2010: Year of Decision

For the first time the Government has admitted that the Trident replacement Initial Gate (the decision to start the design phase) has been postponed. This comes after CND and many MPs called for a delay. Minutes of the Defence Board meeting on 26 November show that the decision, which was due in September, has been put back until July. On 11 January Quentin Davies, the Minister for Defence Equipment, admitted to Parliament that the Initial Gate has been postponed for ‘a few months’. In practice the decision won’t be taken until after the election. Severe pressures on the defence budget are creating divisions within the government and the MoD on whether to cut Trident or other big ticket items (see September issue of NFS).

But perhaps the key reason for this decision is that Government resolve on Trident is buckling due to the growing opposition to the project from across the political spectrum and the prospect of an impending election. CND can take some credit for this. Britain is the most indebted of all the major countries and hard choices will have to be made. All the major parties are telling us to prepare ourselves for ‘savage’ cuts in public expenditure. This issue will dominate the forthcoming election campaign. In the course of the next decade we will be spending up to £3bn a year on Trident and approximately the same again fighting an unwinnable war in Afghanistan.

Our message has to be clear. Bring home the troops and end the Trident programme. Every candidate in the election must be asked to come clean on these issues. On February 15th there will be a blockade of Aldermaston, Britain’s secretive nuclear bomb factory, organised by Trident Ploughshares and supported by Scottish CND. And ‘Cut Trident Not Jobs’ will be the theme of our major event this spring (see advert on facing page). The timing is crucial. It will be held just 6 weeks before the expected date of the election. Speakers who have already confirmed include First Minister Alex Salmond and Ian Galloway from the Church of Scotland.

Chilcot and Iran
Across the world we start 2010 with familiar problems: the escalating war in Afghanistan, destabilisation in Pakistan and a new threat of military intervention in Yemen. In the background the Chilcot Inquiry plays out a slow motion re-run of the follies of the Iraq War. It seems that no lessons have been learned. The current drum beat of war over Iran’s nuclear programme is depressingly similar to the run-up to war in Iraq. Two years ago all US intelligence agencies agreed that Iran did not have a current nuclear weapons programme, a fact reiterated by both the current and the former heads of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), thus spiking the war drive of then President Bush. Since then we have a steady drip of stories being fed to news agencies including the BBC and the Guardian Newspaper about ‘secret’ Iranian nuclear installations and a covert nuclear weapons programme, mostly based on the statements of two Iranian defectors. Sound familiar? Clearly there are forces at work in the United States and Israel who are keen to promote a new round of economic sanctions and possibly war against Iran, presumably the same ‘reliable’ sources that told us about Iraq’s nuclear weapons programme in 2002-03. Repeating this tragedy would play into the hands of President Ahmadinejad and his increasingly isolated regime allowing him to pose as the defender of the nation against a hostile world. Iran’s authoritarian government does not pose any threat to the west or neighbouring states. And the growing and broadly based opposition to the regime needs our solidarity, not further sanctions or military intervention.
Destabilising Pakistan

In Pakistan, however, we face a much more serious threat to the region and the wider world. Unlike Iran, Pakistan has a nuclear arsenal estimated at 50-100 warheads. The recent spate of terrorist bombings does not directly threaten the corrupt and unpopular rule of President Asif Ali Zardari. The Pakistani Taliban has limited support outside the Pashtun tribal areas. But US policy has even less support. The escalating war in neighbouring Afghanistan, US Predator drone attacks inside Pakistan and US pressure on Islamabad to take aggressive action against the Taliban in South Waziristan has helped destabilise the country. The ground offensive in the Swat valley caused huge loss of life, and the displacement of up to 2 million people into tent cities under terrible conditions.

The blowback from this is the growing Islamicisation of much of the officer class in a restive Pakistani army. Pakistan’s nuclear weapons are dispersed to underground tunnels at various secret sites around the country. The threat of a fresh military coup or mutiny by a group of radicalised officers seizing control of nuclear weapons is now increasingly real. US contingency plans to deal with such an event were highlighted in a recent article by the veteran journalist Seymour Hersh in the New Yorker magazine. The people of Pakistan are in the front line of the war in Afghanistan and already paying a heavy price for US policy in the region over the past 3 decades. That price could soon go ballistic drawing the whole Indian subcontinent into a full blown nuclear confrontation.

