Environmental Cost of Nuclear Weapons
Two Years On - Global Ban Treaty
Nuclear Power and the Climate Emergency
Letter from the Chair

Lynn Jamieson

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of Nuclear Free Scotland. I became chair of Scottish CND at our AGM in November when Arthur West stood down. I echo the heartfelt thanks then given to Arthur for his eight years as chair.

This AGM signalled our new collaborations with climate emergency activists, recognising nuclear catastrophe and climate change as equal and linked threats. The AGM began with contributions from Rachel Sermanni, a star in a fabulous young generation of Scottish folk musicians and from two articulate school pupil climate strikers, Grace Quinn and Kay McIvor. They spoke of the interconnections between the environmentally hostile carbon-consumption that has resulted in climate change and the mindset and practices of military, industry and government that unashamedly produce and posture with nuclear weapons. Later, Dr Ian Fairlie presented evidence and argument to show that civil nuclear power will never be the answer to climate change.

The resolutions passed at the AGM set the programme for the year ahead. Scottish CND is our local groups and individual members, assisted by a small part-time staff and volunteers. Thanks to all of you for your support, the active parts you have played and will play in our campaigns and to those who have specific responsibilities as members of the executive. It will be a challenging year that needs good team work. We already know that Trident is lose-lose, misusing resources needed elsewhere, only to put us all at risk. The few political leaders with the moral courage to say this are helping to change the narrative.

Meanwhile, Peace Education Scotland keeps delivering good education materials and deserves our continued support. But there is a long way to go before our culture escapes from nuclear blinkers – then it will no longer seem sensible for a journalist to ask the truly absurd and bizarre question “will you press the button?”. Nor will it be possible to present nuclear power as if it is a no-problem, clean and green. Let us never give up on the vision of a world where we scrap Trident, redirect resources towards jobs mitigating climate change and, in international solidarity, build on the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

*COVER IMAGE BY ROBERT CLOUGH AT XR PEACE PROTESTS OCT 2019
Iona Soper

“I would like to begin by thanking the team at Scottish CND for taking a chance on me last year. I joined the struggle against nuclear weapons in 2016 with relatively little detailed knowledge about the realities of the industry I was fighting against, or the history of the movement resisting it. Over the next two years I worked with various anti-nuclear groups taking a direct stand against Faslane and the arms industry. I was always aware that this work, while important, made up only part of a multifaceted campaign against nuclear weapons in Scotland. My time with Scottish CND has allowed me to experience (and participate in) a more organised campaign against Trident...”

Read more about Iona’s internship with us at www.banthebomb.org

Arthur West

Scottish CND AGM gave a very warm thanks to our Chair, Arthur West, who was standing down after eight years in office. Arthur continues as an Executive member. When work was required, he was always the first to volunteer and has guided the organisation successfully through some difficult times, particularly during the years of John Ainslie’s illness. He has brought his trade union experience to support staff and create a co-operative ethos on the Executive. Arthur’s broad network of activities have been valuable for SCND. He has strong Ayrshire roots, is Chair of Scottish Friends of Palestine, Chair of Ayrshire Amnesty International, Secretary of Kilmarnock and Loudon Trades Council and Secretary of Peace Education Scotland. He will continue to be a very welcome figure in the peace movement.
The Environmental Cost of Nuclear Weapons

Flavia Tudoreanu

Here are the two main issues that could lead to the end of the world as we know it or human extinction. These two issues are closely linked and equally as urgent and yet majority of people fail to see the connections.

When we talk with people about nuclear weapons and the environment cost they inflict they seem to focus on the two times they have been used in war or the scenario of a future nuclear war which is then easily dismissed because it hasn’t happened yet. However, the environmental cost of nuclear weapons has many facets. To begin with we had over 2,000 nuclear weapon tests done across the world, some thousands times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. To give some perspective, here’s the Marshall Islands example. Between 1946 and 1958, the United States conducted sixty-seven tests in the Marshall Islands. If their combined explosive power was parcelled evenly over that twelve year period, it would equal 1.6 Hiroshima-size explosions every single day. This was just one corner of the world. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has estimated that roughly 2.4 million people will eventually die as a result of the atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945 and 1980. Elevated radiation from the tests remains measurable and continues to poison our environment and its living beings.

Add to this the implications of nuclear weapons manufacturing, mining, transit, maintenance, the risks of accidents, malfunctions or leaks, disposal and waste dumping. Radiation has no borders. Radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl meltdown spread over 40% of Europe. Scottish sheep were tested for over twenty years as a result of the Chernobyl disaster fallout.

