

Campaign

Stop Trump's arms race

Ahead of Donald Trump's inauguration as US President, CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes about his position on nuclear weapons.



In uncertain times the last thing anyone needs is the most powerful man on earth kicking off a new nuclear arms race. But that's exactly what president-elect Trump did just before Christmas, tweeting that 'the United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes'.

There are so many ways in which this tweet is wrong, dangerous and ignorant!

Just look at the US's nuclear capability. It currently has 7,300 nuclear warheads, with plans to spend over \$350 billion over the next decade modernising and maintaining them. Some of these weapons are many, many times the size of the Hiroshima bomb, so the US already has the capacity to destroy all life on earth. What conceivable

reason could Trump possibly have for wanting to increase the US arsenal? Indeed Trump's ignorance about nuclear matters and his seemingly cavalier approach to their use is extremely alarming given that he will have his finger on the nuclear button in a matter of days.

During his election campaign he promised to tear up the nuclear deal with Iran. This agreement was a huge achievement which replaced the Bush war drive against Iran with a deal to end sanctions and reduce nuclear facilities. Ripping it up may well push Iran down the road to nuclear weapons, potentially opening the door to Egypt and Saudi Arabia going down the nuclear route.

Those of us who remember the fear of nuclear war in Europe in the 1980s when the US was bringing cruise and Polaris to our

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shores would do well to be aware that Trump is open to nuking Europe because it's a 'big place' and that he thinks 'you want to be unpredictable' with nuclear weapons.

Of course some people write these comments off as throw away remarks with no substance but the fact is Trump has repeatedly said that more countries should get nuclear weapons, in particular referencing Japan and South Korea, saying he'd be 'OK' about an arms race in Asia.

This has raised the question of Trump's commitment to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. With his support for more countries getting nukes, Trump has called into question the bipartisan policy in the US for pretty much seven decades: non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

If the US President sanctions

Trump Inauguration protests

London: 20th January, 5pm

United States Embassy, 24 Grosvenor Square, London. CND will be joining a cross-section of civil society to emphasise Trump's position on nuclear weapons, NATO and war. Protest arranged by Stand Up to Racism. Join other CND supporters by our banner. Contact information@cnduk.org/020 7700 2393 for more information

London: 21st January, 12 noon – 3:30pm

Assemble at Grosvenor Square, London and march to Trafalgar Square. The organisers call on people of all genders to march in London as part of an international day of action in solidarity with Women's Marches across the world. CND will be marching with the peace bloc – meet at NE corner of Grosvenor Square (junction of Duke Street and Brook Street) from 11:45am. Bring banners and peace messages.

■ Contact russell.whiting@cnduk.org /020 7700 2393 for more information.

Manchester: 20th January, 6pm-7pm

St Peter's Square, Manchester. Join Greater Manchester CND and others with banners, placards and loud voices to Say No to Trump! Contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org/0161 273 8283 for more information.

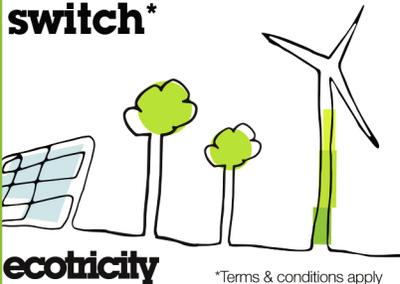
nuclear proliferation then we are heading on a disastrous path. This brings us to the second part of Trump's tweet: 'until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes'. The fact is, most of the world has already come to its senses – in fact had never lost them! Only nine countries have nuclear weapons and the vast majority of the rest want global nuclear abolition.

This has never been clearer than it is today. Last month the UN General Assembly voted to start negotiations on a global nuclear weapons ban treaty. They start in New York in March. When it came to voting, the US voted against

negotiations – as did the UK, in spite of its repeated insistence that it wants a multilateral disarmament process. Of the other nuclear weapons states, Russia, France and Israel also voted against a ban treaty, China, India and Pakistan abstained, and North Korea voted in favour.

So it is the US, UK and the nuclear weapons states that need to come to their senses, not the rest of the world! Here in Britain, let's put the maximum pressure on our government to take part in the global ban negotiations and support the treaty. *(Read on for more information about how you can do this.)*

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*Terms & conditions apply

Lobby your MP

Later this year the United Nations will begin negotiations on an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

DESPITE this historic move being supported by more than 120 countries in the General Assembly at the end of last year, the UK looks set to boycott the conference. That's why CND is taking the fight to Parliament and we want you to come and speak to your MP about this once in a generation opportunity to make progress on nuclear disarmament.

