

Diary Dates

- Sat 1 Nov **Public Meeting – The Invisible War – Depleted Uranium: its uses, effects and victims.** See below for details
- Fri 14 Nov **Autumn Concert of classical music in aid of Amnesty International**
Featuring Leela Hort (Soprano) and Philip Robinson (Keyboard)
At University of Nottingham Adult Education Centre, 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, 7.30pm. Tickets at the door: £5.50/£3.50
- Sun 16 Nov **Nottingham CND AGM**
Queens Walk Community Centre, 2pm
- Wed 19 Nov Rally in Market Square at 12 noon and again at 5pm protesting against George Bush on his visit to Britain.
- Thu 20 Nov National mobilisation against George Bush's visit to Britain. Coaches will be leaving Nottingham at 8am from The Salutation Inn to go to the events taking place in Trafalgar Square. Phone 07989 518997 for tickets at £10/£6.
- Sat 22 Nov **Monthly Silent Vigil for Peace**
Market Square, 12-12.30pm. This month's vigil will focus on Trade Justice.
- Sat 29 Nov **One World Day Event** at the YMCA, Shakespeare Street.
- Sat 29 Nov **Morning Star Bazaar** at ICC, 61b Mansfield Road.

Nottingham CND Public Meeting

The Invisible War – Depleted Uranium: its uses, effects and victims

Saturday 1st November, 2pm
YMCA, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

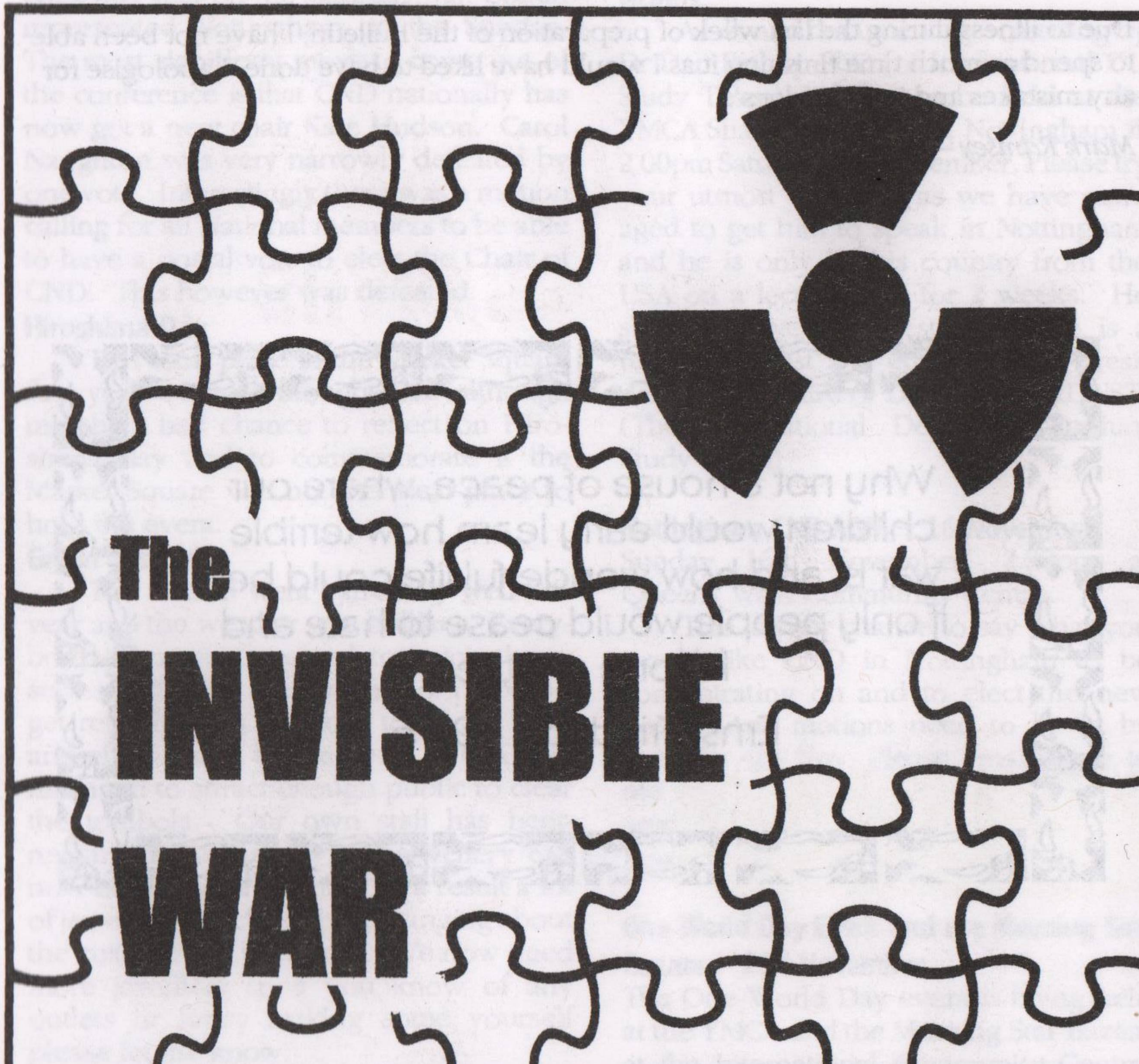
Speaker: Dr. Dan Bishop PhD

Talk and documentary screening by Dr Dan Bishop who is over from the US on a two week lecture tour. Dr Bishop is a retired chemist and educator and president of the Board of Directors for IDUST (the International Depleted Uranium Study Team).