“One aspect to always consider is the connection of nuclear power with nuclear weapons. They go hand-in-hand when it comes to technologies, staff skills, research and safety issues. There is always the danger that countries with nuclear energy might try to develop nuclear weapons too.”

Nuclear power is often praised as a clean energy, but nuclear power stations come with their own set of issues. One of the most important is the uranium extraction as this is one of the most environmentally destructive methods of mining on Earth. It strains scarce water sources and poses serious health effects (lung and bone cancers and kidney damage). The uranium extraction and purification create huge waste (rock, liquid and solid waste) and need large amounts of energy and therefore contribute to global warming and climate change and expose people and our environment to radioactivity and other toxins. There are thousands of abandoned uranium mines which have not been properly disposed of.

The Runit Dome, known as the Pacific Nuclear Coffin contains nuclear waste from testing done in the area. Underground, radioactive waste has already started to leach from the centre, but fears about rising sea-levels, soil shifting, and storms have all caused new concern over the integrity of the dome and its ability to contain radioactive waste.
their radioactive waste piles. There is much to say about the subject and Scottish CND will continue to work in emphasising the links and connections between these two issues. We held a Big Climate Conversation event funded by the Scottish Government, nuclear disarmament activists – including our vice-chair Janet Fenton – joined the Extinction Rebellion Peace Rebellion in London, our AGM speakers this year covered the same topic, Peace Education Scotland have resources on nuclear winter and we have more plans for the coming year.

Gorbachev Calls for the Destruction of ALL Nuclear Weapons

David Peutherer

In 1986 Mikhail Gorbachev was the last leader of the Soviet Union and supported a proposal and timetable for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2000. The proposal was not agreed with the United States because President Reagan was determined to go ahead with the USA’s own plans to develop a Strategic Defence Initiative; this was Reagan’s Star Wars anti-missile defence system. In 1987 Gorbachev put forward another proposal when he said the Soviet Union was ready to sign “without delay” a treaty to eliminate Soviet and US medium-range missiles from Europe within five years. This led to the signing of the breakthrough Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in December of that year. By 1991 just under 3,000 of these weapons had been destroyed, over 1800 of them by the Soviet Union. In 1989 he refused to intervene militarily to prevent the unification of Germany when the Berlin wall came down thus preventing a major confrontation with the USA. In 1990 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leading role in the peace process and contribution to ending the Cold War. His record in peace making makes all the more significant the comments he made in an interview with the BBC in November this year. When asked about the current confrontation between Russia and the West he said:

“As long as weapons of mass destruction exist, primarily nuclear weapons, the danger is colossal. All nations should declare that all nuclear weapons must be destroyed. This is to save ourselves and our planet.”

Russia and the United States have withdrawn from the INF Treaty. Reagan’s Strategic Defence Initiative has been given fresh impetus by President Trump, China recently displayed a new hypersonic nuclear missile. Other countries, including Britain, are modernising and increasing the power of their nuclear capabilities. At eighty-eight years of age, Gorbachev’s body is frail but there is obviously nothing wrong with his brain.
Evidence of potential cost increases and delays to the UK’s nuclear weapon upgrades is mounting. Although the main focus is now on the planned Dreadnought submarines, the government plan is to carry new nuclear warheads and upgraded Trident missiles on new submarines by the 2040s.

The missile upgrade will be carried out in the US, but upgrades to the submarines and warheads involve a web of interconnected projects and sites across the UK, including Devonport, Barrow, Derby, AWE and Faslane. The submarines will have new reactors and be serviced by new infrastructure. Some building projects began a full decade before the 2016 parliamentary vote on the submarines.

Information about the many upgrade projects is hard to understand and follow, and it is almost impossible to track costs reliably. An added complexity is that the Astute and Trafalgar-class attack submarines, which are nuclear powered but not nuclear armed, are so closely intertwined with the nuclear weapons programme that their support costs are not accounted for separately.

However, we do know that a 2018 National Audit Office (NAO) report revealed that the MoD’s own figures say there is a nearly £3 billion funding black hole in the ‘nuclear enterprise’ (which includes the attack submarine programme) between 2018 and 2028. We also know that this was part of a larger budget black hole in equipment spending plans, which according to MoD estimates, may run to nearly £15 billion. The NAO say that even this ‘worst case’ estimate may be optimistic.

