

## **Policy resolutions agreed 2009**

### **1. Trident Replacement and the Forthcoming General Election**

1. Conference reaffirms its opposition to all nuclear weapons and all plans to update and replace the Trident nuclear weapons system.
2. Conference reaffirms its demand for the immediate decommissioning of the Trident nuclear weapons system.
3. Conference congratulates the 160 MPs who, on 14 March 2007, voted against the government's motion to take steps to maintain the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent beyond the life of the existing system.
4. Conference notes that on 14 March 2007, 408 MPs voted in favour of the government's motion, despite strong evidence that this was against the wishes of the majority of the British public.
5. Conference notes that a new United Kingdom parliamentary election will be held within the next 7 months.
6. Conference, therefore, calls on National Council to ensure that, prior to and during the forthcoming general election, CND is active in:
  - a. Alerting voters to all those MPs who voted in favour of the government's motion on 14 March 2007 who have not subsequently and publicly regretted doing so.
  - b. Discovering and publicising the views of all known prospective parliamentary candidates regarding Trident.
  - c. Alerting voters to all those candidates in the forthcoming general election who have not publicly declared their opposition to maintaining the UK's nuclear weapons system beyond the life of the existing system.
  - d. Alerting voters to all those candidates in the forthcoming general election who have publicly declared their unreserved opposition to the Trident nuclear weapons system and plans for its replacement.

### **2. Initial Gate decision**

Conference,

- 1) To date, 162 MPs from all three main political parties have signed EDM 660 which reminds the Government of its commitment, in March 2007, that there would be regular opportunities for Parliamentary Scrutiny of the Trident Replacement decision at each stage of its development.
- 2) Conference welcomes the news that the Government is delaying the Initial Gate decision pending the outcome of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference due to be held in May 2010.
- 3) This is a unique opportunity for CND members to keep up the pressure on the Government to abandon the whole Trident Weapon System and any Replacement Plans so that we can move towards the goal of nuclear disarmament which the Government has stated is its long-term aim.
- 4) We should oppose plans to extend the life of the existing Trident or replace it with a cheaper nuclear weapon system.
- 5) In the face of the greatest economic crisis for decades, public opposition to Trident is increasing. This provides us with the opportunity to win support for the case for the abolition of all nuclear weapons and facilities.
- 6) We congratulate Parliamentary CND for its work and express our commitment to support the parliamentary work in our campaigning, especially in the period up to the General Election in 2010.

### **3. Nuclear Weapons Convention**

There has never been a better time to push for a nuclear free world. Powerful forces are stirring that could remove the nuclear Sword of Damocles hanging over us all. They include The New Agenda Coalition, The Middle Powers Initiative, The Nuclear Security Project and Global Zero. The time is right for all of these forces to amalgamate under an overarching body so that they act as a single unit and overwhelm the dwindling resistance to abolition.

A draft Nuclear Weapons Convention, for the abolition of nuclear weapons, already exists and has been lodged with the United Nations. This draft includes a framework for the practical running down to zero of existing nuclear arsenals. It also covers the issues of verification and ongoing inspections.

The cacophony of voices calling ever more loudly for abolition, can be brought under the umbrella of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and could no longer be resisted by those few leaders who still think that having a nuclear arsenal brings them prestige and power.

The resolution:

'CND expresses its support for the work of the ICAN Network and will, as a major goal, continue to work in ICAN to ensure that a Nuclear Weapons Convention is brought into effect as a matter of urgency.

Towards this end CND will promote the work of ICAN to CND regions, branches and the public, and consider hosting an international conference to address the best means of achieving the goal of a Nuclear Weapons Convention by studying the precedents of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the Cluster Munitions Coalition, and by other appropriate means.'

#### **4. Israel**

As is now publicly known, thanks to the courageous whistle blower, Mordechai Vanunu, Israel has developed nuclear weapons - possibly 200 warheads - as well as other chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. In recent years, Israel has also been developing and testing delivery systems. Previously, the limit of the range was hundreds of kilometres, now it is many thousands. Israel is also involved in developing ballistic missile defence systems, in cooperation with the US. Following the attacks on Gaza last winter, the world has now become aware of Israel's capabilities with, and its will to use irrespective of International Humanitarian Law, recently acquired weapons of an 'indiscriminate nature'. This formidable military force threatens the countries in the Middle East and beyond. This military expansion is described in detail in the new CND booklet: 'Israel's WMD and its foreign policy'.