General Election & the NPT

But alongside these signs of ‘business as usual’ on the part of the Obama administration are some important developments which give grounds for optimism for the peace movement. The bilateral US-Russia talks on weapons reductions are likely to be concluded in February this year. And according to the International Herald Tribune, Presidents Obama and Medvedev are planning to immediately follow this by talks on much more radical cuts in nuclear weapons on both sides including deployed strategic warheads, reserve warheads that are held in storage and tactical nuclear bombs.

There are, however, still potential stumbling blocks such as US Missile Defence, the expansion of NATO and of course conservative forces in both countries who are opposed to these developments. In particular, there are 40 Republican senators who have declared that they would block ratification of any new arms control agreement which does not also involve modernising America’s nuclear arsenal. Ratification of Treaties requires a two thirds majority in the Senate.

In September last year President Obama chaired a UN Security Council session which unanimously agreed a motion calling for global nuclear disarmament making the issue of nuclear disarmament the property of every nation. Despite the ongoing problems and potential pitfalls, the prospects for the forthcoming 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May of this year are so much more promising than for many years. At the UK parliament Jeremy Corbyn has submitted Early Day Motion 144 supported by 103 MPs which refers to the NPT conference and calls on the government to give full support to negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

We need to keep up the pressure for MPs and the government to commit to starting negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention as a matter of urgency. Getting the Scottish Parliament to call for such negotiations would help that process. But the best way we can support the process of global nuclear disarmament, in action not just words, is to build the movement against Trident replacement. One of the first decisions any new UK government will have to take will be whether to go ahead with Trident. That’s why the election will be a huge opportunity to kill off this programme once and for all. Such a victory, now almost within our grasp, would give a huge boost to the global movement for peace.

Alan Mackinnon
VOTE OUT
TRIDENT 2010

What the parties say about Trident

**Labour**
The Labour Government under Tony Blair pushed through the proposal to replace the Trident nuclear system with the development of new nuclear-armed submarines. This programme has been continued under Gordon Brown. 15 of the 41 Scottish Labour MPs voted against the Trident Replacement plan in March 2007.

**SNP**
The SNP are opposed to Trident and to any plans for a replacement. "The SNP wants a safer, healthier and wealthier Scotland. We believe nuclear weapons are the wrong choice for a successful Scotland. That's why we won't waste £90 billion on new weapons of mass destruction, when it can be better spent in our schools, hospitals and other public services." (SNP website)

**Liberal Democrat**
"Liberal Democrats do not believe that the UK can afford the billions of pounds the Government wants to spend on a like-for-like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. Full-scale Trident is a cold war system that we no longer need nor can afford. We believe that less expensive alternatives should be considered." (Lib Dem website)

**Conservative**
The Conservative Party supported the Labour Government in 2007 when the proposal to renew Trident was passed by the House of Commons. Liam Fox, their Defence spokesperson, has said that they will keep a submarine-based nuclear force on patrol at all times. A small number of Conservative MPs have spoken out against the current plan to replace Trident.

**Scottish Green Party and others**
The Scottish Green Party are opposed to Trident and any plans for a replacement for Trident. There are a number of other political parties who have consistently opposed Trident including the Scottish Socialist Party, Solidarity, the Communist Party and the Socialist Labour Party.

What you can do to raise Trident in the election

- Send “Cut Trident” cards to candidates in the election. These are available from the Scottish CND office. Cut the card in half and send part to the candidate with the words – “I’ve cut Trident and I want you to do the same”. Details of candidates and their views on nuclear weapons are available at www.scotland4peace.org.
- Write a letter to candidates in your constituency
- Go along to any hustings meetings in your area and ask a question about Trident.
- Come along to the Cut Trident Not Jobs march and rally in Edinburgh on 13th March.
- Write a letter to the local or national press.
- Wear a ‘Vote Trident Out’ badge.
- Scottish churches are organising a postcard campaign against Trident Replacement. Help to distribute cards within churches.

For further information about any of these suggestions please contact John Ainslie in the Scottish CND office 0141 423 1222, john.ainslie@banthebomb.org

Points to make

Here are some suggestions of points that you might make in a letter or when speaking to candidates:

- One of the first decisions a new Government will face after the election will be whether to proceed further with the plan to replace Trident submarines. During the course of the next Parliament a decision is also due to be made on whether to build a new nuclear warhead.
- Whoever is in Government after the election, they are expected to cut public spending. This will affect services and public sector wages and will result in job losses. There will also be less money to fund local voluntary projects.
- Trident Replacement will cost at least £75 billion. This includes the costs of building new submarines, constructing new facilities at Aldermaston and operating the system for 30 years. It is this expenditure on new Weapons of Mass Destruction that should be cut.
- The plan to replace Trident has been criticised by a wide range of people including senior Conservative
MPs, former government ministers and retired senior figures in the armed forces.