We also know about problems in individual parts of the programme, such as the faulty welds discovered in parts for the ‘Common Missile Compartment’ and the project building the new warhead assembly facility in AWE Burghfield, which is six years late and is expected to £1.8 billion, instead of the original estimate of £734 million.

This is the context for the £2 billion of additional funding recently promised to the Ministry of Defence by Boris Johnson. It is far smaller than the budget gap, even going by the MoD’s own figures. The department is apparently incapable of reigning in its ambitions for the UK to remain a military ‘great power’ in order to fit its budget, instead relying on repeated bail outs from governments who are scared of appearing to be ‘soft’ on defence.

Many failures and cost increases in the upgrade projects were detailed in the recent Nuclear Information Service report ‘Trouble Ahead’ (available from Scottish CND), which builds upon and updates John Ainslie’s ‘Trident Shambles’ report. We identified twenty-one risks to the programme, including shortages of qualified staff, a lack of dock capacity for maintenance at Devonport, and the difficulties in extending the service life of the current Vanguard submarine fleet until the Dreadnought submarines are ready.

Some of these risks are likely to have knock-one effects elsewhere in the programme and cause further delays and cost rises. The MoD could re-
duce risks by spending additional money, despite its dire financial situation, but it is entirely plausible that they will struggle to keep a nuclear-armed submarine continuously at sea over the next decade or so, particularly if there are delays in constructing the Dreadnought submarines.

Already in the few months since our report was released we have heard that the fourth Astute submarine will go into service seventeen months late, due to unspecified fault. This means more money and headaches for the MoD in extending the life of the Trafalgar submarine it is due to replace, but there are also likely to be knock-on delays to the Dreadnought construction because both types of submarine are assembled in the same building by the same workforce.

We are entering the final stages of an election campaign where every UK-wide political party except the Greens is committed to completing these upgrades in some form. Why has the only debate on this issue revolved around the hypothetical bluster of who would use nuclear weapons and when, rather than the very real questions of whether the upgrades can even deliver on their aims, and how much the taxpayer will end up paying for them?

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**Two Years On - Global Ban Treaty**

Janet Fenton

Scottish CND is one of the four hundred ICAN global partner organisations working for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) adopted at the UN in 2017. Once fifty nations have ratified or acceded to it, it will enter into force.

At the time of writing, there are eighty signatories and thirty-four states parties i.e. countries who have not only signed, but also ratified. We need just sixteen of the existing signatories to bring the TPNW into their own national legislation. Several, including our neighbour Ireland, are already close to completing that process – certainly faster than Brexit!

The thirty-fourth state to ratify is Antigua and Barbuda (it is also the sixth Caribbean Community member to do so) ICAN has worked through grassroots campaigning partners in dirty uranium mines in India, stood by first nation communities of North America, visited the Peace Camp at Faslane and celebrated Pacific graffiti artists at the Runit Dome. It offers disarmament diplomacy at the UN, and lobbies parliaments from Cape Town to Helsinki.

ICAN offers international projects to build solidarity and strong messaging to nuclear-armed governments to stop endangering everyone and squandering resources. Parliamentarians around the world (including all the SNP and Scottish Greens MSPs plus some other MSPs) signed the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge. Now, local authorities or federal assemblies can pass a model resolution - the ICAN Cities appeal - to abide by the Treaty’s terms. Some, like Renfrewshire, will add a commitment to divest from nuclear weapon manufacture. Both the Pledge and the Appeal are updated on the international website and lists and resources can be downloaded. Alignment campaigns are similar, for NGOs or even individuals. These campaigns impact on the nuclear-armed states, and have been
effective in emboldening politicians in the US and Australia.

The nine nuclear-armed states still go to any lengths to dismiss the ban, avoid its impact or make it invisible. The impact of the Treaty is seen in divestment from nuclear weapons by risk-averse financial institutions and the increased understanding that nuclear weapons possession runs counter to human rights entitlement. Even the infamous nuclear first-strike NATO policy could be abandoned to make NATO membership compatible with the TPNW. After all, its nuclear posture is not part of the North Atlantic Treaty, it’s just a strategy.

The Atomic Scientists’ Doomsday Clock stands at two minutes to midnight (midnight is the end of humanity) symbolising the nexus of nuclear weapons and the climate emergency. Climate change effects are felt most keenly in countries that do least to cause the problem, and are felt least in places where the worst damage is done. Nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to the climate, and they put climate recovery in imminent danger. Scottish CND, along with others from the wider Scottish Peace Movement joined Extinction Rebellion (XR) Peace, to challenge the UK government to respond to the twin threats.

