

NFS

OCTOBER 2008
WWW.BANTHEBOMB.ORG

NUCLEAR FREE SCOTLAND



US Empire or Multi-polar World

The Death of Neo-liberalism • Who is Threatening Whom?
Overcoming the Threats to Energy Security • Letter from America
CND Groups Roundup • A People's Budget for Peace

A SEISMIC SHIFT

The momentous events of the last few weeks have ushered in a new global era. The brief war in Georgia showed the limits of US power and the beginning of a new multi-polar world. What happened next will be seen as a key moment in world history which changed the entire geo-strategic balance. The collapse in global markets and the meltdown of the American and British banking systems do not mean the end of capitalism. At least not yet. But they do mean the death of the entire neo-liberal project which has been exported across the world courtesy of Wall Street, the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union. The unfettered rule of the market, the untouchable gods of privatisation and deregulation are no more.

The implications of these events can hardly be overstated. In the developed world it is ordinary people who will pay the price. Our money is being pumped into collapsed banks, insurance companies and mortgage lenders at a frenzied rate in the US and the UK - over £150bn in Britain, and well over \$1 trillion in the US. The result will be soaring inflation and unemployment and falling living standards. But it is in the developing world where the impact could be catastrophic with huge increases in prices for food and fuel tipping

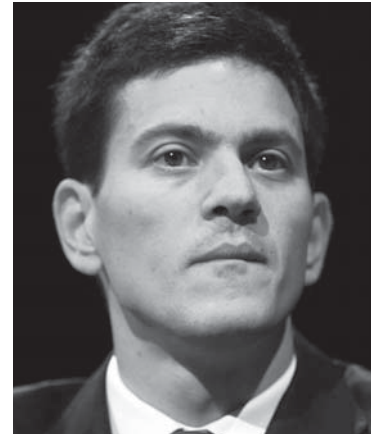
the world's poorest into famine and global instability.

Perhaps most importantly, it means a fundamental shift in global power. The US military budget accounts for almost half of global military spending, having more than doubled in real terms since 2001. That has been financed by a huge budget deficit and the role of the dollar as the world's trading currency forcing many countries to hold large amounts of their reserves in dollars. Both of these are likely to become unsustainable in the light of the events on financial markets.

And this, in turn, makes current US military spending likely to be unsustainable in the short and longer term threatening the entire empire of bases, its air and sea power and its ability to garrison and control the world.

Dangerous and unstable

On the other hand, now that the credit bubble has burst it is largely arms spending driven by the Pentagon which is sustaining the economy and which could help generate future growth. That is why the current period is so unstable and dangerous. Any incoming US president may



David Milliband - Foreign Secretary

have little room for manoeuvre, unless he decides to resist the immense pressure from the arms lobby and the Pentagon - something which neither candidate has shown any sign of doing. With the US economy imploding and the dollar collapsing, he could use his only remaining asset, his overwhelming superiority in military power, to control the access of rival economies to key energy resources and kick-start the US economy with a new arms drive. This would put it on a direct collision course with those countries such as Iran and Russia with huge oil and gas reserves which the US does not yet control.

Welfare not warfare

What are implications of all this for our economy. Because of its dependence on financial services and rising house prices, the UK economy is likely to be especially badly hit by the economic crisis. You might have thought the Brown government would decide this was the right time to pare down unnecessary spending on weapons of war. You would be wrong. Spending on Trident is increasing year on year. Next year it will be £2billion, a sum only matched by the £2bn Britain spends annually on the unwinnable wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That vast sum of money, and what could be done with Scotland's share of it, will be the subject of the **Peoples' Budget for Peace** scheduled for October 25th in George Square, Glasgow (see facing page).



Who threatens whom?

As the crisis in Georgia unfolded the Russian Bear was once again resurrected in the UK press as a new threat to peace and freedom across the world. Yet an examination of the facts reveals a very different picture. Russia's armed forces are a shadow of their former self, in both size and military effectiveness. Its military budget, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), is less than 60% that of the UK and one twentieth that of the United States.

For its part China, also touted as a potential military threat to US interests, spends approximately one tenth that of the United States on its military despite having a population 4 times larger. And Iran, which Bush considers such a threat he is consid-

Military Spending 2007

Country	Expenditure
Iran	6.59
Russia	35.37
China	58.27
UK	59.71
USA	562.00
World	1214.00

(US \$ bn at constant 2005 prices and exchange rates)

Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2008

ering a nuclear strike, has a military budget one hundredth that of its American counterpart.

The US arms budget by comparison, was \$562bn last year, 46.3% of the total world military spending and dwarfing the military spend of all its potential enemies put together.

Big regional powers like Russia and China may seek the ability to control events on their borders. Only the United States claims the whole world as its legitimate sphere of interest. It is not the Russian Bear that we must fear, but the American Eagle with its back against the wall.

