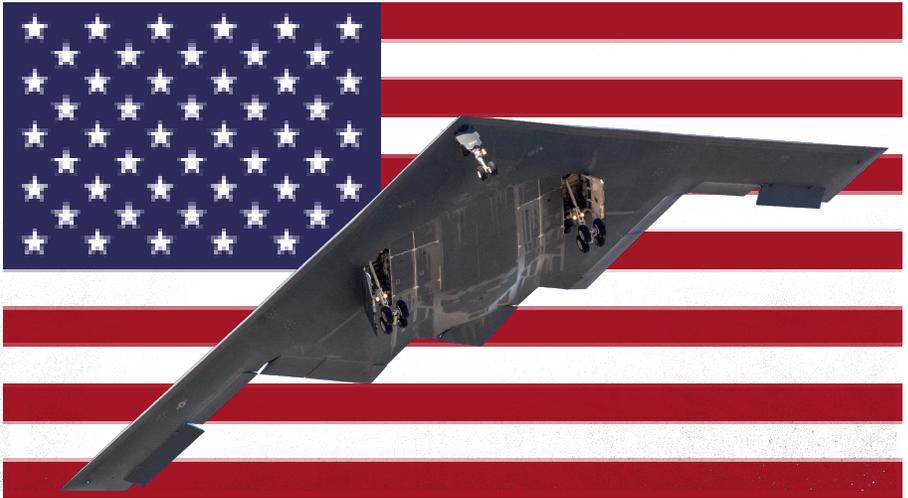


campaign



US keeps 'useable' nukes

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** outlines the US government's latest position paper on nuclear weapons.

IN OCTOBER, the Biden Administration published its 2022 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), much later than expected. The delay was reportedly due to differences over significant aspects of US nuclear policy. Biden's stated position during his election campaign indicated that Trump's new nuclear weapons would be abandoned, that reliance on nuclear weapons within US military strategy would be reduced, and that arms control would be revived. He also

indicated he would move towards a 'no-first-use' and 'sole purpose' policy for nuclear weapons; 'sole purpose' means that 'detering' and responding to a nuclear attack would be the sole purpose of the US nuclear arsenal rather than the current nuclear posture which envisages its potential use against a range of threats, including an overwhelming cyber-attack.

The document falls far short of the hoped for changes. Trump's submarine-launched cruise missile system is being cancelled, and the B83-1 gravity bomb is

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being retired, but Trump's 'usable' nuke, the W76-2 is being retained, in spite of it being described as 'unnecessary, wasteful and indefensible' in the Democratic Party manifesto. No-first-use and sole purpose have not been adopted, and full-scope 'Triad' replacement and other nuclear modernisation programmes are taking place.

Hans Kristensen and Matt Korda from the Federation of Atomic Scientists point out that the stated goal is still 'moving toward a sole purpose declaration', and they find that 'compared with previous NPRs, the tone and content come closest to the Obama administration's NPR from 2010,' but this seems small comfort in view of the overall picture.

The NPR retains previous 'negative security assurances' that the US won't use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against states that don't have them, where they are nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty signatories and in compliance with the terms of that treaty. But for all other states, 'there remains a narrow range of contingencies in

which U.S. nuclear weapons may still play a role in deterring attacks that have strategic effect against the United States or its Allies and partners.' Unfortunately that sounds like an opening for nuclear use, even against a non-nuclear weapon state.

The hard-fought debate within the Administration on the shape and outcomes of the NPR has been affected by the wider goals of the US National Security Strategy and its orientation to maintaining US global dominance through military might. The ongoing war in Ukraine has strengthened the hand of those arguing within the Administration for increased nuclear weapons production and strategic role.

In this context, the stated intention of both the US and Russia to negotiate a follow on to the New START Treaty is to be welcomed but there is an enormous amount of work required, here and internationally, to bring nuclear weapons states into line with the global majority through the TPNW.

Spotlight

This month Derby CND



Derby CND was out and about in Derby city centre last week with their Nurses not Nukes banner. The group joined a protest alongside other local organisations, including those collecting for foodbanks. It is scandalous that many nurses have to use food banks, as the government do not pay them properly – while at the same time spending billions on nuclear weapons! Thank you, Derby CND, for highlighting this.