In May 2010 nations from around the world will gather at the United Nations to discuss the future of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. It is essential that the Treaty is renewed to prevent more countries developing nuclear weapons. But if this is to happen the nuclear-weapon states, including Britain, need to make real progress towards getting rid of their nuclear weapons. If we continue with Trident Replacement it will undermine these negotiations. As former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said: “it is like smoking a fat cigar and telling your youngsters not to smoke”

Scrapping Trident would result in some job losses at Faslane. But far more jobs would be created or retained if Scotland’s share of the cost of Trident was spent on public services and renewable energy.

Hans Blix: ‘it is like smoking a fat cigar and telling your youngsters not to smoke’

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Diary for 2010

Mon 15 February
Aldermaston blockade (see page 7)

Fri 26 February
Nuclear Free Local Authorities seminar on Trident Replacement, Inverkeithing, Fife.

Mon 1 March
Publication of US Nuclear Posture Review which will determine US nuclear posture for the next decade and influence Britain’s nuclear options.

Sat 13 March
Cut Trident not Jobs March and Rally
Assemble Scottish Parliament 11 am

Sat 3 April
Day of action at European Nuclear Bases.
Assemble Faslane Peace Camp 12 noon for march to North gate for symbolic blockade and picnic. Organised by Trident Ploughshares 0845 4588 367 tp2000@gn.apc.org.

3 – 29 May
Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Conference New York.

Thu 6 May
Possible date for General Election

July
Possible date for Trident Replacement Initial Gate decision

August
Footprints for Peace Walk

Fri 6 August
Hiroshima anniversary
The British Government’s First Campaign Against CND

(Lawrence Wittner, Professor of History at State University of New York reviewed the material made available in the Public Records Office. This is an edited version of an article published in Europe-an Dialogue, a journal of Euro-pean Nuclear Disarmament and the UK Helsinki Citizen Assembly in 1992)

On March 24, 1958, Prime Min-ister Harold Macmillan sent a remarkable memo to a member of his Cabinet, Dr Charles Hill, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lan-caster. The memo read:

“It is most important that we should find some way of organ-isning and directing an effective campaign to counter the current agitation against this country’s possession of nuclear weap-ons. This is a question on which the natural emotions of ordinary people would lead them to be critical of the Government’s policy, and to accept without question or reason the arguments which our opponents use…. Can we per-suade some influential publicists to write articles? Are there any reliable scientists? Or Church of England Bishops? What about Sir John Slessor, or Professor Bullock? Mr Aidan Crawley would probably help.”

The Macmillan government’s campaign emerged in the context of the growing public criticism of the hydrogen bomb. On Febru-ary 17th 1958, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament had been publicly launched. Plans were moving forward for the first Aldermaston march. On Febru-ary 26th, Macmillan met with the Home Secretary, Rab Butler, and Sir Edwin Plowden (a top official in the H-bomb programme), to develop a strategy for dealing with the march. According to the record of the meeting, the Home Secretary argued that the demons-trators did not have a legal right to engage in peaceful picketing, while Macmillan “considered whether he might write to the Archbishop of Canterbury asking him to warn the local clergy not to help the demonstrators”. Macmil-lan himself wrote the statement distributed to the Aldermaston staff, warning them of the alleged dangers posed by the marchers. Sir Norman Brook was brought into meetings with Macmillan “to consider how we can bet-ter organise the anti-antinuclear campaign”.

Meanwhile other government officials joined the call for an aggressive programme against nuclear critics. Ian Harvey, the Parliamen-tary Under Secretary of State, submitted a memo to the Foreign Office warning that the campaign against the H-bomb “could prove most damaging if they were to gain sufficient momentum”. An official at the Foreign Office argued that “Prob-ably what is needed is not more statements by Ministers, but by independent scientists and mili-tary commentators”. Another rec-ommended “briefing a few ‘trusty’ correspondents and getting them something like an equal opportu-nity on the BBC”.

Charles Hill quickly developed a vigorous programme. In a memo to Macmillan of April 2nd, he reported: “Active steps are being taken to identify the intellectuals, Churchmen, scientists and others who support the government in the controversy over this country’s possession of nuclear bombs”. Once identified, these persons “will be discreetly approached with a suggestion that they should give expression to their views in one way or another. The BBC and the programme companies will be confidentially informed and the suggestion made that these people should be invited to give expression to their views on sound and television.”

