

# Campaign

## INF abandoned

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** writes about how we must resist the tearing up of the INF treaty.



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**UNITED STATES** President Donald Trump announced last week that he will withdraw the US from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, after first warning he would do so last year. The agreement signed in 1987 between the Soviet Union and the US has been a cornerstone of international nuclear arms control, having eliminated thousands of deadly nuclear missiles in Europe. Russia has responded by announcing it too will withdraw.

This is a very dangerous moment for the whole world. A headline in *The Times*

reported that 'Collapse of nuclear treaty starts arms race'.

From a UK perspective, we may now see the return of US nuclear missiles to British soil – a re-run of the 1980s. This is because the treaty banned short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles which would need to be placed in Europe if the US wanted to reach Russia.

There may be genuine concerns on both sides about possible violations of the treaty. The US points to Russian development of a new ground-launched cruise missile by the name of 9M729;

while the Russians are concerned about the US missile defence system in Romania. These issues should be addressed, but the answer is not to scrap the treaty. The US and Russia urgently need to find a constructive way to resolve their differences and come back to compliance with the treaty.

And the UK government should be playing an influential role in this process by facilitating a diplomatic outcome. There will now be a period of six months before the withdrawal process is confirmed for both countries – this really is the last chance for our government to do what it can to save the treaty. If these efforts don't work, then we need a clear statement that we will not accept American

nuclear missiles in our country.

There was a dismissive response to an Urgent Question asked in Parliament earlier in the week. A government representative said he would not 'speculate on too many hypotheticals' and said the 'issue will obviously be discussed at very senior levels' when asked whether US nuclear weapons would be relocated to Britain. This is not reassuring and shows the huge challenge we have ahead of us.

Campaigning by anti-nuclear activists played a huge part in the INF treaty entering into force in the first place. CND played a vital role in this movement, as did the iconic Greenham Women's Peace Camp. And now we must protest again.

### **Breaking news:**

## **NATO summit to take place in London**

It was announced this morning that a NATO summit will take place in London this December. CND has long campaigned against this nuclear-armed military alliance and will be arranging a huge international protest and counter-activities during the visit, not least as US President Donald Trump will be attending.

## **Groups Spotlight**

**This month:  
Oxford CND**



If you live in Oxford, you really should get in touch with the fantastic Oxford CND. As well as being committed Nukewatchers, the group arranges creative and effective events.

This year, Oxford CND aims to get the local council to officially support the global nuclear ban treaty and it has exciting plans for a big event. Why not get involved?

■ Contact 01865 248357 or [oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop](mailto:oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop)

# The end for nuclear power?

Campaigns Assistant **Scarlett Gurnham** writes about the implication for UK energy policy of Hitachi's announcement that it has suspended work on a new nuclear power station.

**HITACHI** announced last month that it is halting plans to build a new nuclear power station at Wylfa Newydd in Anglesey, Wales. The Japanese company announced at the same time that work is also suspended on a second nuclear plant in Oldbury Gloucestershire. In both cases, financial reasons were cited. This news comes just a few months after Toshiba similarly withdrew from a planned nuclear project in Cumbria after it failed to attract the necessary investors.

The UK government meanwhile continues to voice its support for nuclear as its main solution to meet the country's energy demands, even after case study after case study shows how economically unviable the option is.

Even the only new nuclear project for which the government has agreed a final deal – Hinkley Point C – has been criticised across the board for costing British consumers up to £50 billion in extra bill charges. In addition, there still isn't a safe solution to the storage of the radioactive waste produced and



the nuclear power industry continues to prop up Trident, our nuclear weapons system, due to the many links between the technologies.

But with seven existing nuclear reactors due to be decommissioned by 2030, and coal being phased out by 2025, we do need a way of meeting our energy demands. And the answer is renewables, which don't cost the earth, either literally, or for consumers.

Offshore wind has rapidly become one of the most cost effective and efficient energy sources available. In the space of five years, the capacity of renewable energies such as offshore wind has tripled, overtaking fossil fuels for the first time in history – a feat most experts thought was impossible just a few years ago.

Given its clear economic and

environmental superiority, some energy companies support the move to offshore wind. Alistair Phillips-Davies, Chief Executive of energy company SSE, has called for the government to 'forget nuclear woes' and instead 'build as many offshore projects as needed'. Likewise, Sir John Armitt, chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, now argues that 'nuclear power plants are no longer adding up' despite his previous position overseeing the development of Sizewell B nuclear plant.

With the government's own Office for National Statistics calculating that the renewable technology industry employs nearly twice as many people as nuclear suppliers, it is time to face facts. The nuclear power era has finished and it's about time the government's energy policy reflects that.

For a full, updated list of events, see [cnduk.org/events/](http://cnduk.org/events/)

**Why I say no to  
Trident: with  
Commander  
Robert Forsyth  
February 21st**

7pm, Mechanics Institute  
Nottingham, 3 North  
Sherwood Street NG1 4EZ

**Christian CND  
Embassies Walk  
March 12th**

Assemble at 11am in the  
Dick Sheppard Chapel,  
London WC2N 4JH

■Contact 020 7700 4200  
or [christians@cnduk.org](mailto:christians@cnduk.org)

**Commemoration,  
Conflict & Conscience  
Festival**

**April 27th-28th**

University of Bristol,  
Bristol BS8 1TH

■Contact [lois.s.bibblings@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:lois.s.bibblings@bristol.ac.uk) or  
[c.j.painter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.painter@leeds.ac.uk)

**Surround Springfields!**

**April 27th**

9am-5pm, Westinghouse  
Springfields Fuel Ltd,  
Station Road, Preston.



## Remember Fukushima

### Commemorate the nuclear disaster

#### Vigil

outside the Japanese  
Embassy, 101 Piccadilly  
March 11th, 5:30pm

#### March and rally

March 16th, 12 noon  
Assemble at  
Japanese Embassy

#### Public meeting

March 19th, 7pm  
Houses of Parliament

For full details see:  
<https://rememberfukushima.org/>  
For any enquiries, contact  
[rememberfukushima311@gmail.com](mailto:rememberfukushima311@gmail.com)



■Contact [springaction2019@stopnewnuclear.org.uk](mailto:springaction2019@stopnewnuclear.org.uk)

### Peace Camps

#### Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every  
month.

■Tel: 07946 676761  
[info@aldermaston.net](mailto:info@aldermaston.net)  
[www.aldermaston.net](http://www.aldermaston.net)  
[@Peace\\_women\\_AWE](mailto:@Peace_women_AWE)

#### Faslane Peace Camp

Permanent. A814,  
Shandon, Helensburgh,  
Dumbartonshire G84 8NT  
■Tel 07376 188216, email  
[faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com](mailto:faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com)

#### Menwith Hill vigil

The weekly vigil is now  
switching days – please  
contact Sarah for details:  
01765 600928 or  
[sswift64@gmail.com](mailto:sswift64@gmail.com)

