# heddwch

summer 2009 number 50

cnd cymru

campaign for nuclear disarmament

## Trident in Trouble

In the Spring issue of *heddwch* we reported on growing opposition to plans to 'modernise' Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system (www.cndcymru.org). New voices have now joined this chorus.

For the very first time, a leader of Britain's third party (Nick Clegg) has joined Plaid Cymru and Scotland's National Party in calling for non-replacement of Trident whilst, within the two major Parties in Britain, influential voices are becoming more vocal.

Now ex-Lib Dem leader Lord Ashdown and a former defence secretary, Lord Robertson have advised the government to 'revisit plans to renew its Trident nuclear deterrent' and say that the aim should be 'to eradicate nuclear weapons'.

#### Responsibility

Sadly, their reasons have little to do with morality and still ignore Britain's treaty obligation, under Article VI of the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty, to work towards a world without nuclear weapons. Any new nuclear weapons system (whatever its cost) would violate this treaty obligation and make it more difficult to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

#### About time too

All the cant about a threat from North Korea – ignores the historical fact that Britain began a 'horizontal'

nuclear arms race between countries that acquired nuclear weapons for prestige when 'deterrence' only made sense for Russia and America. Without Britain, there would have been no justification for France and China to acquire 'independent' nuclear weapons, followed by India, Pakistan, Israel, South Africa and now, possibly, Iran and North Korea. At any time in the past 50 years, Britain could have given up the pretence of an independent nuclear deterrent and initiated a 'horizontal' nuclear disarmament race.

#### Cost

None of this is argued by the most recent converts to non-replacement of Trident. In a recent influential report to government, former Chief of Defence Staff Lord Guthrie actually argues for more public money to raise the armed forces from 98,000 to 120,000 and a 'new stabilisation force to tackle situations like postwar Afghanistan and Iraq'. For him and others, Trident might have to be axed simply to balance the

books to facilitate additional military expenditure. Despite this amoral reasoning, CND Cymru welcomes this support for ditching the Trident replacement project. It now seems unlikely that the government's planned nuclear escalation can go ahead – not least because the government of Scotland has renewed its pledge to obstruct any deployment of the new Trident by whatever means are at its disposal.

(see <u>www.guardian.co.uk/uk/feedarticle/8580893)</u>

John Cox



## Scotland Opposes Trident

First Minister, Alex Salmond, has confirmed that the Scottish Government will 'fight against a new generation of Trident missiles being housed in Scotland - particularly when polls have shown opposition north of the Border to the plans', warning that his government plan to block any deployment of new nuclear weapons in Scotland.

In a bitter exchange with Conservative leader David Cameron, who had claimed that the government in Westminster could deploy nuclear weapons anywhere it pleased in Britain, the Scottish First Minister claimed there was 'no mandate for the missiles to be housed on Scottish soil', adding: 'It is like me saying, we'll go and sink all of Scotland's carbon dioxide in the Thames but we won't bother consulting David Cameron.'

If, as David Cameron claims, Scotland cannot get rid of nuclear weapons whilst part of 'the UK', CND's campaign against Trident replacement will become immersed in the maelstrom of issues that will be debated before the forthcoming referendum on Scottish independence.

#### inside:

\*no UAV tests over mid Wales (photo left)
\*bed-peace in Cardiff
\*news from around the country
\*Welsh mayors join up for peace
\*Wylfa

and more...

#### heddwch action:

Help to keep up the pressure

\*Sign the online petition jointly launched with Medact - No to Trident, Yes to a Nuclear Weapons Convention - as part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). <a href="www.cnduk.org">www.cnduk.org</a> For a bilingual version contact CND Cymru (see page 8)

\*To write to the British national papers about these issues see:

www.nuclearpolicy.info/Media/media.html for details, & don't forget your local paper – more people read every word of these than the 'nationals'.

Also Western Mail
e: readers@mediawales.co.uk
North Wales Daily Post:
letterswales@dailypost.co.uk

CND Cymru works for international peace and disarmament and a world in which the vast resources now devoted to militarism are redirected to the real needs of the human community and the environment



#### heddwch

is the magazine of the Wales Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND Cymru).

CND Cymru works to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction, for peace and human and environmental justice.

Comment, letters and articles for publication are welcome.

('heddwch' - 'peace')

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The content of heddwch does not necessarily reflect the opinion or policies of CND Cymru. We welcome debate and discussion. Please send any comments or letters to the editor.



## Wales needs you!

Please come to Aldermaston to help stop new nuclear weapons

Dear Friends,

Trident Ploughshares is organising a big blockade of Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment for Monday 15th February 2010 from 7am – all day - and we need your help.

There have been protests at Aldermaston ever since it opened in the 1950s. Some of the most famous British anti-nuclear marches have taken place at Aldermaston. There are seven gates into this massive nuclear bomb making factory and different groups will be blockading at all of them and we would really value an all-Wales blockade at the Construction Gate to draw attention to the threat posed by British nuclear weapons and to call for the British Government to uphold international law and disarm immediately.

The British Government could help unravel the deadlock on disarmament if it agreed to get rid of Trident instead of replacing it. Scotland has already got an anti-nuclear government and wants Trident out. A general election is expected in 2010 and the Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty coming up in April next year at which serious progress is vital to ensuring both disarmament of long-held nuclear arsenals and preventing the creation of any new ones. With President Obama's call for disarmament creating hope, we need to ensure that Britain plays its part by ending 24 hour patrols by Trident and by suspending work on Trident replacement at Aldermaston.

We believe that a big blockade showing strong nonviolent resistance at Aldermaston is very important at this crucial time. We need the considered, articulate voices and the enthusiasm and energy of people from Wales to join the blockade. We really do need you.

Trident Ploughshares (www.tridentploughshares.org) is co-ordinating the blockade and will be supported by CND and other peace and justice groups. Groups will be organising and training themselves, building their lock-ons or other blockading tools and arriving fully prepared to start blockading at 7am on Monday 15th February. Trident Ploughshares will be providing legal back-up, collecting people from police stations and everyone will gather after the action for food and debriefs. More details will be forthcoming at a later date.