In May, Hill worked hard – and with some effect – to counter a petition, drafted by Russell and signed by 618 British scientists, criticising nuclear weapons test-ing and calling for an immediate international agreement to ban it. “The press reaction to the Russell letter and petition was better than I had feared.” Hill reported to the Prime Minister on May 7th. “After consulting Sir Harold Himsworth, I put out a good deal of guidance on Thursday night, at a special meeting of the Lobby and through
other contacts.” As a result, “Friday’s press played the story down, giving as much prominence to your letter as to Russell’s effort. The Sunday press ignored the petition.” Hill also was “continuing such personal contacts in Cambridge, Oxford and London” in the hope of encouraging pro-government statements. Work with the press was proving rather efficacious, and “we are more than usually busy ‘killing’ stories”. The following year Hill reported that “a modest beginning” had been made towards mobilising Church support for the H-bomb programme.

Hill went on to chair the Independent Television Authority and the BBC. The folder which produced most of the information for this article (PREM 11/2778) is followed by four others marked ‘Closed for the next 100 years’.

### Aldermaston Blockade

**15 February 2010**

Trident Ploughshares is organising a Blockade of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston. The government has postponed the "Initial Gate" decision on replacing Trident submarines until after the NPT Review Conference in May. But work is already going ahead at Aldermaston on the construction of the facilities for the next generation of nuclear bombs. By blockading Aldermaston on 15 February we intend to send a clear message to the government: Instead of moving forward with construction of facilities for new nuclear weapons the UK should cancel Trident replacement, take Trident off patrol prior to the NPT conference, and announce plans to disarm its illegal nuclear weapons now.

Affinity groups are coming from all parts of the UK. We want to let the government know that Scotland strongly opposes the construction of new nuclear weapons as well as the ongoing deployment of Trident. A group from Scotland will be blocking the Boiler House Gate. If you want to join this group email Jane Tallents: tp2000@gn.apc.org or call: 0845 4588367

Minibuses will be going from Waterloo Place in Edinburgh, and from George Square in front of Glasgow City Chambers and other locations in Scotland at 8:30am on Sunday 14 February and returning by 6:30pm Tuesday 16 Feb. Cost is £15 (£5 Deposit). Sponsorship available for those unable to pay the full cost. Accommodation will be in church halls. Bring sleeping mats and bags. A donation toward the cost of food and accommodation is requested. To book a place call Edinburgh Peace and Justice Resource Centre: 0131 229 0993 or logon to the website: [http://peaceandjustice.org.uk/](http://peaceandjustice.org.uk/)

There will be NVDA Trainings for people planning to participate in the blockade in Edinburgh Saturday 6 February at St John’s Church Hall, corner of Princes St and Lothian Road and in Glasgow at Anderston Kelvingrove Church, 759 Argyle Street (at Elderslie Street) Sunday 7 February from 2 - 5pm.

For further information on Nonviolence Training, Affinity Groups, Legal Briefings and much more go to: [http://www.tridentploughshares.org/index.php3](http://www.tridentploughshares.org/index.php3)

This is a crucial time for the nuclear disarmament movement. Barack Obama has spoken of a “vision of a world free of nuclear weapons” but the reality is that foreseeable nuclear arms reductions talks will only do that, reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons without seriously engaging the possibility of abolition of nuclear weapons. The world cannot wait another forty years. We must seize the moment and push hard now for disarmament. So if at all possible please come and join in the blockade. You can sit, lie down, lock-on or provide support for those blockading. You don't have to be prepared to risk arrest. People are needed to hold banners, drive, do legal support, do media work and more. Please bring your friends and relatives and join the blockade that will start at 7am and continue for as long as possible.

Brian Larkin
Following the 2007 election Scottish CND was keen to encourage the new SNP Administration to consider what they could do about nuclear weapons in Scotland. The Scottish Government organised a summit meeting in Glasgow in October 2007. They then invited representatives of civic Scotland, including Scottish CND and Scotland’s for Peace, to form a Working Group which was chaired by Bruce Crawford, Minister for Parliamentary Business. This Working Group prepared a detailed report which was submitted to the Scottish Cabinet. In November 2009 the Scottish Government published the report and their response to it.