If you live in Derby and would like to get involved with the group's activities, please get in touch – you can phone 07732 128480 or email moyna_jean@yahoo.co.uk.

Nuclear power plants pose danger

The war in Ukraine has many nuclear elements, including the dangers posed by the risk of attack on nuclear power plants. CND Vice-President and scientific advisor **Dr Ian Fairlie** explains.

BACK IN MARCH of this year, when the Russian invasion of Ukraine was in its early stages, CND warned of the serious dangers posed specifically by Russia's shelling and occupation of nuclear power stations. Sadly, in recent months, these dangers have increased, especially at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant – the largest in Europe.

Russian shells have repeatedly cut power lines supplying electricity to the plant, threatening the overheating of the fuel elements inside the reactors which need to be constantly cooled.

A recent article in the *US Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* (famous for its clock getting closer to midnight) explains that a nuclear accident—in one or more of Zaporizhzhia's six reactors or its spent fuel storage pools—could trigger a massive release of radioactive substances affecting countries well beyond Ukraine.

The article compares nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors in terms of their fission product production. A 20-kiloton weapon (similar to that at Hiroshima) produces the same amount of radioactive fission products as a 1000 MW nuclear reactor (like those at Zaporizhzhia) operating for one day. For example, a 1000 MW reactor which has operated for, say, two years, would have roughly 700 times the radioactive inventory of a 20-kiloton atomic bomb. This means that all nuclear reactors hold large inventories of fission products, and any act that releases this highly radioactive inventory would create a huge environmental bomb.

This leads us on to recent accusations by the Russian Defence Minister that Ukraine was preparing to use a 'dirty bomb' – a weapon that uses conventional explosives laced with radioactive material, and then claim that it was a Russian bomb. It is hard to

discuss the welter of claims and counterclaims in the present war where truth is in short supply, but this claim is difficult to believe for several reasons. For a start, to obtain radioactive material effectively requires the operation of a reprocessing plant, which Ukraine does not have. Neutral bystanders have dismissed the likelihood and significance of such a dirty bomb being used by Ukraine.

To be doubly sure, Ukraine asked the International Atomic Energy Agency to check these claims and it found there were no indications of undeclared nuclear activities and materials by Ukraine.

To sum up, the situation in Ukraine remains very serious due to Russia's actions at and near Ukraine's nuclear power plants, especially at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear facility. We must continue to press for an end to the war, not least because of this specific risk.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our supporters!

It has been a worrying year. As war rages in Ukraine, the risk of nuclear war is higher than it has been for six decades. And here in the UK, we are seeing US nuclear weapons coming to Suffolk. But through it all, CND supporters and groups have been vocal in sharing the anti-nuclear message and all of us at the CND office at 162 Holloway Road would like to thank and celebrate you for that.

Thank you for writing to your MP, for arranging street stalls, sharing information, attending events, participating in action. You are CND.

As the cost of living crisis goes on, we will all continue to make the case that the government has its priorities wrong and should be scrapping Britain's nuclear weapons.

But for now, we hope you all enjoy a safe and happy festive period, and we'll see you in the new year.



Yorkshire CND AGM

21 January, 12 noon-3pm
Common Space, 1-3 John
Street, Bradford BD1 3JT
■ Contact
info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Youth and Student CND away day

4 February, 10am-4pm
The Warehouse, 54-57 Alison
Street, Digbeth B5 5TH
■ Contact yscnd@riseup.net

Meet the staff

This month: **Kirsty Stewart,** **Supporter Database Manager**

"I have now been at CND for nearly eight years in my role as Supporter Database Manager. My main responsibilities are to oversee the management of CND's database, process and update all CND membership and supporter records, process payments, update contact details, register members for Annual Conference and produce membership lists for CND groups. I am also the CND contact for all Data Protection matters.

As part of the membership and fundraising team, I also provide assistance in processing and banking fundraising donations, prepare budgets, and occasionally you will find me working on the merchandise stalls at events such as the recent protest at Lakenheath.

None of this would be possible without you, CND's members, so thank you!"



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