

Lobbying MPs



How Pressure Groups Operate

Dear _____ MP

A decision on replacing Britain's nuclear weapons system, Trident, will be made in this parliament. The estimated cost of replacing Trident would be as much as £25 billion. This money would be better spent on defeating poverty at home and abroad and providing for employment, education and health.

In a recent MORI poll, 54% of the British people opposed a costly replacement of Trident. The government must hold a full parliamentary debate and vote on this issue. I urge you, as my MP, to oppose Trident replacement.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Affix stamp here

_____ MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Postcard campaigns are a great way for people to contact their MP.



I would rather the government spent £25 billion on: (Tick a box)

- 120,000 newly-qualified nurses every year for the next ten years
- Scrapping student top-up fees every year for the next ten years
- 60,000 newly-qualified teachers every year for the next twenty years
- 100,000 extra firefighters every year for the next ten years
- Protecting 900 million acres of rainforest
- Meeting UN Millennium Goals aid target of 0.7% of GNP every year for the next six years
- Other _____

Don't replace Trident – Britain's nuclear weapons system!

NO TRIDENT REPLACEMENT

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT • 162 HOLLOWAY RD • LONDON N7 8DQ • 020 7700 2393

 **campaign for nuclear disarmament**

Lobby your MP

Your MP has not signed the EDM. Please write to your MP and explain why they should sign **EDM 909 Trident Replacement**.

Your name:
Address:
Town:
Postcode:
Your email:

Subject:

Dear [insert name] MP,

I write to ask you to consider signing the Early Day Motion 909 Trident Replacement. Despite the Strategic Defence and Security Review delaying the timing of the Trident Main Gate decision, the review did not question whether nuclear weapons should remain a part of our nation's defence. MPs must be allowed full scrutiny of the Trident replacement programme. Analysis associated with the SDSR including the Value for Money Review should be made available and time should be provided for MPs to fully debate the government's proposals ahead of the Main Gate decision. Please ensure you are adding your voice to those seeking a full and open review of our nuclear weapons policy and add your name to EDM 909 Trident Replacement.

I agree to you contacting me in the future using the information I have submitted.

This is an example of an online tool that people can use to contact their MP. It is displayed clearly on the website, is very easy to use and not expensive to produce.

Using a postcode search it finds the relevant MP. The user can choose to personalise the email or send the copy created by CND.



Stalls and Petitions

In 2010 CND collected over 50,000 signatures using this petition. It was presented to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York alongside millions more signatures from around the world.

How Pressure
Groups Operate



NO TRIDENT REPLACEMENT

We, the undersigned, welcome the UK government's commitment to multilateral nuclear disarmament through good faith negotiations as required by the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We call upon the government in recognition of this commitment to:

- cancel its preparations to renew the Trident nuclear weapons system and start the process of dismantling the existing system; and in the spirit of its support for existing treaties banning indiscriminate weapons such as landmines, chemical and biological weapons to:
- pursue multilateral negotiations with a view to concluding a Nuclear Weapons Convention by the year 2020 to ensure the elimination of nuclear weapons world wide.

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	SIGNATURE	MORE INFO ✓



Yes to a Nuclear Weapons Convention

Produced by CND and Medact. **Please return by 31 March 2010** to: Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ • tel: 020 7700 2393 • notrident@cnduk.org • www.cnduk.org



Press Desk

Part 1: Example press release



Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

press office: 020 7700 2350 | e-mail: pressoffice@cnduk.org | web: www.cnduk.org

PRESS RELEASE – MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2009
Attn: [News Desks / Political / Defence Correspondents]

TRIDENT SUBMARINE CRASH A ‘NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE’

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament today described the reported collision of the British Trident nuclear-armed submarine HMS Vanguard and her French equivalent Le Triomphant as “a nuclear nightmare of the highest order”.

The crash, on the night of 3rd/4th February is said to have all but destroyed the sonar dome of the French boat and left visible scrapes and dents on the hull of HMS Vanguard, which carries 16 Trident missiles and up to 48 nuclear warheads – each eight times the power of the Hiroshima bomb. Le Triomphant, also the lead-boat in her class, carries the same number of missiles, though each warhead is even more devastatingly powerful.

