

NOTTINGHAM CND NEWSLETTER

June/July 2002



The Faslane Peace Camp The month of June marks a special occasion for the Peace Movement in Britain. The 12th June is the 20th anniversary of the founding of Britain's longest running peace camp at Faslane on the banks of the Clyde on Scotland. Various activities are planned for the week 7th -15th June with peace actions and partying (ring 01436 820 701 for more information).

The camp has faced many problems in its 20 year history. There have been several threats to evict the protesters and an eviction order was granted in 1998 to Argyll and Bute Council which has not yet been enforced, though as recently as this February, councillors passed a resolution demanding that the eviction order be carried out.

The camp has seen many hundreds of demonstrations and other actions against the presence of the nuclear submarines and regularly it has high profile blockades of the main gates of the base.

The camp has many friends: not least, surprisingly, the commander of the base Commodore John Borley. Earlier this year he promised the camp a cake for their 20th anniversary to demonstrate his acceptance of their right to protest. Recently the offer of a cake was withdrawn with a base spokesman saying that it would have been regarded in some quarters as an unwelcome departure from the Navy's customary practice of not expressing a view on the presence of the peace camp. However, the commander is on record as saying that he would not want to be part of a military that did not tolerate peaceful protest. 'They have a right to be there and mount protests such as the recent blockade. I don't have any problem with them and would see their presence as fulfilling a valuable purpose for society in terms of ensuring there is a debate about the future of our defence policy. They are entitled to their point of view and it all helps to get the debate going.' He went on to say that he is grateful for their repeated attempts to breach security at the base as they help to test the base's defences. Incidents such as when Ulla Roden swim past MOD naval patrols to reach two submarines on which she painted the word 'useless' led to a review of security.

Well the campers may not be getting a cake from the commander after all but Nottingham CND has sent them a birthday card and a cheque.

Marguerite Oldham

FROM NCND SECRETARY

First of all apologies for the brevity of this bulletin but we thought it better to get one out quickly as it has been a long time since the last one.

Since the last bulletin we have been involved with the One World Day, organised a coach to London for the Easter Demonstration against Star Wars, had a stall at the May Day rally, attended the Stop the War teach-ins as well as having our own monthly stalls in the Market Square.

The new location of the stall by the south lion has proved to be better than we expected and those who have kindly helped on the stall have felt quite safe and very visible.

One World Day The CND members who helped felt quite saddened about the poor response

to the event although we attracted a fairly good response from people signing our petition and buying goods. Unfortunately the date of the event had been changed at quite short notice and it was not a good time for students with exams. There is a suggestion that the event might be moved to September which could be better.

Coach to London We nearly filled our coach to the Easter Demonstration and everyone said it was a good demonstration and rally with a rousing speech from Bruce Kent.

May Day As usual the banner was prominent on the march and we had a stall in the Market Square. It was a good day with the anti-war message well displayed and a good atmosphere though some of us found the volume of the music a little trying and departed to more peaceful spots.

Stop the War teach ins The first was at Nottingham University on February 23rd and the second at Nottingham Trent University and were fairly well attended. On both occasions the talks were very interesting and informative.

FUTURE EVENTS

June 12th Faslane peace Camp This is the 20th anniversary of the peace camp and we are sending a card and a donation. See also Marguerite Oldham's article.

Saturday June 15th End the Sanctions on Iraq There will be a public meeting at St Peter's Church arranged by Andrew Deuchar the Rector of St Peter's at 11am and this will be followed by a vigil outside the church from 12pm to 2pm. Mr Deuchar discussed these events with CND and it would be good to see a lot of members there

June 15th CND demonstration at Fylingdales If anyone would like to go then ring Neil on 01274 730795

Wednesday June 26th Stop the sale of arms to India and Pakistan There will be a public meeting at the Comfort Hotel in George Street and we hope to have a CND speaker there.

Saturday 13th July March and Rally This will set off from the Forest. Further details later.

Nottingham CND meeting We are planning to have a meeting on the nuclear threat over Kashmir.

Hiroshima Day This year we are planning to broaden the event and we hope to involve Andrew Deuchar from St Peter's Church and other organisations. The venue is yet to be decided. We would be pleased to hear your views on this matter.

Future Stall Dates July 20th, August 3rd, September 21st, October 26th, November 9th and December 21st

Telephone Tree We have now set up a telephone tree so, hopefully you are hearing from one of the group of members who has agreed to help. If you haven't heard from anyone and would like to please ring Diane on 981 2034 or Margaret on 920 2257. I do hope to see you at one or other of these events, especially during this trying time.

Diane Lunzer Secretary

END THE SANCTIONS ON IRAQ

Meeting at St Peter's Church
(near Marks and Spencer)

Saturday 15th June at 11am

With **Felicity Arbuthnot**, journalist on New Internationalist and
researcher for John Pilger

Followed by a VIGIL outside the church from 12pm -2pm

SHELLING OUT:

How the Government Subsidises the Arms Trade

If you were the government, what would you do with £760 million? Perhaps build 10 brand new hospitals? Or 100 new schools? Or even increase the amount we spend on conflict prevention by about 30 times? Or would you give it to the arms companies to help them export Military equipment around the world? Despite the current government's avowed commitment to health and education, unfortunately they do the latter.