Scottish CND Vice-Chair Isobel Lindsay said: “Scottish CND welcomes the opposition of the Scottish Government to nuclear weapons and regards the Working Group’s report as a useful starting point for action within the limitations of devolved powers. The money the British Government is spending on Trident and the proposed Trident renewal project could be used for vital public services and job creation. The Scottish Government can serve as an international advocate for nuclear disarmament and as a watchdog in relation to the safety of nuclear facilities in Scotland and the nuclear weapons convoys that regularly travel through our towns and villages.”

Scottish Government Working Group

Trident and Scotland’s Economy
The Working Group proposed that the Scottish Government should ask the Ministry of Defence to develop an action plan. This would look at the economic implications of Trident being removed from Scotland and decommissioned. They said that if the UK Government did not do this then the Scottish Government should set up a group to develop an action plan which it could recommend to London. They also suggested that the UK Government should also be asked to provide financial assistance to the areas that would be affected. The potential for diversification into renewable energy should also be investigated.

The Scottish Government response said: “The Scottish Government strongly opposes the renewal of Trident and the associated financial burden. In the current economic climate, with reductions in public sector spending, this spend appears increasing-ly unjustifiable. ... The Government agrees with the need to ask the Ministry of Defence to collect and share relevant data ... We will pursue this further ... The Scottish Government agrees with the need to begin advance planning for removal of nuclear weapons and management of the impact on individuals as soon as practicable ... The Government agrees ... there is a need for a defence diversification programme to minimise economic impact on the surrounding area”.

Political and Legal issues
The Working Group noted that an earlier proposal, for the Scottish Government to have observer status at the 2010 NPT review conference, was not feasible but this should be considered for the 2015 meeting. A number of suggestions were made of ways in which the Scottish Government could be involved in the 2010 conference. They were also asked to promote NGO and parliamentary involvement in the meeting.

The Scottish Government response said that “Scottish officials and Ministers should, where appropriate, be invited to form part of UK delegations” including on nuclear proliferation.

The report from the Working Group presented arguments on the illegality of nuclear weapons. The Scottish Government’s response noted there were a range of arguments and specifically referred to the Lord Advocate’s Reference in 2000. This had ruled that international law did not provide a defence for an action against a Trident facility.

Regulatory issues
The Scottish Government said they would write to the UK Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) proposing that Faslane should be subject to licensing as a nuclear site by HSE and formally regulated by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, as requested by the Working Group. The Scottish
The first year of the new decade will be crucial for reducing nuclear weapons proliferation and worldwide stocks of nuclear weapons. NGOs involved in the nuclear weapons debate need to be heavily involved in the run-up the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference (NPT), being held in the United Nations in May 2010. Both the members of the Mayors for Peace and the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in the UK and Ireland are seeking to promote the ‘2020 Vision’ – a vision led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for a process to reduce and eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020.

Hiroshima Nagasaki Protocol
Mayors for Peace were established in the 1980s by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to lobby the United Nations and nuclear weapons states to take seriously the international commitments to reduce nuclear proliferation and stocks of nuclear weapons. In recent years the Mayors for Peace has burgeoned and now has just under 3500 members, making it one of the largest local government groups in the world.

At its Conference in Nagasaki in August 2009 it reaffirmed its desire to pursue the ‘2020 Vision’ and encourage member states of the United Nations to adopt at the NPT Conference the ‘Hiroshima Nagasaki Protocol’. This document encourages a greater urgency in international commitments to reduce weapon stockpiles. It seeks the signing of a Nuclear Weapons Convention by 2015 and the elimination of all stocks of nuclear weapons by 2020. To this aim, the Mayors for Peace are working closely with other like-minded organisations such as the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and are currently lobbying UN Ambassadors from a number of UN member states to put an agreed document like the ‘Hiroshima Nagasaki Protocol’ into the formal Conference.

UN Demonstration
The Mayors for Peace will be sending an international delegation of Mayors, Council Leaders and leading councillors to the NGO section of the NPT Conference in May 2010 to continue lobbying UN member states. The positive work of President Obama and of the 2009 Preparatory Conference gives grounds for optimism, but a strong and visible presence of groups and communities seeking a nuclear weapons free world will be invaluable. To this end, the Mayors for Peace are working with citizen groups in the United States to hold a major international march in New York, ending at the UN buildings while the conference...
Project Pegasus

Winged Horse or White Elephant?

Plans for a new purpose-built enriched uranium handling facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston have been branded a half billion pound white elephant by CND and the peace movement.