If help is needed with planning and training, advice for accommodation etc then please contact me. A briefing pack will soon be available with maps and legal briefings and other useful info.

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

love and peace,
Angie Zelter,
Trident Ploughshares
m: 078-3535-4652
e: reforest@gn.apc.org

#### heddwch action:

please contact Jill Gough CND Cymru (see page 8) if you are interested in taking part and/or your group or you as an individual would be prepared to co-ordinate the All-Wales blockade. Practical help will be needed to organise and ensure that we work together as successfully as we did in 2007 and 8 at Faslane.

## **Promoting Peace**

I am delighted to have been re-elected to serve as one of Wales's Members of the European Parliament for a further five years and I would like to thank everyone for their support. The European Parliament is unique in that it is the only major international body which is directly elected by the people. And the European Union (EU) itself is a fantastic example of creating lasting reconciliation between countries once at war. This is a crucial stage in the development of the EU.

In October the Irish people vote for a second time on the Lisbon Treaty which they rejected last year. If, as expected, they vote yes this time, then the new treaty will come into force. It states: "The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of

its peoples". And I believe that the EU's role in promoting peace should be our focus, particularly in the run up to the review of the Nuclear Non-**Proliferation Treaty** in 2010. We have to ensure that any **European Common** Security and Defence Policy addresses the real threats from which we need to be defended, such as poverty, injustice



and climate change. That means that rather than creating a military force the EU establishes a civilian peace corps and develops its peace-building role in partnership with the United Nations.

In the new European Parliament we will once again set up a peace group to bring together elected members from all countries and all parties who are committed to working for peace and nuclear disarmament. We will continue to campaign for a nuclear free Europe and stopping Trident replacement is already a major focus. I will be in Aldermaston on 15th February next year to take part in the big blockade and I'm sure there'll be many other MEPs with me to reflect the growing opposition to Britain's weapons of mass destruction at all levels. We are too close to winning to stop now. **We can do it together.** 

Jill Evans CND Cymru Chair

## A Start but only a Start

President Obama has acknowledged that disarmament by already established nuclear powers is the best way to combat the spread of nuclear weapons and the urgent necessity for nuclear disarmament is obvious. President Medvedev has now also stepped up to the plate, and the Russian government has embraced the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Obama and Medvedev plan to reduce deployed warhead numbers by 1,500 - 1,675 compared to the current agreement of 1,700 - 2,200 warheads each. The agreement includes verification measures which have been lacking from recent arms reduction deals, and are vital for building trust and confidence as warhead numbers are reduced.

The US/Russia agreement has its critics, including Alice Slater a founder of Abolition 2000, who commented: 'Had Obama been willing to forego the illusory US missile shield (offering no protection against incoming missiles, which could well be accompanied by a barrage of indistinguishable decoys), Russia might well have agreed to larger reductions in their mutual arsenals. These currently together total about 25,000 warheads with only about 1,000 more in the possession of all seven other nuclear powers—Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. If the US and Russia agree to reduce their stockpiles of nuclear bombs to 1,000 or less, they would then have the moral authority required to bring all the nuclear weapons states to the negotiating table to eliminate nuclear weapons.

The Moscow agreement also aims to reduce delivery systems by a third. Meanwhile, Britain plans to maintain its fleet of four submarines - the same posture it has held since the 60s. if Gordon Brown supports the 'leading by example' technique, then instead of signing initial contracts behind closed-doors in September, he should immediately put Trident replacement on hold and start a full review of the future of Britain's nuclear weapons system.

## Yet More Voices against Trident Replacement

Two senior politicians from opposing parties have spoken out against Trident Replacement this summer.

The Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch-Brown has questioned whether the Government should be replacing Trident. Speaking to The Telegraph only days before he stepped down from his post, he was reported as questioning 'the value of Britain's planned £20 billion replacement of the Trident nuclear deterrent'. 'On overall defence spending, he said 'a review is absolutely overdue and needed'. It is clear that, in his view, the Trident update should be scrapped. 'I find it very hard to see how the current Trident delivery system – the submarines – survives that review. The plan for renewing them strikes me as [wrong]. There's going to be a very legitimate debate about cheaper means of maintaining a minimum, stripped-down deterrent.'

While Malloch-Brown he accepts that patching up the existing fleet or finding a cheaper, land-based alternative might be needed, he thinks even those options may soon be superfluous. 'Within our working lives, nuclear disarmament may have reached the point where they become redundant. It just looms as too big a cost.'

Senior Conservative MP David Davis says that there is no need to go ahead immediately with the plan for a like-for-like replacement for Trident. He argues that the focus should be on how to make the current system last longer, rather than on how to replace it. He writes in the Financial Times: 'The reason we decommissioned the cheaper air-dropped WE177 nuclear bombs in the 1990s and kept Trident was because the Trident system was designed to survive an

all-out Soviet attack with sufficient power to retaliate. That threat is much reduced, and the bigger threat is of one or two probably inaccurate nuclear weapons from a rogue state.

'On that basis what we have now is more than enough and certainly does not require an upgrade. We simply have to consider how to keep what we have viable' 'It should be an obvious choice to extend the

Vanguards' life, at least to coincide with that of the D5 missiles. Although cabinet ministers now appear to be dithering over plans to design and build a new generation of submarines, the official public stance is still to press ahead with a Vanguard replacement. This project faces a glaring problem: what if the new missiles, to be introduced less than halfway through its lifespan, don't fit? The

MoD claims to have US assurances that any new missile will be compatible, but the public accounts committee has rightly noted that "there is no guarantee it will'.

http://banthebomb.org/ne/

## All in favour say 'Ban Them'

The recent Guardian/ICM poll has shown clearly that 54% of Britons would like Britain to get rid of its nuclear weapons and only 42% favour the replacement of Trident with a new generation of nuclear weapons.

Significantly, the results were achieved from a question that did not mention the potential costs of the system, suggesting that the growing acceptance

that Britain does not need nuclear weapons goes beyond objection to the costs of any one development. The 'Initial Gate' of the Trident Replacement programme (the point when the MoD will decide whether to proceed with the initial design work for a new submarine) had been scheduled for September 2009. However, on 13th July, Defence Minister Bob Ainsworth told the House of Commons that Initial Gate would be made "later this year". On 17<sup>th</sup> July a government spokesperson announced that the decision would be postponed until after the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Conference (May 2010) and probably beyond the General Election.