While Trident replacement has been at the top of the political agenda for some time, few MPs have been following the United Nations process. It is vital that as many MPs as possible hear from their constituents about why they should join the campaign to ensure the UK attends the conference and participates in a constructive way.

Parliamentary lobbies can play a key role in persuading MPs to take a course of action. We are aware that during CND lobbies, MPs have changed their minds on how they plan to vote. This could be the last opportunity to persuade MPs to join us in the fight to get the UK to



participate in this vital conference.

If you've never spoken to your MP or been to Parliament before, the CND team will be on hand to take you through every step. We can provide you with information and briefings to pass on to your MP and even rehearse the key arguments to make. Meetings will be quite short, meaning you can come in your lunch hour or after work if you're based nearby. If you are planning to travel down for the day why not bring a group and make a day of it?

You can contact your MP at: <http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/globalnuclearban>. Please let us know when your meeting is taking place: parliamentary@cnduk.org to assist with planning for the day.

Book review

by Daniel Blaney

'Corbyn and Trident: Labour's continuing controversy', Carol Turner

Carol Turner's excellent new book discusses the history of the Labour Party's complex relationship with nuclear weapons. Its purpose is not describing abstract or nostalgic historical events; this is a tour-de-force explaining the rise of Jeremy Corbyn and the failures of New Labour, while debunking myths about nuclear weapons, the left and electability.

Context is all and Carol's landscape of Labour history since the advent of nuclear weapons is multi-faceted. To understand and then explain the Labour Party is not to describe its technical policy history or its chronology of leaders but recognise it is a complex and ever-changing eco-system.

The book is littered with fascinating accounts from notable figures interviewed by the author, including several from Corbyn himself when interviewed by the author in 2013. It is an enjoyable tour of an aspect of recent political history, but it is most valuable in its promotion of the inescapable relationship between the rise of Corbyn and the project of a world without nuclear weapons.

Available on the CND shop: www.cnduk/shop

21st January

Yorkshire CND AGM and Strategy Day

January 21st, 11am-3pm
Swarthmore Centre, 2-7
Woodhouse Square, Leeds.
Yorkshire CND's Annual General Meeting will be followed by a session looking at the group's campaigning strategy. The political context has changed dramatically during 2016, and this is an opportunity to discuss these changes and how they affect campaigning activities. The meeting will explore tactics and ways of moving forward in the struggle against Trident, US missile defence and other areas of interest. All welcome.

■ For more information contact Yorkshire CND
info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk /
01274 730795

27th January

The Legacy of Nuclear Power seminar

12 noon-1pm
Room 201, Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester. This Nuclear-Free Local Authorities seminar puts the issue of dealing with the nuclear legacy into focus. All are welcome to attend this free seminar.

■ Contact 0161 234 3244/s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk for more information.

28th January

Nukes of Hazard workshop

on nuclear weapons convoys: 2pm-4pm, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Manchester. The workshop will discuss the transport of nuclear warheads on UK roads (including the M6). Speakers will include anti-convoy protesters, council officers concerned about the risks and

Global Ban Lobby of Parliament Wednesday 1st March 2017

12 noon-6pm

We urge as many of our supporters as possible to back this important lobby! See CND website for more information or contact parliamentary@cnduk.org

campaigners from Greater Manchester CND and ICAN UK.

■ For more information contact Greater Manchester CND
gmdcnd@gn.apc.org / 0161 273 8283.

4th March

NHS not Trident bloc at It's Our NHS demonstration

12 noon, Tavistock Square, London. March in support of the NHS, and against Trident.

■ For more information contact information@cnduk.org/020 7700 2393.

10th March

Fukushima Vigil, 5:30pm-

7:30pm, outside Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly, London

■ For more information:
www.rememberfukushima.org

11th March

Fukushima March on Parliament

12 noon, outside Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly, London. March to Parliament for rally in front of statue of George V, Old Palace Yard.

■ For more information:
www.rememberfukushima.org

15th March

Fukushima parliamentary public meeting

7pm-9pm, Committee Room 9, House of Commons, Westminster, London.

■ For more information:
www.rememberfukushima.org

Peace Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month.

■ Tel: 07946 676761
info@aldermaston.net
www.aldermaston.net
@Peace_women_AWE

■ Tel 01436 820901
faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com

Menwith Hill

Women's Peace Camp

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

Faslane Peace Camp

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

Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.

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