

Sub incidents

UPDATE

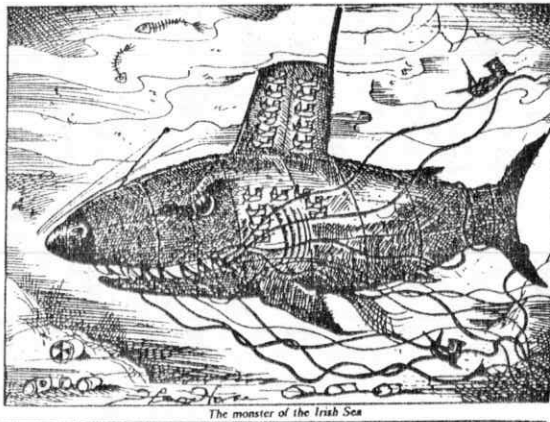
Further media attention was given to the danger to civilian shipping from submarine activity in the British Radio 4 documentary "Face the Facts" on January 12th. The programme interviewed a number of seafarers who had survived such encounters and highlighted the problems of getting the Navies to admit responsibility, even when loss of life has occurred.

Richard Sharp, an ex-commander of the UK nuclear-powered sub HMS Courageous, now editor of 'Jane's Fighting Ships', a standard reference work on the world's Navies, explained that subs were often unaware of any problems on the surface as, while their sonar systems can identify a ship and its direction, they cannot tell how far away they are.

Dick James of the Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation seemed to bear this out when he described his experience on the fishing boat "Summer Morn", which was towed backwards for ten miles over 3 hours by a sub west of the Isle of Mann in February 1987. On this occasion, a Sea King helicopter finally arrived and dropped communications equipment in the water. The sub then stopped, allowing the crew to cut the nets, freeing the boat:

"Somebody somewhere obviously pressed the panic button and submarines started surfacing all over the west Irish Sea...by our account there were at least six. Apparently it was a case of a ballistic submarine carrying missiles breaking out to its operating station, and it was being shepherded out, if you like, by a pack of other submarines. It was frightening to think that there were somewhere between 5 and 8 submarines coming down in very loose convoy. You nearly think something had to happen."

In this case it was proven to be a US sub when a 12-foot submarine buoy stamped "Made in the USA", hastily reclaimed by the authorities, was found by the fishermen. Even so, Dick James, like many other victims, is still awaiting compensation - the US Navy are reported to be even worse than the UK Navy in admitting responsibility and paying up.



The monster of the Irish Sea

"Scotland on Sunday" 12/3/89

In 1988, the MoD announced that sub incident survivors who did not tell the press would get prompt compensation, and trawlermen also fear that certain sea areas will be closed to fishing boats if they complain too loudly, as "defence of the nation" may be considered more important. However, this has not stopped other incidents coming to light:

On December 6th, 1988 UK diesel sub "HMS Ocelot" suffered collision damage in the Irish Sea and returned to Faslane with the sonar dome on its forward deck ripped open, apparently by a fishing trawl or cable. The MoD dismissed this as "wave damage".

On January 3rd, Ayr-based trawler "New Dawn" was badly damaged in a surface collision with the US Benjamin Franklin Class sub "Will Rogers", based at the Holy Loch, five miles south of Arran at the mouth of the Clyde. The sub, seemingly unaware of the collision continued on its journey with minor scrapes, but a US Navy spokesman later confirmed the report.

On January 22nd Fleetwood-based trawler "Lau-Ann" nearly sank near Kintyre on the west coast of Scotland after being dragged backwards by an unidentified sub for 45 minutes. The Holy Loch refused to confirm or deny that one of their subs was involved, but an unexpected radio call from an operational commander at Faslane was received, asking whether there was any injury or damage, although the crew had only contacted the coastguard at this point. Faslane later told Scottish newspaper "Fishing News" that "no NATO submarines were in the area at that time" and refused to comment further.