'The Foreign Affairs Committee and 160 MPs have called for a debate yet the Government seems to want to carry on as though nothing has changed - no recession, no Obama disarmament drive; no shift in public opinion.



## 'Beyond the Pale' but over Wales

The use of unmanned drones as weapons of war in conflicts around the world has been called into question by one of Britain's most senior judges. Lord Bingham, until last year the senior law lord, said that some weapons were so 'cruel as to be beyond the pale of human tolerance'. In an interview with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Lord Bingham compared drones, which have killed hundreds of civilians in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Gaza, with cluster bombs and landmines. Yet here in Wales the taxpayer is supporting research into their use for military purposes.

An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) consultation has been carried out by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) this Summer, in preparation for the setting up of a Qinetiq testing zone above 500 sq miles of West Wales (between Aberporth and Mynydd Epynt). Although the emphasis is laid on future *civilian* uses of UAVs and benefits to the Welsh economy, most UAV research is military and aims to create the next generation of pilotless automated surveillance and attack aircraft. 80% of QinetiQ's global sales are military. The first planned UAV flights at Parc Aberporth will take place upon behalf of the MoD.

The fly zone will allow military UAV drone flights at any time day or night to test spying, attack and collision avoidance systems. So far £9 million of Assembly (our) money has been spent developing Aberporth and 18 jobs (only 10 local) have been created. In 2004 WAG had 'promised' 230 jobs.

US Predator UAVs are used in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan with laser-guided bombs and missiles often controlled and piloted from a base in Nevada, USA. In Pakistan, 14 senior Al Qaeda leaders and in the same time period and in the same area, 700 Pakistani civilians have been killed by the US military, all by UAV strikes.

#### Sustainable Options

Jeremy Clulow, with Bro Emlyn Peace and Justice Group is only one of many speaking out against the militarisation of the west Wales economy. He called for WAG investment in high-tech civilian technologies such as sustainable energy generation and manufacturing, which would bring far more long term jobs for local people. The £9 million of taxpayers' money has simply subsidised an already rich arms industry. (1)WAG Cabinet Sub Committee on Jobs and Skills – JS(05-06)06

heddwch action: Write to your MP or AM. No local MP or AM has spoken out against the military activities of Parc Aberporth or the proposed UAV fly zone. Politely tell them how you feel and ask them to represent your view, not just their own. For contact details of MPS and AMs see Page 1. Join the campaign see: <a href="https://www.bepj.org.uk">www.bepj.org.uk</a>



## Marking the right to refuse to kill

It was in the National Garden of Peace at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff that a commemorative stone to Conscientious Objectors was unveiled in 2005. So it was fitting that 50 people congregated there on 15th May this year to celebrate International Conscientious Objectors' Day once more. Songs played their uniting role in the open air part of the event, when Côr Cochion Caerdydd and Frankie Armstrong sang rousingly to accompany the placing of a wreath of white and red poppies at the stone.

Back in the Temple building, we heard Bruce Kent provide inspiring stories of conscientious objection from the two World Wars of the last century; Robin Brookes speak of the Peace Tax Seven's continuing commitment to winning the right to ensure that a greater proportion of our money can be spent on peaceful alternatives to war; and George Crabb read a powerful 2008 testimony from an Israeli refusenik.

Proceedings were chaired by Bethan Jenkins, AM. With her support, a Statement of Opinion has been submitted to the National Assembly for Wales, seeking annual recognition of CO Day by it; and an Assembly

e-petition of a similar tenor created, which is open to members of the public to sign. Bethan has also used her personal blog and Facebook presence to engage with others on the issue of marking people's right to refuse to kill. **Stephen Thomas** 

heddwch action: ask your AMs to sign the Assembly Statement of Opinion; and sign the e-petition on the Assembly's web-site. Address: Your AM, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

www.assemblywales.org/memhome www.bethanjenkinsblog.org.uk

competitive and 'to

encourage a global

Youth

community of Peace Mala Schools and

Groups'. Details of

the new scheme will

September. Pam said 'A

Peace Mala School will be

be announced in



Left to Right: Bruce Kent, Bethan Jenkins AM, Ray Davies, Robin Brookes and George Crabb.

#### Llandrindod Wells Peace Garden

A plague has been placed in the Peace Garden at the Pavilion. Llandrindod Wells. It marks the area where, over many years Llandrindod Wells and District CND have planted trees to show their commitment to stand for peace in the world and their objection to nuclear weapons and power. At the inauguration of the plaque, in June, group president Vera Jones reaffirmed their commitment to these principles. Trees have been planted in the garden since the 1980s to coincide with Hiroshima Day.



Brian Lopez, Heather Speake, Audrey Cleaton, Trish Hill -Llandrindod Town Mayor, Dr. Lichenstein, Pat Gulliford (Treasurer), Dennis Cleaton, Trevor Mc Pherson, Beryl Lichenstein, Pat Galliford (front), Vi Shenton (secretary), Sian Meredudd, and Vera Jones (president, seated).

### **Steadfast Circles of Peace**

Sheikh Ahmad Dede and his whirling dervishes will be bringing Sufi blessings of peace and unity to the Peace Mala International Awards for Youth to be held at the Temple of Peace (Cardiff) in September.