Alan Mackinnon

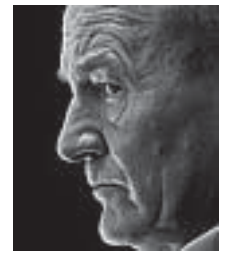
Time for a People's Budget

Next Year we will be spending £2 billion a year on Trident. That's nearly twice as much as 5 years ago. And we spend billions more on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the past 3 years £9bn has been spent on war in Iraq alone. CND members are not alone in thinking that these obscene amounts of money should be spent on socially useful things, such as meeting peoples needs at home and abroad.

On 25th October *Scotland's for Peace* is organising a People's Budget for Peace 12noon to 2pm. The event will bring together many organisations who will bring their own ideas about how they would like to see the money spent. These proposals will be projected onto a large screen near the platform. There will be a few keynote



speakers including Bruce Kent, the actor David Hayman, Matt Smith from UNISON, Judith Robertson from Oxfam and others. Music will include the Mick West Band and Dave Gibb. There will be lots of stalls, food and a lively atmosphere. If you can help with leaflets or posters or any other way please contact the office at 0141 433 2821.



Actor David Hayman who will compare the People's Budget for Peace

Scotland's for Peace A PEOPLE'S BUDGET FOR PEACE

How would you spend £20 billion in 5 years?
Invest in people's welfare or Trident and overseas war ?

Speakers • Music • Stalls • Food

Saturday 25th October 2008

12noon-2pm

George Square, Glasgow

Scotland's for Peace, 15 Barrland St, Glasgow G41 1QH
Scotland4peace.org 0141 433 2821



Scottish CND

Annual Conference 2008

Speaker: Jackson Cullinane (Unite)

Deadline for resolutions and nominations 8th Nov

Deadline for amendments 15th Nov

Sat 22nd November | 10am-4pm

**STUC, 333 Woodlands Road,
Glasgow**



Trident & Jobs

Des Browne, in reply to a Parliamentary Question on 25 March 2007, said 859 civilian jobs at Faslane were dependent on Trident.

The first of the current Trident submarines is not due to be withdrawn from service until 2022 at the earliest. The remaining three will be withdrawn over the following three years. In the meantime the number of new Astute Class submarines based at Faslane will build up from one in 2009 to a minimum of six by 2018-19. These are nuclear propelled attack submarines requiring a comparable level of servicing to Trident.

In the short term the number of jobs at Faslane servicing submarines is likely to increase substantially. If the Trident submarines were to be phased out early to co-incide with the phasing in of the new Astute Class submarines, then there would be very few job losses indeed and most of these would be security staff. And even these jobs would not go for 14 years.

With a planned programme of defence diversification which was adequately funded, involving the local

community, trade unions and the workforce, we could ensure that the majority of displaced workers were absorbed into comparable jobs in the nearby economy. Indeed, in the event of cancelling Trident, Scotland's share of the resources which could be released would be £153m a year for maintenance and £85m a year for procurement. More than enough to boost jobs and services in health, education and welfare as well kick start a new renewable energy industry in Scotland. How would you spend the money?

Where does the money come from?

The government has put the annual cost of Trident replacement at £1bn⁽¹⁾.

The 2006 White Paper stated that this would not be at the expense of the existing MoD budget. The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review stated that 'the MoD is renewing Britain's nuclear deterrent while ensuring that this does not come at the expense of the conventional capability of the armed forces (7.83) and 'the additional resources being made available to Defence will fund all the additional activity necessary to implement these decisions' (D8).

If the £1bn a year is not coming out of the MoD budget, then these 'addi-



tional resources' must be coming at the expense of other public spending. There is good reason to believe that the tight settlement for the Scottish Government and Scotland's local authorities means that jobs and services are already being sacrificed across Scotland to pay the increased cost of renewing Trident.

Parliament Can Still Cancel Trident

In March 2007 Parliament voted to endorse the replacement of Britain's Trident submarine fleet. This was only the first step - not parliament's final word. The current phase is described as the Initial Gate or the concept phase. Parliament will be able to revisit the issue at the 'Main gate' when the government is ready to award the contracts for building the submarines around 2012-14. That is when the real money will start to be committed and spent. Indeed, Margaret Beckett, foreign secretary at the time, asserted: 'Today's decision does not mean that we are committing ourselves irreversibly to maintaining a nuclear deterrent for the next 50 years...that would be absurd, unnecessary and incompatible with the nuclear proliferation treaty'.

(1) White Paper The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent, December 2006.