Nottingham CND Bulletin

November 2003



**The
INVISIBLE
WAR**

**Come to the public meeting
Saturday Nov 1 - see within**

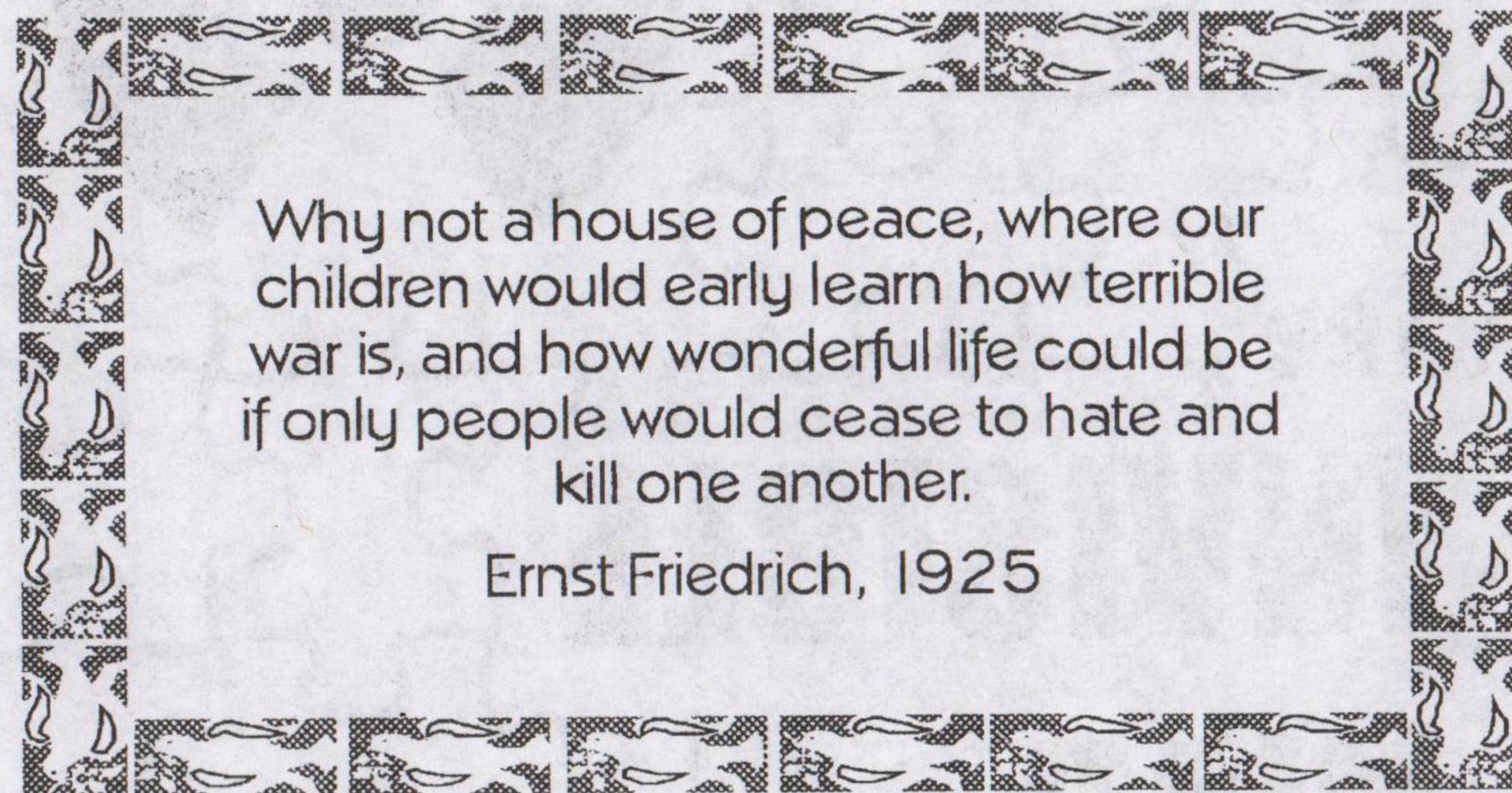
Welcome to the new Nottingham CND Bulletin.

We are holding another public meeting about Depleted Uranium on 1st November. Our speaker, Dr. Dan Bishop, is in the UK for only two weeks on a lecture tour and we are very lucky that we have him speaking in Nottingham, so please do come along and support the meeting.

Later in November we also have the Nottingham CND AGM. It would be great to see as many people as possible there. The AGM always includes a slideshow look at what Nottingham CND has been doing over the past year.

Due to illness during the last week of preparation of the Bulletin, I have not been able to spend as much time finishing it as I would have liked to have done. I apologise for any mistakes and 'rough edges'.

Mark Ramsey - Editor



Why not a house of peace, where our children would early learn how terrible war is, and how wonderful life could be if only people would cease to hate and kill one another.

Ernst Friedrich, 1925

Nottingham CND Bulletin #2003/2

The Bulletin is produced quarterly by Nottingham CND, using Serif PagePlus 8.0. Any articles or opinions expressed within are not necessarily the policy of Nottingham CND.

Articles or other material to be considered for inclusion next issue of the Bulletin should be sent to Nottingham CND at the address below (preferably on PC computer disk) or e-mailed to bulletin@nottinghamcnd.org.uk.

