

Campaign

Trident does not keep us safe

Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about CND's new 'Security not Trident' report.

Security not Trident

THE RECENT NEWS about a failed British nuclear missile test is not the only sign that our nuclear weapons do not actually keep us safe, as the government would like us to think.

In our new report, we argue that despite costing the public purse at least £205 billion, a new nuclear weapons system will not be able to defend our security.

Real security begins with an honest account of the security threats we face today. The government's own National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review sensibly identifies the main dangers to us as terrorism, climate change, cyber-attacks and health pandemics. Trident is useless in dealing with these eventualities. Even more worryingly, the nuclear weapons system itself poses many threats and vulnerabilities.

In recent months, experts have increasingly questioned the technological viability of Trident, as developments in underwater drone technology could render the system obsolete. One of the big arguments in favour of submarines as a 'platform' for carrying our nuclear weapons has been that they are undetectable under water. But in the 21st century, how can anyone imagine that a massive metal submarine can remain undetected?

As former Defence Secretary Lord Browne warned in 2015, Trident could be rendered obsolete another way, by a cyber-attack. The worst case scenario is a hostile take-over of our nuclear weapons system.

We still routinely hear Trident described as Britain's independent deterrent. The truth is it's neither independent nor a deterrent. Decades of conflict have proved that

Trident doesn't deter war. And it is neither politically nor technically independent. Much of the system relies on technical support from the United States while it's inconceivable to imagine a British Prime Minister firing a nuclear missile without permission from the American President, and the rest of the world knows this.

Disarming could not only provide political leadership to the rest of the nuclear-armed states, but would be a practical guide for how to do it, a blueprint for the rest of the world drafted by our experts and politicians. This would be the vital first step to Britain rethinking its approach to security in the twenty-first century.

■ The report is available on CND's website or hard copies can be ordered: 020 7700 2393 or enquiries@cnduk.org

The Doomsday Clock is now closer to midnight.

The time – which represents the likelihood of global catastrophe – has moved to 2 minutes 30 seconds before the hour.

Donald Trump's statements on nuclear weapons and on climate change received a particular mention.

Ban talks to begin

Campaigns Assistant **Josie Parkhouse** previews the global nuclear ban negotiations which will take place later this month.

IN LESS THAN two weeks a historic event will happen: negotiations on a global nuclear ban treaty will start at the United Nations headquarters in New York. On March 27th, governments will meet to start negotiating 'a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination'.

123 countries voted in favour of these talks; the majority of countries want to take the necessary steps to create a nuclear free world. The international community has united before to ban biological and chemical weapons, land mines and cluster bombs, and now it's time to ban nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately the British government voted against the proposal and has said it will not be joining the conference. CND has led efforts to put pressure on the government to attend the talks, with thousands of our supporters writing to the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson on the matter.

On March 1st we held a day of action in parliament. CND



supporters from across the country came to talk to their MPs about the urgent need for the UK to play a constructive role in the talks. MPs across the political spectrum, including Conservatives, agreed that if the government is serious about being committed to multilateral efforts to create a world free of nuclear weapons, they should attend the UN negotiations which aim to bring it about.

CND is also engaging with diplomatic missions in the UK, urging states to take part in the negotiations and share thoughts on what outcomes the talks might deliver. These meetings are continuing throughout the first set of talks, but initial feedback has been positive, with states open to engaging in the process and keen that pressure should be exerted on the UK to take part.

NATO summit 2017

For over a decade CND has joined with many international organisations to demonstrate at NATO summits: to protest against its expansionist military policies, its wars and – above all – its nuclear weapons and nuclear first-use policy.

FROM Strasbourg to Lisbon, from Chicago to Newport, South Wales, CND has been marching for peace and disarmament, and helping to organise counter-summit conferences to put forward alternatives to NATO's war-fighting agenda. CND's last annual conference in October 2016 voted to mobilise again at the next NATO summit – the first under Trump's presidency.

The following words come from the call for action from the international organising committee:

This year's NATO summit will be US President Donald Trump's first. It will be held in May at NATO's brand new headquarters in Brussels, a city that hosts both NATO and the European Union – two institutions that co-operate closely on their military policies.