To mark a special TPNW signing at the UN in New York, Edinburgh Cllr. Steve Burgess added his ICAN Cities Appeal resolution to the photo-call with MSP’s who had signed the ICAN Parliamentarians Pledge. Kazakhstan’s ratification was celebrated at the Scottish Parliament with an exhibition by artist and campaign, Karipbek Kuyukov. ICAN Australia launches a new divestment initiative, and Scotland’s Don’t Bank on the Bomb group launched their guide to financial institutions and nuclear weapons. Pope Francis visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki, saying “We must never grow weary of working to support the principal international legal instruments of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The coming year will be significant, so ICAN is arranging a campaigners training weekend in Paris in February, get in touch to find out more.

Three Questions for all SCND members

1. Will your local authority support the Treaty by passing the Cities Appeal resolution?

2. Will you personally (and any group you are part of) read the TPNW and agree to align to it?

3. Does your bank, pension fund or any other investment fund nuclear weapons?
Forthcoming Events

January 2020
17th – SCANA meeting at the Oasis Cafe in RSS, Glasgow from 11:00am

February 2020
14th – ICAN Campaigners Forum in Paris
20th – Cross Party Group screening of War Game in Scottish Parliament from 1:00pm

Faslane Vigil every Wednesday at the North Gate of Faslane Nuclear Base from 4:00pm

Scottish CND stall every fourth Thursday of the month at Buchanan Street steps @ 3:00pm followed by a Scottish Peace Network vigil from 5:00pm

Peace Education Scotland are organising various film screenings and workshops across the country. Keep an eye on our website for further details.

Local Group Reports

Stirling CND

Stirling CND continues to keep up the profile of peace campaigning issues in the Stirling area. On the 10th November local peace campaign activists held our annual alternate Armistice Day Commemoration at the peace pillar in the grounds of the Smith Art Gallery and Museum. As a group we continue to seek to raise awareness of the continued transportation of nuclear weapons on the roads in Stirling as they travel to and from Faslane.

Stirling CND will be raising the issue of the nonsensical Trident nuclear weapons system renewal with the prospective candidates in the Stirling area on the 12th December Westminster General Election. New members always welcome. Check out Stirling CND’s Facebook page or contact the Chair – Kenneth Wardrop via the details at the back of this magazine.

SNP CND

Greetings to all SNP CND members! Work on the Roadmap continues. SNP CND committee will consult with Scottish CND and will work with the SNP Policy Development Committees to ensure the Roadmap is progressed. We will arrange an event early in the new year. The event will be publicised on our website and on social media.

In October we held a conference called ‘Unpacking the Roadmap for Trident Removal’. We heard talks from Dave Webb, chair of CND UK, Bill Kidd MSP, Ronnie Cowan MP, Isobel Lindsay (vice–chair of Scottish CND), Robin McAlpine (Director of Common Weal), and our SNP CND Chair, Bill Ramsay. The audience agreed that we had been both frightened by the scale of the increase in our weapons of mass destruction and heartened by the very positive possibilities described by our speakers. We are very glad that SCND has had the wholehearted support of most of our representatives.

This year we have given talks on the ‘Trouble with Trident’ and the ‘Roadmap for Trident Removal’ in the following places: Helensburgh CND Conference, Glasgow Eastwood SNP branch, Glasgow Govanhill Yes Southside, Glasgow Pensioners for Indy, Yes Kirkcaldy,Newtongrange, SNP Dalkeith and Kelty Yes Group with planned talks at Linlithgow Constituency Association and Bathgate SNP branch, Arran SNP branch.
This year rather than remembering the Hiroshima nuclear bombing we had instead a Nagasaki Memorial. There was a weather warning so we had it inside at the beautiful St Andrews Cathedral where the acoustics were superb. We had some wonderful uplifting music from the band Melting Pot, poems and a talk. Jonathan spoke at the Independence Rally in Aberdeen and Mike at the Climate strike rally. We have hosted the Scottish Peace History Exhibition starting with a launch and followed by the exhibition being held in Aberdeen, Kenmay and Fraserburgh. Jonathan spoke at a rally held in Aberdeen regarding the plight of the Kurds in Rojava. A new Christian group have formed in Fraserburgh and Peter head and Jonathan and Felix have met with them. Jonathan has been with them to visit Faslane Peace Camp and attend the weekly vigil. We still have our lively and entertaining monthly meetings which are always well attended.