Astute Class Submarine soon to be based at Faslane

Secret Plan for a New Trident Warhead

The government is spending a staggering £5 billion on a new building programme at Britain's nuclear bomb factory at Aldermaston. Annual expenditure has risen from £493m in 2005/06 to an estimated



£950m for 2010/2011, almost doubling the annual expenditure. The projects include a new super-computer, new laser facilities which can simulate nuclear weapon testing and the recruitment of over 1000 new scientists and engineers - a 30% increase in staff numbers. It is inconceivable that all this is just routine upgrading as the government claims. It is to enable the development and production of a new nuclear warhead for Trident. Indeed, at a briefing for the defence industry on Trident Replacement in June 2007 at which no press were present, David Gould, Chief Operating Officer Defence Equipment and Support, gave the game away. 'This afternoon', he said, 'we are going to outline our plan to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent. The intention is to replace the entire vanguard Class submarine system. *Including the warhead and missile.*' But parliament has yet to be informed about these developments and certainly has not endorsed such a decision.

Sources: Hansard 30 October 2007; Key-note address by David Gould, 29 June 2007, Abbey Wood - released to Scottish CND under freedom of information request.



Images of the Peace Chain Around Faslane June 2008

US EMPIRE OR MULTI-POLAR WORLD



“We’re an empire now and when we act, we create our own reality and while you’re studying that reality – judiciously, as you will – we’ll act again, creating other new realities, which you will study too, and that’s how things will sort out,” said a cheer leader for the Project for a New American Century.

Recent events suggest that’s not quite how the world works. It’s true that there is only one global superpower but there are a number of others states whose reach, though not global, mean they are important regional powers. Within their own sphere of influence, as was graphically and bloodily displayed by Russia in Georgia, they can ignore the superpower. Moreover, when these states decide to act in concert they can constrain, or attempt to constrain, the superpower, as has occurred on a number of occasions in recent years within the UN. All of this means that international relations are not reverting to the bi-polar model of the Cold War, despite

what some institutions and some individuals who have an interest in promoting the spectre say.

The international order is over where the US strode the world stage with impunity. Russia has re-established itself as a regional power, not a superpower. Its forays to Cuba and Venezuela in recent weeks are symbolic, with no substantial military capability underpinning them. On the other hand the Georgian intervention is classic eighteenth and nineteenth century Russian behaviour but undertaken as much in response to NATO expansion as a wish to recreate the political landmass ruled by the Romanovs.

China’s development is also a resurgence rather than a completely new intervention, though the timescale of this re-emergence has been a very long one. From the Chinese perspective this is a reassertion of its great power status which it last enjoyed some centuries ago. However, in a reflection of past imperial Chinese history, China’s priorities are primarily domestic; the sheer scale of China’s population is, once again, the princi-

pal preoccupation of China’s government.

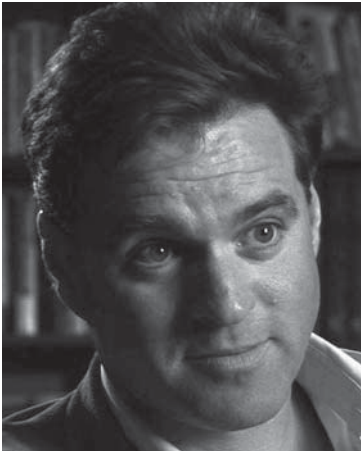
The economic growth of China in recent years is remarkable; indeed, projected continued growth despite fears of recession in the West only highlights this. However, the Chinese government faces real and fairly immediate challenges. For instance, that of internal unrest when it removes or reduces subsidies, particularly in the field of energy costs to Chinese consumers.

On the other hand we do see the emergence of entirely new significant international “players”, notably India and Brazil who are increasingly making their presence felt economically and therefore geopolitically.

Brazil’s development as the dominant power in South America seems inexorable. Its recent economic growth has been sectorally quite broad and, as a consequence, steady. However, the South American continent is some distance from the world’s geopolitical hot spots so Brazil’s role in terms of potential should remain peripheral and therefore potentially positive.

The implications of India’s imminent arrival to great power status are, in terms of the global security map, much more significant. Not only because it is a nuclear state and a non signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear test Ban Treaties but also because it has been involved in a regional cold war with its nuclear neighbour, Pakistan, for decades. This is a factor that is often overlooked in western media coverage of Pakistan’s own security concerns, particularly in its relationship with Afghanistan. (Afghanistan has frequently been used by India in the way Ireland was used by France and

‘All of this means that international relations are not reverting to the bi-polar model of the Cold War’



Prof Niall Ferguson

Spain in their geopolitical relationship with an emergent England, then UK, from the Middle Ages until the modern era).

Some commentators, most recently Professor Niall Ferguson, portray Russia and China's relationship as some sort of unholy alliance, with the clear implication that they have to be countered, if not stopped, before it's too late. Although reassuringly simple and even vaguely familiar, it is not a description of the geopolitical reality.

We should not forget that both China and Russia are chasing after the same Turkmen, Kazak and Uzbek gas supplies. They will cooperate from time to time on the Security Council. Russia may even float the notion of expanding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to include the likes of India and Iran but China will keep at a respectful distance, mindful of its trading links with the USA.