At the beginning of December the Ministry of Defence submitted a planning application for Aldermaston's 'Project Pegasus: the latest development in the decade-long, multi-billion pound programme to rebuild Britain's nuclear weapons factories in readiness for manufacturing a new generation of nuclear warheads. The project is named after Pegasus – the star constellation representing the winged horse of Greek mythology – in accordance with AWE's custom of naming new developments after constellations.

Project Pegasus is scheduled to come into operation in 2016 and will cost around half a billion pounds to design and build, at a time when deep cuts are planned in public services. Apart from a limited number of temporary construction jobs, the project will not generate any new jobs at AWE Aldermaston, where non-technical staff are currently facing redundancy as a result of a management cost-cutting programme. AWE plc has announced that 50 jobs at the Berkshire factory are to be lost, but trade unions on the site claim that up to 900 jobs – 15% of the AWE workforce – are to be axed over the months ahead.

The new facility will replace AWE's existing enriched uranium handling capacity in Aldermaston's ageing A45 building and a number of smaller buildings. Enriched uranium is used to manufacture components of Trident warheads and also as fuel for nuclear submarine reactors. The principal role of the new facility will be to manufacture components which form part of the 'canned sub-assembly' of the nuclear warhead, required to initiate a fusion reaction which adds massively to the destructive power of the nuclear explosion.

Project Pegasus has been designed alongside a new uranium processing facility which will serve a similar function in the USA's nuclear weapons infrastructure at the Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge. Both projects have benefited from trans-Atlantic exchange of information, and the US and UK project teams have been encouraged to share common design elements and other mutually beneficial information.

The costs of the project are classified, but comparison with other current projects at AWE and uranium facilities at the Y-12 complex suggests that the price tag for Project Pegasus will be between £300 and £500 million.

The proposed enriched uranium facility is the latest in a series of new developments at the AWE sites at Aldermaston and nearby Burghfield. In 2006 planning permission was given to build the giant Orion nuclear test laser, which will be used to model conditions during a nuclear explosion, and early in 2009 permission was given to build a new warhead assembly / disassembly facility at Burghfield. AWE has announced that it also intends to build a new hydrodynamics facility to model the behaviour of materials under the extreme temperatures and pressures they experience in a nuclear explosion; a high performance computer facility; a materials science facility; and a number of other smaller developments. The company will be given an average of £1 billion by the government each year over the next three years to pay for the current phase of its site development programme.

The need for Project Pegasus was identified during the Bush and Blair years when AWE assumed it would be designing and building a new generation of nuclear warheads between 2010 and 2020 alongside Bush's Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) programme. However, the credit crunch, international moves to control nuclear weapons, and cancellation of the RRW programme have cast the need for the new facility into doubt. The Westminster Parliament has yet to decide whether to develop new
warheads for Trident’s successor, and a new warhead programme would add at least £2-3 billion to the costs of replacing Trident at a time when the UK government is under heavy pressure to cut public spending to balance its budget deficit.

More importantly, Project Pegasus is a potential obstacle to progress at forthcoming arms control talks, sending out a clear signal that the UK intends to continue with the manufacture and maintenance of nuclear warheads at Aldermaston for the foreseeable future, and running the risk of wrecking President Obama’s global initiative to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce the number of nuclear weapons worldwide.

At a time when public services for local families face deep cuts, and a climate of optimism is developing on the global control of nuclear weapons, now is the worst possible time for the government to be upgrading nuclear facilities at Aldermaston and risking wrecking hopes for disarmament.

More information about Project Pegasus and developments at AWE can be found on the Nuclear Information Service website at www.nuclearinfo.org
To object to the planning permission for Project Pegasus go to www.cnduk.org/awe-planning

Peter Burt

Kay Carmichael
Died 26th December 2009

Kay Carmichael was born in the east end of Glasgow. She was a strong supporter of the campaign for nuclear disarmament. Over many years she spoke, wrote and acted to proclaim that nuclear weapons are a threat to civilisation and should be abandoned. Her opinion, held with a fierce conviction, was based on much thought and expressed so as to persuade.

Kay learned early in life to think for herself. She read widely and soon became interested in politics. It was against a background of knowledge of politics and social concerns that her opposition to nuclear weapons developed. When I was secretary of Scottish CND from 1958 to 1960 I was frequently at the home of Kay and her husband Neil where I was given tireless and tolerant support. Kay advised on people and events. She knew the ways of committees and her shrewd assessments were leavened with wit.