The peace movement underwent a serious depression during the second half of 1988, as people became diverted and/or disillusioned with the Dukakis campaign and the Democratic party. The movement is doing better now, with a number of strong activities planned for the next six months, primarily focussing on U.S. military intervention, including 'Low Intensity' Conflict and foreign bases. Mobilization for Survival and others are working to prevent the reopening of the nuclear warhead factories; other groups are also focussing on the Comprehensive Test Ban, Star Wars, and East-West relations. As usual, naval issues are relatively low on the agenda, but they are receiving more attention than a few years ago. As Trident D-5s are deployed and the new Trident home-port opens at Kings Bay, Georgia, a number of actions are planned - often tying in with the Savannah River plant up the coast.

For more information:
Charlie Scheiner, PO Box 1182
White Plains, N.Y. 10602 USA
+1 /914 428 7299
IGC:CSCHEINER

TRIDENT PROTESTS IN THE U.S.

On January 16, Martin Luther King Day, 51 people were arrested during a demonstration at General Electric's Electric Boat Yard in Groton, Connecticut. Electric Boat assembles both Trident and cruise carrying submarines. Several hundred demonstrators carried banners quoting M.L.King: Non-violence or non-existence. Other actions took place around the U.S. on the same day, some connected with the arrival of the USS Tennessee at Kings Bay, Georgia. The USS Tennessee is the first Atlantic based Trident as well as being the first to carry the D-5 missile.

For more information:
COALITION TO STOP TRIDENT, P.O.Box 411
New Haven, Ct. 06502 USA

Changes in the U.S. North Pacific Maritime Strategy

The November 1988 Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists reports a change in the U.S. maritime strategy in the North Pacific. Fleet activity seems to be scaled back but submarine presence is increasing. In Alaska, new submarine facilities are being built at Adak Island. Previously used as a submarine listening and intelligence post, Adak is being upgraded to take on 'minor refits or repairs' on subs, thus increasing time on station for North Pacific subs which will not need to return as often to Pearl Harbour or San Francisco. In 1983, it was reported that the U.S. was strengthening its Ohio class sub's external hull in order to break through Arctic ice.

US nuclear weapons flown over Europe

Details of US air transport of nuclear weapons to and from Europe have recently come to light.

As many as 12 flights a month take place between USAF McGuire in New Jersey and Europe, mainly undertaken by the 438th Military Airlift Wing, using C141 Starlifter planes. The flights shuttle weapons, including the free-fall bombs for F-111s, between the US and bases in West Germany, Italy, Turkey, Greece and the UK for periodic maintenance and replacement.

The flights to the UK go to St Mawgan in Cornwall, Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, and Lakenheath in Suffolk, sometimes stopping overnight at Mildenhall in Suffolk, and amount to one or two a month.

The "Observer Scotland" (26/2/89) claimed that the planes follow the same route as the PanAm 747 that crashed on Lockerbie in December 1988, but other sources think another route is used, possibly passing through Irish airspace. If true, this would embarrass the authorities, as the Irish government claims not to allow such flights to use their airspace. In answer to questions in the Dail (Irish Parliament) on October 15th, Mr Lenihan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that in the past three years 24,324 requests for overflight by foreign military aircraft were received, and ten requests were refused as they did not meet the normal conditions that the aircraft be unarmed, not carry arms, ammunition or explosives, nor engage in intelligence-gathering or form part of military exercises or operations.

Of the 280 Starlifters built since 1963, 13 have crashed, a record the military consider good, but the consequences of a crash involving up to 12 nuclear warheads will obviously alarm the public with the problems of the clean-up after the Lockerbie tragedy still fresh in their minds.

The response of the Labour Opposition Defense spokesman Martin O'Neill was therefore disappointingly limp, as he merely accepted the US transport of nuclear weapons as inevitable, and called for flights not to be routed over highly-populated areas "any more than is absolutely necessary". This is clearly nonsense given the location of the bases and the routes available.

