industry conducted an urgent search for 'depositories' for nuclear waste, to allay public concern that the problem of decommissioning could not be solved.

At that time the nuclear industry had good reason to be confident of its commercial future and expected to bear the full cost of decommissioning. But, by the mid-1980s, the rules had been changed and the future for the industry was less certain.



New rules

Several factors were responsible

- With the discovery of 'nuclear winter', it became clear that Britain (on its own) could effectively destroy all life on earth. Once this concept had been digested, the military had no use for further supplies of plutonium.
- With the commercial failure of the 'fast-breeder' reactor programme, it became clear that there also was no civilian use for plutonium – it had become a costly radioactive effluent rather than a valuable 'by-product'.
- Environmental controls made nuclear power more expensive than hitherto and the costs of nuclear waste disposal escalated. Moreover, with no commercial or military outlet for the plutonium, the amount of nuclear waste increased dramatically.
- The Thatcher government began a programme of national asset-stripping and realised, perhaps for the first time, that the nuclear industry was a commercial disaster.

Theoretically, the government should have discarded the nuclear industry as a 'lame duck' (instead of the coal industry) but, politically, this would have been too big a price to pay. Moreover, this still would have left the problem of decommissioning unsolved.

Decommissioning

Decommissioning is both a technological and a commercial issue. If the demand for weapons-grade plutonium had continued, huge sums of public money would have been available and the debate, by now, would have ended.

Today's reality is very different. Whatever political party is in office, decommissioning is to be a low-cost cosmetic palliative. The three 'solutions' now offered by Nuclear Electric must be assessed against the reality of this commercial situation.



The options

For Trawsfynydd, after defuelling and dismantling the non-radioactive buildings by 1997 (at an estimated cost of £55 million), Nuclear Electric offer this choice:

- Total Site Clearance over 16 years, costing around £500 million. In this case, radioactive material would be removed by robots and transported by road to Sellafield (or some other works).
- Deferred Site Clearance costing £55 million by the year 2001 – followed by complete clearance 130 years later at a further cost of £25 million (at today's prices!!). This would leave hulks blotting the landscape for over a century and leave it to our great-great-great-great-grandchildren to pick up the bill.
- In-situ mounding costing about £95 million if completed by 2017. Without doubt, this has become Nuclear Electric's preference – Option 1 being too expensive and Option 2 too ludicrous to contemplate. This would leave an artificial landscaped mound over the reactor buildings for an indefinite future.

Whilst we might oppose Option 3 because it is preferred by Nuclear Electric, neither of the alternatives can be supported. It may be prudent to accept the mounding as a fitting monument to the folly of our generation in permitting the nuclear industry to exist at all.

Irradiated nuclear fuel – where is it? How did it get there?

Dave Andrews, Vice-Chair CND Cymru

Every year there are about 650 rail movements of flasks containing highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel rods between nuclear power stations in Britain and BNFL'S Sellafield reprocessing plant. The flasks pass through some of the largest towns and cities in Britain – Edinburgh, Birmingham, Bristol, Crewe, Ipswich, Lancaster, London, Rugby and Watford to name just a few.

In Wales flasks regularly travel from Wylfa through Bangor to Llandudno Junction, where they are joined by flasks from Trawsfynydd, before following the coastal railway route via Rhyl to Chester and then on to Sellafield. Nuclear Electric are in the process of removing 50,000 fuel rods from the closed reactors at Trawsfynydd. They aim to have moved all the rods to Sellafield in two years. Currently 3 or 4 flasks a week are being moved.

Spent fuel is also brought to Sellafield from abroad. Some comes by ship via Barrow-in-Furness and others travel by rail via Dover, London and the West

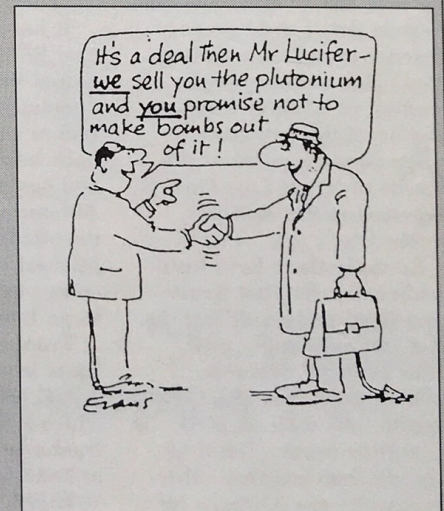
Coast mainline. When THORP is fully operational some 50 flasks a year will be brought from Europe into Dover. Movements by ship are mainly from Japan and in 1992/3 BNFL transported 475 tonnes of used fuel from Japanese reactors to the 'nuclear dustbins' at Sellafield and La Hague (France).