This is to be the last year of the Youth Awards in sponsorship money for this year's Youth Awards. their present form. Pam Evans, Peace Mala International Awards for founder of Peace Mala said Youth 2009 winners: Junior - Equal 1st: St Helen's Primary that she wants the Awards to become less School and Hafod Primary School

> Swansea; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School Glenrothes Fife Scotland 3rd: St Joseph's Cathedral Infant School Swansea. Highly Commended -Clase Primary School Swansea

**Senior -** 1<sup>st</sup>: Sandfields and Aberavon Youth Inclusion

Programme Port Talbot; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Trinity High School Renfrew Scotland 3rd: Step Ahead Education Centre Swansea.

heddwch action: interested in attending this year's awards on September 14th or want more information? Contact Peace Mala: t: 01792 774 225

e: info@peacemala.org.uk www.peacemala.org.uk

committed to placing the vision and message of Peace Mala at the heart-centre of its values. Part of that will be to encourage Peace Education. Schools will be encouraged to Llandrindod Wells and District CND members left to right: set up School Peace Councils and to engage in peace activities.' Peace Mala supporter Ruth Davies, who walked part of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain this year as a Peace Mala

## 2009 Pilgrimage to Mynydd Epynt

Sennybridge Military Training Area on Mynydd Epynt now consists of approximately 31,000 acres of MOD land and 6,000 acres of land leased from Forest Enterprise. It is now the third largest military training area in Britain.

In 1940 Epynt was compulsorily purchased from people living and working on the land. Many were part of families who had always lived on Epynt. 200 Welsh speakers who believed they would return after the war lost their homes, and a vibrant Welsh speaking community was broken up. Almost seventy years later the area remains a firing range and barren training ground for soldiers. Soldiers from across the world have used the area to learn military

A new threat to the area is now looming as weapons testing company Qinetiq seeks to test-fly 'unmanned aerial vehicles' or military drones between Aberporth on the Ceredigion coast and Epynt. Many people in the affected areas of Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Powys are deeply concerned about the dangers and threats to their privacy as well as of the morality of these plans.

'Army Day' on June 27th was marked by the Cymdeithas y Cymod (Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales) annual pilgrimage across

Epynt. The group made their way to Capel Babell where a service led by the Reverend Pryderi Llwyd Jones was held. A regular pilgrim to Mynydd Epynt said:

'Wales is in serious danger of becoming famous as a place for men and women learning to kill at the behest of politicians - and we don't necessarily trust or believe many of those any more. 'Today we are all concerned with peace, justice, grave environmental issues and providing enough to live for everyone and thing on the planet.'

'I am Welsh and an internationalist. Wales as a military and weapons testing and training ground is not what I want and not what my forebears lived and worked for either. We have better hopes and dreams for our children and grandchildren.'

'The sooner we learn to communicate better between groups and nations, the sooner we will stop violence within and between our communities.'

Details: <a href="mailto:cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com">cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com</a>

pilgrimage for World Peace, raised £1,000 in

#### Corporate mercenaries - EDM action now

Foreign Secretary David Miliband has abdicated responsibility for the growing phenomenon of private military and security companies by proposing that the trade organisation should monitor them. In effect, this would mean no regulation. Please take action by asking your MP to sign an Early Day Motion (EDM), a kind of parliamentary petition, criticising the Government's proposal and calling on it to consider a licensing and monitoring system. Find out more online: www.caat.org.uk/ emailbulletin/0906/ corporate mercenaries edm.php

## Too hot to sleep

A 'Peace Bed-In' was held at the Cardiff Big Sleep Hotel in May. The event commemorated the anniversary of the honeymoon of John Lennon and Yoko Ono who, in 1969 had celebrated with a 'bed-in for peace' in room 902 of the Amsterdam Hilton. The press had avidly pursued John and Yoko, assuming that the famous nudists would make love for their cameras but instead, the pyjama-clad newlyweds spoke out about world peace and protested against the Vietnam War.

Forty years on, in Cardiff, it rained – and how it rained. Despite this, undaunted visitors braved the weather and voted with their feet for Peace. The event was timely in the face of ever more frightening government statistics which paint a picture of our homes, our streets, our schools and our world as places of violence and intolerance:

#### Making violence history

Julie Morgan, MP for Cardiff North attended the event in the Cardiff Hotel. She discussed the issue and agreed that the teaching of non-violent conflict resolution to children of all ages is a way forward. These methods are working today in inner city schools.

Julie said, 'I strongly believe that if young people are given the tools to reduce conflict in their lives we can start to transform violence in our schools, in our homes and on our streets.'

'I shall be asking for the teaching of non-violent conflict resolution to be placed firmly on the National Curriculum and will be raising this in Parliament at the earliest opportunity.'

#### More than dreams

Several peace organisations were present - including the ministry for peace, Women Opposing War, Amnesty International, COEXIST and the Centre for Economic and Social Justice. There was information to study, plenty of discussion and entertainment throughout the day by students of the Royal College of Music and Drama, the Klesmer Kollectiv and virtuoso guitarist Rossini Hayward. A lot of deep thought and a lot of fun.

#### **Bed-Peace**

The Peace Bed-Ins have been gathering momentum. A Facebook Group was created and hundreds of people from all over the world signed up. They pledged to take one day in the year and devote it entirely to peace. Members posted videos, pictures, music, thoughts and strategies.

If the teaching of conflict transformation can truly be rolled out to schools it could be a turning point in the construction of a Culture for Peace.

#### Pippa Bartolotti, founder of COEXIST



Pippa Bartolotti and Julie Morgan at the Peace Bed-in, Cardiff

#### heddwch action:

COEXIST believes that true and lasting peace can only be sustained when economic, social and environmental justice have been achieved; they believe in freedom of speech, sustainability of the wider environment; positive action and passive resistance, compassion and love in its widest sense. They have no political or religious affiliation; campaign to uphold the rights of all peoples and animals and recognise the need for peace organisations worldwide to work together. t: 01633 822 922 or join the COEXIST mailing list e: coexist@pippa-bartolotti.co.uk see: www.ministryforpeace.org

### **More and More Mayors for Peace**

CND Cymru recently asked all mayors and leaders and Chairs of Local Authorities in Wales to join the international group of 'Mayors for Peace'. Since then, six more have joined – Bala, Newport (Gwent), Aberystwyth, Caerphilly, Gwynedd and Mold.

To prevent any repetition of the use of nuclear weapons on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, survivors and their families have continually sought to tell the world about the inhumane cruelty of nuclear weapons and have consistently urged that nuclear weapons be abolished.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 1982, at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament held at UN Headquarters in New York, then Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima proposed a new Programme to 'Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons'. This proposal offered cities a way to transcend national borders and work together to press for nuclear abolition. Subsequently, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki called on mayors around the world to support this programme. 'Mayors for Peace' is made up of official representatives of cities around the world who have formally accepted Mayor Araki's 1982 vision. As of 1st July membership stood at 2,963 cities in 134 countries and regions.

