

Campaign

Close to midnight

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes on how the US' nuclear policy is taking us closer to war.

LAST MONTH the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* moved us half a minute closer to Midnight. At two minutes to, it's the closest since the height of the Cold War. The reasons cited are increasing nuclear risk, climate change and potentially harmful emerging technologies. But nuclear takes centre stage: reckless language and provocative action by both US and North Korea.

To make matters worse, the latest US nuclear posture review has just been released. These reviews can be a powerful indicator of a president's intentions and this one will, no doubt, be a taste of things to come. The 2002 version included President Bush's demand for contingency plans for the use of nuclear weapons against at least seven countries, including the so-called Axis

of Evil. It also revisited some of the ideas of the early 1990s, calling for the development of bunker-busters and mini-nukes for use in 'regional conflicts', understood at that time – in the aftermath of the first Gulf War and the developing narrative around oil and resources – to mean the Middle East.

The advent of President Obama temporarily knocked the project on the head. His 2010 review ruled out the development of new nuclear weapons, including bunker-busters. It also renounced nuclear weapons use against non-nuclear states that the US considered compliant with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the time we hoped for more, after Obama's passionate Prague speech in 2009,

CND 60th celebration at Aldermaston

1st April, assemble at 12 noon. Join us to celebrate CND's 60th anniversary of the first Aldermaston march with speeches, music and memories: See: www.cnduk.org/CNDat60 for more information on what CND has planned for our anniversary.



outlining a vision of a nuclear weapons-free world.

But we are a world away now, even from those modest steps. Essentially, the lid is being taken off the restraints on both new-build and nuclear weapons use. The most significant element of the review is commitment to a whole new generation of nuclear weapons, with the emphasis on low-yield, often described as ‘usable’. Note that the bombs used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki are technically low-yield in today’s parlance, so we are not talking about something small. The excuse underpinning this approach is supposedly that there are no real options between conventional weapons and all-out nuclear war, and that there should be more rungs on the ‘escalatory ladder’.

Personally I would rather see more rungs on the de-escalatory ladder. In fact, the US nuclear arsenal already includes over 1,000 nuclear warheads with

low-yield options. In this context one speculates about industrial factors driving this policy. As Hans M. Kristensen reveals, a retired Admiral – a board member of Raytheon that makes the recently retired nuclear Tomahawk cruise missile – has now co-authored an article urging Trump to bring the nuclear missile back. No prizes for guessing the motivation there. The increase in stated circumstances in which nuclear weapons could be used is very alarming. This includes against a group that ‘supports or enables terrorist efforts to obtain or employ nuclear devices’, as well as against ‘significant non-nuclear strategic attacks,’ including attacks on ‘civilian population or infrastructure’.

Presumably the review’s authors are aware of the consequences of nuclear use and would prefer to avoid it. But the idea that having more nuclear weapons and more potential targets makes use less likely is

Groups Spotlight

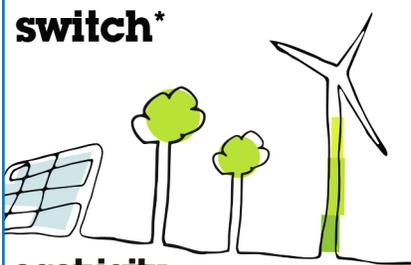
This month:
Preston and South Ribble CND

This new group launched in January 2018 with a brilliant first meeting. The area has been active in anti-nuclear campaigning in the past and the meeting agreed there is great potential for the group in the future.

If you’re a CND member in the area and interested in getting more involved with the group’s activities, please get in touch with David: davsav29@live.co.uk

simply bizarre. Whatever their motivation, this is an exceptionally dangerous game.

Up to £60 donation to CND when you switch*



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New search for nuclear waste storage

The government has re-started the search for somewhere permanent to store Britain’s nuclear waste, it announced in January. Plans have been on hold since Cumbria county council rejected a proposal in 2013. No community should have to accept this dangerous material, especially when nuclear energy is unnecessary.

Support and share CND’s petition against nuclear power – cnduk.org/NoNuclear

A symbol for peace

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about the history of the CND symbol.