**Aberdeen and District CND**

This year rather than remembering the Hiroshima nuclear bombing we had instead a Nagasaki Memorial. There was a weather warning so we had it inside at the beautiful St Andrews Cathedral where the acoustics were superb. We had some wonderful uplifting music from the band Melting Pot, poems and a talk. Jonathan spoke at the Independence Rally in Aberdeen and Mike at the Climate strike rally. We have hosted the Scottish Peace History Exhibition starting with a launch and followed by the exhibition being held in Aberdeen, Kenmay and Fraserburgh. Jonathan spoke at a rally held in Aberdeen regarding the plight of the Kurds in Rojava. A new Christian group have formed in Fraserburgh and Peterhead and Jonathan and Felix have met with them. Jonathan has been with them to visit Faslane Peace Camp and attend the weekly vigil. We still have our lively and entertaining monthly meetings which are always well attended.

**Edinburgh CND**

Edinburgh CND holds regular meetings, events and stalls as part of our contribution to ridding Scotland and the world of nuclear weapons.

In October we held a meeting as part of the Edinburgh World Justice Festival which addressed the relationship between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. We were pleased to be joined by author Alex Lockwood and journalist Rob Edwards and can recommend Alex’s novel ‘The Chernobyl Privileges’ for anyone looking for seasonal gifts (contact details at end of magazine).

On Tuesday 3rd December we will be joining other peace groups for a solidarity vigil on the theme No to NATO (NATO will be meeting in London at the time). We meet on the first Tuesday of the month usually in the Peace and Justice Centre, Edinburgh and we leaflet at the East End of Princes Street from 12:30pm on the second Saturday of the month. New people always welcome. At the beginning of December we will hold our AGM and winter social.
**Glasgow CND**

The branch continue to meet on the second Monday of every month in the SCND office from 7:00pm. To take the message about nuclear weapons and the work of SCND to more people we started a programme of stalls in area where they hadn’t previously been held and in ones in which there hadn’t been any for some years.

During the general election our focus was on encouraging people to vote for parties and candidates who support nuclear disarmament. We supported SCND stalls in the city centre and at Glasgow Caledonian University during an event at which the War Game was being shown and discussed. At ones in the National rally in George Square and a Yes Hub event in Edinburgh we got an excellent response from people attending and lots of new members, younger members and increased attendance at branch meetings: any suggestions based on the experience of other branches and groups will be gratefully received. Happy Christmas to all fellow peaceniks.

**Scottish Greens CND Network**

Scottish Greens CND Network is very pleased to be able to thank SGP Councillors Steve Burgess and Claire Miller for getting a resolution passed by Edinburgh Council to support the TPNW (Claire is the new co-convenor for the network). This is one example of how Scottish Green disarmament campaigners think globally. We helped the Scottish Greens to get a resolution passed by European Greens to do the same. Following our MSPs signing the ICAN Parliamentarians Pledge, they have now all signed up to align personally to the Treaty’s terms, including divestment from investment in nuclear weapons*. Patrick Harvie spoke forcefully against nuclear weapons in Scotland on the Kaye Adams morning radio party leaders quiz. Building on the Edinburgh resolution Scottish Greens aim to build a majority of Scottish local authorities joining the ICAN Cities Appeal to support the TPNW and challenge the UK Government to get on board. Follow us online @ ScotGreenCND

*contact Scottish Greens CND Network or Scottish CND office to get your copy of the alignment declaration.

**Ayrshire CND**

Ayrshire CND hold regular street stalls and meetings. Any Scottish CND member or supporter in Ayrshire is welcome to attend meetings and stalls. For more information contact Arthur West via the details in the contact page.
## Local Group Contact Details

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<th>Local Group</th>
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### Please remember Scottish CND in your will

We may not all live to see the day that nuclear weapons are finally banned, but by leaving a legacy to Scottish CND it is possible to help ensure that future generations are free from the nuclear threat.

For further information contact us scnd@banthebomb.org or call 0141 357 1529.
The Forest and the Village

David Mackenzie

Lessons from medieval Japan’s response to its ecological crisis

It is one crisis and it is many crises. It is fiendishly complex yet heartbreakingly simple. It has many solutions and it has just one solution. It is the most dangerous juncture in recent human history and yet it provides us with the open door of a fabulous opportunity. It is the planetary crisis. “It is a question of our relationship with each other and with this fragile, delicate Earth.” – Ellen Moxley concluding her testimony at the Maytime trial in 1999.