Kate Hudson, Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said, “**This is a nuclear nightmare of the highest order. The collision of two submarines, both with nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons onboard could have released vast amounts of radiation and scattered scores of nuclear warheads across the seabed.** The dents reportedly visible on the British sub show the boats were no more than a couple of seconds away from total catastrophe.”

She continued, “This is the most severe incident involving a nuclear submarine since the sinking of the Kursk in 2000 and the first time since the Cold War that two nuclear-armed subs are known to have collided. These dangers are inherent whilst the British government maintains its 1960s’ policy of having at least one nuclear-weapons submarine sailing round the Atlantic 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. HMS Vanguard is likely to be confined to port for months with a multimillion pound repair bill. Gordon Brown should seize this opportunity to end continuous patrols, building on Barack Obama’s recent moves to downgrade the alert status of US nukes.”

Notes to Editors:

- ends -

1. For further information and interviews please contact Ben Soffa, CND’s Press Officer, on 0207 7002350 or 07968 420859
2. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) is one of Europe’s biggest single-issue peace campaigns, with over 35,000 members in the UK. CND campaigns for the abolition of all nuclear weapons everywhere. www.cnduk.org

Press Desk

Part 2: CND press release in the news



How Pressure
Groups Operate

guardian.co.uk

Two subs, dozens of nuclear warheads, one huge ocean - and a stroke of bad luck

- HMS Vanguard hits French counterpart in sea depths
- Bump almost led to freak catastrophe, say analysts

Richard Norton-Taylor: Tuesday 17 February 2009



Steve Bell (2009): The Guardian

The good news was it proved that the British nuclear missile submarine was virtually undetectable. The bad news was that HMS Vanguard was rather too undetectable, apparently moving so stealthily that it collided with a French nuclear sub in the middle of the Atlantic. The Ministry of Defence was under intense pressure last night to explain how the Vanguard, which can carry 48 nuclear warheads on 16 missiles, had managed to crash into Le Triomphant - payload 16 missiles - in an incident which some experts say could have caused a nuclear catastrophe.

The underwater collision happened earlier this month and was at low speed, and no injuries were reported among the total of 240 sailors on the two boats. However some damage was done to both, though officials stressed that none of their nuclear equipment had been damaged. Independent analysts, however, described it as “a very serious incident” and there were widespread calls for a full investigation. The MoD, unsurprisingly, played it down. However, the potential for harm in such an incident forced Admiral Sir Jonathon Band, the first sea lord, to make a statement. Two submerged submarines, one French, one British, were “conducting routine national patrols in the Atlantic Ocean”, he said. They “came into contact at very low speed ... nuclear safety had not been compromised” and the Vanguard returned to its base in Faslane on the Clyde.

The French submarine is understood to have hit the side of the Vanguard, which returned to its base with what the MoD called “nicks and scrapes”. It might have been much worse. “Friendly submarines should not bump into each other. Unquestionably it’s a very serious incident,” said Commodore Stephen Saunders. Lee Willett, of the Royal United Service Institute, said: “It was almost a freak occurrence.”

Officials and independent analysts explained that the subs, equipped with passive sonar, are designed to be undetectable. They are also not very manoeuvrable. The accident was described as very bad luck. However, it raises questions which the urgent inquiries being conducted by the French and British navies will have to address. Liam Fox, the shadow defence secretary, said it was a “relief” that no one had been injured in such an “extremely worrying” incident.