Even though arms exports account for only around 2% of exports, it is the most heavily subsidised sector in the UK economy (apart from agriculture). UK taxpayers foot the bill for these subsidies, which amount to around £30 per taxpayer. Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) have launched a new campaign to end these subsidies, and in particular are calling for the closure of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), the government agency which is dedicated to promoting arms exports.

CAAT believes that these subsidies make no sense morally or economically. Rather than shoring up an industry which fuels war, harms development and breeds corruption, we should be using the money to create real security in the world and help the economy move away from military production. As a first stage, CAAT is calling for an inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee into the use of government money to subsidise the arms trade.

CAAT has prepared The Shelling Out Campaign Pack. If you would like a copy write to CAAT, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ or email enquiries@caat.demon.co.uk

KASHMIR: Wage peace, not war.

Condensed from an article by George Monbiot

There is something dreamlike about our contemplation of the drift to war in Kashmir. While India & Pakistan move their missiles into position, in Britain our concerns are focused on the evacuation of our own citizens, the destination of the likely refugees and the possibility that the Indian cricket team might be prevented from visiting England at the end of this month. That 12 million people could be vaporised if the war begins in earnest is viewed as regrettable, but nothing to do with us.

But we are up to our neck in it. The subcontinent's dispute is our dispute, and to turn away from it could constitute the greatest collective dereliction since the failure to intervene in the Holocaust.

In 1947 the Maharajah of Kashmir, a Hindu installed by the British, decided neither to seek independence nor to join Pakistan but to surrender the territory to India. The British Govr.-

General, Mountbatten, insisted only that a referendum or plebiscite of the Kashmiri people be conducted. This never happened - and Britain, which could have asked the UN to demand that the promise was kept, left India and Pakistan to tear the place apart.

...the US has blocked new arms sales to India & Pakistan. The UK by contrast, has done everything in its power to promote them. The nuclear weapons programmes in both India and Pakistan were initiated with the help of the west. Both programmes emerged from the civilian industry. India's first nuclear device used plutonium from a Canadian research reactor and extracted in a plant built with US help. Germany supplied elements, heavy water plants and reprocessing components; France delivered uranium and fast-breeder technology; Norway sold heavy water; US provided enriched uranium and several reactors; and the UK distributed fuel, furnaces and the country's first research reactor. Pakistan's heavy water plants came from Canada & Belgium; its uranium enrichment technology from France and UK. All these have potential uses in weapons programmes; most appear to have been deployed for this purpose by India & Pakistan.

Britain & US point out that much of the new nuclear material comes from China - true, but China also appears to believe it has a licence to operate ... a US-China nuclear cooperation agreement, approved despite intelligence that China was supplying both Iran and Pakistan with nuclear components in direct violation of this treaty. Within a month of signing, China began shipping heavy water to Pakistan in far greater quantities than its civilian programme could have used. The agreement stood.

There are plenty of instruments the international community could use to prevent a nuclear war. It could explain that if either nation escalates even the conventional conflict, its leaders could face a war crimes tribunal. It could not only discontinue all arms sales but also apply punitive sanctions to any firm assisting the weapons industry in either nation. More importantly, it could send peacekeepers to hold the lines apart and supervise disarmament.

But there is no peace industry commensurate with the world's war industry. There are no vested interests to appease, no campaign contributions to be gained from preventing rather than encouraging the use of weapons...

From: Milan Rai ARROW website

www.justicenotvengeance.org

If you are interested to participate, phone our office.

ARROW is sponsoring a call for anti-war groups to have Public Signings of the Pledge of Resistance over the weekend of Saturday 29 / Sunday 30 June, and to hold some form of event/action on 4 July, US Independence Day.

The suggested themes of the 4 July event are : "Independence from America" "Solidarity with the US Peace Movement" "No War on Iraq"

One suggested pair of activities for 4 July:

- a) handing in the names of those who've signed the Pledge to the local MP's office (notifying the press in advance)and
- b) faxing the names (and the name of your town) with an anti-war statement to the US Embassy (Press Office fax number 020 74912465 Press Office email <presslon@pd.state.gov>)

Other ideas - show a video (Media Workers Against the War have one www.mwaw.org), hold a public meeting, organise a die-in at the war memorial...

Nottm CND Bulletin is produced quarterly, and the next issue will return to its regular multi-page format. Articles (preferably on PC computer disc) or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to NCND, Nottm Voluntary Action Centre, Sandfield House, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottm NG1 3FB. Alternatively you may email to bulletin@nottinghamcnd.org.uk.

Tel 0115 9348459 enquiries@nottinghamcnd.org.uk www.nottinghamcnd.org.uk