

Campaign

End of the INF treaty

The Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty is due to expire on 2nd August. CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** looks at the implications.



Greenham Common: Campaigning led to the introduction of the INF Treaty and removal of US missiles from the UK

DURING the height of the Cold War, deadly US nuclear weapons were based in Britain, sparking widespread protests. Anti-nuclear campaigners – including the famous Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp and CND – understood that to have these bombs here put us at risk and put the UK on the frontline in a US nuclear war.

By 1987, the protestors had been heard and US President Ronald Reagan and leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev signed a landmark treaty banning ground-launch nuclear missiles with ranges from

500km to 5,500km. The INF Treaty led to thousands of missiles being destroyed and meant that US cruise missiles were removed from US bases at Greenham Common and Molesworth.

This treaty has been a cornerstone of nuclear arms control since then, but tomorrow it is almost certain to be torn up after US President Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement, with Russia following suit.

This is a very dangerous moment for the whole world. A new nuclear arms race is beginning and the threat of nuclear war

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grows by the day.

There have been several issues with the Treaty since its adoption, with both the US and Russia accusing the other of violating the treaty. But these should be resolved through diplomatic means, not spell the end of the INF treaty altogether.

In a letter to CND, the UK government blamed Russia for the breakdown of the Treaty, failing to consider its wider context and importance. Standing by and allowing crucial nuclear arms control agreements to be torn up places the whole world in great danger.

If this treaty is destroyed, the US and Russia would be free to once again produce and deploy intermediate-range missiles. As these missiles would not reach Russia if situated in the US, and vice-versa, it follows that the US would look to place them in Europe, possibly the UK.

This would once again increase the likelihood of a nuclear war being fought on European soil. Russian leader Vladimir Putin has already stated that if European countries host US intermediate-range missiles, these countries ‘must understand that they are putting their own territory at risk of a possible counter-strike [by Russia].’

We should see the US withdrawal from the INF treaty as part of a wider pattern of the US rejecting the international rules-based order. The US has already pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal. Analysts are now calling into question whether Washington will work with Moscow to renew the New START treaty – which limits deployed nuclear warheads - when it expires.

A frightening possibility of a world without any nuclear arms control agreement looms.

New Prime Minister

Boris Johnson last week became Britain’s new Prime Minister. By now, he will have had to write his final instructions to the crew of Britain’s Trident submarines in the event of nuclear war.

If you agree with CND that Britain shouldn’t possess these weapons of mass destruction and should instead show global leadership in adopting a defence policy that actually meets 21st century security challenges, write to the PM via the CND website or send your own message.

Spotlight

This month:
Yorkshire CND



Yorkshire CND is one of our most active groups, and is certainly enjoying a busy summer! As well as Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations, the group has arranged a Parade for Peace through Bradford and is busy getting ready for the DSEI Arms Fair.

If you live in the region, please get in touch with this fantastic group of people!

Contact 01274 730795 or email info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

No more Hiroshimas

Earlier this year, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki urged US and Russian leaders to prevent INF Treaty collapse, writes CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson**.

IN THEIR powerful letter the mayors called for the development of specific proposals to achieve nuclear disarmament. In so doing, they demonstrated their almost unique moral authority to address this issue.

The cities which they lead still bear the scars of the terrible war crimes of August 1945 – the atomic bombing of huge civilian populations. Hundreds of thousands of people died, many instantaneously, others soon after from burns and shock, and yet more from the impact of radiation in the months and years that followed. By 1950, an estimated 340,000 people had died as a result of the two bombs.

The consequences of nuclear weapons are widely understood. So it seems incomprehensible that nuclear weapons still exist – and that some political leaders contemplate their use. Today, almost 14,000 nuclear weapons are stockpiled – enough to destroy human civilisation and the world as we know it many times over. The US alone has just over 6,000 nuclear



warheads. Britain has over 200; this perhaps seems small in comparison, but each warhead has eight times the explosive power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. That is a phenomenal killing power.

To make matters worse, political developments globally are such that there is an increased danger of the use of nuclear weapons. But the danger does not come primarily from rogue states, terrorists or 'non-state actors'. The people developing scenarios for their use are the existing nuclear

weapons states, all of which are modernising their nuclear weapons systems. This constitutes a dangerous escalation with unthinkable consequences for every one of us.

But we are also aware that the majority of the global community is pushing for nuclear abolition – through the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, strongly supported by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is vital for the very future of humanity that this initiative is successful. In particular, here in the UK we have a responsibility to bring our own government on board.

Let's work together to ensure that that will be no more crimes such as those wreaked on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let's stand together with the people of those cities for a nuclear-free future.

CND Conference 2019
19th-20th October

St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH
Full details: cnduk.org/cnd-conference-2019/



For a full, updated list of events, see cnduk.org/events/

Bradford Parade and Picnic for Peace

August 10th, 11am-3pm
Norfolk Gardens, Bradford
■ Contact 01274 740795 or info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Oxford CND meeting

August 15th, 6:45pm
Oxford Town Hall, Oxford
■ Contact 01865 248357 or oxfordcnd@phoncoop.coop

No Nuclear Day at DSEI Arms Fair

September 4th
ExCel London, Royal Victoria Dock E16 1XL
■ Contact enquiries@cnduk.org or 020 7700 2393

Oxford CND Benefit Concert September 7th

7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Oxford
■ Contact 01865 248357 or oxfordcnd@phoncoop.coop

Action for Peace weekend September 21-22

Braziers Park, Ipsden, Wallingford OX10 6AN
■ Contact trish@braziers.org.uk

National demo at Tory Party conference

September 29th, 12 noon-5pm, Assemble Oxford Road, Manchester
■ Contact 020 7700 2393 or information@cnduk.org

Keep Space for Peace march and rally

October 5th, 12 noon-4pm
RAF Croughton, Brackley
■ Contact oxfordcnd@phoncoop.coop

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On 6 August 1945, the US dropped an atomic bomb called 'Little Boy' on Hiroshima in Japan. Three days later a second atomic bomb ('Fat Man') was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. These are the only times nuclear weapons have been used in war.

Memorial events are planned across the UK for Hiroshima Day on the 6th August and Nagasaki Day on the 9th August. For a full list of events, see www.cnduk.org/remembering-hiroshima-and-nagasaki/ (and please let us know if your event isn't listed).



Global Dangers Tour

We live in increasingly unstable times, where nuclear dangers are growing alarmingly. CND is highlighting these dangers in a national tour this year: get involved.

Upcoming dates include Derby (Aug 6th), Reigate (Sep 12th), Birkenhead (Sep 13th), Oxfordshire (Sep 21st) and Birmingham (Oct 26th).

For more information or if you are interested in hosting a visit, please contact enquiries@cnduk.org or 020 7700

Peace Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp Second weekend of every month.

■ Tel: 07946 676761
info@aldermaston.net
www.aldermaston.net
[@Peace_women_AWE](https://twitter.com/Peace_women_AWE)

Faslane Peace Camp Permanent. A814,

Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire G84 8NT.

■ Tel: 07376 188216
faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com

Menwith Hill vigil

The weekly vigil is now switching days – please contact Sarah:

■ Tel: 01765 600928 or sswift64@gmail.com