Nottingham CND, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, Sandfield House, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham
enquiries@nottinghamcnd.org.uk www.nottinghamcnd.org.uk

Nottingham CND Update

Reports on Past Events

New Chair for CND

Don Lane and myself attended conference this year on the Saturday. Ian Cohen represented Nottingham on the Sunday. The most significant move to come out of the conference is that CND nationally has now got a new chair Kate Hudson. Carol Naughton was very narrowly defeated by one vote. Interestingly there was a motion calling for all National members to be able to have a postal vote to elect the Chair of CND. This however was defeated.

Hiroshima Day

This took place in the Market Square this year. It was thought that although members had chance to reflect on Hiroshima day and to commemorate it the Market Square was not the ideal place to hold the event.

Green Festival

The festival went extremely well this year and the weather was brilliant. Everybody who went seemed to enjoy themselves and there were plenty of places to get refreshments. Thanks to all the help and effort put in by members of CND we managed to attract enough public to clear the tombola. Our own stall has been revamped and badges and jewellery can now be seen more easily. As a result a lot of jewellery which has been hanging about the suitcase has been sold. We now need more jewellery so if you know of any outlets or fancy making some yourself please let me know.

The Stall

Since the last newsletter we have had two stalls in the market square and of course the Green Festival. With the new addition of fridge magnets to sell and a display of badges and jewellery kindly done by Margaret it has made the stall more appealing.

Future Events

Public Meeting - The Invisible War - Depleted Uranium: its uses, effects and victims.

A talk and documentary screening by Dr Dan Bishop PhD (of International DU Study Team). Meeting to be held at the YMCA Shakespeare Street, Nottingham @ 2.00pm Saturday 1st November. Please try your utmost to attend as we have managed to get him to speak in Nottingham and he is only in this country from the USA on a lecture tour for 2 weeks. He should be very interesting, as he is a retired chemist and educator and president of the Board of Directors for IDUST. (The International Depleted Uranium Study Team)

Nottingham CND AGM - 16 November

Sunday 16th November, 2.00pm at Queens Walk Community Centre.

This is your chance to say what you would like CND in Nottingham to be concentrating on and to elect the new posts. Any motions need to be in by Tuesday 4th Nov. Please email them to me
 send
 Road

One World Day Event and the Morning Star Bazaar - 29th November

The One World Day event is being held at the YMCA and the Morning Star Bazaar at the International Community Centre. It would be good if we can have a stall at both events so I need plenty of volunteers and if any of you are good at art it would be brilliant as it would be good to have Christmas cards for sale and also jewellery.

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East Midland CND Report

As far as our Region is concerned, this year's Birmingham Conference established our part in the jigsaw of activists, CND members and representatives in the decision making of National Council beyond question. It was a relief to us personally after nearly two years' work, to see the forest of hands raised accepting the East Midlands Region into "the body politic" of CND, after an absence of nearly 15 years.

Up to the late 1980's the East Midlands sent up to five regional representatives to National Council. A strong contingent of articulate opinion spoke up for CND members from Derbyshire; Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, though Lincolnshire until the East Midlands Region was formed had to make its input felt through Nottingham.

With a severe financial crisis emerging in the early 90's and the very need for CND challenged by the end of the Cold War, representation was reduced to 3 members per Region which is the present case. This presents practical problems which the Coordinating Group discussed at our most recent meeting on October 4 2003. You may recall the Coordinating Group was elected at East Midlands CND's Inaugural Meeting in March this year. It consists of Geoff Lawrence and Mark Sperry, Leics; Diane Lunzer and Jeremy Jago, Notts; Neil and Mary Bruce and Maureen Maitland Lincs. Eve Cuthbert (Ponting) of National CND is our voluntary Treasurer. Diane Lunzer opted not to attend National Council.

My own position on National Council was problematic since my own vote of 110 was not sufficient to get me a Directly Elected place on Council. Yet Derbyshire with Rolls Royce Nuclear at the heart of the Trident Refit has no input to National Council and is directed by Conference via Resolution 6 to include the Derby site in its campaign objectives. The Coordinating

Group accepted my undertaking to act with the campaigners in Derbyshire to oppose the activities of Rolls Royce Nuclear and to present their input to Council along with the longstanding protests at Aldermaston, Faslane and Devonport. I spoke at the Sunday session of CND Conference supporting this principle on the resolution proposed by Scottish CND.

The Derbyshire Crich Group opposed to the potential dumping of Nuclear Waste by Rolls Royce in their vicinity has put up notable resistance documented on their website www.hiltsquarry.fsnet.co.uk

Can we build on this example to present a real challenge to the activities of the nuclear military complex in the heart of our Region? Visits to Crich and Derby are on our agenda. Already we have an input to the speaking tour against the use of Depleted Uranium by US and British forces in Iraq. The nuclear industry is deeply implicated in this atrocious practice.

The Boston CND meeting attended by Helen John on September 25 indicated another major priority for East Midlands campaigners. The presence of the US bases at Fylingdales and Menwith in North Yorkshire. RAF Digby, Lincs. and Waddington and Molesworth join the list of military bases involved with this dangerous project associated with the control of outer space by US laser based weapons. Advertised by US Space Command as a "shield" to down enemy missiles the offensive capability of the system, the funding of which was an electoral pledge of "the thief in chief" President George Bush is now a principal campaign theme of CND. With MoD Minister Geoff Hoon, and Lord Willam Bach, Minister for Defence Procurement, both East Midlands politicians, there has never been a better time to support the Region's input to campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament.