Always alive to the opportunities for effective action Kay took part in the preparation and carrying out numerous demonstrations, many at the nuclear base at Faslane. One was called ‘Snow Ball’ when first 3 the 9 then 27 cuts were made in the perimeter fence. She was arrested. When in Corton Vale prison, a large number of bunches of flowers were delivered to her cell she had it that her fellow prisoners would each get one. The routine blockading of the base had her frequent attendance. Another ploy, by a women’s group called the Gareloch Horticulturalists, was to plant bulbs at the base.

All these activities and commitments were part of a life of work as mother, housewife, student, academic, social worker, writer and broadcaster.

At her funeral her second husband, David Donnison, related the life of an extraordinary woman who used her whole being to improve social conditions generally and at the same time was warmly involved in the lives of many. She was an intellectual who had no time for cleverness for its own sake. She appreciated people for their merit not for their rank.

Throughout her life Kay’s opposition to nuclear weapons was steady and resolute.

Kenneth McNeil

‘Over many years she spoke, wrote and acted to proclaim that nuclear weapons are a threat to civilisation and should be abandoned’
Letter from America

After Oslo delivered the first pre-emptive strike Nobel Peace Prize, let’s consider one of their main considerations, namely the hope that America will provide leadership in nuclear disarmament. We may be viewing the best opportunity for progress in this area since the defeat of the Baruch Plan in 1946. But since we’ve just had our holidays filled with films old and new, let’s go back to the movies where we can learn about disarmament in the 1950s. This time we look at “Blood of Dracula” from 1957, a typical horror B-movie with a twist – it’s about disarmament, women’s equality and... vampires.

Writer Aben Kandel was old enough to have witnessed both World Wars and the thought of a nuclear-fueled World War III probably inspired him. In this scene, Miss Branding, a science teacher at a girl’s boarding school, shares her thoughts with student Myra after her doctoral thesis is rejected once again.

“We live in a world ruled by men for men. They won’t even consider my thesis. They mock me, my work. But they’re convinced that they’re on the right track. Before they’re proven wrong, they’ll destroy the world through reckless experiments...

If they continue, do you realize what the people of the future will be, what they’ll look like? Monsters! Grotesque, misshapen, frightening fiends! Isotopes and fallout in our lungs and our glands distorting natural shape and proportion. No one can calculate the hazards of radiation. Reckless fools!

I can release a destructive power in a human being that would make the split atom seem like a blessing. And after I’ve done that, after I’ve demonstrated clearly that there is more terrible power in us than man can create, scientists will give up their destructive experiments.

They’ll stop testing nuclear bombs. Nations will stop looking for new artificial weapons because the natural ones, we, the human race, will be too terrible to arouse. War will no longer be a calculated risk because it can only end in total destruction.”

And after COP15, it remains to be seen whether the human race is indeed the most dangerous natural weapon on the planet.

Joe Falcone & Karri Kaiser
Community Activists from Half Moon Bay

Mayors for Peace (continued from page 9) is taking place. The 2005 Conference had such a march attended by 40,000 people – the aim is for it to be even bigger in 2010.

How Scottish CND can help
There are 60 member towns and cities of the Mayors for Peace in the UK and a further 12 in Ireland. The UK Mayors for Peace Working Group is administered by Manchester, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, and is seeking to lobby the UK Government to play a leading, positive role in the NPT. A meeting is currently being arranged with a UK Mayors for Peace delegation and the UK Foreign Office Minister responsible for Proliferation Affairs, Ivan Lewis. At this meeting Mayors for Peace members will be putting forward the need for an effective NPT Conference, whilst also registering concern over a major replacement programme for the Trident weapons system.

The UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), who work very closely with the Mayors for Peace, are also holding two important seminars on Trident replacement, nuclear weapons convoys and the NPT - they will be in Oxford on the 19th February (tbc) and Inverkeithing, Fife on February 26th. These seminars will help educate councillors on the concerns over Trident replacement and over potential incidents involving nuclear weapons convoys on the roads of England and Scotland. CND Scotland is encouraged to attend the Fife seminar – further details from Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary – s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk or 0161 234 3244.

Giant Peace sign on the hillside at Half Moon Bay
Scottish CND can also assist the Mayors for Peace by encouraging Scottish local authorities to join the organisation. Membership of Mayors for Peace is free, though donations are obviously welcome. A recent recruitment drive in Scotland has seen a number of new members including Fife, Dundee, Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire and Falkirk. Glasgow, Edinburgh, Shetland Islands and South Ayrshire are also Mayors for Peace members. The more members Mayors for Peace has the stronger it becomes as a legitimate, international body.