We recommend that CND

1. Brings this material to the attention of Parliamentary CND, MPs and MEPs;
2. Urges its members to bring the issues to the attention of local and regional media;
3. Circulates the material to other NGOs working in this area;
4. Publishes extracts/references in CND's own members' publications;
5. Continues to press the UK government to actively support a WMD-free zone in the Middle East.
6. Continues to support the peace movement within Israel.

#### **5. Missile Defence**

Conference Notes that:

1. Although referred to as a missile shield, US Missile Defense (USMD or 'Star Wars') is integral to US nuclear strategy – enabling the launch of a first strike attack without fear of retaliation.
2. Despite statements by President Obama to review the proposed USMD expansion into Europe (the Czech Republic and Poland), these plans have not been withdrawn due to 'possible future threats from Iran' despite a US National Intelligence report in December 2007 stating that Iran had abandoned its nuclear weapon's programme in 2003.
3. Czech campaigners have won significant victories with the government forced to withdraw treaties in support of the bases and the removal of razor wire surrounding the proposed base.
4. Existing USMD bases and those proposed for the Czech Republic and Poland are opposed by the majority of the civilian population of the host countries.
5. Concerns about possible health risks of the powerful Missile Defense radars (including Cape Cod and Fylingdales) have not been properly addressed, remaining a concern for local residents.

6. The importance of work on the status of associated USMD bases in the UK by individuals and groups who continually monitor the expansion, role and functions of these bases.

Conference Believes that:

1. Progress with international nuclear disarmament negotiations is repeatedly hampered by the plans to develop USMD bases in Europe.
2. The proposed integration of NATO missile defence systems with USMD does not contribute to true security.

Conference Resolves to:

1. Continue to prioritise 'No Missile Defence, No Star Wars' campaigning as a core strategy.
2. Support demonstrations at bases including Menwith Hill and Fylingdales.
3. Build links and facilitate a conference to discuss campaigning strategies with groups and individuals opposing USMD, especially with campaigns in Alaska, Cape Cod, Greenland, Czech Republic and Poland.
4. Oppose the weaponisation of space through supporting the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and Keep Space for Peace Week.

### **7. Anti NATO campaigning**

This conference notes the summit gathering in Strasbourg in April 2009, which marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NATO. Whilst the governments of the member states saw it as a cause for celebration, peace campaigners from across Europe saw it as a cause for protest. A European-wide coordinating committee worked together in the months preceding the Summit to organise a counter-conference, demonstration and non-violent direct action, in protest against NATO and its aggressive, militaristic, nuclear-armed policies. The events were well-supported and the demonstration was the largest anti-NATO protest in 30 years.

This conference condemns the lead role played by NATO in the illegitimate war in Afghanistan.

This conference also notes that the Summit agreed that NATO should next year adopt a new Strategic Concept – a process launched in Brussels in July 2009. This new strategic concept is likely to further extend NATO's remit – extended to out of area operations in 1999 at the time of the last new strategic concept. Recent attempts to portray NATO as a humanitarian organisation defending aid initiatives and human rights, are likely to be consolidated.

This conference believes that as a nuclear-armed organisation with a first-use policy and an aggressive out of area activities remit, NATO has no useful role to play in the advancement of peace, justice and human rights, and that it should be dissolved.

This conference welcomes:

- CND's continued non-violent work in opposition to NATO and its nuclear policies
- CND's continued participation in the International Coordinating Committee with other European peace organisations
- CND's cooperation with Scottish CND and the steering group initiated by Scottish Stop the War to organise relevant events at the time of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh in November 2009
- CND's continued close collaboration with the Stop the War Coalition and anti-war campaigners in the UK
- CND's participation in relevant events organised in opposition to the next NATO summit, likely to be held in Portugal in 2010

### **8. Nuclear Power: The Need for Further Action**

Conference Notes:

1. That the government and multinational companies have moved at alarming speed to commit the country to nuclear power.
2. That public distrust is widespread, weakly expressed but justified. The key issues are familiar: non-disposability of nuclear waste, dangers of privatisation/loss of public control,

risks of nuclear accidents and terrorism, lack of openness on health effects on workers and communities.

