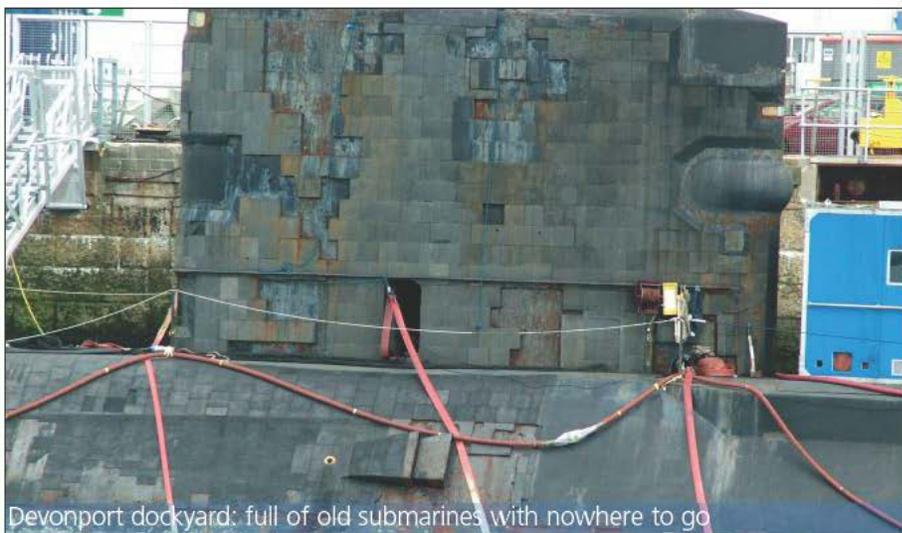


campaign

A ticking time bomb

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** explains why last month's statement by a parliamentary committee is another warning about how Trident replacement is in freefall.



THE Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has revealed the latest catalogue of Ministry of Defence incompetence and negligence. It has warned that the infrastructure supporting the Royal Navy's nuclear submarine fleet is no longer 'fit for purpose' and that MoD decisions to delay maintenance at its 13 nuclear sites had created a 'ticking time bomb'.

Questioning the ability of the MoD to meet its national security commitments, the Committee highlighted a potential £20 billion shortfall in the MoD's overall equipment programme. It also raised problems with the delivery of the new

aircraft carriers.

Earlier this year the Committee warned about a £2.9 billion 'affordability gap' for the 'Nuclear Enterprise' which includes the Trident replacement submarines – Dreadnought. Now it has highlighted that when the subs are built there will be nowhere to berth them. Devonport and Rosyth dockyards are already full of old subs, some of which still contain nuclear fuel.

The question of what to do with old subs has been rumbling on for years without conclusion. Their 'interim storage' has been the subject of vast amounts of

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discussion and paperwork. Now thanks to PAC we learn that the MoD had deferred dismantlement work on 'affordability grounds'. This is astonishing. Did they think the subs would just go away? Hardly likely when the intermediate level nuclear waste from the subs – the nuclear reactors that powered them – will be radioactive for thousands of years. What's more, the deteriorating hulks are berthed in Devonport and Rosyth – both centres of population; Devonport is a city of 235,000 and Rosyth a town of over 12,000.

Recently government announced that the waste would be stored at Capenhurst, a small village that already hosts a uranium enrichment plant. This interim storage means that waste will likely be stored in drums, awaiting eventual 'geological disposal'. In truth, there are no permanent safe storage methods

for nuclear waste and it's high time this was recognised. The only solution is to cease its production.

It's clear that the MoD is overreaching itself financially: it cannot afford to buy a new nuclear weapons system and maintain its other spending requirements. It cannot afford to clean up after itself and puts many thousands at risk of nuclear contamination. It really is time for government to step away from nuclear weapons. On every conceivable level Trident replacement is just the wrong thing to do. The common sense solution is to cancel it, and yes, that can be done if the political will is there. Achieving that is something that we can all take part in – through our trade unions, political parties, faith groups, street stalls and community groups. Let's make this common sense an unstoppable force!

CND at Labour party conference



CND had a strong and visible presence at this year's Labour party conference in Liverpool, arranging two well-attended meetings and speaking to hundreds of delegates about the need to change the party's policy on Trident.

CND welcomed the promise in leader

Jeremy Corbyn's speech that there will be no more reckless interventionist wars. We also welcome Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry's commitment to making a nuclear-free world a concrete goal. We now need to see the Labour Party support the concrete initiatives that can make this a reality.

Groups Spotlight

This month:
Norwich CND



Norwich CND has been very active recently, hosting a visit of the symbol tour, arranging a very successful stall at the Burston Strike School Rally, and taking part in the Norwich Peace Camp and Cycle.

If you're a CND member in Norwich, why not get in touch?

Contact 01603 702775,
or email:
sue.wright44@ntlworld.com



Space Force

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** outlines the dangers with US President Donald Trump's latest announcement – the creation of a Space Force.