T can be quite surreal working for an organisation that has one of the most well-known symbols in the world, even if people don't always know the connection. It's one of the many reminders that every time you get to your desk, you're carrying on with work steeped in historical significance.

Telling the story of how the symbol was created is an effective way of getting people talking about why we need to get rid of nuclear weapons. The campaigns team use it as a conversation starter at festivals, in schools and on street stalls. People are usually genuinely fascinated.

For our 60th anniversary year, we wanted to highlight our symbol and what it means to us. That's why we commissioned a giant installation of the symbol which we'll be taking on a tour of the country (<http://cnduk.org/CNDtour>)

The purpose will be to start even more conversations about nuclear weapons while reminding people about CND's history.

The symbol was designed in



1958 by Gerald Holtom, a professional designer and artist and a graduate of the Royal College of Art. He had been invited to design artwork for use on what became the first Aldermaston March, organised by the Direct Action Committee against Nuclear War (DAC).

The symbol quickly became one of the defining images of the Aldermaston marches, and of course, of CND.

While Holtom has confirmed that the symbol incorporated the semaphore letters N and D, he also explained a deeper reasoning in a letter to an associate: 'I was in despair. Deep despair. I drew myself: the representative of an individual in despair, with hands palm outstretched outwards and downwards in the manner of Goya's peasant before the firing squad. I formalised the drawing into a line and put a circle round it.' His first sketches are on

display as part of the Commonweal Collection in Bradford.

The symbol has quite deliberately never been copyrighted. This has meant it has often been exploited for commercial purposes, which we can't stop from happening. Most businesses who use it are happy to give us a donation however. And when one large toiletry brand refused, a coordinated social media campaign from CND supporters meant they quickly changed their mind!

More hearteningly, the symbol continues to be used as shorthand for peace and hope. Recently, it's been used at refugee camps and climate change protests, as well as at our anti-Trident demonstrations.

CND is proud of this iconic symbol and we'll continue to use it to inspire our anti-nuclear campaigning until we get rid of Trident.

West Midlands CND meeting February 17th, 10:30am, Café, top floor of House of Fraser, B'ham B2 5JS
Contact 07804 874115 or email wmcndall@gmail.com

Yorkshire CND 60th anniversary party February 17th
Contact Yorkshire CND: cath@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

March to Aldermaston – London film screenings February 17th, 6:30pm
Sands Films Cinema, SE16 4HZ.
For more information: www.londoncnd.org/events

'Godzilla' Manchester film screening February 17th, 6:30pm, Three Minute Theatre, Afflecks Arcade, Manchester M1 1JG. Booking essential – get your ticket by contacting 0161 273 8283 or gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

Wallasey film showing, 'The Man Who Saved the World' February 17th, 2pm
Wallasey Central Library, Wallasey CH45 5DX
For more information contact janmike@care4free.net

Musicians for Peace & Disarmament Winter Concert for Peace February 22nd, 7:30pm
Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, 3 Pilgrims Place, London NW3 1NG
Get your ticker by contacting info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com

'Shadow World' film showing – Oswestry February 27th, 7:30pm
Kinokulture Cinema, 9 Arthur

Remember Fukushima Commemorate the nuclear disaster

Vigil March 9th, 5:30pm-7:30pm
Outside the Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly, London.

March and rally
March 11th, assemble 12 noon
Outside the Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly, London.

Public meeting
March 14th, 7pm-9pm
Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament, Westminster.

■ For more information about all of these events, see rememberfukushima.org



Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1JN. Book your tickets at kinokulture.org.uk

Sydenham & Forest Hill CND AGM, March 6th, 7:30pm, 47 Dacres Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 2NS
Contact 020 8690 6117 or annefschuman@gmail.com

Trident and the new generation of nuclear weapons London public meeting, March 7th, 7pm-9pm, Kentish town community centre, 17 Busby Place, London

NW5 2SP.
Contact 02076 072302 or email info@londoncnd.org

Yorkshire CND Day of Dance April 28th
Victoria Hall, Saltaire BD18 3JS
Contact 01274 730795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Yorkshire CND Spring Peace & Craft Fair
Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3JS
To book your stall contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or 01274 730795

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 vigil
Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.
■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail.com