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Nottingham CND Coming Events

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Nottingham CND Stalls

Saturday 25th October, 8th November & 6th December.

White Poppies will be on sale on the 25th and the 8th. The money this year will be donated to the Friends of the Iraqi People for humanitarian causes. As normal I need plenty of volunteers so don't be shy.

Stop the War Events

George Bush is coming to the UK from November 19 -21st let us make him feel really welcome!!!!!!

What are we doing in Nottingham?

November 19th - Rally in the Market Square at noon and at 5pm, plus if anybody wishes to call a meeting at their workplace they will be supported.

November 20th -Coaches will be leaving

Stop the War Teach-in

This is being planned at the moment but they are hoping to hold it at Trent University in November. The theme will be around the USA and its influence around

East Midlands CND Report

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With notable socialist M.P.s like Alan Simpson and Ken Coates MEP, Nottingham and Leicester CND have for many years formed the bedrock of opposition in the East Midlands Region. Linking with and supporting the 600 CND National members, the sizeable proportion of local group members and the actions of organizations like the UNA, Stop The War Coalition, the Moslem Association, the Green Party, CAAT, Student Associations and the Church groups & Trade Unions, as well as many others with no label just

the world. They are looking for a tutor from CND to do one of the sessions.

Monthly Silent Vigil for Peace

These have restarted. See article on page 15 for more information. The next one will be on Saturday 22nd November 12-12.30pm in Market Square, focusing on Trade Justice.

Social Events.

Amnesty Autumn Concert on Friday 14th November at University Adult Education Centre. Lela Hort one of our members is the main singer. More details on back page.

Leon Rosselson will be in Concert on Thursday 13th at the Maze on Mansfield Road. Tickets £5 and £3. Proceeds to the Morning Star fighting fund. The Clarion Choir will also be singing.

I do hope that you will be able to attend as many of the events as possible. If you want any more details please don't

Diane Lunzer - Secretary

a basic opposition to the concept of war, is a prime reason why East Midlands CND was needed at this time of conflict. We aim to be inclusive and solve our differences and reservations with reason and resolve.

Why not include yourself in our activity? You can help our funding with as little as £5.00. For further information or to send your donation please contact: E.M.C.N.D., 50, Baker Street, Lutterworth, Leics. LE17 4BG.

Tom Cuthbert

'Sexed up', surely

I see that the phrase "sex up" has made it into an Oxford mini-dictionary of words and phrases. The book defines it as "to enhance something to give it greater appeal or impact".

With this definition I don't understand how the government and its supporters can claim that the Iraq dossier was not "sexed up". My MP claims this, and points out that the intelligence and security committee report published in September stated that "the [Iraq dossier of September 2002] was not 'sexed up' by Alastair Campbell or anyone else".

Yet in the same report the intelligence committee also notes that the threat from Saddam Hussein was distorted in the dossier, by making claims out of context, by stating as fact matters which were uncertain (eg production of chemical weapons), and in particular not stating that the claim that weapons of mass destruction (WMD) could be used with 45 minutes of an order was not certain and applied only to battlefield weapons and not, as the reader was left to assume, to missiles which could be used to attack another country. A sentence in the draft dossier that Saddam did not pose a threat to the UK was dropped from the final version.

The Hutton Inquiry has also given us unique view of evidence and material which would normally remain secret for many years (an indictment of a government which supported freedom of information until it came into power in 1997). There are many emails, copies of minutes, notes etc. which we would never have seen had it not been for the Hutton Inquiry. The Hutton Inquiry has heard:

- Dr Kelly described as the UK's expert on weapons of mass destruction. He had already told the foreign affairs select committee that he thought there was a only a 30% chance that Iraq had WMD, and that the 45

minute claim was "extremely unlikely".

- Dr. Brian Jones, deeply involved in production of the dossier, say that the government over-egged the threat posed by Saddam Hussein.
- "Mr A" say there were serious problems with the dossier, including the 45 minute claim.
- The head of MI6 say that the 45 minute claim was "misinterpreted" in the dossier in that it was not made clear that this only applied to battlefield weapons

In the Guardian (24 September)

Jonathan Friedland writes:

"[Alastair] Campbell's 15-point memo to [Joint Intelligence Committee Chair John] Scarlett, attached to a list of comments from Blair himself, with its suggested rewrites to the September dossier is proof that No 10's political advisers were leaning on the spooks to harden up the JIC assessment. Constantly, Campbell is asking for 'weak' statements to be replaced by 'stronger' ones, for 'may' and 'might' to become 'are' and 'will'. Even when he calls for some language to be cooled down, it is only for stylistic effect, knowing that a sober intelligence report will always have greater power than florid rhetoric. What was this but political pressure to beef up the dossier?"

Richard Norton Taylor also writes in the Guardian (October 1st):

"Under Scarlett's control, drafters of the dossier put things in at Downing Street's suggestion. They also took things out – most strikingly when Jonathan Powell, Blair's chief of staff, saw the final version of the much-redrafted dossier, and sent Campbell an urgent email. 'What will be the headline in the Standard on the day of publication? What do we want it to be?' he asked, referring to London's evening newspaper. He said the dossier's com-

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Iraq War Crimes

CND maintains the belief that war is an ineffective way to deal with weapons of mass destruction. We fully support disarmament of all nations through peaceful diplomacy. The concerted strengthening of international weapons treaties and implementation of a rigid weapons inspections programme over a realistic timeline would have been a much more effective way of disarming Iraq and preventing the future spread of weapons of mass destruction, without grave humanitarian consequences.

