



Nottingham CND

Quick Bulletin

October 1999

Welcome to October's Bulletin. The committee agreed to make this issue a shortened one as we were running short of time to give proper notice for the AGM. Hence some submitted items are not in this issue – I apologise for this – they should appear in the December issue.

Mark Ramsey – Editor

Nottingham CND News

Green Festival

Thanks to everyone who helped at the Green Festival which was well worth attending. The CND stall was well staffed throughout the day thanks to your efforts and took around £86. The weather was fantastic and the change of position (near the bandstand along the Victoria Embankment road) attracted more of the general public – although I know some people feel that the old position had more of a festival feel about it. Sadly on the weekend of the festival the Amnesty bookshop on Heathcote Street in Nottingham shut down – if anyone has any ideas for another venue to store our stall within easy reach of St Peters Gate please contact us.

White Poppy Day

Again this year CND will be selling white poppies before Remembrance Day, and we have decided to send the proceeds to the UK Working Group on Landmines which was discussed at last year's AGM and has the support of CND nationally. We will be selling the poppies at St Peters Gate on the following dates:

Saturday 30 October 11am - 3pm

Monday 8th November 12 noon - 4pm.

Any help would be appreciated.

If you would like a poppy and can't get to the stall, please send an SAE and a donation (at least 35p to cover poppy costs) to Jeremy Jago, 1 Lucknow Ave, Mapperley Park, Nottm NG3 5AZ.

Nottingham CND AGM

This year's AGM is on Sunday 14th November, 2pm, at the International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road. We have invited Tom Cuthbert who is on the CND council to talk about CND's activities nationally. We will be electing new officers: Secretary, Treasurer, Membership secretary, Bulletin editor and Committee members; any nominations or motions should be sent to the Nottingham CND office or brought to the AGM. We are also looking for a press officer for the next year – this can be done at home and is vital for our cause so please think about it.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Diane Lunzer – out going Secretary

US Rejects Test Ban Treaty - see p2

Scottish Sheriff Rules Trident Illegal - see p3

Nuclear safety fear in Derby - see p4

US Senate Rejects Test Ban Treaty

The Republican dominated US Senate has voted against ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and warned that this could be followed by a fresh Senate move to wreck the 1972 anti ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, opening the way to a major expansion of America's nuclear stockpile under a future Republican president.

President Bill Clinton vowed yesterday that the United States will continue to abide by the terms of the CTBT and continue to observe the moratorium on nuclear testing in force since 1992. But there is a danger that following the American rejection, the whole nuclear disarmament

process could start to unravel.

The CTBT was signed in New York in September 1996. It bans all underground nuclear tests and confirms the bans on other nuclear tests introduced in earlier treaties. For the treaty to come into effect, the 44 countries with the capacity to build nuclear devices must all ratify it. Only 26 have done so, including Britain, France and Germany, all last year. The non-ratifiers include India and Pakistan, which both tested nuclear devices for the first time last year, and Russia, China and North Korea. Almost all of them were awaiting the American outcome before making their own decisions.

Hiroshima Day

An important annual event in the calendar of Nottingham CND is our commemoration of the dropping of the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6th August 1945, and a few days later on Nagasaki. It is a solemn but not sombre event in which our remembrance of those who died, our anger and our campaigning against the threat and use of modern nuclear weapons today is expressed in a wealth of local talent.

This year's event, held in Nottingham's Arboretum, attracted an audience of 40-50 people and was ably compered by David Lane. We had songs from the Clarion Choir and from Pauline Abbot who sang so well and movingly without any accompaniment; readings from members including Jos Wood and Jeremy Jago and

poetry including one by our 'Singing Vet' Connie Ford who died last year. In the gathering dusk Dale Hodgekinson gave his moving guitar solos which have become a regular feature in recent years.

When we used to hold the commemoration at University Park we would conclude by floating lighted candles and paper cranes on the waters of the lake. These days having no access to a lake we light coloured lanterns and carry them with our banners to the gates of the park.

There are some among the world's 'leaders' who would like us to forget. In these commemorations we show not only will we never forget but we re-dedicate ourselves to the task of ridding the planet of nuclear weapons before they are used again.

