CND Conference 2017 – Resolutions

Resolution One – Global Ban Treaty

Conference

1. Notes the majority of nuclear powers are signatories to the 1968 NPT. This treaty includes a commitment by them to work towards complete, comprehensive nuclear disarmament. 49 years has past and  this has not been achieved,

so CND will work to secure UK signature to the nuclear weapons ban treaty

1. Welcomes the ground breaking UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which opens the door to their total elimination;
2. Notes the treaty
3. prohibits the use, stockpiling, testing, production, manufacture, stationing and installation of nuclear weapons;
4. bans assisting with prohibited acts, such as the US leasing of Trident missiles to the UK to carry nuclear warheads; and
5. makes it illegal to allow nuclear weapons to travel through territorial waters or airspace;
6. notes Article 1(a) of the Treaty prohibits the development of nuclear weapons. The UK government is very likely to be engaged in the early stages of developing a new generation of nuclear warheads.”
7. Regrets
8. the British government’s boycott of treaty talks; and
9. the wholly negative joint statement that the US, British and French governments do not ‘intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to’ the treaty;
10. Believes the extent of hostility to the treaty from the nuclear weapons states, and the pressure they will exert on other countries to withhold support, must not be underestimated;
11. Recognises
12. the implications for the UK are considerable; and
13. the treaty is of major importance for CND’s campaigning work;
14. Resolves that CND will
15. prioritise campaigning to reverse the UK position and secure its signature to the treaty, highlighting the link with our core work to scrap Trident;
16. work with partner organisations in the UK to raise the profile of the treaty and exert pressure on the government; and
17. work with partner organisations internationally to bring pressure to bear on all nuclear weapons states to support the treaty.
18. acknowledge both the position of Scotland as unwilling host to the UK weapons, and the firm commitment of the Scottish Parliamentarians in both houses to the Treaty, and support Scottish CND’s cross party work to ensure that Scotland’s cohesive support for the Treaty is highlighted at Westminster and throughout the UK.
19. monitor and publicise information relating to the development of new warheads and encourage our parliamentary supporters to scrutinise ongoing developments.
20. Encourage the official opposition to create a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency to develop ongoing work on arms conversion into a policy agenda for government.

*Resolution 4: Don’t Bank on the Bomb*

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| Conference notes that:   1. Conference notes the United Nations ‘Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons’ (Ban Treaty) agreed by 122 votes for, 1 against, 1 abstention on the 7th July 2017. 2. Article 1 Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to ‘develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices’. |

Conference expresses its full support for the Don't Bank on the Bomb Campaign and welcomes the development of a Don't Bank on the  Bomb Scotland Network.

Conference also resolves to support networks and groups across the UK who have an interest in this important issue.

*Resolution 5: Parliamentary Candidates and Trident*

1. Conference believes there could be a General Election at any time’
2. Conference resolves to encourage all members and supporters of CND to
3. seek the views of candidates on the subject of so-called ‘Trident Replacement’ and encourage them to oppose Trident replacement”
4. “where parliamentary candidates have not yet been selected, encourage members of political parties to attend candidate selection meetings and raise the Trident issue”.

*Resolution 6: Military Bases*

Proposed by Yorkshire CND

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| Conference notes that:   1. The US and NATO continue to use military bases in the UK for planning, practicing and conducting wars; 2. The dangerous international tension generated by military exercises and the establishment of military bases (including missile defence bases) in Europe, Scandinavia and the Pacific region by the US and NATO; 3. That missile defence systems encourage the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear arms and remain a massive barrier to progress towards nuclear disarmament talks; 4. A NATO exercise in June included the appearance se of US nuclear bombers at Fairford in Gloucestershire; 5. The US is to spend over $300 million extending the major intelligence base at Croughton in Northants which has links to other major intelligence centres in Europe, to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen and is directly involved in the use of armed drones in extra-judicial killings. |
| Conference resolves to:  1) continue to raise public and parliamentary awareness of US and NATO military bases and the UK's involvement in missile defence;  2) continue working with international groups focussing on these issues and supporting “Keep Space for Peace Week”;  3) support where possible actions at associated UK bases such as Fylingdales, Menwith Hill and Croughton, by local groups;  4) support the international campaign against military bases. |

*Resolution 7: Action at*

*Bases*

*Proposed by Oxford CND*

Conference notes that:

1. That increased public awareness of the nuclear weapon production, support and strategic bases is an important issue that National and local CND groups have focused on.
2. That U.K. and U.S. money is now being spent on developing these sites.

Conference resolves to:-

1)      Increase public awareness of the sites involved in nuclear weapon research, production, assembly and dis-assembly, transport, storage and operation.

2)      Publicise the current and continuous great expenditure on maintaining and developing these sites.

3)      Support actions at U.K. bases such as Aldermaston, Burghfield, Faslane, Coulport, Barrow, Fylingdales, Menwith Hill and Croughton by local groups.

4)      Consider National CND actions again at some of these sites.

