

# Policy resolutions agreed at CND Conference 2010

## The changing context of our anti-Trident campaigning

**Conference notes** the changing political and economic context in which our campaign is operating. Over the past few years we have seen a systematic shift, in both public and political opinion from across the spectrum, away from support for Britain's possession of nuclear weapons. Chief amongst the popular concerns which have effected this shift, have been the cost, the likelihood that our continued possession of nuclear weapons will increase threats to our security by provoking proliferation, and the fact that nuclear weapons are widely recognised as militarily useless, doing nothing to address the real security challenges that we face.

**Conference considers** that in the light of this political shift, and in the context of the new coalition government, whilst our disarmament goals remain the same, some nuancing of our strategy is required. Since 2006 and the government White Paper on Trident Replacement, there have been three pillars to the anti-Trident/global ban work of our first strategic priority:

- No Trident Replacement
- Yes to a Nuclear Weapons Convention
- Scrap Trident

Since 2006 our chief campaigning focus has been on 'No Trident Replacement', twinned with 'Yes to a Nuclear Weapons Convention'. This had a number of positive features:

- Presenting a positive as well as a negative in our campaigning
- Breaking down the historic polarisation (useful primarily to the pro-nuclear lobby) of unilateralism and multilateralism by showing that both are necessary
- Linking in to the increasing global demand for a Nuclear Weapons Convention
- Offering the government a constructive way of dealing with the issue

**Conference considers** that with the onset of the economic crisis, the political debate has clearly moved forward in our direction, and the demand to Scrap Trident has gained increasing resonance. There are a number of examples of this:

- Retired senior military figures said Trident was militarily useless and should be scrapped
- Senior political figures from across the political spectrum questioned the wisdom of spending vast sums on nuclear weapons
- Opinion polls consistently showed a majority for scrapping Trident as well as not replacing it

**Conference concludes** that the impact of these developments requires a continued increased profile for the Scrap Trident demand, making it the chief campaigning focus within our ongoing campaigning demands, in conjunction with Cancel Trident Replacement and Yes to a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

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## **Missile 'Defence'**

### **Conference Notes that:**

1. US Missile 'Defence' is an integral part of US nuclear strategy enabling the launch of a first strike attack without fear of retaliation.
2. President Obama has not scrapped the system but has in fact strengthened it deploying SM-3 sea based interceptor missiles and plans to place SM-3 ground based missiles in Central and Southern Europe by 2015.
3. Romania has agreed to host ground based missiles.
4. Bulgaria is in discussion with the US administration to host components.
5. Poland has received a US Patriot Battery based in Morag, 50 miles from the Russian border and has agreed to host interceptor missiles.
6. The Czech Republic continues to hold talks with the US on their role in the system.
7. There continues to be concern regarding health risks of powerful Missile 'Defence' radars (including Fylingdales) as well as environmental contamination at associated bases.
8. Russia has stated that any build up of US Missile 'Defence' could jeopardize the START treaty.
9. At a November summit NATO will decide whether to join the US system providing cover to NATO member countries.
10. Any countries which house USMD components could be identified as a target by the US' enemies.

### **Conference Believes that:**

1. Any cuts in US nuclear weapons are interlinked to the development of the US Missile 'Defence' system ensuring the US maintains full spectrum military dominance.

### **Conference Resolves to:**

1. Continue to prioritise 'No Missile Defence, No Star Wars' campaigning as a core strategy.
  2. Highlight the links between reductions of nuclear weapon stockpiles with the development of US Missile 'Defence' system to maintain US full spectrum dominance.
  3. Support a weekend 'Whistle Stop Tour' of Yorkshire bases linked to USMD.
  4. Support demonstrations at bases including Menwith Hill and Fylingdales.
  5. Oppose the weaponisation of space through supporting the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and Keep Space for Peace Week
  6. Raise the profile of the consequences of US MD for Britain, i.e. USMD is designed only for the protection of the continental USA, and build the campaign inside & outside parliament to oppose any further US MD developments in Britain.
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# NATO

## Conference Notes with concern:

1. NATO's continued insistence on retaining nuclear weapons for "deterrence" purposes despite continued requests from Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Norway to remove US/NATO nuclear weapons;
2. NATO's plans to continue with the integration of "modernised" nuclear weapons such as the British Trident system in its nuclear forces, possibly even finding new host countries in which to station them;
3. Plans to integrate NATO and US missile "defence" in Europe;
4. The continuation of the war in Afghanistan that destabilises the region and threatens to spread the conflict to nuclear armed Pakistan;
5. The further global expansion of NATO to the east to include nine partnership alliances with former southern Soviet republics as well as Indonesia and Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand; with Japan integrated into a new collaboration;
6. The "new role" of NATO in, among other things, reacting to global warming and the "war against terror" which will continue to be used as an apparent legitimacy for world-wide intervention operations.

## Conference Supports:

1. The work of the International Coordinating Committee "No to War – No to NATO" and the plans to hold an international coordinating conference 2-3 October in Lisbon.

## Conference therefore resolves to:

1. Work with, support and promote the International Coordinating Committee plans for regional and local actions from 15-21 November 2010 focusing on the NATO Lisbon summit including a counter summit on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November and a large international peaceful demonstration on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> in Lisbon.

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## NATO: Afghanistan & Pakistan

### Conference notes that

1. The involvement of a nuclear armed NATO in a war on and across the borders of a nuclear armed Pakistan exposes the world to a greatly increased risk of nuclear conflict.
2. The numbers of both civilian and military deaths and injuries in Afghanistan and Pakistan have increased dramatically during 2010
3. This increase in casualties is a direct result of NATO's ongoing military involvement including the use of unmanned drones in Pakistan.