Go for one strand and you will identify the climate emergency, already coming on like an express train, with us stuck in the tracks. Go for two and you will bring in the nuclear knife-edge, threatening a catastrophe that would make our efforts to end of ameliorate the climate emergency utterly void and install a climate and humanitarian disaster all of its own. Go for three and you will put your finger on biodiversity collapse, a threat that is only partly determined by climate change and could well be the first to tip us over the brink. Then there is threat of a devastating global pandemic, the widening stain of authoritarian ideology, last-ditch atavistic movements to shore up the patriarchy, endless wars, the hardening structure of inequality, mass emergency human migrations, with all of the items on this frightening list closely inter-related by feedback loops, triggering and amplification.

In the late middle ages Japan was facing ecological disaster. Its forests, sources of nutrients and water for agriculture, firewood, charcoal and may other vital ingredients for human life were due to careless overuse at a tipping point beyond which they would soon be irrecoverable. The evidence for this oncoming disaster was fed up from village to governmental level, leading to rigorous regulation for forest management, including a precise catalogue of each acre of woodland in the country. The cover, which took over 200 years to complete, seems to have depended largely on the strengthening of collaborative institutions at village and district level - a rescue programme decreed from the centre but utterly dependent on local ownership, experience and expertise.

“The ‘positive tip’ that began with extending village cooperation to managing forests lands had stimulated a series of mutually reinforcing changes that slowed down deforestation and eventually led to the reforestation of Japan”

Note the three ingredients – a whole community decision to change direction, a fabric of practical changes and a new dimension of social and institutional co-operation. That is precisely the mix which we have to achieve for survival but it is also a recipe for a benign revolutionary step-up for our species and the planet. During most of its recovery process Japan was deliberately isolated from the rest of the world – a stand impossible for any nation at this juncture. The village is now the world and while Scotland needs to put its own house in order in response all the facets of the crisis, it must immediately and simultaneously do its bit towards making the village collaboration work, including negotiating cross-village resource sharing and playing an energetic part in worldwide institutions for recovery. The wee parish is no longer an option.

You will have already clocked how nukes fit into this. We must chase the weapons out of Scotland but that must not only be for our health but as a significant step towards global disarmament, otherwise it will be like brushing water up a slope. And there is a global village institution already waiting for our input – the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. There are also a number of global reach institutions attending to the other issues, many of them initiated and energised by civil society. They must be the fabric of the future and they demand our attention and investment.
Update on Hunterston B

Lynn Jamieson

A pro-nuclear UK government has an interest in downplaying nuclear risks; a 43 year old nuclear reactor is operating at Hunterston B in North Ayrshire despite serious warning signs.

Within nuclear reactors, graphite provides a moderating structure that creates channels for the retractable nuclear fuel rods, the control rods that can be added to shut it down and, in gas-cooled reactors, the circulating cooling gas. In the UK, carbon dioxide is used for cooling. Cracking and crumbling of the graphite threatens the shape and stability of these channels and creates the risk of blockages threatening safe operation. Both Hunterston B’s reactors, R3 and R4, were shut for safety inspections, respectively in March and October 2018, because of the discovery of an unexpectedly large number of cracks in the graphite. The subsequent reports, now available on the Office of Nuclear Regulation’s (ONF) website, make scary reading. They note the location and width of the cracks in the inspected area, the estimated number overall and speak of pieces of debris. R3 remains closed but ONF allowed the owner and operator Electrcitie de France (EDF) to restart R4 on 20th August this year. ONF overstepped their previous estimate of a safe number of cracks but only allowed operation for four months. R4 must shut again around 10th December for further inspection. Scottish CND’s Risks of Radiation Working Group argues that both reactors should already be shut permanently. EDF still hope to convince ONR to allow Hunterston B to operate until 2023.

Why take even a very small risk of catastrophe? The prevailing wind will take radiation to the majority of the Scottish population should there be an accident. The legally required detailed evacuation plans around civil nuclear power plants only consider those living within a laughable 2.4 kilometre radius and there are proposals afoot to reduce this to 1km. Unlike in many countries, potassium iodate tablets are no issued to downwind populations and will not be on hand if children and young people need to be protected from thyroid cancer.