On the other hand it may already be too late, but not in the way Professor Ferguson suggests. Perhaps we should all be paying more attention to the impact of global warming and the horrendous potential for conflict that it throws up?

Bill Ramsay

LETTER FROM AMERICA

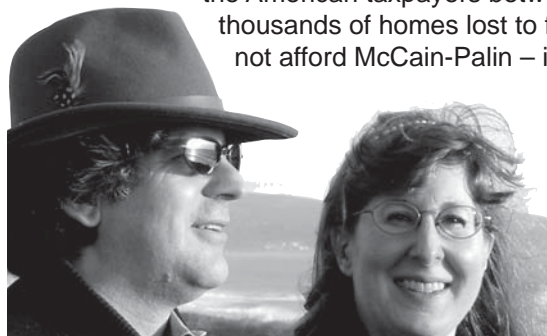
What would it mean for America to elect Barack Obama to be President of the United States? There are those who analogize it to sports figures who broke through the color line – Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe in tennis, Jackie Robinson in baseball, Charlie Sifford in golf, and so on. But while these were African-Americans who overcame enormous challenges, they were playing games that fundamentally did not impact the lives of ordinary Americans. More appropriately, Obama delivered his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention on the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, and he is inspiring Americans in a manner reminiscent of President John F. Kennedy and Bobby Kennedy.

Having an African-American in the highest office of the land - and someone not born into privilege - really does send a signal that this is a land of opportunity and perhaps sheds a ray of hope that we have gone beyond being a country that prizes greed above human dignity. His messages of putting America back to work repairing infrastructure, developing alternative energy, and providing universal health care have brought a new optimism to the political scene. Obama calls us to remember a time when we were not defined by fear and paralyzing divisiveness. In this way, Obama is the ultimate role model who reminds us what it truly means to be American both at home and abroad.



As for Republican Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin, her rapid elevation from small town mayor and small (population) state governor to vice presidential candidate is an indication of exactly how desperate the McCain campaign had become to halt what appeared to be an Obama landslide in November. But Palin represents all that is wrong with America – ill informed, poorly traveled, small minded, intolerant, and proud of it. Add to that her apparent vindictive, secretive, and power-mad tenure as governor of Alaska, and you've got an Ugly American who is just this close from having her finger on the proverbial button. Should we be scared? You betcha.

It has now become a cliché that every presidential election is "the most important in a generation" but that is the nature of today's world. The opportunities we had for peace and reconciliation in the wake of the attacks of September 11 were squandered by a president who also represents all that is wrong with America. Bush has led the country into a cul de sac of moral and fiscal bankruptcy. His solution for terrorism – the war on Iraq – is projected to cost over 3 trillion dollars and thousands of innocent lives. The deepening global financial crisis was no less the legislative handiwork of former senator and McCain campaign co-chair Phil Gramm who opined in July that America "had become a nation of whiners" in a "mental recession." This crisis is now projected to cost the American taxpayers between 1 and 4 trillion dollars and thousands of homes lost to foreclosure. America simply cannot afford McCain-Palin – it's thanks, but no thanks.



**Joe Falcone
& Karri Kaiser**
Community Activists from
Half Moon Bay, California

ENERGY SECURITY: OVERCOMING THE THREATS



Access to cheap energy has become essential to our every day lives. Energy plays an important role in the national security as the fuel to power the economic engine of Scotland. However, the uneven distribution of energy supplies and the critical need for energy has led to significant vulnerabilities in energy supplies. Threats to energy security can result from significant increase in energy prices, either on the world markets – as has occurred in a number of energy crises over the years – or by the imposition of price increases by an oligopoly or monopoly supplier, cartel or country. In recent years, new threats have emerged due to the increased pace of industrialization in countries such as India and China. They can also result from physical damage to the energy infrastructure either of the supplier, or of the importer as a result of natural events, misfortune, terrorism, or warfare. The political and economic instability caused by war or other factors such as strike action can also prevent the proper functioning of the energy industry in a supplier country. Emerging threats to global energy security are limited supplies of common forms of energy i.e. Oil and Gas. The United Kingdom began exploiting North Sea oil and gas reserves, and became a net exporter of energy into the 2000s but supplies have

now peaked. The potential need to change our primary energy sources in the foreseeable future is the crux of the energy security question. Otherwise, we face a worsening situation leading to higher prices, more limited access to sources of energy, competitions and political troubles, which in turn make the threat even larger.

What do we do now?