**Nuclear Free Local Authorities**

Scottish CND can also assist by lobbying Scottish Councils to join the NFLA and assist in its campaigns on nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. 2010 is also a major year in challenging the 'nuclear renaissance' and the development of new nuclear reactors. The strong anti-nuclear stance of the current Scottish Government differs quite markedly from the test of the UK, and SCND could assist the NFLA in promote support for the organisation in Scotland.

At the recent Scottish Parliament fringe event looking at NATO’s nuclear weapons policy I noted that many difficult and seemingly intractable issues can only be resolved by strong and wide public support and the will of the people coming to the fore. We now have a black American President, no Berlin Wall, and no apartheid in South Africa. We can have a nuclear weapons free world – CND Scotland should work with the Mayors for Peace to help bring it about.

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**Scottish CND Local Groups & Contacts**

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**Sean Morris**

UK Mayors for Peace Working Group Secretary
Ayatollah Khamenei and Nuclear Weapons

Over the past year or two there has been much discussion in the media in Britain and the USA about Iran’s nuclear aspirations, and the possibility that sooner or later there will be Iranian nuclear weapons. This prospect might well lead to an Israeli pre-emptive strike, with disastrous consequences for the fragile stability of the region.

In all this analysis there has been one strange omission: the fact that Iran’s ‘Supreme Leader’, the Ayatollah Khamenei, is on record as insisting that nuclear weapons are un-Islamic, unaffordable and unnecessary. He said this in a speech delivered on June 6th 2006. Earlier, in August 2005, an official Iranian statement was sent to the International Atomic Energy Authority, reporting that Khamenei had issued a fatwa against nuclear weapons, which were utterly incompatible with Islamic principles. On September 21st last year he made another denunciation of nuclear weapons, a reminder that the adjective ‘un-Islamic’ is not the kind of word that an ayatollah would use lightly. It leaves no room for a change of mind.

It is true that, so far as I’m aware, he made no pronouncements on the issue during 2007 and 2008. It is also true that some Iranian clerics have disagreed with Khamenei, arguing that it would be lawful to hold nuclear weapons as a deterrent. I suspect that some influential members of Iran’s ruling elite may well agree with this: after all, if India, Pakistan and Israel are nuclear powers, what right have they, or anyone, to object to Iran’s having them too. Given this disagreement, Khamenei might understandably have agreed to keep quiet about his embarrassing convictions, provided that his colleagues committed themselves to insisting on Iran’s peaceful intentions. But if so, on September 21st he threw off this constraint.

Khamenei’s opposition to nuclear weapons has been eliminated even from the minds of people in the West who might be supposed to have an interest in broadcasting it. Neither Bruce Kent nor Scilla Elworthy were aware of this interesting fact until I told them, and when at a public meeting in Edinburgh I asked the Canadian Senator Douglas Roche about it, he blithely ignored my question and answered a question I had not asked. Bruce Kent was evidently unsure of what use the information would be, and I think this provides a clue to the reason for this consignment of an unexpected ally to an Orwellian memory hole.

When I first learnt myself about the Ayatollah I thought it would be a splendid idea for the then Moderator of the Church of Scotland’s General Assembly, Alan Macdonald, to join Cardinal Keith O’Brien in applauding Khamenei’s stand. A courteous letter from the Moderator informed me that he was not minded to take up my suggestion. I learnt indirectly that he was sure that such an affirmation would undo all the good peace work he had done during his year in office.

I don’t doubt that he was right. Just imagine the headline: ‘Cardinal and Moderator cosy up to Ayatollah’. St Andrews University got into enough trouble by giving an honorary degree to a leading Iranian cleric. The effect of saying anything nice about the Supreme Leader of Iran would have been devastating.

In this part of the world nobody loves ayatollahs. Their attitude to women, their authoritarian ideology, their fundamentalist theology, all contradict our most basic convictions. Violent suppression of opposition protests reinforces this distaste. But if their theology leads them to the insight that what happened to Japan in 1945 was an offence that stinks to high heaven, that seems to me one up for their theology. I do not see why we should be coy in stating this.

And clearly, if we are to make progress in implementing the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Khamenei’s stand is something that will help this forward. I say Khamenei and not Iran, because I worry about what the position may be when he is not around. He is said to be in poor health.

Geoffrey Carnall
I would like to join Scottish CND
Membership rates: Adult £24 □ Youth £10 □ Household £36 □ Low waged £16 □ Unwaged £10 □ Student £10 □ Pensioner £10 □ (Please tick )

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