The financial interested of EDF are to keep ageing power stations running but last winter when Hunterston B was shut demonstrated that Scotland does not need its electricity. At the moment, nuclear power forces wind turbines to be switched off because electricity supply often exceeds demand and nuclear reactors cannot be quickly switched off and on safely. Renewables can be said to be subsidising nuclear power. Once Hunterston B is permanently shut down, there will still be jobs in decommissioning but EDF’s interests are in sustaining expensive nuclear-generated electricity not in the development of the decommissioning industry.

Like all nuclear power stations, Hunterston B adds to the carcinogenic hazards in the environment, through the long-term waste it leaves and in routine operations. For example, when fuel rods are removed to enable inspection of the graphite, the carbon dioxide in those channels has to be released to the atmosphere taking radio-
activity with it. This will create a local and short lived spike of radioactivity. This also happens every time a reactor is refuelled, about every 12 – 18 months. Many scientists believe this is the cause of the international pattern of higher rates of leukaemia and other cancers among those living in the immediate vicinity of nuclear power stations.

Strong links remain between nuclear power and nuclear weapons; the idea of ‘atoms for peace’ helps normalise the nuclear industry and soften the abomination of nuclear weapons for which it provides fuel. The civil-nuclear industry has less license to use secrecy and cover-ups that its military sibling but still will not publish data in a form that show the spikes of radioactivity at the time of refuelling, skilfully underplays risks in plain sight and tells half-truths when presenting nuclear power as ‘green’. The green myth disregards the carbon-emission-equivalent impacts of uranium mining, plant construction, decommissioning and management of waste, as well as the dumping of radioactive carbon dioxide cooling gas.

ONR will be making a decision about Hunterston B in the next few months. Write yourself and ask your political representatives to write to ONR, asking for Hunterston B to be permanently closed. You might also ask by Scottish Government is prepared to allow the extension of our other nuclear power station at Torness beyond its original intended operating period when it is known that the graphite will begin to crack. Also ask by nuclear power stations are not required to publish data on their radioactive gas emissions in a format that would make it clear what the size of any local spike in radioactivity is at the time of refuelling.

Peace Education Scotland

Peace Education Scotland have recently released two very topical modules, the first on Environment and Nuclear Winter which examines the effects on the climate and human survival after a regional nuclear conflict, while the second investigates the moral, ethical and legal arguments surrounding the possession and use of nuclear weapons. Get in touch to book a talk for your school or for free resources.
The Myth of How the Bomb Ended the War

Speech by John Ainslie

John Ainslie presented this at Glasgow City Chambers on 6th August 2015. Anne Marie Madden kindly transcribed his talk for this edition of NFS.

In August 1945, soldiers from Britain and America were sailing towards the Far East preparing themselves to take part in what they expected to be the very bloody invasion of Japan. When the war ended suddenly after the atomic bombs were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki these troops felt like their lives had been saved by the Bomb. The feelings were genuine but were they correct in their analysis of why the war had ended?

Newspaper headlines proclaimed that the new super weapon had forced Japan to surrender. This version of events very quickly took hold. It was convenient for the United States. It provided a way of side-stepping moral concern at the extent of destruction inflicted on the citizens of the two cities. These ma have been barbarous weapons but the media reported that the attack was justified because, by killing thousands in Hiroshima and Nagasaki they saved the lives of a far higher number of troops who would have been causalities of an invasion. It was also convenient for the USA because it provided a justification for the huge Manhattan Project in which $2 billion had been invested.

The idea that the Bomb ended the war was a suitable myth from the perspective of the Japanese leadership. They could say that it was this new scientific invention that forced them to surrender. However, analysis of the circumstances of the surrender gives serious grounds for disputing the traditional narrative. Indeed, numerous military and political figures of the time have acknowledged that the war did not end because of the nuclear bombing.

STALIN OR HIROSHIMA?

In February 1945 Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt, leaders of the allied powers, met at Yalta in the Crimea. Stalin agreed that the Soviet Union would enter the war against Japan. This was then due to happen on 8th August 1945. The deal was kept secret and not known in the wider world. It was in breach of the Japanese–Soviet Non-Aggression Pact. The Japanese leadership tried to extend this pact and placed a lot of hope in the prospect that Stalin would mediate a deal to allow the War to end on as favourable terms as possible.