4. Saving face is not worth the further loss of the life of a single Afghan or of a single British soldier.

### **Conference reaffirms CND's opposition to NATO's war in Afghanistan and Pakistan and resolves to**

1. Demand, in 2010, the immediate withdrawal of all British troops from Afghanistan
  2. Demand that the United States and all other NATO countries withdraw their troops from Afghanistan.
  3. Calls on the British government to positively support moves towards a peace agreement negotiated by and between Afghans.
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### **CND and the UN**

1. Established at the end of WWII to ensure the end of all war, the UN is the fundamental organisation of world peace and stability, and its strengthening is crucial to achieving global nuclear disarmament and the prevention and cessation of wars in which nuclear weapons might be used.

The argument of those who claim nuclear 'deterrence' is essential is that the future of the world is 'uncertain'. On the contrary, the future certainty for a peaceful and stable world can only lie with the universalism of, and cooperation within, the UN as the means to end the power politics which underlies the drive to possess nuclear weapons.

The US led the war on Iraq in clear disregard of the UN, jeopardising the entire international order. It is very important that British politicians clearly understand the mistake.

2. Conference notes with concern that the Obama administration, whilst working more within the UN system than its predecessor, continues to seek ways to exert undue pressure on it, with British support, through for example, the organisation of the 'invitation only' Global Summit on Nuclear Security just prior to the NPT Conference in 2010.

### **Conference therefore:**

- (i) declares its support for the fundamental and central role of the UN in multilateral nuclear disarmament and in the peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue, negotiation and equal treatment;
  - (ii) recognises the importance of cooperation within the UN to achieve these goals;
  - (iii) calls on the British government to ensure that its foreign policy is wholly and fully compliant with UN guidelines in order to play a constructive role in nuclear disarmament negotiations and in the peaceful resolution of tensions and conflicts
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## **The Middle East**

### **Conference notes with concern:**

1. The continued refusal by the Israeli government to discuss their development and deployment of an estimated 200 nuclear weapons;
2. The ruthlessness with which the Israeli government is dealing with the Palestinians as exhibited by their attacks on Gaza and the way in which the military overran the recent aid flotilla;
3. The strong indications that the Israeli government is planning and mobilising for military action against Iran and the possible consequences of a nuclear confrontation;
4. The continued harassment and inhumane treatment of Mordechai Vanunu.

### **Conference supports:**

1. The call from the NPT Review Conference to work for a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East

### **Conference therefore resolves to:**

1. Produce materials, including a leaflet and petition, on Israel's nuclear weapons;
2. Support and promote the campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Free Middle East;
3. Support and promote campaigns to demilitarise the Middle East and a non-violent resolution of the Palestinian problem.

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## **Gaza**

Conference notes the continuing refusal by the Israeli Government to discuss or acknowledge its nuclear weapon programme or comply with UN resolutions.

This AGM notes that the UN Protection of Civilians report for 11-17 August 2010 states that the amount of aid, mainly foodstuffs, entering Gaza was still only 40% of the weekly average before Israel imposed its blockade.

This Conference resolves to:

1. Support any non-violent convoys to Gaza which aims to break the blockade and deliver humanitarian aid.
  2. Continue its support for the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and continue to support a peaceful and just resolution for Palestinians.
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## Depleted Uranium Weapons

### Conference notes:

The conclusion of successful treaty processes banning the use of anti-personnel land mines and cluster munitions;

The failure of existing arms control law to ban the use of uranium in non-nuclear weapons;

The European Parliament's May 2008 resolution calling for a moratorium on the manufacture, storage, testing, trade and use of depleted uranium munitions, leading to a global ban: a resolution echoed in 2009 by the Latin American Parliament;

The entry into force of Belgium's ban on depleted uranium weapons in June 2009 and a ban on investments in their manufacturers;

The bills banning the use of uranium in non-nuclear weapons currently under consideration in the Costa Rican, Irish and New Zealand legislatures;

The 2008 United Nations General Assembly resolution (which the UK government voted against) that called on the WHO, UNEP and IAEA to update their research into the potential impact of uranium weapons, with a particular focus on affected states;

The ongoing lack of transparency over the use of uranium weapons in Iraq by US forces and its implications for civilian health and risk reduction,

The technical, financial and political challenges faced by states recovering from conflict seeking to manage contamination from uranium weapons,

The lack of meaningful research into the impact of uranium weapons on civilian populations,

### Conference resolves:

That CND, as a member of the UK Uranium Weapons Network, urge the UK government to support a third UN resolution on uranium weapons at the First Committee in October 2010 with the aim of banning the use of depleted uranium (U-238) in warfare.

That CND, urge the UK government to persuade the US to release geographical and quantitative data on its use of depleted uranium munitions in Iraq in 1991 and 2003.

That CND, urge the UK government to introduce an immediate moratorium on its use of depleted uranium munitions in the Challenger 2 tank.

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## **Nuclear Trains**

Conference recognises that there was emphasis on the terrorist threat posed by nuclear trains being routed through the Olympic Site in publicity for the demonstration on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010 against nuclear trains at Stratford. When campaigning against nuclear trains, such an emphasis on terrorism diverts attention from the main issue. CND should “Help people connect the facts” (Bruce Kent’s speech, Tavistock Square, August 2009).

### **To this end, Conference to resolve that:**

All publicity about nuclear trains and the Olympics should

- (i) Detail, as appropriate, the dangers and costs of transporting nuclear waste.”
- (ii) Detail many ways in which a wide public can pressure their Government to stop these trains permanently.

Conference congratulates the Nuclear Trains Action Group on the efforts it has made in carrying out these tasks over many years through its materials and activities.”

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