CND resolutions 2015

1. Trident Replacement

Conference notes that:

i.                the final decision for the replacement of the Trident Nuclear Weapons System is expected to be taken by Parliament in 2016.

ii.               that if a parliamentary vote is taken on Trident replacement, this may result in a majority in favour of replacement.

Conference believes

i.                that such an outcome would not represent the majority view of the British public as mainstream party policies on this question are out of step with public opinion. Conference believes that it would certainly not have the support of the population of the host country – Scotland - or its elected representatives.

Conference resolves

i.                to bring to public notice its concerns about the legitimacy of any decision to replace Trident and impose it on an unwilling population.

ii.               to have a major campaign on this and to hold meetings in all cities, towns and regions of the UK inviting MPs of all parties and representatives of civil society to take part in discussions with CND speakers.

2. Trident and Scotland

Conference notes that:

a)    the Trident replacement plan is to base nuclear weapons in Scotland for the next 50 years

b)    largely thanks to campaigning by Scottish CND the issue of Trident gained increased prominence during the Scottish independence campaign

c)    as a consequence of activity around the referendum  the majority of the Scottish population are now aware of Nuclear weapons on Scottish soil, and express their opposition to them.

d)    Scottish CND made a major contribution to pushing Trident onto the agenda of the 2015 general election

e)   57 of Scotland’s 59 MPs are opposed to Trident (July 2015)

f)    the Scottish Parliament is opposed to Trident and supports a global ban on nuclear weapons

g)     membership of CND in Scotland has risen substantially since the independence referendum

Conference agrees that the campaign against Trident in Scotland is a critical part of the wider campaign and CND will support Scottish CND in its efforts to

a)    demonstrate that most of Scotland’s people and institutions are opposed to Trident and Trident replacement,

b)    encourage Scotland’s MPs to speak out effectively against Trident replacement  and

c)    pursue effective ways in which Scotland can promote a global ban on nuclear weapons.

Conference further resolves:

that we maintain our existing high level of Parliamentary work, and that special attention be given to linking with the SNP MPs and to those new and old MPs of all parties who replied favourably to our anti-Trident survey.

3. Integrated Anti-Trident Strategies

Conference welcomes:

1. the commitment of all in CND to making No Trident Replacement the central campaigning issue of the year to come, as part of our campaign to scrap Britain’s nuclear weapons;
2. a preliminary strategy for campaigning unanimously approved by CND National Council.

Conference recognises the need for an integrated strategy which combines mass actions such as national and regional demonstrations, a mass lobby of parliament, public meetings, coordinated day(s) of local action and other street campaigning, with initiatives directed towards parliament and government, where the decision-making on Trident takes place.

Conference acknowledges the importance of pursuing both aspects of an anti-Trident campaign, believing them to be complementary because:

1. mass actions help raise consciousness of the issues among the British public, encourage participation and thus ensure that maximum pressure is brought to bear on the government to reconsider Trident replacement;
2. initiatives at parliamentary level help focus MPs attention on the unpopularity of Trident replacement and promote debate within the mainstream media;
3. both types of activity strengthen the hand of individual MPs opposed to replacement, encouraging them to maintain their position in face of government and party pressures to the contrary, expose deep divisions that exist within society over Trident replacement, and contribute to pressure for a government rethink.

Conference believes that international opposition to Trident replacement has an important role to play in CND’s campaign strategy by providing:

1. potential for more publicity;
2. further encouragement to anti-Trident campaigners in the UK; and
3. an international focus on the decision and actions of the British parliament.

Conference therefore calls on CND officers and National Council to integrate a series of initiatives into the campaign, designed to engage international support. Recognising that CND is held in high esteem among peace movements across the world, and is capable of mobilising support on the basis of this goodwill, activities might include but would not be confined to:

 a statement for signature by organisations and prominent individuals;

1. parallel mass actions in other countries;
2. Parliamentary CND to host an international delegation to Westminster;
3. international figures at demonstrations and rallies; and
4. a subscription-paid newspaper advertisement.