It is imperative that we meet all our energy needs without storing up problems for our children and grandchildren. Long term measures to increase energy security centre on reducing dependence on any one source of imported energy, increasing the number of suppliers, exploiting renewable energy resources, and reducing overall demand through energy conservation measures. This means investing in sources of renewable energy like onshore windfarms, wave and solar power that don't cause global warming. For example, Sweden plans for an oil phase-out, together with a block on the development of natural gas imports. Greater investment in native renewable energy technologies and energy conservation is envisaged instead. Iceland is well advanced in its plans to become energy-independent by 2050 through deploying 100% renewable energy. In Germany there is 300 times as much solar power and 10 times as much wind power than the



UK because they have had the political will to lead the way. Another possible way of simultaneously contributing to energy security is by investing in decentralized energy. By building electricity generating capacity close to the source of demand one can improve combustion efficiency (by capturing waste heat) and reduce imports of natural gas and other fuels. Using on-site renewable powered energy can go even further in reducing and fuel imports and emissions responsible for climate change and air pollution. There is a need to improve the regulatory structure for renewable and decentralised energy - including the remit of OFGEM and planning procedures - to spark a revolution in renewable and decentralised energy sources.

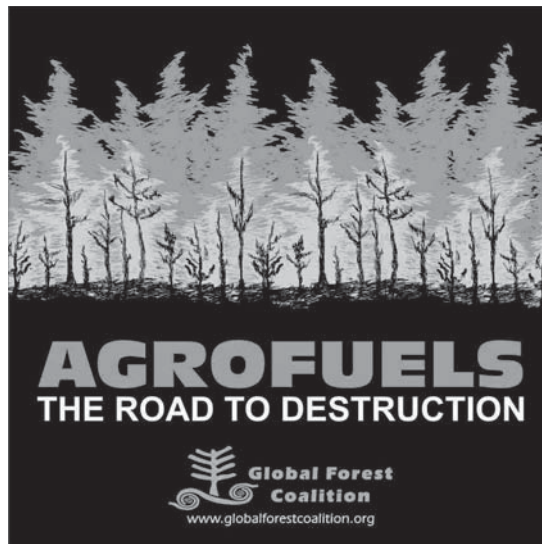
The UK Government's own figures show there is the potential to save over 30% of all energy used solely through efficiency measures that would also save money overall. For a safer, sustainable energy supply, we need radical reforms to support renewable energy technology development and energy efficiency in the UK. There are more than 200,000 jobs just waiting to be created in clean energy, energy efficiency, local organic farming, recycling and public transport.

What about Nuclear Power?

New nuclear power stations will spell disaster for national and environmental security. It's not just the astronomical costs of cleaning up the deadly radioactive waste (already £70bn and rising), the risks from accidents or terrorist attack, or that switching to nuclear power couldn't possibly deliver sufficient CO2 cuts in time to meet our international commitments. Nuclear power is not the answer to the so-called energy gap we face over the next 10 years, since the earliest that a new nuclear power station could come on stream is around 2017. And even if Britain built ten new reactors, it's been estimated that nuclear power can only deliver a 4 per cent cut in carbon emissions some time after 2025. Uranium for nuclear power is mined and enriched in more than 10 countries including Canada (23% of the world's total in 2007), Australia (21%), and Kazakhstan (16%). Uranium is manufactured significantly in advance of need. Current debate is taking place on whether Uranium supplies have peaked. In the UK, nuclear power gets nearly two million pounds of our money in subsidies every day. There is a need for total transparency over the full lifetime costs of nuclear power, clarity over nuclear waste, and no subsidies or special favours.

Are Agrofuels an option?

In efforts to diversify energy supplies, the EU and United States, for example, following the oil price increases since 2003, have supported the development of agrofuels as a means of addressing this. However, agrofuels are causing significantly more harm than good. On top of the destruction of ecosystems, agrofuels are precipitating a human rights problem of epic proportions as speculators are seizing arable land as well as evicting indigenous peoples from their forest homes. Food prices are escalating, putting basic staples outside of the reach of families living close to the bread line. The progressive solu-



tions is to de-couple the food and oil markets - by cutting agriculture's dependence on oil, by promoting local and organic food systems where possible and reversing the UK's current enthusiasm for international trade in food, and, crucially, ensure EU energy policies do not promote bio-fuel production at the expense of foodstuffs.

Security agreements

Increased competition over energy resources may also lead to the formation of security compacts to enable an equitable distribution of oil and gas between major powers. However, this may happen at the expense of less developed economies. NATO leaders have acknowledged that the disruption of the resources could affect the security interests of the Alliance. Together, NATO Allies are conducting missions around the world, in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo. They have declared their support for a coordinated, international effort to assess risks to energy infrastructure and to promote energy infrastructure security. At their Summit in Bucharest, April 2008, a report on "NATO's Role in Energy Security," identifying guiding principles and options and recommendations for further activities was noted. They will review progress at their next summit in 2009.