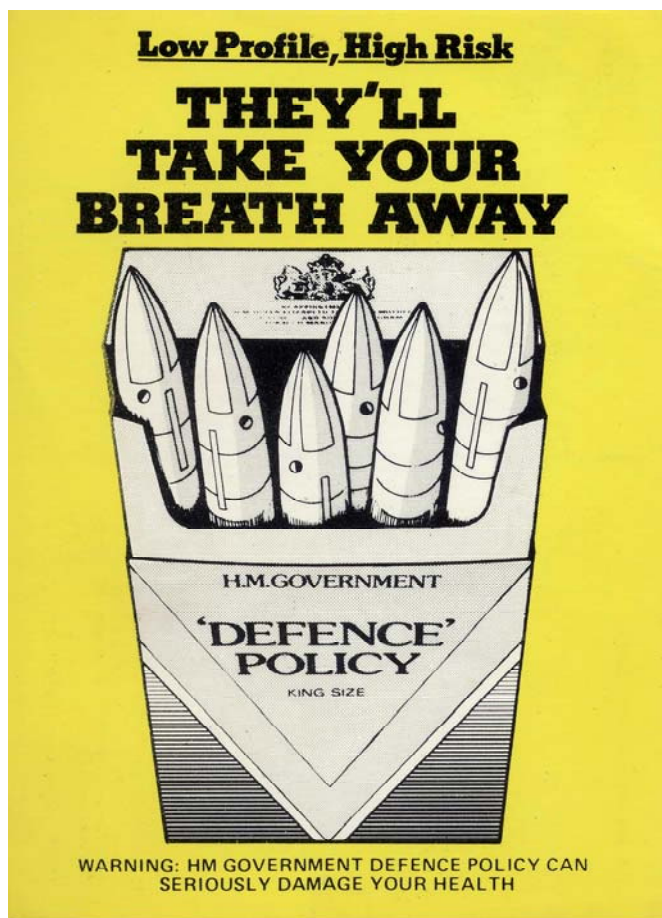
The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament described the collision as “a nuclear nightmare of the highest order” that “could have released vast amounts of radiation and scattered scores of nuclear warheads across the seabed”.

Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said: “While the British nuclear fleet has a good record, if there were ever to be a bang it would be a mighty big one. The public entrust this equipment to the government confident that all possible precautions are being taken.” SNP Westminster leader, Angus Robertson, called on the MoD to explain how it was that two subs carrying weapons of mass destruction could possibly have collided “in the middle of the world’s second-largest ocean”.

Placards and Design

Examples from the CND archives

How Pressure
Groups Operate



Marches, Rallies and Protests

In 2003, 1 million people marched through London to protest against the Iraq war.

How Pressure
Groups Operate



BBC NEWS



Sunday 16 February 2003

'Million' march against Iraq war

Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets of London to voice their opposition to military action against Iraq. Police said it was the UK's biggest ever demonstration with at least 750,000 taking part, although organisers put the figure closer to two million.

There were also anti-war gatherings in Glasgow and Belfast - all part of a worldwide weekend of protest with hundreds of rallies and marches in up to 60 countries.

They came as UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, in a speech warning of "bloody consequences" if Iraq was not confronted, directly addressed those marching. He did not "seek unpopularity as a badge of honour", he said, "but sometimes it is the price of leadership and the cost of conviction". Shortly after he spoke, at around midday GMT, a tide of bannerwaving protesters began surging through central London. They cheered, shouted, sounded horns and banged drums, waving signs with slogans 'No War On Iraq' and 'Make Tea, Not War'. Contingents arrived in the capital from about 250 cities and towns across the UK. The three-and-a-half mile march - organised by Stop the War Coalition, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and the Muslim Association of Britain - was started early by police, over concern at the number of people gathering.

Organiser John Rees said the turnout had been fantastic with an "electric atmosphere but also very serious and determined".

All police leave in the capital was cancelled for the event but Scotland Yard said it passed off almost without incident. There were a handful of arrests for minor mostly public order offences, but later four anti-war activists were arrested after more than 20 people held a sit-down protest at Piccadilly Circus.

High profile speakers: Former US presidential candidate the Rev Jesse Jackson also spoke and led the crowd chanting "give peace a chance, keep hope alive".

Among other high-profile supporters were writer Tariq Ali, ex-minister Mo Mowlam, London's mayor Ken Livingstone, actress Vanessa Redgrave, human rights campaigner Bianca Jagger and former MP Tony Benn. Playwright Harold Pinter made a rare public speech, saying America was "a country run by a bunch of criminal lunatics with Tony Blair as a hired Christian thug". If Mr Bush and Mr Blair ignored them "they are not rightful leaders of a democracy", he said.

