

Policy Resolutions Agreed at CND Annual Conference 2011

Campaigning against Trident replacement

Conference notes:

The 'Initial Gate' report, marking the end of the first – or concept – phase of the Trident replacement process, was published in June 2011, having been significantly delayed from its expected announcement in September 2009. The report included updated cost estimates for the replacement of the submarines, revised up from £11–14 billion indicated in the White Paper of 2006, to £25 billion.

The report also authorised a new round of spending on more detailed design work, ahead of the 2016 Main Gate decision on whether or not to authorise construction:

- £900m has been spent on planning the replacement to date
- £3bn is due to be spent on detailed design before 2016

Whatever decision is reached in 2016, major elements of the first subs will already have been ordered.

Conference also notes:

A Review into alternatives to Trident replacement is to be carried out by the Cabinet Office, overseen by Nick Harvey MP (Minister for the Armed Forces). This is a welcome development but one which falls short of what is required – a consideration of all options including non-replacement and a non-nuclear defence strategy.

Conference believes:

- That a full review into Britain's security requirements, which includes a non-nuclear option, must be carried out before the Trident replacement Main Gate decision in 2016.
- That such a review must inform the thinking of all parties before the general election.
- That the increased levels of spending on Trident replacement must be widely publicised and used as a further focus for our anti-Trident work, including as part of the growing movement against spending cuts.
- That spending, either on design or initial purchases prior to the replacement decision must not be used as an excuse to press ahead with a new system.

Conference resolves to step up its campaigning in this area, bringing the costs and security arguments to the fore, to secure an increased majority in opposition to Trident and its replacement, and to ensure that Trident is scrapped and its replacement cancelled.

Trident and Political Parties

Conference notes that the three largest political parties in Britain retain their misguided support for nuclear weapons.

It notes, in particular, that:

1. The Conservative / Liberal Democrat coalition is spending scarce public monies on developing a replacement for the Trident nuclear weapons system.
2. Claims that a decision on Trident replacement has been postponed until after 2016 are clearly false, in light of the decision, announced on 18 May 2011, to spend up to £3 billion of public money on designing submarines for the Trident system.
3. The statement from Liam Fox, that “The Coalition Government is committed to maintaining” a misnamed “nuclear deterrent based on the Trident system”.
4. The current leadership of the Labour Party is typified by shameful support for the Government’s decision announced on 18 May 2011 and the statement from Jim Murphy, that nuclear weapons have been a “cornerstone of the UK’s” misnamed “peace and security policy for more than 50 years”.

Conference resolves to continue the campaign for the scrapping of all UK nuclear weapons and, in particular to:

1. Produce a short illustrated pamphlet and web materials which demolish unfounded statements of support for a so-called 'nuclear deterrent'.
2. Highlight views expressed by Nick Clegg, prior and subsequent to the 2010 General Election, including his recognition that the Trident system is “too expensive and no longer meets the United Kingdom’s defence needs”.
3. Write an open letter to the leadership of the Labour Party demanding that CND be included amongst those community groups to be invited to address future Labour Party conferences.

4. Campaign amongst members of trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party urging them to demand that the Labour Party commit to a policy of scrapping all the UK's nuclear weapons.
 5. Encourage all branches, affiliated groups, members and supporters to:
 - a) Ensure that all their local MPs state, publicly, their view on the decision announced on 18 May 2011 to spend up to £3billion on designing submarines for the Trident nuclear weapons system.
 - b) Use local media and other local actions to respond appropriately to MPs' declarations of support for or opposition to the decision announced on 18 May 2011 and to any attempts by MPs to avoid making relevant and definitive public statements.
 - c) Encourage all CND members, who are also Labour Party members, to support the work of Labour CND at national and local level.
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Trident & Scottish Parliament

The recent Scottish Parliament elections have changed the political situation and created new opportunities for developing the peace movement in Scotland. For the first time there is a Scottish government and a clear majority of MSPs who are not only opposed to the replacement of Trident but opposed to the existing Trident system itself. The challenge now is to use that new situation to maximum effect. Scottish CND is engaging with the new government and calls on Conference to support it to achieve the following objectives:

1. To put a new resolution before the Scottish Parliament calling upon the UK government to remove Trident and all nuclear weapons and calling for the UK government to actively support the opening of negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention as called for by the majority of nations.
2. To ask the Scottish Government to commission a group to develop a comprehensive strategy to prepare for the removal of Trident from HM Naval Base Clyde with a defence diversification programme to minimise the economic impact on the workforce and surrounding area.
3. To ask the Scottish Government to mount a robust legal challenge to the basing of nuclear weapons in Scotland upholding the principles of International Humanitarian Law, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- (NPT) and the UK commitments made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
4. The Scottish government should seek to strengthen the regulatory framework around nuclear sites in Scotland and ensure that risk assessments adequately encompass, among other things, the substandard reactor designs aboard existing nuclear submarines in the light of recent events at Fukushima.
 5. The Scottish Government should seek to promote Scotland as an international advocate for nuclear disarmament and develop contacts and initiatives, among other things, in support of the Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (ICAN), Mayors for Peace and Global Zero.
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Anglo-French Agreement on Nuclear Weapons

This conference deplores the Anglo-French agreement on nuclear weapons research which commits Britain to a nuclear weapons programme for the next 50 years.

Instead we call on the government to take positive steps towards nuclear disarmament as provided for in Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The UK government, along with the governments of the other nuclear powers, has been dragging its feet for far too long on this issue, ignoring the wishes of the majority of the public for a future without nuclear weapons.

CND reaffirms its resolve to succeed on this vital issue.

Nuclear Power and Radioactive Waste

Conference notes:

- The overall consequences of the nuclear disaster at Fukushima are still unclear but, like Chernobyl, catastrophic meltdown has caused widespread radioactive contamination with long term environmental, economic and human impacts, while TEPCO struggles to bring the situation under control.
- Public opinion against nuclear energy grows; governments in Japan, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Thailand, and Malaysia are cancelling

- planned nuclear power stations; energy needs can be met by investing in safe, clean, renewable sources, conservation and demand reduction.
- The integrity of nuclear power plants is not only vulnerable to extreme natural events but to malicious attack, human error, manufacturing defects and the impacts of climate change on nuclear sites.
 - Links between nuclear power and weapons; the industry's poor record on safety and cost over-runs; ever increasing problems of safe radioactive waste disposal, including the construction of a disposal facility in Cumbria despite conclusive evidence it is geologically unsafe.

Conference deplores:

- The lack of transparency and disinformation promulgated by government in collusion with the international nuclear industry and media about the nature and consequences of the Fukushima disaster so as not to derail plans for new nuclear build.
- Government's decision to press ahead with plans for new nuclear power stations at 8 sites by 2025 before Fukushima is stabilised and final reports published.
- Changes to planning procedures to expedite nuclear construction and provide hidden subsidies to the nuclear industry while reducing incentives for renewable sources of energy.

Conference welcomes increased attention given by CND to opposing new nuclear build and **resolves to:**

- Support actions to oppose new nuclear build, unsafe transport and dumping of nuclear waste.
 - Prioritise efforts to counter industry propaganda; challenge misleading economic and environmental assumptions; highlight risks inherent in the nuclear industry, especially the disposal of radioactive waste; expose the close association between nuclear power and nuclear weapons through leaflets, pamphlets and the media.
 - Demand planning decisions are transparent, independent, include expert evidence, and not arbitrarily imposed on communities.
 - Exert pressure through parliamentary lobbying to advance alternative strategies to combat climate change.
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NATO & Libya

Conference condemns NATO's military intervention in Libya which has prolonged the civil war, causing needless deaths and destruction. CND calls on the government to cease all military activity in Libya and urges all other NATO countries to do likewise.

Conference notes that:

- Using UNSC resolution 1973 as a cover, the NATO coalition abused the UN's mandate in order to pursue an illegal objective of regime change;
- Germany, a NATO member, joined Russia, China, Brazil and India in refusing to endorse the resolution;
- The NATO coalition ignored these nations' protests and blocked efforts, including that of South Africa, one of the UNSC powers that voted for the resolution, to end the violence.

Conference is concerned that mediation through the UN to reach a peaceful settlement and avoid further deaths was not given serious consideration. This failure was damaging to the UN, *potentially disrupting the prospects of a cooperative international environment favourable to negotiations on nuclear disarmament.*

Conference considers that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and the rights of people to determine their own internal affairs are fundamental principles for a peaceful world. *UN peacekeepers also have a valuable role to play in averting violence and humanitarian disasters using peaceful and even-handed means.*

It is essential that negotiations be resumed to end the conflict and prevent further military escalation in the region. *To achieve sustainable peace, negotiations must be inclusive and consensual.*

Conference congratulates those MPs who opposed the government's decision to attack Libya and endorses the efforts of CND working with the wider anti-war campaigns and the Stop the War Coalition to resist NATO's military action.

Missile Offence and the Militarisation of Space

Conference notes that:

1. The US insistence on installing and selling offensive missile systems around the world under the guise of being defensive is threatening current and future nuclear disarmament agreements;
2. At its best such missile 'offence' is designed to develop an asymmetric advantage and is therefore dangerous, destabilising and fuelling a nuclear arms proliferation vertically and horizontally;
3. In extending its missile offence system's components and bases in Europe and the Pacific it is encircling Russia and China;
4. By shooting down one of its own satellites, the US has clearly demonstrated that its missile offence system can be used as an anti-satellite weapon;
5. Missile offence is just one part of a space militarization and weaponisation programme being constructed for full spectrum dominance of the US encompassing military supremacy, surveillance, communication intelligence, cyberwarfare and the use of killer drones;
6. The UK government continues to encourage US bases such as Fylingdales and Menwith Hill to be used for these purposes.

Conference therefore resolves to:

1. Continue to prioritise 'No Missile Offence, No Star Wars' campaigning as a core strategy;
 2. Campaign against missile defence and the militarisation and weaponisation of space at associated bases in the UK;
 3. Support ongoing campaigning at associated bases in the UK, particularly the Women's Peace camp at Menwith Hill on Monday 12th December;
 4. Support continuing research and investigation into the role and impact of US bases in the UK;
 5. Support the work of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and Keep Space for Peace Week;
 6. Support people such as those on Jeju island struggling to prevent the consequences of missile offence destroying their lives;
 7. Support the work of UK and International Anti-drones Networks.
 8. Produce more information materials on these and related matters.
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Missile 'defence' in North East Asia

Conference notes with concern:

The build-up of offensive missile 'defence' systems in North East Asia with:

- US sales of PAC-3 interceptors to Taiwan in 2010;
- The 2011 US-South Korea missile 'defence' agreement to allow South Korea to join Japan in the US-led global missile 'defence' plan;
- The recent commitment by both Taiwan and South Korea to have their own missile 'defence' systems in place by 2015;
- The South Korean government's ongoing construction of a naval base on Jeju island intended as a base for US Navy Aegis destroyers carrying missile 'defence' systems.

Conference further notes that:

- The Jeju islanders' campaign of civil disobedience to prevent the destruction of their island's idyllic coral habitat has been met by the South Korean authorities with violence, arrests and imprisonment;
- These missile 'defence' developments create complications for the 6 party talks on Korean denuclearisation, exacerbate tensions between North and South Korea, and run the risk of triggering a regional nuclear arms race;
- The Jeju islanders' campaign is helping to raise missile 'defence' as a key issue in the 2012 election, the outcome of which will have significance for the resumption of the 6 party talks;
- Since Jeju island directly faces China across the Yellow Sea, the naval base is of concern for China as well as North Korea;
- There is no negotiation mechanism whereby China may raise its missile 'defence' concerns with the US.

Conference resolves to:

- Convey its solidarity to the Ganjeong villagers on Jeju island in their stand against militarism and imperialism, and for the preservation of their natural environment;
- Support calls for a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in North East Asia;
- Urge the British government to bring its influence to bear on (i) the resumption of the 6 party talks without preconditions; and (ii) the opening of serious negotiations to address all states' concerns with the continuing development of a global missile 'defence' system;

- Promote greater awareness among CND members and the wider public of the dangerous consequences of the incorporation of North East Asia into a global missile 'defence' system.
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India, Pakistan, and the CTBT

Conference notes:

1. The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan recently met (June 24th 2011) to ease fears over their nuclear arsenals.
2. India's foreign secretary Nirupama Rao stated "The ideology of military conflict should have no place in the 21st century".
3. However, despite the recent meeting between India and Pakistan, India is building its conventional capabilities while Pakistan is building its battlefield capabilities.

Conference therefore resolves:

1. To work with international peace groups and peace movements in India and Pakistan to demand that both India and Pakistan must pull back from building their nuclear arsenals.
 2. To work with the relevant organisations to encourage India and Pakistan to cease and desist from conducting any further nuclear tests, (most recent by India in 1998), and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
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Peace in the Middle East

It is the view of this Conference that the possession by Israel of nuclear weapons is undesirable for the peace and safety of the Middle East both because of the danger that they may get used and because of the encouragement they give to other countries in the region to develop their own nuclear arsenals, thus increasing the dangers of a nuclear conflict in the region. We therefore call on Israel to scrap its nuclear weapons, either unilaterally or as part of an agreement with all other countries in the region to make the area a nuclear weapon-free zone.

For similar reasons we call on the other countries of the Middle East not to develop nuclear arsenals of their own, and work with all countries in the region to make the area a nuclear weapon-free zone.

As a first step towards peace in the Middle East, recognition of Palestine as an independent state is an obvious necessity and we applaud the success of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign in promoting this issue. CND resolves to work with Palestinian and Israeli peace groups to achieve a nuclear-free Middle East.

The Criminality of Nuclear Weapons

Noting the CND Strategic Objectives (2010):

Conference therefore resolves to work with, support and promote immediate negotiations leading swiftly to the rapid, timetabled abolition of nuclear forces worldwide and the conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention;

and that the UN General Assembly will vote on a resolution at the end of October 2011 for the beginning of negotiations towards a Nuclear Weapon Convention in 2012;

and that the UK government should be given every encouragement to vote for this resolution, or at least abstain;

Conference supports:

The Institute for Law and Peace (INLAP)/World Court Project campaign, *The Criminality of Nuclear Weapons (CON)*, which collects signatures from citizens and citizen groups worldwide affirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a war crime.

Conference therefore resolves to:

Work with, support and promote the *Criminality of Nuclear Weapons* Campaign.