Further details from : William Peden, 11 Oxford Ave., Southampton. Tel +44/703-636229

England

DISARM THE SEAS WEEK '89

26th May - 4th June

Don't forget to start making plans now for this week of action. The North Atlantic Network and the Pacific Campaign to Disarm the Seas have agreed that the theme will be to highlight aggressive naval nuclear strategies. This fits well with CND's focus on NATO's 40th anniversary, and against Trident, an escalatory First Strike weapon. You can put this theme into simple concrete terms by highlighting one of the many ways the arms race at sea is damaging and threatening: submarines sinking ships; accident dangers, especially around port visits; subverting the INF deal with cruise coming back on ships and subs; provocative US and NATO naval exercises, especially in Arctic waters close to the Soviet Union; violation of nuclear-free zones and, especially in the Pacific, use of naval forces to subvert national sovereignty; and Britain's own contribution to the arms race at sea - Trident.

A resource list giving sources of background information, ideas, especially for inland groups, materials already available to use during this week, and contacts for groups who wish to twin with other groups is available by post from Margo Sweeney, CND, 22/24 Underwood Street, London N1 7JG.

MARCH 89 CAMPAIGN



Report on the SCANN Conference

South Coast Against Nuclear Navies was formed in 1987 to provide a regional focus for Disarm the Seas work in the South of England.

SCANN held its first conference 11th-12th February this year, attended by about 35 peace activists. Most came from the South of England, but there were also representatives from London, West Midlands and Faslane Peacecamp (Scotland). It was very much a working conference, with planning done for the following areas of campaigning:

- * Monitoring the movements of nuclear ships and submarines, and building a network to respond to the most significant port visits and incidents.
- * Monitoring and protesting against the transport of nuclear weapons or materials throughout the region by land or sea.
- * Public Safety Schemes and accident dangers especially around nuclear reactors berthing in ports near population centres.
- * Sea Action -- a newly formed group to prepare and carry out autonomous actions using small boats for water-borne protests. Their first action was a 'welcome home' when the Ark Royal returned from Australia where it had met repeated protests whenever it tried to make a port visit.
- * Disarm the Seas campaigning with a focus on what inland groups can do; what to do for Disarm the Seas Week; making international links (see twinning elsewhere...)

A message of support was drafted to be sent to Kobe, Japan, in support of their 14 years as a nuclear free port, and a statement to the local council expressing concern over the secrecy surrounding port visits by nuclear powered vessels and the dangers they posed to the population of Portsmouth. Discussions of port safety around nuclear powered submarine or ship visits led to the idea of a day of action in all the towns with z-berths (berths certified for use by nuclear powered vessels) highlighting the potential dangers in the case of an accident to the nuclear reactor. The date suggested for this action is April 29th, the Saturday after the anniversary of Chernobyl. Contact Blue Joyce and William Peden, 11 Oxford Avenue, Southampton. tel: +44/703-636229. Inspiration came from the report of how Hull City Council refused entry to a nuclear powered sub because they said it was impossible to draw up adequate safety plans.

An action was planned to protest at an international 'Defence Oceanology' exhibition and conference taking place in Brighton March 15th-17th. (For more details contact Duncan, c/o Brighton Peace Centre, 28 Trafalgar Street, Brighton, BN1 4ED, telephone +44/273-692880, or Dominy, telephone +44/273-21782.)

Plymouth (the site of Devonport, the other large British Naval base on the South coast of England) is in the midst of a highly successful campaign against a proposed naval nuclear waste dump, and were unable to send representatives to the conference.

Overall the conference agreed that after the INF treaty it was important to refocus on Sea-launched cruise missiles, new and existing ballistic missile submarines including Trident, Polaris, Poseidon and French submarines, nuclear capable and nuclear powered ships and submarines. Not only are these weapons and reactors a threat to world peace, and an escalation in the arms race at a time when the door is wide open for further reductions in nuclear weaponry, but they also pose a serious danger in the form of accidents and pollution to local populations while they are in port. SCANN is especially keen to hear of and link up with other groups protesting against ship visits, particularly when the same ships can be 'greeted' again on their return to Portsmouth or other British ports.