#### heddwch action:

Ask your local mayor or Council Leader or Chair to join – see <a href="https://www.2020visioncampaign.org">www.2020visioncampaign.org</a> for more information.

A sample bilingual letter is available to help. Contact CND Cymru for more information (see Page 8)

## One Day is not Enough

The International Day of Peace (Peace Day) which usually takes place on September 21<sup>st</sup> provides an opportunity for individuals, organisations and nations to create practical acts of peace at the same time – and all around the world.

By creating the International Day of Peace in 1981, the UN aimed to encourage humankind to work in cooperation for the goal of worldwide peace. The date coincides with the first meeting of the General Assembly after the summer break and was to serve

with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and...a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace'.

as a reminder 'to all peoples that [the UN]

#### Personal or public

Anyone anywhere can celebrate Peace Day - by lighting a candle at noon, or sitting in silent meditation. Or by getting one's co-workers, organisation, community or government engaged in a large event. The day is now marked by millions of people across the world. Events might be private gatherings and small street actions to public concerts and fora of hundreds of thousands of people.



#### Gwlad yr Haf

A stunt used on the streets earlier this year by Bridgewater Peace Group might provide inspiration for a simple Peace Day action. In a light-hearted effort to get people thinking, the group gave out lapel stickers and leaflets and displayed a (vertical) make Love not War' bed made of hardboard in which people were invited to be photographed. They said 'it really needs several people to be out there explaining and encouraging people to take part – it is a bit public for a lot of people but really benefits from a buzz around the action'. Young people in particular seem to have enjoyed this bit of street theatre.

This will be the fourth consecutive year that Peace Day has been marked at the Temple of Peace, in Cardiff. See Diary dates (18th September) for details of this year's event. It is organised and sponsored jointly between UNA Wales, UNA Cardiff Branch, Cardiff Quakers, Penarth Christian CAAT group, CND Cymru and Cynefin y Werin.

#### heddwch action:

If you have any events related to peace and justice issues or events in Wales either send them to e: <a href="heddwch@cndcymru.org">heddwch@cndcymru.org</a> for distribution or go to <a href="http://dir.groups.yahoo.com/group/just-peace/">http://dir.groups.yahoo.com/group/just-peace/</a> and follow the instructions, to join the all-Wales 'just peace' e list used by our Wales coalition for a just peace and end to violence.

#### St. Athan Defence Training College

#### **Campaign Update**

Regular readers will be aware of the campaign to stop the St. Athan Military Training College - see <a href="https://www.cynefinywerin.org">www.cynefinywerin.org</a> and <a href="https://www.cynefinywerin.org">www.cynefinywerin.org</a> Although no political party opposed it when first announced, the coalition partners now face growing opposition to the plans. Plaid Cymru

Several Plaid Cymru constituency parties have submitted a motion opposing the St Athan plans to September's Plaid Cymru National Conference in Llandudno. Dr Ian Johnson, Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan (which includes St. Athan) hopes to speak for the motion. Commenting, he said: 'The motion links concerns and criticisms from moral, ideological, security, economic and quality-of-life positions. 'Like many others, I have been concerned about St Athan since the idea was first proposed, but it is only now, with the publication of the plans, that many local people are able to link the various strands of the campaign to prevent it being built. 'There is a growing feeling amongst many who live in the Vale that this is being forced upon them and local papers have recently been full of letters criticising the plans.'

Welsh Labour Grassroots also has serious concerns and at a general meeting in June in Swansea, resolved to oppose the Defence Training College, citing three grounds: \*ethical concerns, relating both to the principle of a major investment in military training at a time when British forces are involved in highly questionable activities in Iraq and Afghanistan and to the fact that the academy is intended to provide training to personnel from private mercenary organisations and from other countries, which may have unacceptable human rights records;

\*political & industrial concerns, relating to the fact that this is the biggest publicprivate partnership yet undertaken, involving the transfer of hundreds of public employees to the private sector and threatening the careers of all those staff unwilling to transfer to St Athan from their present locations:

\*concerns about the viability of the project, its capacity to deliver the promised jobs, and whether it represents a defensible use of massive, and increasing, public funds.

## **Last Colony in Africa**

In 1975 Western Sahara was occupied by Morocco - an occupation judged illegal by the International Court of Justice and the UN Security Council that same year.

Since then the Saharawi, the indigenous people of the territory, have been denied their basic right to self-determination and have watched as other former colonies have gained their independence. They remain a people in exile, trapped in harsh conditions in refugee camps on the edge of the Sahara Desert.

#### **Human Rights**

Inside the occupied territory, Saharawi are denied political and basic human rights and suffer continuing discrimination, and sometimes worse (there are around 500 'disappeared' Saharawi). Outside the territory, some 165,000 refugees who were driven out by the Moroccan invasion remain in isolated desert camps in southwestern Algeria. They are largely dependent on aid and increasingly frustrated that they will be denied the legal right to return to their own country .

#### Profiting from the Occupation

While thousands of the Saharawi people struggle to survive in the Algerian desert, their every need dependent on international aid, Morocco continues to plunder the rich natural resources of their country to fund its illegal occupation. Generals and politicians associated with the occupation reap the benefits of Western Sahara's fishing and phosphate industries.

The Western Sahara Campaign is a voluntary NGO working to raise awareness of the Saharawi people and the occupation of their country, Western Sahara. It works in solidarity with the Saharawi people to advance their right to self determination and to promote human rights.

John Gurr

#### heddwch action:

Join the Campaign: for more information visit <a href="www.wsahara.org.uk">www.wsahara.org.uk</a>
t: 01974 282 575 e: <a href="coordinator@wsahara.org.uk">coordinator@wsahara.org.uk</a>

Write to your MP asking them to write to David Milliband, Secretary of State at the FCO. Points to make:

1. Human Rights

It is incumbent on the UN Security Council to install human rights monitoring in Western Sahara as recommended by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights report and called for by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the European Parliament.