During the transport of the flasks there is always the danger of a serious accident – independent research suggests radiation could be spread up to 25 miles. No proper emergency plans exist for such an accident and there is no legal requirement for the Emergency Service or Local Authorities to be informed of flask movements.

The flasks also continually give off low level radiation presenting a health hazard to railway workers and people living near the lines. There is no 'safe' dose of radiation.

Reprocessing of spent fuel creates up to 160 times more radioactive material by volume than was present in the first place. This material must then be dealt with; as yet there are no firm plans for what to do with this waste.

Reprocessing is unnecessary and economically unjustifiable. However, it does allow the recovery of plutonium. When THORP is fully operational it will be recovering 5½ tonnes of plutonium a year, two thirds of it for overseas customers. All plutonium is 'weapons-usable' – THORP therefore presents considerable risks for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.



Manchester International Peace Festival

June 25 – July 3 1994

Olwen Davies

Vice Chair CND Cymru and member of CND International Committee.

Among the very many interesting meetings I attended was that given by Rae McGrath of 'Mines Advisory Group', who gave a talk with slides about the growing campaign to outlaw these weapons of indiscriminate destruction. I am sure that all who attended this meeting will try to support the campaign.

Adi Roche, Secretary of Irish CND, presented the moving award-winning documentary 'Black Wind, White Land' which deals with the terrible effects of the Chernobyl accident on people and the land. Adi and Irish CND are to be applauded for this initiative, and their project which brings children from the area to Ireland for a recuperative holiday. Everyone should see this film. Irish TV has shown it but so far TV companies in Britain have refused it. I hope that CND Cymru will buy the video so that it can be shown as widely as possible in Wales.

'Etienne', a campaigner from the Pacific admired the beautiful banner for a Nuclear

Free Pacific hanging in the Great Hall – made by Thalia Campbell and Jo, an art student. He asked if he could take it back with him, Thalia was contacted and permission give. He then wrapped himself in it (evidently a tradition!) and I gave him greetings from Wales.

Frank Alaun, now 81 years old and still a tireless worker for Peace, spoke at the Pensioners for Peace meeting, inspiring as always and ended by quoting the last lines of a poem by Siegfried Sassoon, who served in the First World War. It was written for a young comrade who committed suicide -

*'He put a bullet through his brain
And no one spoke of him again
You smug faced crowds with kindling eye
Who cheer when soldiers lads go by
Creep home and hope you'll never know
The hell where youth and laughter go'*

Food for thought indeed! Catherina Barnes, who conducts a continuous one woman campaign at Sellafield also spoke inspiringly at the same meeting and there was delightful singing by Maria Tolly and George Stratton.

The Nuclear Free Rally in the Great Hall

of Manchester Town Hall, chaired by Bruce Kent, gave us a wealth of inspiring speeches and music. In the evening World Music and Dance. Our own Côr Cochion Caerdydd delighted everyone. There was beautiful music from Nepal and Mexico, an Irish song from Adi Roche, a delightful group singing Bengali peace songs and the moving heartbeat drum of Corbin Hanney, spiritual leader of the Shoshone people. His drumming and songs for the earth and sun had a powerful effect on us all.

Finally we must say BRAVO to Jan Henderson and Brian Jones for bringing the CND Cymru Trading stall on Saturday. It was a very successful festival and already there are plans to hold another one – maybe even next year.



Front Line First or Treasury first

The Defence Costs Study, 'Front Line First', was launched on December 1st 1993 'to find ways of reducing the costs of supporting our front line forces from 1996/97 onwards, without reducing their military capability'. The study is intended to identify areas of administration and support services where savings can be made and will look in detail at 33 areas of defence spending including MoD HQ, structure and staffing of all three services and naval infrastructure.

An announcement of the results of 'Front Line First' is expected in the next few weeks.

Recently there have been Whitehall leaks that 'Front Line First' will result in cuts of £750 million per year from 1996/97 onwards, involving the loss of 21,000-22,000 jobs with the RAF taking the brunt. (The RAF was affected less than other services by the 'Options for Change' Defence Study in

1990). Rosyth Naval Base is also threatened with closure (resulting in approximately 8,000 job losses in Scotland). Rifkind will be summoned to appear in front of the Defence Select Committee during the summer recess to answer questions about the cuts. The next House of Commons debate on the Defence Estimates is expected in the autumn.

It has also been leaked that Rifkind had intended to soften the blow by announcing savings of £1 billion which could be put back into front line defences and equipment. But with the Autumn spending round negotiations imminent, Michael Portillo is reported to be pushing for the money to go into Treasury coffers.