Marches, Rallies and Protests

In 2003, 1 million people marched through London to protest against the Iraq war.



guardian.co.uk

UK's 'biggest peace rally'

- Simon Jeffery and agencies
- guardian.co.uk, Saturday 15 February 2003 17.39 GMT

London today became the scene for what appears to be the biggest public rally in British history. Throughout the world, millions gathered to protest at the prospect of a war in Iraq. In hundreds of cities, including Damascus, Athens, Seoul, Rome, Tokyo and Sydney, demonstrators marched, chanted and unfurled banners against conflict in the Middle East.

The London demonstration, which organisers currently estimate to be 1.5m people strong, began ahead of its scheduled starting time as the numbers congregating at Embankment forced police to allow them to march through Westminster and Whitehall earlier than expected.

All around them, main streets were packed with people walking 20 abreast. All ages were represented among the marchers, from babies to pensioners. Many had travelled with family or friends to voice their concerns. A few thousand people had already gathered in Hyde Park, the destination of both marches, where a rally was later held.

US civil rights campaigner the Rev Jesse Jackson thanked the protesters for being a part of the largest demonstration against war "in the history of Britain and the history of the world". "It's cold outside but our hearts are warm. It may be winter but all of you together are generating some serious street heat," he said. "George Bush can feel it, Tony Blair can feel it. Turn up the heat." Other high-profile figures at the rally were musicians Damon Albarn and Ms Dynamite, model Kate Moss, peace campaigner Bianca Jagger, politician Mo Mowlam and playwright Harold Pinter.

Bearing placards featuring slogans including "make tea, not war", protesters have travelled from all parts of the UK. For thousands, it was their first protest march, with many having joined new antiwar groups formed in their villages, churches and colleges. Marchers will include a group of Bedford taxi drivers called Britons Versus Bush and a collection of DJs dubbed Ravers Against the War.

The London demonstration was organised by Stop the War Coalition, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and the Muslim Association of Great Britain.

Mr Blair speaking in Glasgow, said that he "respected and understood" people's desire to march. "I ask the marchers to understand this: I do not seek unpopularity as a badge of honour," he said. "But sometimes it is the price of leadership and the cost of conviction."

Media and Publicity Stunts

Example press clippings

Telegraph & Argus

'Zombies' in nuclear weapons protest

Bradford city centre was transformed into a scene resembling a horror movie as more than a hundred zombies descended on Centenary Square as part of a protest against nuclear weapons. Protesters dressed as the walking dead as a tongue-in-cheek way of highlighting the potential catastrophe a nuclear war could bring to Bradford. Protester Joel White, 19, from Bradford, said: "We think it's really important right now with the current debate going on about nuclear weapons that young people show they are still passionate about it. This is a tactic of raising awareness that Trident is coming up to be renewed and there also going to be a conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty next year. So we just want to make sure that it gets



talked about and it also proves there are still young people who don't want to inherit a nuclear legacy."

BBC

NEWS



July 2008

Campaigner 'glues himself to PM'

A campaigner against Heathrow Airport's third runway has attempted to glue himself to Gordon Brown at a Downing Street reception. Dan Glass, a member of Plane Stupid, was about to receive an award from the prime minister when he stuck out his superglued hand and touched his sleeve. Mr Thompson said his organisation was attempting to make Mr Brown "stick to his environmental promises".



How Pressure
Groups Operate

TIMES ONLINE

February 16, 2010

Police arrest nuclear protesters at Trident warhead facility

Police arrested 26 peace protesters yesterday, as hundreds of demonstrators blocked entrances to a nuclear weapons site. Organisers said up to 800 people attended the blockade of the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston, Berkshire, which makes Trident submarine warheads. Thames Valley Police made arrests for obstructing the highway, entering the site and criminal damage. Demonstrators, including those from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), arrived at 7am and blocked the seven gates at the site either by sitting down in front of them or locking themselves together. Two Nobel Peace Prize recipients — Jody Williams, who led a campaign to ban land mines, and Mairead Maguire, who fronted a drive to end violence in Northern Ireland — were among those taking part. Kate Hudson, of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said: "The Government wants to be a leading player in nuclear disarmament, but they can't say that and press ahead with the Trident replacement."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article7028385.ece>