

# PEACELINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF LONDON REGION CND ■ david.lrcnd@cnduk.org ■ www.londoncnd.org ■ 0207607 2302 ■ FEB/MARCH 2010

## Make Trident the key general election issue

**SOPHIE BOLT**  
**CHAIR, LONDON CND**

**T**he next four months are absolutely critical for our anti-nuclear campaigning. With a general election looking likely for May, we have a huge opportunity to make the 'No Trident Replacement' campaign a central issue and really shape the political priorities for a new parliament. And, in the same month, the NPT Review conference takes place in New York — of huge importance for our work to secure a nuclear weapons convention.

We are in a strong position to make a real difference. Public opinion is now consistently against replacement of Trident. The latest poll in September 2009 showed 58% of people thought that "given the state of the country's finances, the government should scrap the Trident nuclear missile system".

And, the global financial crisis is making it harder for the government to justify the continued levels of military spending. We have seen big divisions on military spending, sharply illustrated by the very public rows in January between Chief of Navy Staff Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope — arguing why we need to keep Trident, whilst General Sir David Richards has stated that too much emphasis is still placed on "hugely expensive equipment". A growing number of senior military figures have described the system as "militarily useless".

Yet despite such opposition, the government is yet again going against public opinion, and against electoral sense, by failing to include Trident in the Strategic Defence Review. This is despite the fact that 117 MPs signed an EDM urging Trident to be included in the review back in July last year. So, it is absolutely critical that we do everything possible to influence the election campaign and keep Trident Replacement at the heart of political agenda — so it can't go away.

And it can't go away. Despite the Conservatives stepping back from the scale of their original proposed immediate cuts, the current debate going into the general election remains on public spending cuts. The NHS faces £2.6bn of cuts between 2010 and 2011.

Universities are facing £500m cut in funding — a reduction of almost 7 per cent — and students are furious at threats to charge them £7,000 tuition fees. Pensions are threatened. In this context is not surprising that the vast majority of the population, given the choice, would scrap Trident. And prospective parliamentary candidates (PPCs) and sitting MPs are under more pressure to save vital local services.

So now is our time. We must grasp this opportunity and work with all those who want a world based on peace, equality and sustainability.

● **Look out for CND's fantastic election campaign pack which has gone to all local groups. It is full of all the information you need on how to lobby PPCs, organise hustings, and getting local media involved.**



The key general election issue: **Public spending, not war and nuclear weapons**

Speakers:

**Jeremy Corbyn MP,**

**Jenny Jones Green Assembly Member,  
Liberal Democrat representative,  
Respect Party representative**

**7.30pm,**

**THURSDAY 4 MARCH**

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square,  
London WC1R 4RL



LONDON CND  
PUBLIC FORUM

# Nuclear power plants increase childhood leukaemias

**C**ND's new briefing by Dr Ian Fairlie draws attention to a German study which has found large increases in leukaemia and embryonal cancers among children under five living within five km of nuclear power stations. The findings were a shock for the German nuclear industry and are partly why Germany is now not building new reactors. Instead German nuclear operators are proposing them in the UK — with the government's strong encouragement. This is not the first study to show links between



childhood cancers. Over 60 studies have examined it and over 70% of them reveal pronounced cancer increases.

The government's Committee on the

Medical Aspects or Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) has tried to ignore these findings. Finally the Department of Health instructed it to look into the German study and now they have set up a subcommittee.

## TAKE ACTION!

Despite this irrefutable evidence of the links between nuclear power and childhood cancers, the government is pushing ahead with 10 new nuclear power stations. **Get involved in CND's campaign against nuclear power.**

## Support Housmans' online shop

Housmans, the radical bookshop, has launched an online shop, which can rival the stock carried by Amazon. We see this as an ethical alternative to Amazon, whose business practice involves union-busting, poor work conditions, and the squeezing of publishers and authors alike.

Check out Housmans' website at [www.housmans.com](http://www.housmans.com)



## PROTEST! CAMP AGAINST NEW NUCLEAR BUILD

### Sizewell Nuclear Power Plant

Friday 23 to  
Monday 26 April

Weekend of protest, networking, and skill sharing plus a tour of the proposed site for Sizewell C and D reactors. For more details, contact Sophie Bolt on 07930 235791.