'Front Line First' is the latest in a long line of cuts to UK defence spending which has fallen steadily from a peak of 5.3% of GDP in 1985 to 2.9% of GDP in 1996/97. Defence spending is falling throughout Europe

but Britain is still one of the highest spenders. High British defence spending is linked with maintaining Britain's status and influence in collective security arrangements (eg Britain plays a leading role in NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps). However it has also been suggested that high defence spending has a detrimental effect on the economy. The Trident programme remains unaffected by defence cuts despite the end of the Cold War.

The much reduced threat from Soviet/Russian forces has resulted in a decrease in defence commitments, although the Army has taken on greater commitments in Northern Ireland and Bosnia and the navy still maintains a substantial presence in the Falklands.

The problem with the British defence cuts is that they are Treasury led, rather than the result of a

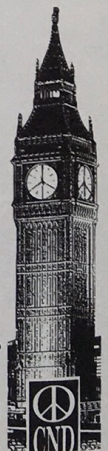
the nuclear eyes

Parliamentary Lobbying Network

reassessment of defence requirements post Cold War. Britain also has no strategy for dealing with the effects of cuts on the defence industry. 'Front Line First' highlights the need for a defence review and also for the Government to invest in conversion or diversification of the defence industry.

Nicola Butler
Campaign Worker British CND

- For further information about CND's Parliamentary Lobbying Network, Briefing notes for MPs etc, write to CND Parliamentary Department, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ, Tel: 071 607 5013.





DIARY DATES

Summer 1994

Any Contributions for listings from other sympathetic organisations working for peace and environmental and human justice in Wales will be gladly included

August 6th Hiroshima Day. CND Cymru and Cymdeithas y Cymod will join for a service and action on the Eisteddfod Field at Neath. More information from Rod Stallard
Other Hiroshima Day events include:

Newport, Pembrokeshire – a floating of candles. *Contact: Sheila Knapp Fisher (0348) 874731*

Llandrindod, Powys – a tree planting in the Memorial Gardens at 9.00am in the presence of the Mayor. To be followed by leafletting. Everyone is most welcome. *Contact: Vera Jones (0597) 834367*

August 7 7.00pm Parc yr Orsedd, Ystradgynlais – service to commemorate the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. *Contact Val Harries (0639) 842018*

August 9 Nagasaki Day The complete death toll in Nagasaki and Hiroshima has never been tallied. The 30 year report to the UN in 1975 estimated immediate fatalities in Hiroshima and Nagasaki at 240,000. Genetically damaged children continue to be born, in their turn producing damaged offspring for generations to come. Even as late as 1978 more than 2,000 cancer deaths of survivors during that year were attributed to the bombing in 1945. Civilian casualties in Hiroshima and Nagasaki exceeded the total number of military killed in the '2nd World War', in both Europe and the Pacific

August 13-14 Women on the Road for Peace visit Sennybridge, Military Ranges, Epynt

August 15-16 Women on the Road for Peace visit Llanishen AWE. *For more information about these visits please contact Jean Kaye (0865) 771046*

August 19-22 Walk and Talk for a Nuclear Free Irish Sea Sponsored Walk and Leafletting of Resorts from Newport to Aberystwyth. **See Story.** *Contact Jill Stallard*

August 29-Sept 4 Nuclear Waste Week—Launch of The Rational Strategy for Decommissioning and Nuclear Waste Management (agreed by participating anti-nuclear organisations on April 9th 1994). Coordinated by the Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance. *More information: Richard Bramhall (0982) 552502*

September

Freshers Fairs – at all Universities and Colleges of Higher Education. Why not organise a CND Stall. We can provide any material you may require. *Contact Jill Stallard or your nearest Vice Chairperson (see contacts list)*

September 12-16 3rd Prep. Comm of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Extension Conference, Geneva. To include briefings organised by the Non Governmental organisations Committee for disarmament. *More Details: Jill Stallard*

September 17 11.00am CND Cymru Cyngor, our bimonthly meeting. Friends' Meeting House, Temple Street, Llandrindod. All members and delegates welcome. *For transport sharing and more details contact Jill Stallard*

September 17 Deadline for copy submitted for the next issue of *Heddwch Action News*

October 8 Cymdeithas y Cymod (Fellowship of Reconciliation), Pilgrimage across the Epynt to lament the military takeover of people's homes. *Contact Rod Stallard*

October 29 Rally – Nuclear Free World or a Nuclear Free For All **See Story.** *Transport details: Jill Stallard*

CONTACTS

CND CYMRU

General Secretary, Jill Stallard. Nantgaredig, Cynghordy, Llanymddyfri, Dyfed SA20 OLR (05505) 260

NORTH WALES

Dave Andrews (0978) 310491

SOUTH WALES

Ray Davies (0222) 889514

MID WALES

Olwen Davies (0970) 611994

Ian Campbell (0970) 871360

Rod Stallard (05505) 260

PEACE EDUCATION

Mary Jones (0792) 774687

TRADING

Jan Henderson (0970) 830330