The US-UK led war on Iraq has led to the build up of a massive humanitarian crisis. CND still believes that the war was immoral and illegal, a view which seems to be confirmed by legal opinions CND obtained on the use of force against Iraq. The latest figures for the civilian death toll in Iraq, as estimated by www.iraqbodycount.net, is over 7000.

Tony Blair, Geoff Hoon and Jack Straw are currently being investigated for war crimes and crimes against humanity. They have already been served with the legal papers warning them that if the

conduct of the war violated International Humanitarian Law then CND, together with international lawyers and other NGOs, would take steps to hold them accountable before the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.

The White Ribbon campaign was initiated in February 2003 as a symbol of opposition to the war on Iraq by CND, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, the Green Party, Greenpeace and Mark Thomas. The white ribbon money is being used to support the tribunal being organised by Peacerights in London on 8th November, when eminent international lawyers will be determining whether war crimes were committed during the war and the occupation of Iraq. This is the first step in our plans to take Blair, Hoon and Straw to the International Criminal Court for war crimes. The tribunal findings will be presented to the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.

Taken from the CND website. More information at www.cnduk.org/pages/campaign/niraq.html

'Sexed up', surely

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ment that Saddam would use chemical or biological weapons only if he believed his regime was under threat posed 'a bit of a problem'. The passage should be redrafted, said Powell. All reference to Saddam's defensive use of such weapons was taken out, leaving the impression that Britain was 45 minutes from an attack."

It seems clear from all this evidence that the September dossier was not a balanced assessment of the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, but that, in the dossier, that threat was 'enhanced to give it greater appeal or

impact' – ie it was "sexed up"!

The reliability of the intelligence about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has now also been shown up by October's progress report of the Iraq Survey Group, which has been looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq for three months. No weapons of mass destruction have been found by the group, and all that had been uncovered was one vial of 10 years old botulinum toxin kept at an Iraqi scientist's home.

Mark Ramsey

WMD and other killers

We are repeatedly told that "weapons of mass destruction" (WMD) in the hands of "rogue states" or "terrorists" are the greatest danger to the peace and security of the world, and the sole aim of the "war on terrorism" is to eliminate this threat. The attack on Iraq was predicated not merely on the alleged possession of WMD by Saddam, but on their being in such a state as to be a **real and imminent threat** to the peace and security of the region and the world, that could not be contained by the UN Inspectors under Hans Blix. This has been totally discredited by the failure of these alleged weapons to be found.

However, the concept of WMD itself deserves a little more analysis than it usually receives. In fact this glib lumping together of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons as WMD is grossly misleading. Nuclear weapons are unique in their capacity to destroy the whole of civilisation, and, indeed, possibly all the more advanced forms of life on this planet. Chemical and biological weapons, horrendous though they are, do not remotely approach this capacity. (One significant difference is that they do not destroy buildings and infrastructure, or leave vast areas of land unusable for many years.) Further, many so-called "conventional" weapons are at least as destructive. Fuel-air weapons, cluster bombs, daisycutters, bunker busters: if these are not WMD, then we need a new language to convey the horror of these appalling products of the misuse of science and technology.

Had the term then been invented, I am sure the soldiers on the Somme in World War 1 would have considered the machine gun a WMD. In fact, of the many millions who have been killed in the countless conflicts since 1945, the vast majority have been the victims of small arms – the ubiquitous Kalashnikov and similar weapons, mostly supplied by the five permanent members of the Security

Council whose primary responsibility according to the UN Charter is the maintenance of peace and security in the world.

This does not mean, of course, that we should relax our efforts to achieve the implementation of the NPT (scrapping Trident would be a good start to that), followed by a Nuclear Weapons Convention, to strengthen and implement effectively the Chemical Weapons Convention, and to include effective verification provisions in the Biological Weapons Convention. It is not just Iraq or other "rogue states" that should be subjected to pressure. UN weapons inspectors should be empowered to go into any country that is known or suspected of developing such weapons. That certainly includes the United States, which is the worst offender in all these respects, and the main stumbling block to achieving an international regime with a realistic chance of controlling the spread of WMD, however defined.

But we must also keep up our opposition to the arms trade, ban cluster bombs and depleted uranium, continue to work for the conversion of military industry to peaceful purposes, support peacekeeping and conflict prevention, promote peace education and the concept of a culture of peace, and oppose the use of child soldiers, to mention some of the main issues which still need attention. All these could be incorporated in a fourth Special Session on Disarmament of the UN General Assembly (SSD4), for which WDC has been campaigning since it was first mooted several years ago. At the 2002 First Committee of the UN, a resolution calling for the convening of an SSD4 was passed by a consensus of UN states, including the US. But no date was set, once again. The grounds for delay are claimed to be the need for consensus on its objectives and agenda, but the suspicion remains that it is the reluctance of the US to expose itself

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Nuclear hotspots around the world

These are some of the nuclear hotspots around the world at the moment. Most, if not all of them, seem to be exacerbated by current US belligerence, and the lesson learnt from the US attack on Iraq that countries need to have weapons of mass destruction (unlike Iraq) if they wish to deter US 'pre-emptive' war.