2. The illegal exploitation of the resources of Western Sahara
Large reserves of phosphate, vast fishing grounds and potential offshore reserves
of oil and gas have meant that many Western governments and companies
(including British) are involved in lucrative trade deals with the Moroccans, in
defiance of international law. The international disregard for the continuance of
human rights abuses diminishes the professed British 'integrity', the United
Nations and it is an affront to all those with a belief in justice.

## **Getting Peace into Schools**

Over 30 years ago the British Government signed up to the Final Report of the 1978 first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. Paragraph 106 was quite clear. 'Governments are .... urged to take steps to develop programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels'. In practice it has been left to non-government peace groups to turn this hope into reality. Since then, many NGOs have tried to get peace and disarmament into schools and colleges.

Thanks to the citizenship provisions of the curriculum today, getting into schools is easier than it was. Some schools are very imaginative. Comberton College near Cambridge, for instance, puts all its 'citizenship' slots on one day and invites all the relevant NGOs to come and take workshops. The day ends with peace songs and a question and answer session for the 150 or so who take part.

#### Tools

Other schools prefer to put aside individual classes for periods of perhaps an hour during the term. I usually start with the Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) DVD 'War No More' which in 15 minutes covers all the swords into ploughshares issues. Or I start with the useful MAW ten question quiz, which always sets off a lively discussion. Never assume too much. Most pupils will never have seen, let alone discussed, the UN Charter or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### No assumptions

Getting questions going, any questions, is key to a good discussion. Sometimes one has to tell teachers politely that the more teachers present the fewer questions. I remember a school where all the teachers withdrew. The result was wonderful - a really lively session of frank comment. In one way public (ie private) schools can be the most entertaining. Pupils there have such a sense of self-confidence, especially the boys, that they get remarkably deflated when they start to understand that there are rational answers to 'What about Hitler? or 'The atom bombs were the only way to stop the Second World War weren't they?

Self-confidence can be found elsewhere. I went to a school recently in east London and faced nearly 200 young Muslim girls. They were bouncing with energy and ideas. 'What can we do about peace and war' was their key question. Imaginative and practical answers are needed to that question in every school.

#### How to get into a school in the first place?

Find out who is responsible for citizenship in your local secondary school and make suggestions about a specific subject - the history of nuclear weapons, the work of the UN or the extent of the arms trade perhaps. If you are old enough, what WW2 was like for you, with rationing, gas masks, air raids etc?

I have visited primary schools and the spontaneity there is a joy. I don't forget the wonderful seven year-old who had the answers to all world problems: 'Please Sir, why don't you just put all the bad people on an island by themselves and we could have a peaceful world?'

If only it were so easy.

**Bruce Kent** 

Courtesy of Movement for the Abolition of War www.abolishwar.org.uk

education resource pack

#### Sadako's Cranes for Peace

The themes and activities in this education resource cover areas of English, Philosophy, Art and Design, Citizenship and Religious Education for Key Stages 3 & 4 - in Year 5 and 6 Literacy and Key Stage 2 and 3 Citizenship.

It tells the story of Sadako Sasaki, a girl born in January 1943 . She was living about a mile away from Hiroshima when the 'Little Boy', 15 kiloton US nuclear weapon, was exploded over Hiroshima on August 6th 1945. Although she was initially unhurt, s towards the end of 1954 she began to show signs of leukaemia, caused by radionucleides released by the 1945 nuclear bomb.

While Sadako was hospitalised, she began to fold 1000 paper cranes as a display of her hopes for peace and courage to fight her illness. Japanese legend says that a crane will live for 1,000 years, and so is a symbol of luck and longevity.

Unfortunately, Sadako only managed to fold 644 paper cranes before she died aged 12. Her friends made the remaining 356 so she could be buried with 1,000. They went on to campaign to have a statue erected in memory of Sadako and all the other children killed in the bombing. Paper cranes have subsequently become a sign of peace across the world, with millions sent to Hiroshima ever year to be placed at the foot of the statue. Paper cranes can even be seen in Belarussian orphanages and hospitals caring for the victims of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. The statue remains as a reminder of the effect war and nuclear weapons have on children, and as a cry for peace in the world.

Includes instructions for folding paper cranes.

Download the pack from from <a href="www.cnduk.org">www.cnduk.org</a> (English only)

## **Nuclear cuckoos in the nest**

#### Some thoughts from PAWB\*

- •'What has civil nuclear power got to do with nuclear weapons?' ask some peace campaigners. 'Nothing', according to the powers that be. (Oh, except in Iran!). Yet ever since the Second World War, military and civil use of nuclear technology have been intimately connected. The Iran conundrum tells us that it will prove impossible to separate the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the so-called renaissance of civil nuclear power. 'Nuclear-free' must mean what it says in all guises.
- •A friend once active in CND Môn tells us that while still opposed to nuclear weapons, she no longer opposes nuclear power because of climate change. But the one is not the answer to the other. Renewables and conservation CAN meet the climate challenge, as has been demonstrated by the valuable work of PAWB member Dr Gerry Wolff. The nuclear lobby is increasingly trying to give nuclear power a greenwash. Parts of the nuclear cycle (mining, transport, construction, decommissioning) are of course far from being low-carbon. And there is mounting hard evidence that crucial funding is being diverted from developing renewables to feed the nuclear cuckoo in the nest.
- The government claims that civil nuclear power in Britain has an enviable safety record. What about the cover-up of the Windscale fire in 1957? 'Oh that's ancient history' they say: 'the recent safety record is a different matter'. Or is it? On 21st June *The Observer* revealed details of a secret report obtained under the Freedom of Information Act written by Mike Weightman, Chief Inspector of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), revealing that there were 1,767 safety incidents across the British civil nuclear industry in the years 2001-08. Approximately half of these had the potential to challenge a nuclear safety system.
- •The mess known as Sellafield is getting even worse. The Magnox fuel reprocessing plant B205 recently had to shut for 5 weeks because airborne radioactive discharges were taking it over its safety limits. This happened at the same time that Wylfa was granted a 9 month extension to operate its Magnox reactors (until the end of December 2010). We have known for a long time that B205 is Sellafield's dirtiest polluter of the Irish Sea. Now it appears its problems are even more serious than previously thought, and must make extending Wylfa's operation life a highly hazardous proposal.
- What about the safety of the new reactor designs currently under consideration? Given the uncharted territory now being entered into,

surely it is reassuring that these designs will be scrutinised by the NII. But just how neutral is the NII? According to *The Guardian* the Inspectorate is currently recruiting senior managers from the very companies that are seeking to build the new reactors, such as Bechtel and Amec. It has already hired technical staff from Areva, one of the firms submitting reactor designs.

