

campaign



No US nukes in Britain!

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** reports on the latest news on the return of US nuclear weapons to Britain.

THERE'S BEEN clear evidence for over a year that the US is planning to return its nuclear weapons to Britain and CND has been active in protesting to prevent that. Getting widespread coverage of this very national issue has not been easy, but the tide seems to have turned.

With the latest news from the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) we have managed to break through into the mainstream, with coverage on the BBC, in the Guardian and the Telegraph, not to mention a

good range of local coverage. It was the FAS that first broke the news last year; now they say that US Air Force budget documents dated March 2023 “strongly imply” that Washington is in the process of re-establishing its nuclear weapons presence in Britain, with the new B61-12 guided nuclear bomb.

The new bomb will also be located in five other European countries and assigned to NATO. The presence of these US nuclear weapons in Europe has already been used by

Putin to justify his recent movement of Russian nukes to Belarus.

The latest documents, published as part of the USAF 2024 budgetary justification package, express the need for a “surety dormitory”. As FAS notes, “surety” is a term used by US government departments to “refer to the capability to keep nuclear weapons safe, secure, and under positive control.”

The 144-bunk dormitory, the documents say, is needed, as with “the influx of airmen due to the arrival of the potential Surety mission and the bed down of the two F-35 squadrons there is a significant deficiency in the amount of unaccompanied housing available for E4s and below at Royal Air Force Lakenheath”. Construction is expected to last from June 2024 to February 2026.

It’s clear that Lakenheath is once again a vital cog in Washington’s overseas nuclear

machine – despite refusals from the British government to acknowledge this reality. The deployment of the new B61-12 to Europe undermines prospects for global peace and ensures Britain will be a target in a nuclear conflict between the US/NATO and Russia.

Everyone needs to know that this is not a local or regional problem, confined to East Anglia. In the event of a war, certainly Lakenheath will be targeted, but so will Britain’s other nuclear facilities, as well as major cities. The fact is, we are all at greater risk than ever, if these weapons come back to Britain.

It’s beyond irresponsible that the UK government is allowing this deployment. It’s time for us to step up our mobilisation. Over the decades, from Lakenheath to Greenham Common, persistent popular protest has been vital in getting US nuclear weapons removed from Britain. Now we must stop them coming back.

Spotlight

This month
Labour CND



Party conference season is upon us. As well as protesting at the Tory party conference, CND will again be attending this year’s Labour conference. This is an important opportunity to get our anti-nuclear message across to Labour party members and elected politicians, and CND will have a stall in the conference centre and an official fringe meeting with MPs and trade unionists speaking.

If you are both a CND member and a Labour member, have you considered getting involved with Labour CND to try and shape party policy on nuclear weapons? Contact labourcnd@gmail.com to find out more.

Stop US nukes coming to Britain!

23 September 2023 Day of action

Actions and events will be taking place across the country to protest at US nuclear weapons coming to Britain. Contact information@cnduk.org to find out more or to let us know if you’re arranging something.

Trading in death

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, Mayor of Newham, writes about why Newham opposes an arms fair taking place in the borough this month.

IN A WORLD ravaged by conflict, leading to unimaginable human suffering and humanitarian crises, and where large-scale displacement and suffering persists; the looming presence of the Defence and Security Equipment International Arms Fair (DSEI) in Newham this month is an abomination which we must continue to resist.

As the Mayor of Newham, I am unwavering in my opposition to DSEI which places a premium on human devastation and profiteering from weapons of death. As is the Council, which in 2019 resolved to keep up our opposition to DSEI taking place in our borough, where we have families and children who have fled from the grim consequences of war and conflict.

Because Newham is an international borough, and the most diverse, these conflicts do not feel abstract or far away to our communities here. They are real and close to home. That's why the presence of the DSEI Arms Fair is an insult to



us, and to all those living in our borough who are constantly worrying about loved ones in conflict zones around the globe.

It is an insult to the people of Newham that the UK government sends officials to the DSEI Arms Fair and uses billions of public funds to grant arms licences for sales to countries with appalling human rights records.

This perpetuates conflicts and displacement of people who face years in a nightmare wilderness as refugees. As a borough offering humanitarian and humane support, we are a kindred place that welcomes refugees and offers them solace and hope.

As I prepare to speak at the CND's 'Selling Death: why we must stop the arms trade' rally, I will continue my calls for an end to the DSEI Arms Fair.

For instance, the estimated £205 billion cost of Britain's new nuclear weapons could instead be invested in accelerating the growth of the green economy in the UK to create jobs, build homes people can afford and improve our much-loved NHS.

In Newham, we have some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country and yet billions will be traded in weapons across four days in the Excel London exhibition halls.

That's 96 hours spent selling death on our doorstep; 96 hours contributing to a global arms trade that is valued at some £96 billion; and 96 hours for the UK to remain one of six countries globally that exports 80 percent of the world's weapons. That's why we must continue our campaign to stop the arms trade.

Stop the Arms Fair Days of Action Ongoing-14 September

ExCel centre, London's Royal Docks, E16. Contact:

■ resistDSEI@protonmail.com

'The Mistake' by Michael Mears – see the play on tour 8 September-30 October

Nationwide

■ Contact information@cnduk.org

Christian CND AGM 2023 9 September

10:30am-3:30pm, C3 Liverpool 79-81 Kempston Street, Liverpool L3 8HE. Contact:

■ CCNDdevelopment@cnduk.org

Why we must resist the DSEI arms fair – CND webinar 13 September

7pm-8pm, online. To register contact:

■ information@cnduk.org

Youth and Student CND meeting 15 September

7:30pm, online

■ Contact yscnd@riseup.net

Christian CND Peace Pilgrimage 2023

15 September-18 September

Starting in Barrow-in-Furness

■ Contact christians@cnduk.org

Yorkshire CND benefit gig

15 September, The Trades Club, Holme Street, Hebden Bridge HX7 8EE. Contact:

■ info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Openheimer film screening and Q&A 19 September

6:30pm, Cinema City Norwich, St Andrews Street, Norwich

■ Contact information@cnduk.org

Demonstration at Tory Party conference 1 October, 12 noon

Assemble Oxford Rd, Manchester. Contact:

■ information@cnduk.org

CND AGM 7 October, 10:30am-1:30pm, online

■ Contact officemanager@cnduk.org

CND Policy Conference

28 October. Online and in-person at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, contact:

■ officemanager@cnduk.org

'Activism for Life' - a new book by Angie Zelter

Peace and anti-nuclear campaigner Angie Zelter has written a brilliant new book on her life of campaigning – available to buy now! 'Activism for Life' discusses how to mobilise for effective, non-violent protest actions, how to deal with security, police and courts, and how seemingly different issues are actually closely intertwined.

To get a copy, see tridentploughshares.org/activism-for-life-a-new-book-by-angie-zelter/ or contact information@cnduk.org.

Meet the staff

This month:

Jonas Marvin, Greater Manchester & District CND Campaigns Outreach worker

My role requires me to support campaigners in their efforts to push the peace and nuclear disarmament agenda in the region. This involves sending out a monthly newsletter to our supporters, organising and attending events such as demonstrations, conferences, and information stalls, and promoting our activity on social media.

Currently, I am helping to plan and prepare for the day of action against US nukes coming to Britain and GMDCND's presence at university Fresher's Fairs, as well as running a survey to get a better sense of what our supporters want from us as a regional campaign. I will also be supporting GMDCND's work mobilising for upcoming events including a conference on nuclear power, the CND policy conference, and the upcoming protests outside the Tory party conference.

It is a delight working alongside people who have dedicated their lives to fighting for a socially just, peaceful world.