Following the war in Georgia, this year, the priority is now to enter a political process which will bring a

lasting solution to the territorial disputes over energy supplies. EU member held an emergency summit on September 1 in Brussels and in their resolution condemning the Russian military operation against Georgia, there is a clause about how Europe should address its excessive energy dependence on Russia and searching for a way to end it as soon as possible. Efforts have focused on energy sources and routes to transport them on without passing through Russia. Greece reached an agreement on the direct supply of Azerbaijani natural gas to Europe, Baku and Ashgabat gave their support to the Nabucco pipeline and Hungary announced a forum to finalize that project, which would deliver gas while bypassing Russia.

In addition, promoting the use of renewable energy sources is supported as important both to the reduction of the EU's dependence on foreign energy imports, and to meeting targets on combating climate change. In the European Conference for Renewable Energy in Berlin in 2004, the EU defined ambitious goals of its own. The conclusion was that by 2020 the EU would seek to obtain 20% of its total energy consumption requirements with renewable energy sources.

Recognising that the world today is entering a new energy era requiring global action and cooperation, there is growing concern over energy security, climate change and access of the poor to modern energy services. Energy security is becoming a central priority for all nations as a factor in healthy economic growth and both internal and external stability. In our efforts to address the urgency of this issue, we can support renewable energy development and in our daily activities, help to conserve energy.

Martha Wardrop

CND GROUP CAMPAIGNING



Renfrewshire CND members commemorate the 63rd Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

Renfrewshire CND

The victims of the Atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were remembered at a ceremony on the 63rd anniversary. Local peace activists hung their wishes for a world free of nuclear weapon on the rowan tree in Gleniffer Braes Country Park which was planted 25 years before by Paisley Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (pictured). SNP Councillor Doig condemned the bombings as a monstrous war crime which must never be committed again. She challenged the three contenders for the Scottish Labour Party leadership to come out against the government's replacement of the Trident weapons on the Clyde.

The tree was planted in 1983 by a Labour Councillor, Irene Gilgallan, and the local campaign against the arrival of Trident on the Clyde was backed by both Paisley's Labour MPs, Norman Buchan and Allen Adams. "Like the tree, opposition to nuclear weapons has grown" reflected Margaret Morton who was there when it was planted. "Today most Scots are against the replacement

of the Trident weapon system. But not one of our current Renfrewshire Labour MPs or MSPs represent this majority view" she added.

Earlier in the year, the Council held a reception for Kate Hudson, six members demonstrated at Aldermaston with the group's new banner, and 17 joined the human chain around Faslane in June. All these events were covered in the local press.

Glasgow West CND

Twenty people braved torrential rain to hear Councillor Martha Wardrop and SCND chair Alan Mackinnon speak on the anniversary of the Atom bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Both speakers emphasised the horrific effects of using Atom bombs against defenceless Japanese cities - weapons which would be regarded as small by the standards of today. Glasgow West CND continues to meet monthly and to hold almost weekly stalls in Glasgow City Centre or in Byres Road. Plans are in hand to ensure a good attendance at the People's Budget for Peace on October 25th and to organise a fund

raising event later in the year.

Ayrshire CND

Ayrshire CND recently held a Peace Walk and Film Show to mark the dropping of Nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of the second World War. The group also organised a recent street stall in Irvine Town Centre and received a few membership enquiries. The group continues to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at Nelson Mandela Cottages 17 Townhead Irvine at 7.30p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to come along. For more details contact Arthur West on 07803936228.

Edinburgh CND

Edinburgh CND have participated in a number of festivals and commemorations over the last few months. Pat Arrowsmith, CND Vice-president, spoke at Edinburgh MayDay rally on the issue of 50 years of CND. Her visit resulted in some good publicity, both in the local press and in the Guardian.

In June, as well as taking part in the June 14th event at Faslane, we were active contributors to the Edinburgh World Justice Festival. We hosted a meeting on the connections between poverty and military spending at which the guest speaker was Ruth Tanner from War on Want. Ruth has also worked for British CND and her explanation of the links between the various campaign issues was very enlightening. ECND also contributed to a number of other meetings, including one on Afghanistan organised by Stop the War.

August started with commemorations of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. We also hosted 'Peace O The Fest', an event which aimed to use the arts - the language of the Festival - to reach out to fest-goers, especially young people. Compered by David Ferrard, POTF included poetry from Bill Philip & Jim Aitken and music from Amy Duncan, Townhouse, Muppet & David himself. Over £50 was donated by those attending the free event and EdinburghCND would like to thank Alex Petty of the Edinburgh Free Festival.

Aberdeen CND

Aberdeen CND group has had a dynamic few months, starting with the Faslane Peace Chain in June. We sent a mini-bus full of supporters to the event, and met up with other CND supporters who had travelled separately from the Aberdeen area. We all agreed it was a very inspiring and worthwhile day.