• Recent issues of *heddwch* have catalogued the situation at Wylfa: the phoney consultation process, misleading propaganda over employment figures (unfailingly swallowed by the media), misrepresentation of the relationship between Wylfa and Anglesey Aluminium, and the extension of the current station's licence. What PAWB wishes to get across in the coming months is this: the proposal that for the next century at least used nuclear fuel that is twice as radioactive as the existing 'legacy' material will be stored on site on the northern coast of Anglesey. It will be, to quote Hugh Richards of the Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance, 'too hot to handle'. The disposal questions remain unsolved. That should scare the hell out of everyone on the island, everyone in Wales, in northwest England, in Ireland...

PAWB is planning a public meeting on Anglesey in the autumn to discuss what is to be done. Speakers will include the renowned international nuclear consultant Dr John Large.
Date and venue to be confirmed, watch the usual spaces. Do come.

Phil Steele & Dylan Morgan \*PAWB (Pobl Atal Wylfa B/People Against Wylfa B)

#### heddwch action:

PAWB has an email forum which posts all the latest nuclear news and campaigns correspondence for opponents of nuclear power.

If you wish to subscribe to this list contact the moderator:
<a href="mailto:huwjones7@googlemail.com">huwjones7@googlemail.com</a>
For Facebook users, PAWB participates in a wider-based Stop Wylfa – No Nuclear in Wales site.

Do join in.

The PAWB website is at <a href="http://www.stop-wylfa.org/">http://www.stop-wylfa.org/</a>



#### Learning from Chernobyl

At Huw Alun Evans's farm, Hengwrt Uchaf in north Wales, sheep continue to be-scanned for radioactive contamination as they have been since 1986. He remembers that then, 23 years ago, Civil Servants had no idea that the contamination would last for so long. His sheep fail radiation tests if they have been on higher ground, but the danger levels drop after they have been brought down to graze on lower pastures as the vegetation in the areas of lower precipitation is less contaminated.

This long-term impact of a nuclear accident and release of radionucleides into the environment is evident in this year's figures showing contamination from the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident which happened 1500 miles away from North Wales. The number of farms in Britain remaining restricted in the way they use land and rear and move sheep because of the radioactive fallout is 370, with 355 of these and 180,000 sheep in Wales. David Lowry, a member of Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, said that the figures demonstrated the 'unforgiving hazards' of radioactivity dispersed into the environment, whether from Chernobyl in Ukraine, thousands of miles away and 23 years ago, or over decades from the Faslane nuclear submarine base in Scotland, as revealed in the news earlier this year. He said that although government ministers and the nuclear industry who are pressing for up to 11 new nuclear reactors to be built across England and Wales like to describe nuclear power as 'clean and green', the figures on Chernobyl fallout gives the lie to

The Food Standards Agency said the release of radiocaesium-137 in upland areas of Britain passes easily from soil to grass and accumulates in sheep. The European Commission imposed a maximum limit of 1,000 becquerels per kilogram (bq/k) of radiocaesium in sheep meat affected by the accident to protect consumers. Under a "mark and release" scheme in the restricted areas, a farmer wishing to move animals out of the area must have them monitored by a hand-held device.

Over 130,000 people were resettled from the immediate area of Chernobyl, in the Ukraine and Belarus and some experts say there should be no farming there for at least 200 years. There is a legacy of illness and the synergistic effects of radioactively induced illnesses and mutations with poverty and stress caused partly by the results of the accident have taken a terrible toll on the population of Belarus in particular.

## Heddychwr Mawr Cymru

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(click on adnoddau/resources & click on 'George M LI Davies')

#### WANTED! People with dementia involved in campaigning

these claims.

The Bradford Dementia Group at The University of Bradford are studying the way in which people with dementia get involved speaking out for change. At the moment they have a sample of subjects from Scotland and Northern England but as researcher Ms EJ Milne explained, 'they are anxious to include the Welsh voice'.

People with a dementia diagnosis who are involved in trying to bring about change or who speak out or campaign on any issues are therefore being sought. The research will investigate why people become involved in campaigning and how their activities affect the individual, their family and their life in general. No matter how big or small the individual involvement, the group would like to hear from any dementia sufferer involved in local community campaigns, signers of petitions or writers of letters to the papers – it may be someone who keeps a campaigning blog or volunteers their skills... The project, which involves a month of written or audio diary keeping starts in August so please get in touch now. Participation is voluntary and anyone taking part can withdraw at any time.

If you are interested in taking part contact EJ Milne t: 01274 236 494. Do leave a message if necessary and your call will be returned or

e: socialchange@bradford.ac.uk

## diary dates

1-8 August Bala National Eisteddfod. Visit us in the Peace Tent.

6 August Bala 2pm
Cytûn tent on the Eisteddfod field,
Service to Commemorate
Hiroshima led by Rev. Guto Prys ap
Gwynfor. Slide show by Helen Lewis &
John Butler about ethnic cleansing in
Jerusalem. Organised by Cymdeithas y
Cymod t: 01286 830 913
e: cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com

6 August Chester 8pm
Hiroshima & Nagasaki Flower
Memorial Meet by the bandstand
In memory of all who died or suffered as
a result of the atomic bombing in 1945
and in the belief that this should never
happen again. Readings, a period of
silence & the dropping of white flowers
on the river. Final reading at the memorial
tree on the south bank of the river.
Organised by Testimony in Action
Committee of Wirral & Chester Quakers.
t: 01244 679 051 e: dai.owen@virgin.net