IT SEEMS that almost every week there is a new announcement by Trump which horrifies peace campaigners. The danger is that we become immune to developments that only two years ago would have provoked fierce protest. A good example of this is his announcement over the summer that the US military must establish a sixth branch of its armed forces – a 'space force'. Trump said at the time, 'It is not enough to merely have an American presence in space. We must have American dominance in space.' The US Vice-President, Mike Pence, later outlined further details. While the US Congress would need to approve its creation, a new 'Space Operations Force' is due to be in place by 2020, at an as yet unknown cost which is expected to run into the tens of billions of dollars. This would be the first military branch in the world focused on space, although CND and our international allies have previously warned that the arms race is moving in that direction.

'It is not enough to merely have an American presence in space. We must have American dominance in space.'

The US already has a space command as part of its air force, which can monitor missile launches and intercept communications from anywhere in the world. And the UK plays a crucial part in this system, with the Menwith Hill base in Yorkshire and RAF Croughton in Northamptonshire both used as sites to monitor electronic traffic.

CND will be joining a demonstration at RAF Croughton this Saturday (October 6th) to protest against warfare in space, and more specifically, Trump's Space Force. This protest marks the annual Keep Space for Peace Week, initiated by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, of which CND is a member.

We will be resisting Britain's participation in US plans for the increasing militarisation of space. There is a way of preventing this from happening. The United Nations' Outer Space Treaty declared in 1967 that space must be preserved for all of humanity. This multilateral agreement, of which the US is a signatory, bans the siting of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in space. This treaty urgently needs to be updated to include new high-tech space weapons programmes, to prevent Trump's Space Force from becoming a reality.

The UK's collaboration with the US on this issue is just another example of the existing 'special relationship' – a dangerous alliance which makes the world a more dangerous place and offers no benefit to us. It is now more urgent than ever for Theresa May's government to end this relationship, and especially to maintain that we will not be drawn into Trump's latest disastrous warmongering efforts, this time in space.

Commemorative plaque for CND symbol, October 6th, London

The CND symbol is one of the most widely known symbols in the world. It was designed in 1958 by Gerald Holtom, a professional designer and artist who had been invited to design artwork for what became the first Aldermaston March. Holtom first showed his preliminary sketches to a meeting at the *Peace News* offices in north London.

Now 60 years on, Hackney Council and Holtom's family are unveiling a commemorative plaque in Finsbury Park, at the spot where the symbol was first adopted.

All CND supporters are welcome to attend the unveiling, at 1pm, opposite 3 Blackstock Road, Finsbury Park, London.

Christian CND Conference & AGM October 6th,

10:30am-4pm, Coventry Cathedral, Priory Street, CV1 5FB
■ Contact 020 7700 4200 or christians@cnduk.org

Demonstration at USAF Croughton: Keep Space for Peace, October 6th,

12 noon-4pm, RAF Croughton, Brackley.
■ Contact 01865 248357 or oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk

Musicians for Peace & Disarmament concert

October 11th, 7:30pm-10pm, St Philip's Church, 96 Earl's Court Road, London.
■ Contact: info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com

Croydon Peace Council re-launch event

October 17th, 7:30pm-9pm
Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD
■ Contact info@londoncnd.org or 020 7607 2302

Nuclear Disarmament and the Churches – Reigate October 19th, 7:30pm-

9:30pm, Friends Meeting House, 47 Reigate Road, Reigate.
■ Contact: reigateandredhillcnd@hotmail.co.uk

'Carry Greenham Home' screening and talk

October 20th, 5pm-7pm
Hebden Bridge Picture House, New Road, HX7 8AD.
■ Contact: kathypitt725@hotmail.com

CND AGM & Conference October 20th-21st

Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol
■ Register by October 12th, see cnduk.org/about/cnd-conference

'All aboard' the peace train! October 24th, 8am-

4pm. Train journey North to South Wales and onto London.
■ Contact: 07843 105323
orkimholroyd@hotmail.com

Active Remembrance and Waging Peace Together

November 3rd, 2pm-4pm, St John's Church, 73 Waterloo Road, Lambeth, SE1 8TY
■ Contact 020 3397 3019

Kent Area CND meeting

November 4th, 11am-1pm
Gorewell, Selling Road, Old Wives Lees, Canterbury.
■ Contact: pambrevio@ntlworld.com

Future Wars: The Impact of New Technologies

November 10th, 9.30-5pm,
Room MAL B36, Birkbeck University of London, Malet Street, WC1E 7HX .

No More War – London remembrance event

November 11th, 12:30-5pm,
Tavistock Square, London WC1
■ Contact: mail@networkforpeace.org.uk

Yorkshire CND Peace and Craft Fair November 24th

Venue TBC
■ Contact: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Peace Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month.
■ Tel: 07946 676761
info@aldermaston.net
www.aldermaston.net
@Peace_women_AWE

Faslane Peace Camp

Permanent. A814, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT
■ Tel 07376 188216 or email faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com

Menwith Hill vigil

Every Tuesday 6-7.30pm.
■ For more info contact Sarah – 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail.com