North Korea

A nuclear crisis was sparked last autumn when the US claimed that they had evidence of a secret uranium enrichment process in North Korea. Having already suspended the process of dialogue begun by the former Clinton administration, the US used this allegation to renege on commitments made in the US-North Korea Agreed Framework signed in 1994.

As a response to these allegations, which came during the US preparations for war against Iraq, as well as the accusation of being part of an "axis of evil", North Korea withdrew from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and announced that it would start reprocessing spent fuel rods. It subsequently expelled International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) officials and, in May, declared that US belligerence meant that it had "no option" but to "build up a nuclear deterrent force". North Korea has since claimed that it has extracted plutonium from the spent fuel rods, which if true, would give it enough plutonium for five to six nuclear warheads in addition to the one or two it is believed to possess.

North Korea has also been calling for the the situation to be resolved by peaceful negotiations, which would lead to a Non Aggression agreement between the US and North Korea. Talks this autumn aimed at securing a peaceful resolution to the crisis

ended without agreement.

Iran

The US has been accusing Iran of wanting to develop nuclear weapons, has put Iran under intense pressure, and has hinted that it might use force to deal with Iran. Iran has remained adamant that it is not developing nuclear weapons and has no wish to do so in the future. Ten days before the expiry of a deadline from the International Atomic Energy Agency requiring it to prove it has no weapons programme, Iran has just negotiated an agreement with Britain, France and Germany to allow short-notice inspections by the UN and to suspend its uranium enrichment programme.

China

China recently became the third state on the planet – after the former Soviet Union and the US – to launch a manned spacecraft. Whilst some might see a successful introduction of advanced technology by a developing country might be thought a cause for international celebration, the militarists in Washington are likely to see it as further evidence of a "China threat". The US is determined to keep its overwhelming military advantage over China, and the US military sees any space programme it does not control as a challenge to its formal policy of dominating space militarily.

In contrast to the US quest to dominate, the Chinese have been campaigning for a UN treaty banning weapons from space.

The section about North Korea is taken from an article by Keith Bennett, a member of Labour CND EC, and published in "World Disarm!" Autumn 2003.

The war on Iraq: assessing the war and its aftermath

CND Briefing produced for the Labour Party Conference, Bournemouth, September 2003

The war on Iraq - end the occupation

The most urgent question facing Labour supporters and all other British people must be: How much has the war in Iraq cost in terms of money, lives and our vital relationships with the rest of the world?

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has an ongoing interest in this question, and so do the rest of the British people. After all, the stated aim of the war was to disarm Iraq of its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). CND's aims and objectives are: to campaign non-violently to rid the world of nuclear weapons and other WMD and to create genuine security for future generations; to change Government policies to bring about the elimination of British nuclear weapons as a major contribution to global abolition; and to co-operate with other groups in the UK and internationally to ensure the development of greater mutual security.

It was within the context of its objectives that CND felt it was its political and moral duty to take a leading role in mobilising legal, political and public opposition in efforts to stop the war.

In December 2002, CND obtained a legal opinion from Rabinder Singh QC and Charlotte Kilroy of Matrix Chambers, which categorically stated that the Resolution 1441 and the UK/US Draft Resolution did not expressly, or by implication, authorise Member States to use force to disarm Iraq; and that the UK would be acting in violation of international law if it were to join in any attack on Iraq in reliance on the two documents. The vast majority of the members of the United Nations Security Council took a similar

view. Most importantly, the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said: "unilateral action taken outside the Security Council would not conform to the UN charter". [BBC News, 14th March 2003].

On 21st January 2003, CND organised a Lobby of Parliament when hundreds of people from all over Britain went to the House of Commons to talk to their MPs and to demand that they oppose war;

On 22nd January 2003, CND served Mr. Tony Blair, Mr. Geoff Hoon and Mr. Jack Straw with a notice, which made it clear that if the UK acted so as to breach any International Humanitarian Law (IHL) within the definition of 'war crimes', CND and others would take steps to ensure that they were held accountable; and

On 15th February 2003, CND co-organised with Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of Britain, a public march and rally against the war, which attracted an estimated two million people.

In spite of CND's efforts, and in spite of the overwhelming domestic and international opposition, the UK joined USA in launching a pre-emptive military attack on Iraq on March 20th 2003.

Was the war justified?

Although it is almost six months since the start of the war, and five months since US President Bush declared that active combat was over; and although the UK and the US have sent about 1,400 scientists and military experts, the Iraq Survey Group, not a single trace of WMD has been discovered in Iraq. This is in spite of Mr Tony Blair's 18th March statement to the House of Commons when he told MPs

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that Iraq presented "a real and present danger to Britain and its national security", to the Middle East region in particular, and throughout the world generally. Most importantly, he also claimed that Iraqi WMD could be launched within 45 minutes.

However, since that speech and the war that followed, several events have consistently undermined the Government's case for war, while vindicating CND's opposition.

In his June 17th Radio 4 interview, the Foreign Secretary Jack Straw admitted that allied forces may never find 'weapons of mass destruction' in Iraq. Although this admission effectively overturned the entire basis on which Mr. Blair justified his decision to join the US-led attack, Mr. Straw maintained that this failure was "not crucially important" claiming that evidence of Iraqi wrongdoing was overwhelming.