Our Hiroshima commemoration event built on last year's success and was a truly inspiring ceremony. About 40 people gathered on the banks of the River Dee, in spite of the rain. The 200 peace lanterns floated off down the river as we listened to speeches, a poem and a song. We received good local radio coverage for this event, resulting in some people attending for the first time. The Press and Journal also published a very positive report.

We had a stall at Freshers Fayre at Aberdeen University and got a very good reception. We continue to hold our stall on the last Saturday of each month outside Marks and Spencers in Aberdeen city centre.

We are currently planning a new series of activities for the autumn, and will be there in Glasgow on October 25th for the People's Budget for Peace!



Aberdeen CND members commemorate Hiroshima Day by floating lanterns on the river Dee

Photo by kind permission of the Press & Journal

TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN



On Saturday 20th September thousands demonstrated at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester. The demo was called by the Stop the War Coalition, CND and the British Muslim Initiative. The march ended with a rally addressed by Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn, Tony Woodley, Lindsay German, Rose Gentle, Seamus Milne, Karen Reissman, Andrew Murray, Nahela Ashraf, Kate Hudson, Sabah Jawad and others.

Scottish CND Website

Scottish CND is currently in the process of reviving our website at www.banthebomb.org. The website provides a face to the wider world and is an important tool to help with our campaigning. If you have ideas of how the current site could be changed for the better please let us know.

Calman Commission

The devolution settlement is currently being reviewed by a Commission chaired by Sir Kenneth Calman. They are considering what changes might be made to the powers reserved to Westminster. Their remit does not permit them to look at the option of independence. An opinion poll conducted in November 2006 found that 61% of Scots felt the Scottish Parliament should have the power to remove Trident from the Clyde. Only 25% disagreed with the proposal. The Scotland Act reserves Defence to Westminster. It also has a specific clause which reserves "control of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction" to London.

Scottish CND has written to the Calman Commission proposing that this clause be amended and that the Scottish Parliament should have the power to prohibit the deployment of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Scotland. This call was repeated in a submission from the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre and from several individuals. The Church of Scotland and UNISON Scotland also referred to Trident in their statements to the Commission.

BREAKING THE DEADLOCK

Earlier this year Defence Secretary Des Browne proposed that Britain become a 'disarmament laboratory'. He announced that it was already working with a number of Norwegian defence laboratories and the NGO Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) to that effect. Such a development is, on face value, a positive development. It could be helpful in developing the expertise in verification which can build mutual confidence as part of a disarmament process.

But at the moment there is **no disarmament process**. A technical conference involving scientists from the nuclear five (Britain, the United States, France, Russia and China) may help break down barriers. But it is really the heads of state of these countries who need to get together with the those of Israel, Pakistan and India to set in motion a political process leading to global nuclear disarmament. At the moment the political will do do that is lacking.

If, however, the UK government gave a lead it could pressurise an incoming US president to respond. In 2006, 125 countries out of 181 including three nuclear states (China, Pakistan and India) voted in the UN General Assembly for abolition negotiations to start immediately. Russia, France

and even Israel could be forced to follow suit.

Sadly, the main drift of UK policy is in the opposite direction. Its announcements on turning Britain's nuclear laboratories into a 'disarmament laboratory' would have much more credibility if the Government had not already announced that it is renewing its four Trident submarines, thus binding us into possession of nuclear weapons for the next 50 years.

A UTOPIAN CONCEPT?

Is global nuclear disarmament a utopian concept? You can't un-invent nuclear weapons. But you can make them illegal. This has already been done with landmines, chemical weapons and biological weapons. And Gordon Brown's government has made a positive contribution towards negotiations on banning cluster bombs.

Now the focus must move to nuclear weapons. Worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons is today recognised as an achievable aim by international figures like Kofi Annan, Hans Blix and Mohammed El Baradei and former US politicians such as Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn. Now British establishment figures such as Douglas Hurd, Malcolm Rifkind, David Owen and George Robertson have called on the British government to take new initiatives towards a nuclear free world.

The international Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was launched by medical professionals in 60 countries. Its draft treaty on the abolition of nuclear weapons has been lodged with the United Nations while the international peace movement builds the political will to make it a reality. The draft treaty deals in detail with many of the questions that people often ask. How can we be sure that someone is not cheating? What about terrorists? Can we have inspection on demand? Can we protect whistleblowers?



'Worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons is today recognised as an achievable aim by international figures like Kofi Annan, Hans Blix and Mohammed El Baradei'



The argument is not about multilateralism versus unilateralism. It is about whether or not the British Government supports real disarmament initiatives when the opportunity is presented. This is the real test of Gordon Brown's commitment to article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We believe this is the way to build real international security - not the illusion of security that comes with missile defence and a new nuclear arms race. And it is also the only way to really tackle the problem of nuclear proliferation and ensure that nuclear weapons never fall into the hands of terrorists. Contrast this with the 'counter proliferation' policies of the Bush administration which actually create nuclear proliferation and spread terrorism.