*Ken Livingstone, previous Mayor of London, together with Bruce Kent, vice-President of CND, were guest speakers at London CND's successful AGM in January. Resolutions on Aldermaston, Israel's assault on Gaza and nuclear trains were debated and a new officer and executive team were elected.*

# Israel and Iran — nuclear hypocrisy

By David Polden

It has been an open secret since 1986 that Israel has nuclear weapons. In that year Mordechai Vanunu, who'd worked in Israel's nuclear weapons factory, produced photographs taken in the factory allowing nuclear scientist Frank Barnaby to estimate Israel had between 100–200 warheads. This figure is generally quoted today for Israel's nuclear arsenal. Perhaps no more up-to-date information is available. *Jane's Intelligence Review* in 1997 put the figure at 400 and said Israel had nuclear weapons (NWs) ranging from from thermonuclear ones larger than the Hiroshima bomb, to nuclear artillery shells and demolition charges.

In 1999, Israel bought three large diesel submarines from Germany it is thought for arming with cruise missiles. The *Sunday Times* reported, June 2000, that Israel had launched a cruise missile from a submarine that hit a target 950 miles away. The *US Bulletin of Atomic Sciences* reported in 2002 that the Israeli had missiles with a range of up to 4350 miles, bringing the whole of Iran within easy reach. Israel has advanced bombers, including the F151E Strike Eagles, bought from the US, where this bomber is used to carry nuclear weapons.

All this gives Israel a nuclear armoury at least as large as and more varied than that of France and Britain.

None of this seemed to have caused the US or the UK any disquiet. Israel has maintained a stance of “nuclear ambiguity”, neither confirming nor denying the possession of nuclear weapons — allowing the US and UK to ignore how Israel's nuclear weapons undermine the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and the US continues to give enormous economic and military support to

Israel. Israel has never signed the NPT and so avoided any obligation to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear sites.

The US and UK governments allege that Iran is attempting to equip itself with nuclear weapons. This would hardly be surprising, as Iran is currently being threatened by two nuclear-armed powers, Israel and the US, the latter with troops and bases in bordering countries and warships in the Gulf. On 31 January it was disclosed that the US has set up a missile shield in four Gulf States which will protect these American allies from Iran. And the fact that US threats of attack on North Korea seemed to stop once it was known to have nuclear weapons.

Iran claims it is aiming at a civilian nuclear programme only, which it is entitled to do under the NPT, to which Iran is a signatory. The IAEA has criticised Iran for being uncooperative, but has continued to report it has no evidence that Iran is producing nuclear weapons. Suspicions have been aroused by

Iran dispersing and hiding its nuclear facilities but with Israel threatening to attack them, this is perhaps not surprising. Recently Iran reported it had started to enrich uranium to 20%, “*in the presence of IAEA inspectors*” (my italics) for use in a research reactor for producing metal isotopes. Uranium would need to be enriched to at least 90% for a nuclear bomb.

Of course, like the Saddam regime in Iraq, the Iran government is extremely unpleasant, riding roughshod over democracy and executing and imprisoning its opponents. But that in itself does not justify regime change from outside without a Security Council resolution. And Israel for its part is no respecter of the human rights of Palestinians, illegally occupying the West Bank and blockading Gaza, and killing thousands of Palestinians in its war on Lebanon and in last year's attack on Gaza and in illegal targeted assassinations.

The crucial difference of course is that Israel is an ally of the US and Iran is not.



Fiona Edwards, Student CND Convenor, was amongst hundreds of people who took part in the Viva Palestina international aid convoy. The Convoy, succeeded in breaking the siege on Gaza and delivered vital medicine and humanitarian aid to the besieged people of Gaza on the first anniversary of ‘Operation Cast Lead’, Israel's brutal 22 day assault on Gaza, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,400 Palestinians.

# FUTURE EVENTS

**20 February ■ Stall in Kingston Market Place, 11–2pm.**

**23 February ■ “A new defence policy for a new ‘strained’ decade?”**  
With David Drew MP & Prof. Ron Smith.  
6.30–8.30pm at Portcullis House, over Westminster tube. Org. Ministry for Peace, [diana.basterfield@ministryforpeace.org](mailto:diana.basterfield@ministryforpeace.org)

**1 March ■ London embassies walk.**  
Join CND as we visit each of the London Embassies of the Nuclear Weapons States and of the New Agenda Coalition countries. Info: 7700 4200.