On 10th September, the head of M16, Sir Richard Dearlove admitted at the Hutton inquiry into Dr David Kelly's death that the claim in a government dossier that Iraq could deploy weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes had been 'misinterpreted'. He also revealed that intelligence experts had warned that military action against Saddam would be counter-productive.

On 18th September 2003, the former United Nations chief weapons inspector, Dr Hans Blix, told the Australian state broadcaster ABC: "I'm certainly more and more to the conclusion that Iraq has, as they maintained, destroyed all, almost, of what they had in the summer of 1991" [The Independent; 18th September 2003].

On 18th September President George Bush told reporters as he met members of Congress on energy legislation: "We have no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with the 11 September attacks," [BBC news].

Therefore, the government's own case for war has been proved fatally flawed, if the weapons of mass destruction are not there, and if Saddam Hussein was not involved with the terrorist attacks on the USA.

The cost of the war

By any standard, the human and financial costs of the war in Iraq to the British and Iraqi people have been high and are still rising.

In Iraqi, the war has caused and continues to cause the deaths or injuries of unknown numbers of civilians, particularly vulnerable women and children, while the civilian infrastructure and vital social services like water, electricity, health and education are yet to be restored. It has also caused a near-total breakdown in law and order throughout the country, and particularly in Baghdad. Some of the damages are irreparable, such as the looting or destruction of priceless Iraqi antiquities.

The conduct of the war has ensured that the innocent people of Iraq will continue to pay with their lives for an indefinite period. In June 2003 the Foreign Office issued a circular entitled: 'Iraq - Frequently Asked Questions', in which the department admitted that the UK had used both cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions in the war in Iraq. In its answer to the question: "How can you justify the use of cluster bombs and depleted uranium?" the document stated: "Cluster bombs are lawful weapons that provide unique capability against certain legitimate military targets, such as dispersed armoured units...UK forces fired depleted uranium munitions during the conflict because they are the most effective anti-armour weapons". Unfortunately, this statement ignores the fact that the radioactive after-effects of depleted uranium explosions and the unexploded cluster bombs will continue

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to kill or maim the people of Iraq for years after the current conflict has ended.

The cost of the war to the UK has not been low. By the time we prepared this brief, 17 British troops had been killed since the end of fighting was declared by US President George Bush on 1st May, bringing the total British casualties to 50 troops since the beginning of the conflict in March.

In financial terms, the enormity of the UK commitment to the war was made crystal clear by the Chancellor, Mr. Gordon Brown who told Parliament that Britain would spend "what it takes" to disarm Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "Last year, I set aside £1.7 billion to be drawn upon by the Ministry of Defence for security and military preparation if and when action became necessary. Last month, I set aside an additional £1.6 billion, making a total of £3.3 billion". [Guardian 1st April 2003].

Politically, the UK's involvement in the war on Iraq has created deep divisions within the British people, Parliament and within the government, which suffered the resignations of two high-profile Cabinet Ministers, five junior Ministers and that of the Prime Minister's Director of Communication, Alistair Campbell. It has also left the British Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary facing a possible investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Internationally, it has severely weakened the United Nations, created major tensions both within the Security Council in particular and the Member States generally; and has created splits within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Alliance and within the European Union.

To cap it all, the Middle East peace roadmap, which was supposed to sell the war on Iraq to the Arab and Muslim world, has almost collapsed. On 15th September

2003, the US vetoed a Syrian-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution condemning the Israeli decision to exile or kill President Yassar Arafat, an elected leader of the Palestinian Authority. As predicted by CND and others who opposed the war, these unwelcome consequences have severely unsettled international peace and security.

A significant political cost of the war was the defeat of Labour in the Brent East Constituency. This saw a 29% swing away from Labour to secure a victory for the Liberal Democrats.

Added to this political cost is the tragic human cost, personified by the former Ministry of Defence weapons expert, Dr David Kelly who committed suicide within days of being identified as the source of BBC reports alleging that the Government had "sexed up" its dossier on Iraqi weapons. The Ministry of Defence has since been accused by lawyers acting for the scientist's family before Lord Hutton's inquiry of playing a "game of Russian roulette" with David Kelly over the protection of his identity.

Summary

To summarise, the war in Iraq can be described in six words: a purposeless but extremely expensive adventure. This is at variance with the core Labour values.

CND recalls that traditionally, the Labour Party used to be distinguished from other parties by its pro-poor and pro-peace domestic and foreign policies respectively. These were the corner stones on which Labour was built with a view to creating a fairer and safer community in the UK and around the world.

CND, like the vast majority of core Labour supporters, is rightly disturbed that the Chancellor of this Labour government should have pledged to "spend what it takes" to finance an illegal war in Iraq,

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while the gap between the rich and poor widens both in the UK and globally.

Conclusion

CND stands shoulder-to-shoulder with all Labour Party supporters in calling on the government to cut our mounting human and financial losses in the war in Iraq, and return to its core values of reducing poverty and promoting peace. To that end, the government must immediately do the following:

- Bring back all UK military personnel before any further casualties occur;
- Expedite the end of the occupation of Iraq, restoring government by the Iraqi people, if necessary through UN facilitation;
- Take a lead in nuclear disarmament and get rid of the UK Trident nuclear weapons system;
- Give an assurance that it will not join the US in another pre-emptive military attack against another country, particularly Iran and North Korea, the two countries named by George Bush as

part of the 'axis of evil';

- Exploit its unique position in the world as a member of the United Nations Security Council, NATO Alliance, the European Union, the Commonwealth, and its special relationship with the United States to promote non-discriminatory, diplomatic global disarmament of all nuclear weapons under the auspices of the United Nations;
- Honour its obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), particularly the final statement of the 2000 Review and Extension Conference in which the UK and the four other declared nuclear weapons states gave an "unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals".