13 -16 August Merthyr Tydfil Climate Camp Cymru
To draw international attention to government hypocrisy on climate change & ensure Wales plays its part in the growing global movement of camps for climate action. Every aspect of the camp will embrace solutions to climate change & workshops will cover everything from climate science & direct action techniques to DIY & traditional crafts. Kids' area to keep younger campers entertained. m: 07040 901 147

www.climatecampcymru.org

e: info@climatecampcymru.org

#### 14-16 August Machynlleth El Sueño Existe - Victor Jara Festival



underprivileged would achieve power & dignity. Attended by the Bolivian ambassadors to Britain & France, Menna Machreth and Dafydd Iwan. Conference venue: y Tabernacl, Machynlleth 10am-4.30pm. Free. Evening concert at Y Plas, Machynlleth. t: Tony 01654 702 166 e: tonycorden@hotmail.comwww.elsuenoexiste.com

29 August Happy Valley
Llandudno 2pm-4pm Conwy
County Peace Group Annual
Peace Picnic This, the third annual
peace picnic is a chance to meet up with
all those who work for peace and have a
fun time. All welcome. Kite making & fun
and frolicking. This year's theme: 'Bring
something Local to eat'

e: gramorg1@googlemail.com

Keep in touch with what's going on across Wales by subscribing to the justpeace e list. Send an email to just-peace-

subscribe@yahoogroups.com

#### For local group contact details and diary dates see www.cndcymru.org

please email or write to CND Cymru with any details of upcoming peace & justice related events in your area so that they can be included in our 'events' lists.

1 - 2 September Friends' House, London Conference: 'The Citizen and the Law of Armed Conflict' Organised by The Institute for Law Accountability and Peace (INLAP) & World Court Project with support from other peace organisations this is a response to the difficulties experienced in communicating with Government on issues of international law. It centres on needs of activists, NGO workers & individuals anxious to be better informed so that their activism can be more effective. Day1: background to the problems - speakers will review relevant aspects of international law & the way elected representatives & government respond to questions. Speakers include John McDonnell MP, Nick Grief, Paul Dorfman & Dr Nick Ritchie. Day 2: workshops on ways in which communication can be improved. Contact George Farebrother. t: 01323 844 269 e: geowcpuk@gn.apc.org

2 September 8.15pm Aberystwyth Peace & Justice Group Meeting Morlan Centre

e:tpjo3@btopenworld.com

5 September 3pm (tbc) Llandrindod CND Annual Mtg. t: 01597 829 303 e:vishenton@hotmail.co.uk

7 September Bangor 6.30pm Bangor and Ynys Môn group meeting Friends' Meeting House, Dean Street. Next group meeting, after the summer break . t: 01248 490 715 e: phil\_steele@btinternet.com

18 September Temple of Peace, Cardiff. Peace Day A commemorative event to mark the International Day of Peace, bringing together children from different cultural & religious background. Children will explore their ideas of peace through performance, art & philosophy. Event open to schools in Cardiff and surrounding areas. See story Page 5 Contact: Ona Flindall, UNA Wales t: 02920 228 549

e:onaflindall@wcia.org.uk

20 September Porthmadog Capel Ebeneser 7.30pm Public meeting: Reconciliation and Peace - Israel and Palestine. organised by the Dwyryd a Glaslyn cell of Cymdeithas y Cymod. Report by John Butler & Helen Lewis on their recent visit to Palestine. t: 01286 830 913

e: cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com

24 September Caernarfon Institute, Pavilion Hill 7pm (for 7.30) Films for a Change film: Amandla! The struggle against Apartheid, through South Africa's music.

e: benica@gn.apc.org

1 October (& each term-time Thursday)
Porthmadog 7-9pm
Nonviolence course based on the
Non-violence Training Handbook
for Wales Organised by Coleg Harlech
WEA(N). For details see prospectus,
t: 01766 515 298 www.harlech.ac.uk

3 October (+ two more Saturdays), Caernarfon 10am-5pm Salem Chapel Vestry Nonviolence course. Organised by Arfon Peace and Justice Group. e: <a href="mailto:benica@gn.apc.org">benica@gn.apc.org</a>

10 October (& internet sessions until 14 December) Aberystwyth 10am – 5.00pm Poverty Justice & Development - extramural course £50 Aberystwyth University School of Education & Lifelong Learning t: 01970 621 580 e: hhh@aber.ac.uk www.aber.ac.uk/sell/courses/lllearn

29 October Caernarfon Institute,
Pavilion Hill 7pm (for 7.30) Films for a
Change: the David and Goliath story of
the McLibel Two - a postman and
gardener who took on the fast-food giant
in England's longest-ever legal wrangle.
e: benica@gn.apc.org

30 October Temple of Peace, Cardiff 10.am – 5.00pm Weekend Course: War & the Media Investigating how the media gathers & presents war reports, 'the enemy' and military & human intervention. Meals & accommodation not included. t: 01970 621 580 e: hhh@aber.ac.uk www.aber.ac.uk/sell/courses/Illearn

#### 31 October London Campaign against the Arms Trade National Gathering 2009

Toynbee Studios 9.45am - 5pm Day of speakers, discussion & inspiration to provide the facts, skills & passion to challenge government support for the arms trade & tackle the arms industry spin. Workshops - arms fairs, corporate mercenaries, challenging the arms industry's jobs argument, opportunities to hone your skills in making the most of the media, lobbying to win .... & more. £5 waged; £2 unwaged. Tea, coffee & light vegetarian lunch provided.

t: 020 7281 0297 e: julia@caat.org.uk
To book: www.caat.org.uk/events/

26 November 7pm Caernarfon
Institute, Pavilion Hill 7pm (for 7.30)
Films for a Change: Baño del Papa
(The Pope's Toilet). Uruguayan film about
the visit of the Pope to a small village, &
the struggle of the people to benefit from
it - a funny and touching film
e: benica@gn.apc.org

07. 00 November Efeld of Burn

27- 28 November, Ffald y Brenin Centre, Pembs.Cymdeithas y Cymod Vigil. t: 01286 830 913 e: cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com





#### heddwch

is the magazine of Wales' Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND Cymru)

CND Cymru works to rid Britain and the world of all weapons of mass destruction, for peace & human & environmental justice

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