**1 March ■ Monthly planning meeting of LRCND Nuclear Trains Action Group, 7pm** at CND Office – address below.

**4 March ■ London Region CND Council meeting 7pm** followed by **Public Forum:** “The key general election issue: Public spending, not war and nuclear weapons”. Speakers: Jeremy Corbyn MP, Jenny Jones Green Assembly Member, Liberal Democrat representative, Respect Party representative. 7.30pm, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL.

**6 March ■ Peace table, 11–12.30pm** near Wimbledon Library. Joanna 020 8543 0362.

**7 March ■ Discussions and films, Caribbean food, bar and stalls.**  
Lewisham, 4pm on, plus gig from 7pm. The Albany, Douglas Way, Deptford. Org. by Lewisham Peace, Justice & Solidarity of which Lewisham CND is part. Info: David, 8857 1095.

**9 March ■ Planning meeting of Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Middle East, 7pm** at CND office – address below.

**10 March ■ “Opposing Apartheid: Palestine and the experience of South Africa.”** With Ronnie Kasrils, South African anti-apartheid campaigner & Prof Ilan Pappé. 7pm. Free, but advance booking necessary – call 7700 6192, or e-mail [info@palestinecampaign.org](mailto:info@palestinecampaign.org) for full details.

**11 March ■ “Low carbon energy: is nuclear the answer?” with Dr David Lowry.** 7.30pm at C-SCAIPe, Kingston University, Penrhyn Road. Info: 8898 4850.

**12 March ■ Barn Dance at Dundonald School.** 7–10pm, Dundonald Road SW19. £8. Info: Joanna, 8543 0362.

**12 March ■ Meeting of “nuclear trains + Olympics = terrorist threat” group** at CND Office – address below.

**15 March ■ Haringey, 7pm:** Ben Soffa, CND Press Officer, speaks on “**CND and the coming election.**” Info: David, 7607 2302.

**27 March ■ “Peacebuilding in an Unstable World”.** AGM and Meeting held by Uniting for Peace at 10.30–5pm, Wesley’s Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y. Info: 020 7377 2111 [vijay@vmpeace.org](mailto:vijay@vmpeace.org) or Brian 0131 446 9545.

**10 April ■ “What now for Iraq?”** Day conference organised by Women Solidarity for an Independent and Unified Iraq. 10.30–4.30pm, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square WC1. (Near Holborn tube.)

Info: 07989 861 380; [www.solidarityiraq.blogspot.com](http://www.solidarityiraq.blogspot.com)

**16–17 April ■ Movement for the Abolition of War Peace History Conference.** Info: [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)

**23–26 April ■ Camp against new nuclear build.** Sizewell nuclear power plant. Weekend of protest, networking, and skill sharing plus a tour of the proposed site for Sizewell C and D reactors. For more details, contact Sophie Bolt on 07930 235791.

**3–28 May ■ New York: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference** in New York. Details, CND, 020 7700 2393.

**19 May ■ London CND Council and Public Forum:** ‘Act against nuclear power’, 7pm, Conway Hall.



## Hundreds blockade Aldermaston

*The Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire, was subject to the biggest blockade in years as 800 campaigners effectively blocked all entrances to the site for several hours on Monday 15 February. Protesters were joined by two Nobel Peace Prize laureates – Jody Williams and Mairead Maguire. Spending at AWE on capital programmes has risen from £24m in 2000/1 to £420m in 2009–10. The latest structure proposed for construction is the Enriched Uranium Handling Facility, given planning permission by West Berkshire Council on 10 February despite over 1400 objections.*

*Peaceline* is the newsletter of London Region CND. We are pleased to welcome articles, news items, local press coverage, photos or letters. Please submit these to **David Polden** by 26 March for the next issue. Post them to the address below or e-mail them to [david.lrcnd@cnduk.org](mailto:david.lrcnd@cnduk.org). To subscribe, send a cheque for £3.00 made payable to ‘London CND’ to: London CND, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.