3. That because of technical and scientific aspects campaigners need accessible scientific briefings on issues of safety and green alternatives to nuclear.

4. That ultimately, however, the issue is political and ethical, with government preferring nuclear power and energy companies pursuing what they see as their self-interest. These are major reasons for the UK's very poor green energy track record. Technically well-informed campaigning therefore matters.

5. That there are many connections between CND's core commitment to abolish nuclear weapons and threatened current world-wide expansion of nuclear energy including trade in reactor technologies and fissile materials. *Should we achieve nuclear disarmament, the control of nuclear industries will remain an inescapable issue, because of the potential dual uses of materials, techniques, knowledge and skills and the harmful human effects of ionizing radiation, whatever its source.*

Conference Commends

The steps taken by CND nationally, regionally and in branches, raising the profile of nuclear power in campaigning and also, the actions of Greenpeace and others.

Conference therefore resolves to strengthen campaigning on nuclear power by:

1. Identifying an officer to have responsibility for co-ordinating national, group and regional action on this issue.
2. Commissioning a scientific review, written in terms comprehensible to a lay public, of current research on the health effects on all nuclear workers and communities around nuclear installations, including accidents and routine emissions.
3. Taking further initiatives with other NGOs to develop a common strategy on nuclear power. CND's specific brief should focus on links with nuclear weapons and the health and safety risks of nuclear installations.

## **9. Climate Change**

"CND notes with extreme concern the most recent scientific and Government predictions for Climate Change, including the inter-governmental target to curb emissions to ensure a rise of no more than 2 degrees Celsius in global temperature. Such a rise will nevertheless produce major economic and social issues concerning the rise in sea levels, severe water and food shortages affecting hundreds of millions of people.

CND believes climate change is likely to create further territorial tensions, economic crises, conflict and war. We recognise the close political links between rising environmental concerns, continued development of nuclear energy production programmes, and the continuation of production of new nuclear weapons. We consider the global campaign for safe non-nuclear carbon neutral energy production and reductions to CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions to be urgent and vital to the future of international social development for peace and social justice. In particular, the creation of Green Jobs for transfer of production to ensure significant and fast reductions of CO2 emissions and energy consumption must be a priority, with the trade union movement playing a key role.

CND therefore resolves to:

1. Include the call for significant and urgent reduction to carbon emissions by the UK as part of our campaigns programme;
2. Seek to support and develop closer co-operation with leading environmental campaign groups;
3. Develop close relations with the UK's *Campaign against Climate Change* ([www.campaigncc.org.uk](http://www.campaigncc.org.uk)), with particular regard to working with their trade union campaign arm to share campaigns across the trade union movement;
4. Formally and actively support the National Demonstration for action against Climate Change in London on 5th December, sending a CND delegation and the national banner.

## **10. The Dangers of nuclear new build**

Conference notes the report (12 June 2009) about the Sizewell nuclear power station where a disaster was only averted by the observation, not of any high tech computer programme, but by a worker in the laundry..

This raises yet again very serious questions for the Government and the

nuclear industry to answer..

1. The culture of secrecy

This is not the first time that news of a radioactive leak has been covered up. It took 2 years and a Freedom of Information request, for this potentially catastrophic incident to be made generally public.

2. Dangers of radioactive contamination for the environment and people's health, now and in the future

Almost 40,000 gallons of radioactive water were spilt in this one incident and some was discharged into the North Sea. The government continues to deny the dangers of radioactive contamination of the seas and river estuaries.

Despite the huge risks and costs associated with existing nuclear power plants, the government and the industry have proposed eleven sites for new nuclear power plants.

It is an issue of importance to CND as nuclear power is closely connected with nuclear weapons proliferation. The government is strenuously hiding the dangers of nuclear power.

CND in its campaigning against 'new nuclear build' resolves to

1. As far as is feasible, establish contact with, support and work with local campaigning groups around the eleven sites .

2. Encourage local initiatives from towns and cities to provide renewable energy and help to promote good practice, for example, that of Woking, a Beacon Town Council for Sustainable Energy

3. Call on the government and the industry to inform the public straightaway of nuclear accidents, so that people can reach balanced view about the risks from both existing and any 'new build' nuclear power plants. This should be standard practice in a democracy.

*Submitted by Greater Manchester CND*