Proposed by: Carol Turner

1. **Nuclear risks and dangers**

CND Conference congratulates the whistleblower, submariner William McNeilly, on his courageous decision to help expose the Trident nuclear weapons system as a “Disaster Waiting to Happen” (https://wikileaks.org/trident-safety/).

CND Conference notes the apparent decision by the MoD to avoid further publicity for William’s disclosures, which included previously undisclosed details of the £50million worth of damage caused to HMS Vanguard by its collision with Le Triomphant and the Navy’s alarming persistent failure to enforce safety rules regarding the use of personal electronic equipment in close proximity to nuclear missiles.

CND Conference resolves that in campaigning for the immediate decommissioning of the Trident system and of all UK nuclear weapons, CND will continue to highlight:

1. The extreme and unacceptable dangers posed by the risk of accidental launches of nuclear missiles, systems failures, accidental collisions and unsafe behavior by members of submarine crews.
2. The devastating effects of both such ‘accidents’ and any use of nuclear weapons.
3. The immoral waste of public money involved in funding a nuclear weapons system which exposes us all to the horrific impact and aftermath of nuclear ‘accidents and nuclear attacks.
4. **Humanitarian pledge**

Conference notes that 112 states have now formally pledged to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and to stigmatise, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences, in support of a pledge initiated by Austria.

Conference calls on CND to work with ICAN to:

1. Raise awareness of international support for the Humanitarian pledge and a global ban on nuclear weapons.
2. Identify and promote ways that anti-nuclear campaigners in Britain can most effectively support this initiative.
3. **Missile Defence**

Conference notes that:

1. Missile defence systems are at worst part of a nuclear first strike strategy, at best a component of the US hegemonic push to contain Russia and China by surrounding them with threats, military bases and missiles;
2. The US and NATO have established high powered radar systems in Israel and Turkey; missile defence ships in the Mediterranean and plan to install intercept missiles in Poland and Romania;
3. Russia has reacted by refusing to implement START II; suspending the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe; deploying short range Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad and threatening to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty;
4. In addition, the positioning by the US of missile defence ships as part of its “Pacific Pivot” and the deployment of x-band radars and missile defence systems in Japan and South Korea to contain China, is creating an arms race in north-east Asia and complicating talks on nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula;
5. By persuading allied countries around the world to purchase missile defence components or complete systems the US is increasing a reliance on military threat rather than diplomacy to deal with international disputes;
6. There is a growing need to raise awareness of the role of missile defence bases around the world and those in Britain (such as installations at Fylingdales, Menwith Hill and Croughton) that support these activities and are making a nuclear war possible.

Conference resolves to:

1. continue to support those resisting the deployment of US military bases around the world - such as the people of Gangjeong Village on Jeju Island and the people of Okinawa;
2. continue to support the “Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space” and “Keep Space for Peace Week” and help publicise the protests at Croughton and Fylingdales and elsewhere in October;
3. highlight the role of UK bases by continuing to support the July 4th “Independence from America Day” protest of the “Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases” at Menwith Hill.
4. support the campaigns that are exposing and opposing the use of drones and satellite and surveillance sysytems, jointly by the US and UK, for targetted, ex- legal killing in Syria and elsewhere.
5. **International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures**

CND Conference notes

1. The International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) promoted by UNESCO follows the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non Violence which closed in 2010.
2. Much has been made during the UK General Election debates and the subsequent Queen’s Speech debates of the concept of ‘Britain’s place in the World’ in determining aspects of Foreign Policy and Defence spending priorities.
3. The UN Constitution states: ‘A peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world and that the peace must therefore be founded if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of human kind’.
4. As with the Iraq wars, years of economic sanctions precede a drive to military conflict by Western nations seeking to contain the ambitions of countries whose foreign policy they suspect. Similar sanctions were applied to Iran and are now being applied to Russia by EU nations and the UK.