CND firmly believes that this is the only way the government can and will ensure peace and security for the British people and internationally.

Taken from the CND website at www.cnduk.org/pages/binfo/lpc03.html

Nottingham CND Email List

An email list is a great way to circulate information to a number of people. The Nottingham CND email list is growing steadily. If you have email, please join the email list and help us keep you up to date with what's happening in Nottingham. Emails are sent out to an undisclosed list and we do not send attachments.

To join the list, simply send an email titled "Email List NCND" to enquiries@nottinghamcnd.org.uk

WMD and other killers

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to criticism that is the real reason. There does not seem to be any serious attempt to find that consensus. If this opposition persists, then perhaps consideration should be given to finding a formula for progress similar to that which produced

the Ottawa Convention on Landmines, which does not require the explicit support of any particular state.

Written by Frank Jackson, Vice-chair of the World Disarmament Campaign UK, and taken from the campaigns journal "World Disarm!", Autumn 2003

International Coalition Launches Campaign to Ban Weapons Containing DU

Experts in several disciplines and from eight countries met this weekend to discuss the creation of a strategy for an international ban on the use of depleted uranium and other radioactive materials in military weapons. Participants traveled from Belgium, Germany, Japan, Malta, The Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States to attend a three-day conference held in Berlaar, Belgium on October 10-11-12.

We believe there is mounting evidence of the effects of depleted uranium on human health and the environment. Therefore, we call for an immediate ban on depleted uranium and the use of other radioactive materials in conventional arms, the cleanup of all contaminated sites, compensation and care for all affected populations, a halt to the production, testing, sale, and export of DU weapons and a decommissioning of all existing stockpiles.

In pursuit of this goal, twelve organizations from eight countries have established The International Coalition For a Ban on Weapons Containing Depleted Uranium. We call on Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and other interested parties to join us in this urgent effort. These radioactive and chemically toxic weapons were first used on a large scale in the Gulf War in 1991, subsequently in other countries (Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan) and again in the current conflict in Iraq.

First and foremost, we feel that the occupying powers as well as the countries involved in the stabilization force in Iraq will be putting their soldiers in harms way. Therefore, we call on governments to

demand full disclosure on the amount and the locations of DU contaminated sites, access for the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to conduct an environmental assessment and for an independent investigation into the human health consequences in Iraq. Ultimately, however, we call on governments to put an end to the use of depleted uranium and other radioactive materials in weapons of war.

List of Coalition Partners:

AMOK, documentation and research collective on the military, The Netherlands

Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU), United Kingdom

Center for Peace and Justice, United States

Confédération des Syndicats Chrétiens (ACV-CSC) Brussels, Belgium (Christian Labor Union)

For Mother Earth, Belgium

Grassroots Action for Peace, United States

International Depleted Uranium Study Team (IDUST), United States

LAKA Foundation, documentation and research center on nuclear energy, The Netherlands

Maarten H.J van den Berg (RISQ | Independent Foreign Policy Think Tank), The Netherlands

Military Toxics Project (MTP), United States

No DU Hiroshima Project, Japan

Our Common Future, United Kingdom

Monthly Silent Vigil for Peace

A new Monthly Silent Vigil for Peace began in Nottingham in September. It follows the weekly peace vigil which began in autumn 2002 and wound down before the summer. There was a feeling that the new vigils should have some educational or practical link, so the vigils will each have a different focus, and will be joined by a stall showing practical ways to work towards peace.

Iraq was the focus of the first vigil, in September, and the vigil was accompanied

by a stall run by the Nottingham Friends of the Iraqi People group, a group working to make links and provide humanitarian assistance to people in Iraq (see the article below). The second vigil in October focused on prisoners of conscience and included an Amnesty stall.

The next vigil will take place on November 22nd, 12-12.30pm in front of the council house in Market Square and will focus on Trade Justice. Please join us.

Mark Ramsey

Nottingham CND AGM

Sunday 16th November, 2pm

Queens Walk Community Centre

Nottingham Friends of the Iraqi People – Aid Iraq Project

Nottingham Friends of the Iraqi People (NFIP) is a group who are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the war on the people of Iraq.

The aim is to mitigate the suffering of millions of ordinary Iraqis who through no fault of their own have been caught up in the invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq, by focusing on humanitarian relief. In Iraq now the overall situation is quite grim, and the precarious security / law and order situation means that humanitarian relief has been slow to get through and basic services are still not available or unreliable. The electricity and fuel supply has actually decreased, compounding problems with water supply, and practically the whole population is dependent on food aid.

In partnership with Nottingham-based relief agency Muslim Hands (a global relief

agency based in Nottingham, with over a decade of relief experience and a presence on the ground in Baghdad), Nottingham Friends of the Iraqi People is launching a series of "people to people" solidarity aid projects in Iraq to help mitigate some of the misery of the Iraqi people. NFIP has identified several projects it can undertake, depending on the level of support it receives, which it believes can have a modest but important role in befriending and helping the Iraqi people at this difficult time.

For more information about Nottingham Friends of the Iraqi People, see the website at www.nottmnowar.org, write to NFIP, 6 Park Crescent, Wollaton, Nottingham.