*Resolution 8: Common Security: shifting the security paradigm*

*Proposed by Greater Manchester and District CND*

Conference notes that:

1. Nuclear armed states are hurtling towards confrontation - the key question is how to bring them back from the brink.
2. When the Cold War was at its most precarious in 1985, the UN put forward a common security approach, committing states to joint survival rather than the threat of destruction and annihilation.
3. The UN goal of common security was ‘to a world with no nuclear weapons, with peace and security maintained at lower levels of conventional arms, and with increased national and international resources reallocated to the purpose of improving the quality of life’.

Conference believes:

1. The notion of ‘deterrence’ is based on fear, suspicion, and an obsession with the threat from ‘potential adversaries’. It underwrites the drive for overwhelming military dominance or ‘absolute security’ beyond challenge, maintaining national security at the expense of others.
2. Security cannot be achieved by making others feel less secure. Nations hold security in common. Threats of climate change, terrorism, pandemics, and cyber-attack make security interdependent: no nation can find security by itself but must work with others to meet these global challenges.
3. ’Deterrence’ keeps others at bay; the common security approach reaches out to wider humanity through co-operative partnerships based on mutual interest, patiently building strategic trust and international understanding. Demonising others escalates tensions; instead it is necessary to address other countries’ fears and threat perceptions.
4. Common security embraces human security: the UN sustainable development and poverty reduction agenda recognises ‘the interconnectivity of the challenges faced by humanity and … the need for integrated and comprehensive responses’. The International Peace Bureau supports a human security ‘…of people through development, not arms; through cooperation, not confrontation’.
5. Human rights dialogue within the frame of common security can help to build international understanding.

Conference resolves to:

1. Endorse and promote, in both national and international campaigning, the common security approach of commitment to joint survival to counter the ‘deterrence’ argument with its threat of destruction;
2. Use the frame of common security to advance the widest possible dialogue between international peace groups and organisations.

*Resolution 9: Building international opposition to NATO*

*Proposed by Russell Whiting*

Conference notes:

1. that CND had a strong presence at the anti-NATO events in Brussels on 24th and 25th May, at both the demonstration and counter summit.
2. The demonstration was fantastic, but most importantly for our work, the counter-summit was very successful and had a strong anti-nuclear focus.
3. It marks the possibility of a positive, collective revival of the peace movement across Europe and it is important that CND continues to contribute and brings its international standing to bear.

Conference believes:

1. that there is a rise in confrontational rhetoric – and actions - emanating from a number of nuclear weapons states, including those within NATO, which heightens the risk of war, including the decision by the UK to send 800 armed forces personnel to Estonia.
2. This is a crucial time for the peace movement internationally to pose alternatives to conflict and to work for peaceful relations between states based on justice and equality.

Conference resolves:

1. to continue our work in the No to War – No to NATO network, and to help regenerate the international peace movement.

**Emergency Resolution: No to war on the Korean peninsula; ‘freeze for freeze’; return to talks**

**1. CND strongly condemns** North Korea’s nuclear and missile testing and the US nuclear intimidation and provocative military exercises, both in disregard of UNSC resolutions.

2. **CND believes that:**

(i)the cycle of reciprocal provocations and threats by the U.S. and North Korea risks moving beyond control;

(ii) the danger of nuclear accident or war in which nuclear weapons may be used by intent or miscalculation is acute;

(iii) a military conflict could draw in other nuclear-armed states, Russia, China, and, should a North Korean attack on Guam activate NATO, the UK.

(iv) Mutual restraint is now imperative.

(v) The UK Government has accelerated the crisis by:

backing Trump’s reckless rhetoric,

participating in US-led provocative military exercises,

pressing for severe economic sanctions,

ignoring calls for diplomacy at the UN Security Council.

(vi) Further threatening and isolating North Korea through ratcheting up sanctions will obstruct rather than encourage diplomatic solutions.

(vii) Regional stability also depends on agreement on a peace treaty to end to the Korean war and, ultimately, a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in North East Asia,

3. **CND supports:**

the UN Secretary-General’s offer to assist in negotiations; and the European Union’s offer also to assist along the lines of the successful negotiations on Iran’s nuclear programme;

the call by Russia and China, with Germany’s backing, for a “freeze for freeze” with the US and Allies suspending military rehearsals for war and North Korea halting testing.

4. **CND urgently demands that the UK Government:**

(i)explicitly rejects a military solution to the Korean conflict and rules out committing any British armed forces to the region;

(ii) opposes sanctions with damaging humanitarian consequences;

(iii) joins international calls for mutual restraint;

(iv) supports the UN Secretary-General’s call for the resumption of the Six Party Talks, opposing setting preconditions for negotiation;

(v) calls for an end to nuclear threats, leading by example.

5. **CND resolves to:**

encourage members, and the wider and international peace movement, to take up the issue as a matter of urgency, calling for a ‘freeze for freeze’ whilst intensifying campaigning for a nuclear ban.