Marguerite Oldham

The Bulletin is produced quarterly by Nottingham CND. Any articles or opinions expressed within are not necessarily the policy of Nottingham CND. The next issue of the Bulletin is due in December 1999. Articles or other material to be considered for inclusion should be sent to Nottingham CND at the address below by Nov 22nd 1999. Nottingham CND, Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, Sandfield House, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB. Tel: 0115 9348459

Scottish Sheriff Rules Trident Illegal

20 October. Three Trident Ploughshares activists were acquitted of damaging a Trident facility in Loch Goil in June this year. Sheriff Margaret Gimblett decided to instruct the jury to acquit them and effectively said that British nuclear weapons were illegal so the women were acting to prevent a crime under international law and so had reasonable excuse.

Sheriff Gimblett said: "I have to conclude that the three accused in company with others were justified in thinking that Great Britain in their use of Trident, not simply possession, the use and deployment of Trident allied with that use and deployment at times of great unrest, coupled with a first strike policy and in the absence of any indication from any government official then or now that such use fell into any strict category suggested in

the International Court of Justice opinion, the threat or use of Trident could be construed as a threat, has indeed been construed by others as a threat and as such is an infringement of international and customary law... The three took the view if it was illegal and, given the horrendous nature of nuclear weapons they had the obligation in terms of international law to do whatever they could to stop the deployment and use of nuclear weapons in situations which could be construed as a threat ... I have heard nothing which would make it seem to me that the accused acted with criminal intent."

She added "The law is not clear on nuclear arms. I may be totally wrong. If it goes to appeal I may not be upheld and every case depends on whatever circumstances."

News in Brief

Global fears after Japan nuclear accident (Oct 2)

Three workers were seriously injured after a radiation leak from an uncontrolled nuclear chain reaction at a uranium-processing facility in Tokaimura. The accident happened when workers attempted to mix seven times the regulation levels of uranium. About 150 people living within a 350-yard radius of the accident were evacuated. Police declared off-limits an area nearly two miles wide around the plant after radiation levels 10,000 times higher than normal were detected.

Television 'sanitises' news footage (Oct 5)

The director of programmes at Carlton Television has warned that broadcasters are sanitising the horror of war in news coverage because of a mistaken fear of a backlash from viewers. He compared the BBC coverage of Nato's bombing of a refugee convoy in the Kosovo conflict with that in France – the French versions

showed that the incident was "absolutely ghastly" whilst the BBC coverage "was so sanitised it made me question whether the event had happened at all in the way I had previously seen". He is supported by Martin Bell, former war correspondent, who said that the broadcasters' alleged timidity "pitified" warfare, making it acceptable as a means of resolving conflicts in a way that might not be the case if more graphic images were shown. "It has a political effect," he said.

Better image for AWE

The Atomic Weapons Establishment has set up and stocked a junior science laboratory in the further education college of neighbouring Basingstoke which will be a free facility for 40 primary schools in and around the town. Reasons include encouraging more people into science in the future and the AWE's need for a better image, admitted AWE's chief executive.

Derby nuclear plant hit by safety scare

Safety inspectors have found serious flaws and inadequate plans to protect workers in an emergency at a secret nuclear fuel plant in Derby. A leaked report by the nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) severely criticised the Rolls-Royce plant in Raynesway, on the outskirts of Derby, which processes highly enriched uranium fuel for nuclear submarines. Rolls-Royce has always said the marine power division at Raynesway makes propulsion systems for Trident submarines, but the delicate and dangerous operation of processing highly enriched uranium

was classified until now.

Concerns were raised that there is no plan to protect the local population in the event of an accident. CND said the situation at the Rolls-Royce plant was "potentially worse" than that in Japan, which recently experienced its worst ever nuclear accident, "because of the type of materials being used". It said Rolls-Royce was mixing up to 93% highly-enriched uranium, compared with only 20% being mixed at Tokaimura.

Summarised from The Guardian 18 Oct 1999

Meetings and actions about the Raynesford situation are being planned by CND at the moment. Contact the office for latest details.

Diary Dates

- 14 November Nottingham CND AGM – see below.
- 27 November CND Stall at Morning Star Christmas Bazaar, 11am-4pm at the International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road. The Morning Star is the only daily newspaper which supports CND. We will be having a stall at the bazaar this year with CND literature and Christmas cards. Volunteers are needed to support the stall and you can do some Christmas shopping at the same time!

Nottingham CND AGM

Please come to this year's AGM, which includes a slide show review of the year and a talk by Tom Cuthbert about National CND events.

Sunday 14th November, 2 p.m.

ICC, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

Thurs 25th Nov Special Meeting: Depleted Uranium

Talk by Kath Bann of Manchester CND

7.30, ICC, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham

Please support this meeting on the campaign against a unexpected yet widespread modern hazard.