Anyway, the US government is not opposed to taking unilateral nuclear disarmament steps when it suits its interests. The decision to secretly withdraw its tactical nuclear weapons from Lakenheath in the UK and probably other parts of Europe was taken without any reciprocal agreement with Russia.

TWIN TRACK POLICY

Scottish CND works with individuals and organisations across Scotland and other parts of Britain to create the broadest possible alliance against the replacement of Trident. We are part of a growing international movement for peace which believes that national and international steps to peace and disarmament are inseparably linked. If the UK government goes ahead with the renewal of Trident, we and future generations could be locked into possession of nuclear weapons for the next 50 years making the process of global nuclear disarmament much more difficult.

In Scotland today most people are opposed to Trident replacement. A clear majority of Scots MPs voted against it in the Westminster Parliament in March 2007 and MPs Nigel Griffiths and Jim Devine resigned their ministerial posts. With the support of the churches, the trade unions, the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government the anti-Trident movement has critical mass. Now is the time to make it count.



Demonstrators lining the fence during the Peace Chain Around Faslane, June 2008

Scottish CND Local Groups & Contacts

Aberdeen

Mike Martin 01224 822002

mikemartin@ifb.co.uk

Ayrshire

Arthur West Tel: 01294 218215

arthur.west@unisonfree.net

Barrhead & Neilston

Phill Traish Tel: 0141 880 7712

Blairgowrie

Kristen Barrett Tel: 01250 872634

Clydebank

Brenden Kelly Tel: 0141 952 2201

danke-danke@hotmail.com

Dumfries

David Nicol Tel: 01387 265205

davidanicol@yahoo.co.uk

Dundee

Edith Constable Tel: 01382 452 547

Edinburgh

Eileen Cook Tel: 0131 669 6396

edinburghcnd@yahoo.com

Fife

Jan Benvie 01383 410632

jbenvie@yahoo.co.uk

Fort William

Anne Rowan Tel: 01397 772625

Glasgow West

Alan Mackinnon Tel: 0141 339 1102

alan.mackinnon2@ntlworld.com

Glasgow North

Adam Beese Tel: 07817 022372

adrock_1976@yahoo.co.uk

Helensburgh

Jane Tallents Tel: 01436671845

tp2000@gn.apc.org

Highland CND

John Jappy Tel: 01997 433418

Hamilton

Billy/Louise Moncrieff: 01698 820 898

Renfrewshire

Duncan MacIntosh: 0141 887 2097

duncan1980@btinternet.com

Rutherglen

Susan Martin Tel: 0141 647 4776

Stirling

David McKenzie Tel: 01259753815

davidmc@enterprise.net

Tweeddale

Peter Norris Tel: 01721 720371

Ullapool

Jean Urquart Tel: 01854 612103

jean@theceilidhplace.com

Labour CND

Jim Taggart Tel: 01436842242

jimtaggart@smartmail.co.uk

SNP CND

Colin Darroch Tel: 0141 427 1849

enquiries@snpncnd.org

www.snpncnd.org



CND Merchandise

Scottish CND has a range of T Shirts :

Black T Shirts with the CND logo and the words "banthebomb.org" in white. £7 (M, L & XL)

White T Shirts with a saltire and the words "Nuclear Free Scotland" on the front and a CND logo with the words "Nuclear Free World" on the back. (Organic cotton) £8 (S, M, L & XL)

Bin the Bomb T shirts dark Green (S, L, XL) £7

Bin the Bomb T shirts light Green, female fit (S,M, L, XL) £7

Blue polo-shirts with the "Scotland's for Peace" logo £10 (S, M, XL)

CND bag £2.50

All prices include post and packing.

They can be ordered by post. Please enclose a cheque for the total amount made out to Scottish CND and post to the Scottish CND office.

Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

15 Barrland St, Glasgow, G41 1QH

0141 423 1222

john.ainslie@banthebomb.org





Change of Address

If you are moving home please let us know your new address:

Name _____

Old address _____

New address & postcode _____

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)

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____ E-mail _____

Help us keep our costs down by paying with the Standing Order below

STANDING ORDER

Please pay from the account below £__ (insert amount) once every month starting on _____ (date) until further notice to cover my annual membership fee and a regular donation to Scottish CND.

Name of bank _____

Address of bank _____

Postcode _____

Account No _____

Sort Code _____

Signature _____

(Bank: Pay to Scottish CND, Ac No 00970363, Code 80-07-67)

Alternatively, I enclose a cheque of £__ for my annual membership fee / as a donation to Scottish CND (delete as appropriate). Make cheques out to Scottish CND and return this form to:
Scottish CND, 15 Barrland St. Glasgow G41 1QH.

Tel: 0141 423 1222 www.banthebomb.org