At 11:00pm on 8th August the Soviet ambassador informed the Japanese Government that they were at war. Japanese intelligence had failed to detect the scale of built up Soviet Forces and their troops in Manchuria and were ill prepared for the devastating attack that they faced. By the time the surrender was formally signed, on 2nd September, 1.5 million Soviet troops had routed the Japanese army in Manchuria and had captured the Sakhalin and Kurile Islands.

"The Soviet Union’s entry into the war against Japan was decisive in hastening the end of the war in the Pacific, which would have occurred even if the atomic bomb were not used. The swift blow struck at Japan by the Red Army completed the encirclement which forced Japan to surrender". – Commander of the US Airforce in China, 1945

It is not correct to say that the bombing of Hiroshima was the key war-waging factor in Japan’s surrender. There were two issues at play - the preceding US bombing campaign and Russia’s intervention in the Pacific War. It can be argued that it was the Soviet factor that was more important. Japan had already suffered massive damage from fire-bombing attacks, similar to the bombing of Dresden in Germany and using napalm to destroy urban areas; sixty-eight cities had already been attacked and either partially or completely destroyed. Twenty-six of these attacks took place in three weeks before the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, 95,000 had died in
the fire-bombing of Tokyo. In July 1945, the Japanese leadership were receiving reports, almost every day, of cities that had virtually been wiped off the map in incendiary raids. The first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at 8:00am on 6th August 1945. There are no indications that this resulted in a dramatic change of heart over the following two days.

On the morning of the 9th August there was a crucial meeting of Japan’s ruling Supreme Council which considered surrender. The meeting started before the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. This suggests that the key factor that changed opinion was Stalin’s military intervention.

**ANTICIPATING THE COLD WAR**

Russia was a factor in the second way. The Manhattan Project to design a nuclear bomb started on the assumption that Germany was also building a nuclear weapon. By the end of 1944 it was clear that Germany’s nuclear programme was not going to succeed. At this point, one of the leading scientists Joseph Rotblatt had also heard that there was a new motive behind the continuation of the development of the bomb. In March 1944 at a private dinner Rotblatt heard Leslie Groves, leader of the Manhattan Project say

“From two weeks after taking up the post, there was never any illusion on my part that the main purpose of the (Manhattan) Project was to subdue the Russians.”

In the closing years of the war both the USA and Britain began to contemplate their likely confrontation with the Soviet Union after fighting had ceased. A few weeks after the Hiroshima bomb, the USA was drawing up plans for air attacks with nuclear weapons on twenty cities in the Soviet Union. This was four years before Russia had its own bomb.

**THE ROLE OF THE EMPEROR**

On 13th May 1945, months before the nuclear bombing, the Japanese Foreign Ministry told Moscow that “the Emperor is desirous of peace”. The message was copied by US Intelligence. The US Secretary of State said that Japan was likely to surrender so long as the position of the Emperor was intact. However, the Potsdam declaration, issued on 26th July set out terms for a Japanese surrender without mention of the position of the Emperor. It has been argued that, if it had been made clear that the Emperor would remain in post, then Japan would have surrendered before the atom bombs were dropped.

**TWO DESIGNS**

Both President Truman and General Groves (Manhattan Project) described the first nuclear attacks as an ‘experiment’. There were two different designs – one using highly enriched uranium named ‘Fat Man’ which was dropped on Hiroshima and the second, using plutonium named ‘Little Boy’ that destroyed Nagasaki.

**LEGALITY**

After the end of the war, the Red Cross sought to extend the Geneva Convention on certain conventional weapons to include incendiary weapons. The Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Incendiary Weapons was adopted in 1981. It now only outlaws first bombing attacks on civilian targets but also on military targets ‘located within a concentration of civilians’. So the attacks on Dresden, Tokyo and other cities would now be a clear breach of international law. After seventy years it is time we banned the nuclear bomb.

John would have been so pleased to see the progress from treaties that would have outlawed the attacks on Tokyo and Dresden to the world now on the brink of the prohibition of nuclear weapons as the Global Ban Treaty approaches entry into force. See ‘Nuclear Debunker’ on our website for more nuclear myths debunked.
Clockwise from top left: Divestment campaign at Glasgow University, SCND volunteers and staff at screen-printing workshop, Helensburgh CND conference, outreach work at TRNSMT festival, Climate Strikes across Scotland, Big Climate Discussion, launching new merchandise and big Sandy at ButeFest!
The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is at the forefront of campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons in Scotland. The last six months has seen the release of four new reports on Trident and the implications for renewal, our sixtieth anniversary exhibition touring the country and important discussions with hundreds of people at various events too.

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