NATO and its member states participate in illegal wars and military interventions, from Yugoslavia to Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Syria, the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. They contribute massively to international instability, fuelling the arms race and



militarisation. NATO remains committed to humanity's biggest threat: nuclear weapons.

From summit to summit, NATO perpetuates, enforces and extends its policy of war and domination.

And the world shows us the consequences: entire countries devastated; millions turned into refugees, facing terrible suffering and

even death; environmental disaster; an increase in violent extremism and terrorism; military tension and confrontation; nuclear weapons proliferation and the increasing risk of a nuclear war.

And in response to these appalling consequences, NATO pursues yet more militarism and war. NATO is the world's most aggressive war machine. We urgently need worldwide peace and sustainable development. We call on all peace-loving people and organisations to join the protests against the NATO Summit, in Brussels and worldwide. Let's put pressure on our governments to invest in social welfare, not in war.

No to war – No to NATO Brussels 24-25th May 2017

The summit will be held in Brussels on 24th and 25th May 2017. The international 'No to war – No to NATO' network, of which CND is part, is organising alternative events at that time. On Wednesday 24th there will be a rally in Brussels at 5pm, followed by a march at 6pm. On Thursday 25th there will be a full day counter-summit conference posing peaceful alternatives to NATO's militarism. We will be taking our banner to these events and joining the debates and discussions – please join us there if you can.

Fukushima Parliamentary Public Meeting

March 15th, 7pm-9pm

Committee Room 9, House of Commons, Westminster, London. Public meeting with Dr. Ian Fairlie, Margaret Ritchie MP, Professor Andy Blowers. Chaired by Catherine West MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary.

RSVP: rememberfukushima311@gmail.com

Oxford CND meeting

March 23rd, 6:45pm

Oxford Town Hall

■ Contact: 01865 248357 or oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop with any questions

Manchester CND Peace Walk

March 26th, 1:30pm-4pm

Meet at Victoria Station (under the tiled map), Manchester Join Manchester CND for a guided walk around the Manchester Peace Trail. No need to book – just turn up with your friends. Fully accessible.

■ Contact: Steve Roman 07939 059844.

Does Trump's Arms Race Mean a Race to War?

March 28th, 6:30-8pm

Old Fire Station, 84 Mayton St, London. North London Stop the War hosts this meeting with CND General Secretary Kate Hudson and Jude Woodward (blogger, NewColdWar.org) on the implications of Trump's Presidency.

Survivors' Stories: Public meeting

April 1st, 6:30pm-8:30pm

People's History Museum, Left Bank, Manchester. A rare

Did you know that March is 'Make a Will' month?

A gift to CND in your will could have a powerful impact for years to come, and help create genuine security for future generations.

Visit: www.cnduk.org/legacies or call 0207 2393 for information on how to support CND through your Will.

opportunity to hear moving, first-hand testimony of the effects of the atomic bombings of Japan from a Hiroshima survivor. Booking essential, ■ Contact Greater Manchester & District CND: 0161 273 8283/gmcdnd@gn.apc.org

Kent Area CND meeting

April 2nd, 11am-1pm

34 St Michael's Place,

Canterbury. ■ Contact Pam with any questions: 07772 471905 pambrio@ntlworld.com

Trident Ploughshares Coulpport Disarmament Camp

July 8th-16th

Join a week of action at Faslane and Coulpport – protest at the gates and peacefully disrupt the ongoing work there. There will be actions to disrupt Trident as well as vigils and creative

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protests of many kinds. Nonviolent Direct Action training will be provided and there will be workshops on all sorts of practical and campaign issues. ■ Contact: 0345 4588 362.

Peace Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month.

■ Tel: 07946 676761 info@aldermaston.net [@Peace_women_AWE](http://www.aldermaston.net)

Faslane Peace Camp

Permanent. A814, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT.

■ Tel 01436 820901 faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp

■ Contact Yorkshire CND for details: 01274 730795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.

■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail