

Policy resolutions agreed at CND Conference 2012

Scrap Trident and its replacement

i) Conference notes that despite the fact that the decision on whether or not to replace Trident will not be made until 2016, after the next General Election, the MoD is already spending billions of pounds on a successor system, including at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield and at Rolls-Royce at Derby.

ii) Conference condemns the obscene amount of money already being spent on retaining weapons of mass murder and notes that the majority of the population - 63% - would scrap Trident to reduce the deficit. (Mail on Sunday poll, June 2010).

iii) Conference believes that the Government is making a complete mockery of the democratic process by pre-empting the decision on what to do about Trident, even prior to the findings of its own Trident Alternatives Review. It is attempting to force the hands of future governments and locking Britain into a costly and dangerous nuclear weapons system for years to come.

iv) Conference also condemns the culture of secrecy that has allowed crucial military spending decisions to be pushed through without proper parliamentary scrutiny and reiterates that spending on nuclear weapons is morally indefensible, contravenes the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and is economically disastrous. Conference also notes that Trident will be an issue in the forthcoming referendum on Scottish independence in 2014.

v) Conference believes that CND needs to continue to raise the profile of these issues in the context of the economic crisis and public spending cuts, and to also emphasise wider global concerns about the humanitarian implications of nuclear weapons such as those expressed at the NPT PrepCom Review in Vienna in May 2012, that "any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be inconsistent with fundamental rules of international humanitarian law".

vi) Conference therefore calls on CND to:

- (a) Continue its campaign to Scrap Trident and cancel its replacement;
 - (b) Mobilise extensively for a Cut Trident contingent on TUC march on 20th October;
 - (c) Organise an event at Aldermaston at Easter 2013 to highlight these issues.
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Nuclear Weapons and Britain's Political Parties

i) CND notes:

- a. the former (Labour) Government Chief Whip, Nick Brown stated in a House of Commons debate earlier this year that "the arguments, which were never that strong, are now moving away from Trident renewal";
- b. Jon Cruddas voted against Trident Replacement in 2007, and has re-stated his opposition to Trident Replacement since.

ii) CND further notes:

- a. in March 2012 the leading Conservative-orientated website ConservativeHome hosted an article in favour of retaining Britain's technical nuclear capability whilst stating Trident is a waste of money;
- b. many Liberal Democrat MPs have been vocal in parliament opposing the purchase of supposed 'long-lead' items before a parliamentary vote on whether to proceed with the Main Gate construction phase of Trident Replacement.

iii) CND believes:

- a. support for Trident Replacement in Westminster is weakening and this creates vital space for CND to advance its campaigning against nuclear weapons;
- b. this is a key time to build opposition to Trident and Trident Replacement in all Britain's major political parties both inside and outside parliament.

iv) CND further believes:

- a. genuine support from leading politicians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention would be a key step in progressing all our campaigning objectives.

v) CND resolves:

- a. to encourage individual members and local groups to continue to pressure MPs and parliamentary candidates of all parties to oppose Trident and support a Nuclear Weapons Convention;
- b. to recognise the vital role of Labour CND in pursuing our key campaigning objectives within the Labour Party;
- c. Work with Scottish CND and the SNP to ensure that Trident is declared redundant in Scotland;
- d. to further develop our work lobbying politicians and party activists on the urgent need for the abolition of nuclear weapons;
- e. to ensure Trident is a leading issue at the next General Election;
- f. to seek a clear public support from the leaders of all the main political parties for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

For a nuclear weapons free Middle East

i) CND Annual Conference believes that a nuclear weapons free Middle East (NWFME) is central to the fight for a just, peaceful and stable region and a crucial component in the struggle for a nuclear weapons free world. We congratulate CND for holding an international conference on this important theme, and welcome National Council's decision to push for the British government to take more effective measures in UN and Non-Proliferation Treaty forums to promote a NWFME.

ii) Conference recognises that:

- a. the first steps towards establishing such a zone began in 1974 with a joint declaration by Egypt and Iran;
- b. this led to UN General Assembly and NPT Revision Conference resolutions, resulting in the Helsinki NWFME conference called for December 2012.

iii) Conference is aware that:

- a. foreign military intervention in Iraq and Libya has resulted in social and political upheaval and protracted conflict;
- b. there is no settlement in sight to the conflict between Israel and Palestine;
- c. the threat of military intervention in Syria and Iran by Nato members and their regional supporters is on-going.

iv) Conference:

- a. believes that foreign military intervention is likely to lead to greater suffering by the peoples of the Middle East, and;
- b. reiterates CND's support for the right of the Middle East peoples to determine their own affairs free from outside interference and for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their countries to be respected.

v) Conference asserts that a NWFME is increasingly important in the struggle to achieve a peaceful settlement of disputes in the region, and that CND can contribute by working alongside others to bring the pressure of public opinion to bear on the British government to actively support the establishment of a NWF zone.

vi) We therefore:

- a. welcome the decision of International Advisory Group to make NWFME a key priority for its future work, and;

b. call on IAG, Officers and National Council to give serious consideration to further initiatives which CND might take to promote the goal of a NWFME.

Israel/Palestine

i) Conference notes that:

- a. Israel has large numbers of both nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction;
- b. Israel's consequent feeling of invulnerability has led to hostile actions against several other countries, including the theft of UK passports and probable responsibility for murders of Palestinian diplomats and Iranian scientists;
- c. In a recent statement the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defence Force, said he was making all necessary preparations for "credible" Israeli military action against Iran even though he thought they would not make a nuclear weapon;
- d. The Israeli government encourages Zionist supporters to flood radio and TV channels that cover news from Palestine with complaints. Hence, news media are reluctant to cover important subjects such as Israel's so-called 'administrative detention' of Palestinian children, women and men without charge and the majority of people in the UK are left in ignorance about the extent of Israeli oppression of Palestinian people;
- e. Viruses such as Stuxnet and Flame which have caused damage to computer systems throughout the Middle East are most likely to be of Israeli or Israeli-American origin;
- f. Israel encourages Zionist supporters to attack pro-Palestinian websites, discussion forums and email addresses;
- g. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly threatened that Israel will not allow Iran to develop weapons that pose a threat to the Israeli State, raising fears of a pre-emptive military strike.

ii) Conference therefore resolves that CND should:

- a. Campaign vigorously on the threat to peace posed by Israel's continued ruthless oppression of Palestinian people;
- b. Emphasise the facts that Israel has not signed the NPT, has a huge array of nuclear weapons and has indicated a willingness to use its missile systems to deliver them far beyond its borders and;
- c. Urge individual members, local CND and affiliated groups to:
 - (1) Campaign against war in Palestine, Israel and the Middle East;
 - (2) Draw attention to the threat to people in the area posed by Israel's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons;
 - (3) Campaign for a Middle East which is free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; and

(4) Support campaigns for a solution to the Israel/Palestine conflict which provides peace and justice for the Palestinians.

Iran

i) Conference notes with concern that plans are being considered for a pre-emptive military attack against Iran. The pretext for military action is that Iran is thought to be developing a nuclear weapons capacity. This rhetoric is the same as that used to justify the illegal war against Iraq. The consequences of an attack against Iran would be catastrophic. There would be thousands of civilian deaths. The whole region would be de-stabilised with the possibility of any conflict escalating to nuclear warfare.

ii) To date, Iran has complied with the international regulations required by the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

iii) A war against Iran would destroy the NPT and violate the principles of the United Nations Charter.

iv) Conference calls for all plans for war against Iran to be scrapped and sanctions imposed by the EU and US - which are already damaging Iran's economy - to be lifted. Dialogue and diplomacy are the ways to resolve any issues of concern.

v) Conference calls for the establishment of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Middle East and calls on all states that have nuclear weapons to fulfil the requirements of the NPT to proceed "in good faith" to nuclear disarmament.

Missile Offence and the Militarisation of Space

i) Conference Notes that:

a. the main function of US Missile "Defence" is to provide an asymmetric advantage to the US;

b. the US and NATO plans to install missile "defence" systems in Europe and bases in states neighbouring Russia are increasing tension, creating a new arms race and endangering existing treaties such as "New START";

c. the stationing of US Aegis destroyers armed with Standard Missile 3 interceptors as part of President Obama's "Pacific pivot" is helping encircle and threaten China;

d. The US is applying pressure to South Korea to construct a naval base at Gangjeong village on Jeju Island which is destroying World Heritage sites and the lives of the residents in order to berth missile "defence" ships close to China.

ii) Conference recognises that:

a. missile offence is part of US global military hegemony, with components connected through computer and satellite "network centric warfare" systems;

b. system nodes appear around the world as US bases, some of which are responsible for communications and/or intelligence gathering to identify and track targets;

c. one such base and its connections with US war fighting and missile "defence" is described in the Yorkshire CND report "Lifting the Lid on Menwith Hill";

d. Menwith Hill is one of the sources of information for targeting military operations such as drone attacks;

e. drones carrying fast interceptors are a possible alternative missile defence system; nuclear-powered drones, capable of staying aloft for many months without refuelling, have also been suggested and could be deployed when and where ICBMs are being readied for launch.

iii) Conference therefore resolves to:

a. continue to prioritise 'No Missile Offence, No Star Wars' campaigning as a core strategy;

b. campaign against missile defence and the militarization and weaponisation of space at associated bases in the UK;

c. monitor the development of drone technology, especially possible future roles as nuclear bombers or in missile 'defence';

d. support the work of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and Keep Space for Peace Week.

NATO Expansion

i) CND Conference notes with concern President Obama's announcement of the shift in the strategic focus of US foreign policy to 'pivot' towards Asia, which may well involve the other NATO members in increasing responsibility for NATO operations covering Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

ii) At the same time, CND Conference considers the development of missile 'defence' as an integral part of NATO expansion, and is concerned that other NATO members, especially the UK, will also be increasingly

involved in military cooperation, for example in space 'security', with US allies and NATO partners in Asia.

iii) Bearing in mind:

- a. that there was no change in NATO's position on nuclear weapons in the statement following the Chicago Summit in May, i.e. NATO still keeps a policy of nuclear arms and of using nuclear weapons first;
- b. that there was no mention of closing the NATO nuclear armed bases at the five sites across Europe from Belgium to Incirlik in Turkey;
- c. that there was no acknowledgement of NATO pursuing nuclear weapons disarmament 'in good faith' as was agreed by the signatories of the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty;
- d. that the UK part of the Trident nuclear armed submarine fleet is 'integrated' into NATO;
- e. that NATO continues to expand further and nearer to Asia (e.g. through the Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme Arrangement signed in June this year with New Zealand and putting pressure on its nuclear free policy);
- f. that this expansion far from enhancing prospects for peace is negatively affecting global stability.

iv) Conference resolves that CND will:

- a. send a statement to be sent to the Foreign Secretary of the Coalition Government condemning NATO's position on nuclear weapons and listing the dangers of expansion;
- b. prepare a new NATO Briefing paper with all the latest developments included;
- c. draft an EDM asking the government to start working for closing down the NATO nuclear bases in Europe and to outline the dangers of further NATO expansion.

Teutates Agreement Treaty

i) This Conference notes that Britain and France have signed the Teutates Agreement, relating to Joint Radiographic/Hydrodynamics Facilities. They signed it so that they can continue developing nuclear weapons despite the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The enormous cost of hydrodynamic testing means that the two countries have to share research facilities. The Teutates Technology Development Centre is planned for Aldermaston, UK, and Valduc, France. Hydrodynamic testing recreates the extreme conditions found inside a nuclear explosion.

ii) This conference is concerned about the Teutates Agreement Treaty because:

- a. The Treaty will commit the two countries to 50 years of nuclear weapon research;
- b. Britain will not be able to rid itself of nuclear weapons while this Treaty is in force;
- c. Britain and France cannot claim that they are moving toward the cessation of nuclear arms at an early date as they agreed in article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- d. The Treaty breaks the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- e. Britain and France invite international criticism;
- f. The general public are not aware of the Teutates Agreement.

iii) This conference calls on CND to:

- a. Increase public awareness of the Teutates Agreement Treaty and its consequences;
- b. Form links with French organisations campaigning against nuclear weapons so we can demonstrate against the Treaty together.

Drones

i) Conference notes:

- a. the escalating use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's), otherwise known as drones, for military surveillance and targeted killings since 2004 by the USA, UK NATO, and the CIA in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and Somalia;
- b. the current promotion of drones warfare not only by the Obama administration but also by the British government, MoD, RAF and Royal Artillery including the ordering and testing of the *Watchkeeper* drone and the moving of the command base for Britain's killer (*Reaper*) drones from the Nevada Desert to RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire;
- c. the role of the Israeli Company *Elbit Systems* in the transfer of drones technology to Britain, following from their use by the Israeli Defence Force in Gaza and elsewhere;
- d. the different ways that drones threaten to outrun existing economic, political, legal and especially moral and humanitarian constraints on the conduct of war, so increasing the likelihood of military interventions by NATO and other aggressors, globally;
- e. the threat posed by drone technology to civilian lives, to civil liberties and to the power of peoples in relation to governments;
- f. the potential linkages between drones, nuclear powered engines and nuclear weapons, already under discussion within the US military. Drones are also closely linked to the militarisation of space and of communications.

ii) Conference resolves to:

- a. put pressure on governments and companies to end the secrecy and lies (e.g. 'drones save lives') around military drones technology, its increasing use and its human consequences;
 - b. educate the public about the realities of 'drone wars' by producing further material on this topic nationally and locally, stressing the links with CND's strategic objectives and, more generally, our pursuit of peace;
 - c. encourage local groups and regions to affiliate with the Drone Campaign Network and participate in its actions.
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Defence Spending

i) Conference notes:

- a. The interconnectedness of nuclear and so-called 'conventional' military research spending and production;
- b. The intention of the UK Government to spend at least 2% of the country's Gross Domestic Product on so-called 'defence' each year for the lifetime of the current Parliament;
- c. The fact that spending on the current Trident nuclear weapons system and research on its replacement with another nuclear weapons system form a significant part of the £33,751,000,000 to be spent on so-called 'defence' in 2011/12, the £34,361,000,000 to be spent in 2012/13, the £34,107,000,000 to be spent in 2013/14 and the £33,454,000,000 to be spent in 2014/15;
- d. The fact that Government spending on so-called 'defence' has been protected relative to, and at the cost of, spending on essential public services such as adult social care.

ii) Conference resolves that CND will:

- a. Continue to campaign for the immediate decommissioning of all UK nuclear weapons;
 - b. Campaign for the conversion of jobs in both the nuclear and so-called 'conventional' defence sectors to jobs in peaceful and productive sectors of the economy, such as green technology and renewable energy;
 - c.. Campaign for the transfer of at least 50% of current Government spending on so-called 'defence' to fund proportionate increases in spending on health, education and social care.
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White poppies

i) In view of annually increasing use (or rather misuse) of Remembrance Day and the month or more preceding it to try to promote public support for military adventures in Afghanistan and elsewhere, Conference commits itself to encouraging its members, and other bodies throughout the land working for peace, to embark on a much greater display of white poppies than hitherto.

ii) This can include:

- a. wearing white poppies during October so that you get asked what they are for (either on their own or in combination with red ones);
 - b. persuading people who appear on TV during this period to wear white poppies - as happened though on a very small scale last year;
 - c. emphasising that acquiring and/or wearing poppies of either or both colours is a matter of personal choice, as opposed to the implicit regimentation that can occur with football teams for example;
 - d. inclusion of white poppies in any celebration of UN Peace Day.
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Radioactive Waste

i) Conference notes that:

- a. more than half a century after the first commercial nuclear power plants became operational there is still no solution to the problem of final disposal of high-level radio-active waste;
- b. while waste management programmes in all countries state this generation must itself resolve the problem, these same programmes continually postpone a decision on final disposal and/or reprocessing into the future;
- c. technical problems of designing suitable containment systems are complicated by socio-political difficulties identifying appropriate, secure sites;
- d. Government insistence on pursuing nuclear new-build as a component of its energy policy compounds the problem of disposal of legacy waste;
- e. liability for failure to provide safe disposal of radioactive waste and consequent environmental damage will fall on subsequent generations not existing producers and represents another subsidy to the nuclear industry.

ii) Conference is concerned that:

- a. proposals for long-term management of radio-active waste pay insufficient attention to scientific uncertainties, technical feasibility and political, economic and sociological factors;
- b. financial inducements rather than scientific suitability is being used to identify repository sites, raising safety and ethical concerns about dumping foreign waste on the poorest peoples;

- c. in the UK unsuitable, ad hoc proposals for the disposal of low-level and intermediate level waste from both civil and military nuclear enterprises are being forced on local communities through manipulations of the planning process;
- d. consultations planned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the Office for Nuclear Development will be restricted in scope and heavily dominated by vested interests as in the past.

ii) Conference resolves to:

- a. oppose nuclear new-build, unsafe transport and dumping of nuclear waste;
 - b. call on the government to cancel all plans for a programme of new nuclear power stations in the UK;
 - c. highlight unresolved scientific, technical and economic issues and urge adequate investment in seeking solutions to the problems of radio-active waste management;
 - d. demand public consultations be open, transparent, independent, and include the full range of scientific, economic and political opinion;
 - e. press government, the nuclear industry and the public to accept responsibility now for potential costs to future generations and to safeguard the environment.
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Fukushima

i) Conference notes that there is growing concern worldwide about the state of the Fukushima-Daiichi power plant more than a year after the earthquake and tsunami of March 2011:

- a. "The reactors are clearly not in a stable condition and the nuclear crisis is not under control." (Dr. Ian Fairlie for Scientists for Global Responsibility);
- b. "Fukushima is the biggest industrial catastrophe in the history of mankind. ... The largest concern is with the fourth unit: its highly radioactive spent fuel pool is exposed and suspended above the reactor. Further damage to the site could cause the contents of the pool to spill out on the ground." (Arnie Gunderson, an energy advisor with 39 years of nuclear power engineering experience and chief engineer of consultants Fairewinds Associates);
- c. "Recent revised estimates by the Japanese government found that the probability of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Fukushima within the next three years is 90%. But Unit 4 reactor, substantially damaged by the tsunami and subsequent explosion, will not survive a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. This would certainly cause a global catastrophe like we have never before

experienced". (Mitsuhei Murata, Japan's former Ambassador to Switzerland);

d. "Concern is appropriate. The radiological risk at Unit 4 will remain high until all spent fuel in that pool has been removed and transferred to dry storage." (Gordon Thompson, executive director of the Institute for Resource and Security Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts).

ii) Therefore this conference calls on the UK government to:

a. do all in its power to discover the full extent of the ongoing nuclear disaster at Fukushima, to determine the threat which this disaster poses for Japan and the world, and to fully inform the citizens of the UK on its findings;

b. simultaneously urge the United Nations to make representations to the Japanese government, to offer all the assistance it needs to mitigate the danger to the people of Japan and the world.

Emergency Resolutions

Syria

i) Conference notes:

a. that Hillary Clinton announced on 28 September that an additional \$15 million would go to support opponents of the Syrian government who are working to establish an alternative government in areas of that country;

b. that on 3 October Nato held an emergency meeting at Turkey's request under Article 4 of the NATO charter which provides for consultations when one member feels its territorial integrity, political independence or security is under threat.

ii) Conference:

a. deplores that the Syrian conflict has resulted in a civil war causing much destruction and loss of life;

b. is fearful that the escalation of the conflict may spill over into regional war;

c. is alarmed by the mounting calls for so-called safe zones, in effect 'no fly zones';

d. is deeply concerned over the evident inability of interventionist powers to learn the lessons of their failures in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya to impose solutions from the outside.

iii) Conference believes:

a. the major world states have a responsibility to play a constructive role in conflict resolution and supporting peaceful dialogue;

- b. one-sided efforts in fact tend to derail peace processes;
 - c. that the UN mediator Kofi Annan might well have succeeded in brokering a cease fire if his efforts had not been sabotaged by US policy;
 - d. encouraging the rebels to demand regime change as a condition for negotiating a cease fire has prevented an end to the conflict;
 - e. continual pressure on the UN to revise its founding principles of non-interventionism and the peaceful resolution of conflict undermines cooperation between the Permanent 5 Nuclear Weapons States to the likely detriment of nuclear arms control negotiations;
 - f. the UK should now adopt a policy encouraging both sides to negotiate a ceasefire and tell the US to “stop warmongering”.
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Malvinas / Falkland Islands

i) Conference expresses concern at the decision to dispatch HMS Edinburgh, a Type 42 destroyer to the South Atlantic on 24 September 2012 to patrol the waters 'in support of British interests', notwithstanding the peaceful state of the region.

ii) Conference notes that the dispute between Argentina and Britain over the sovereignty of the Malvinas / Falkland Islands remains unresolved, despite calls by the UN Decolonisation Committee and UN General Assembly 'to proceed without delay with the negotiations' with a view to finding a peaceful solution under the terms of the UN Charter.

iii) We are aware of:

- a) the UK government's assertions that it is protecting Islanders way of life and their right to remain British citizens;
- b) reports that a Trafalgar class nuclear submarine has already been sent there, armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles and capable of attacking vessels within a 50 mile radius; and
- c) the presence of significant oil and gas reserves in the vicinity of the Malvinas, and the possibility of economically exploitable rare earth mineral deposits.

iv) We are also aware of:

- a) assurances by President Cristina Fernández that Argentina respects Islanders' interests and way of life and will offer safeguards to this effect;
- b) a recent census by the Island's government which showed that only 29% regard themselves as British, compared to the majority who consider themselves 'Islanders'.

v) Conference:

- a) regrets UK intransigence in refusing to enter discussions; and
- b) is alarmed at recent decisions to step up Britain's military presence around the Malvinas.

vi) We therefore:

- a) urge CND International Advisory Group and National Council to keep watchful eye on the situation;
- b) call on CND officers take appropriate steps to draw public attention to the threat posed by this escalation; and
- c) encourage National Council and officers to take action should it become necessary.