CND Conference resolves

1. To pursue robust inquiries into the British Government’s commitment to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, through inquiries to MP’s and Ministers, support of EDM’s in Parliament and approaches to colleagues in the UNA.
2. To congratulate and support the Peace Education work of the CND Peace Education team.
3. To promote wherever possible the values and perspectives of Global Citizenship and Global Citizenship Education in political parties, trade unions and the many allied organisations which CND influences and supports.
4. **Informing the Public**

Conference notes that the UK public is woefully uninformed regarding the continuing dangers from nuclear power and nuclear weapons, currently illustrated by the three out-of-control on-going-for-four-years core meltdowns at Fukushima, and the existence of nuclear arsenals and the retention of a significant number of these weapons on hair-trigger alert ready to be launched at a moment’s notice.

Conference resolves that CND urge the BBC & the UK Press to keep the public continuously fully informed regarding nuclear issues including the following:

1. the three on-going out-of-control nuclear core meltdowns at Fukushima
2. the activities of the 9 nuclear weapons states in renewing their arsenals against the wishes of the majority of the non-nuclear states
3. the nuclear posture of the US and Russia in keeping nuclear weapons on a state of hair-trigger alert thereby putting us all at continuous risk of nuclear Armageddon.

1. **NATO expansion, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and the return of Cold War to Europe**

Conference notes

1. that NATO has increased its military presence in Eastern European countries which border Russia.
2. NATO itself has sent 450 tanks into the region, these being capable of carrying depleted uranium munitions;
3. the UK has sent military training units to the Ukraine;
4. the USA landed B-52 and B-2 nuclear-capable bombers during the summer at RAF Fairford in preparation for NATO exercises.

CND is very concerned by the apparent suggestion of the US military that cruise missiles, which are capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear missiles, be deployed again in Europe, including in the UK;

Whilst considering actions by both Russia and NATO contributed to this dangerous escalation, CND views NATO’s expansion of its membership to countries bordering Russia as the original source of tension.

CND believes that the return of the Cold War mentality is:

1. putting grave pressure on the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty signed by Presidents Gorbachev and Reagan in 1987;
2. threatening to reverse the achievements of the 1980s in ending the nuclear arms race, contributed to in part by the non violent peace camps across Europe, and thereby undoing the committed work by peace activists in Britain both at Molesworth and with the women's peace camp at Greenham Common.

Conference resolves:

1. to call for an immediate end to military exercises and war games involving nuclear capable weaponry;
2. to condemn all statements that make or imply a threat to use nuclear weapons in any circumstances
3. In particular to demand that the UK government:
4. refuses to deploy cruise missiles and nuclear capable aircraft on its territory;
5. uses its voice in NATO to stop this military escalation;
6. supports non military negotiations to end the conflict in the Ukraine/Russian region;
7. make clear its support for the INF Treaty.

**13. NATO summit**

*Proposed by Kate Hudson*

Conference notes that the next NATO Summit will take place in Warsaw in July 2016.

Conference resolves to work with our European partners in the ‘No to War – No to NATO’ network to help organise an effective set of protests and activities at this time, to highlight the nuclear dangers presented by NATO.

**14. Nato intervention in Ukraine-Russia conflict**

Conference notes that civil war in Ukraine:

•        has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of civilians,

•        has increased tensions between Russia and the western allies, and

•        remains at risk of prompting a full-scale international confrontation involving UK and other nuclear armed powers.

Conference is aware that Nato has played an important role in exacerbating tensions between Russia and Ukraine by significantly expanding the number of western troops in the region and stepping up its engagement with Ukraine, which it describes as one of its ‘most substantive partnerships’.

Conference therefore expresses concern that Nato is planning the largest military exercise in over a decade, called Trident Juncture 2015, involving some 36,000 personnel from 30 Nato members and partner states, which:

•        includes a further series of interventions in the region, involving the deployment of Nato troops and heavy military equipment with a focus on Russia’s western border, and

•        began with military exercises in the Black Sea on 1st September, hosted by Ukraine, in which UK forces are participating.

Conference therefore resolves to:

•        continue campaigning against all foreign intervention in Ukraine, including by the British government, and for an immediate ceasefire.

•        put forward a more realistic analysis of Nato involvement than that of the British government, which presents Nato actions as a defensive response to Russian aggression, and

•        oppose UK involvement in all military escalation in the region, including the deployment of UK troops, military advisors and military hardware.