For more info contact SCANN, 117 Orchard Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 0AD, telephone +44/705 811603, or Kate Cameron-Daum, English HAM, c/o 27 Woodworth Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, telephone

Diary

April	1st	Hammersmith Town Hall, London, England Conference : Exposing and campaigning against NATO. Contact:- CNA +44/1-263-9450
	16th	Brussels, Belgium Demonstration against Lance and INF missile systems. Contact:- CACTUS, St-Amandstraat 13, 8000, Brugge. +32/50-33.20.14
May	26th to June 4th	Disarm the Seas Week So far not many organisations have finalised plans for this. Iceland : A week of cultural and social events. New York: A demonstration against homeporting at City Hall Norway: Possibly demos against the 'Host Agreement'
July	1st-2nd	Norwich, England 5th National standing conference on Low Level Radiation and Health. Contact:- Davida Higgin, Greenhouse, 48 Bethel St, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1NR, UK.

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T	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
W	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
T	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
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Norway

Disarm the Seas

Last year branches of N.T.A. combined politics and culture. In the west, Orsta N.T.A. arranged a sight seeing trip up a local fiord to focus attention on the naval build up in the Atlantic and North Sea, while Kristiansand N.T.A. in the south marked the week with a 'dragon festival.'

Norway N.T.A. hope to repeat Disarm the Seas actions this year and to date have three large branches committed.

Ports Visits.

The most important exercise takes place at the end February/beginning March when there will be a naval exercise following the traditional 'Barfrost' exercise in Tromsø. N.T.A. hope to collect information on the ships involved.

Actions

Despite the Norwegian winter N.T.A. has encouraged groups to participate in actions under an umbrella organisation connected to the Brudtland Commission. The theme was "Environment & Health", and they brought in nuclearisation of the seas. N.T.A. is stimulating branches to make a concerted action in April. The theme may be the 'host agreement' (see below), ports visits or possibly modernisation of European weapons.

The Host Agreement

Informal talks are currently underway between U.S. and Norwegian officials. The U.S. wishes to build new installations as supports to the U.S. fleet of nuclear weapons war ships (sound familiar, anyone?). The Norwegian Defence Minister assures N.T.A. that there is, as yet, no agreement and that it will be open. N.T.A. seek to ensure that no secret agreements are reached and are working to this end. The crunch may come in March, but as a host agreement would not be popular in the ruling Labour Party, they are hoping for the best, but fearing the worst.



Jan Verieuwe, persfotograaf Brugge

HMS CHURCHILL AT SOUTHAMPTON

On February 23rd, the Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine HMS Churchill was greeted by a demonstration by 'Sea Action' as it visited Southampton Docks on its way to Rosyth for a refit.

In keeping with 'Sea Action' policy, the seaborne demonstration by a single boat was backed up by a land-based action involving about 10 people. Having protested the sub's arrival by displaying banners, a van carrying four protestors drove into the docks area, and the occupants approached the sub as it was docking. They were immediately asked to leave, but three others managed to walk in past security guards. Two protestors walked onto the sub and asked to speak to the captain about the local public safety scheme. They were eventually told he was too busy to see them, whereupon they left, to return a second time. At this point, they were given an official warning of arrest if they refused to leave.

The group then took a petition out on to the streets of Southampton asking people to register their protest at nuclear subs visiting the port, and in a short time collected over 1,000 signatures. The petition was then taken to the Associated British Ports office in the city where no-one would accept the petition. The protestors refused to leave the offices until it was handed over, until a security guard threatened to have them arrested, but eventually agreed they could return in the afternoon when they might have more success. Associated British Ports' embarrassment was obvious when they returned as agreed to find that the Port Director had driven back from London especially to accept the petition, fearing the publicity if the protestors had to be arrested.

Pressure will now be put on Southampton City Council to take action on this issue, and the obvious public concern may force them to make a stand.

For further details contact:
SCANN or Di MacDonald 30 Westwood Road
Southampton UK +44 /703 554434

Twinning

TWINNING & DISARM THE SEAS WEEK

Twinning between groups from the many countries taking part in the Disarm the Seas Week of Action (May 24-June 4) is one way of ensuring that the international dimension of our campaign gets local coverage. It also helps break down the sense of isolation felt by some peace groups - sharing each other's

ideas and sending representatives to events are just two ideas. A link-up between two groups who already share a similar focus e.g. uranium transportation or port calls, not only benefits the groups concerned but the campaign as a whole if the exchange of information that follows is reported in the NAN Newsletter. A peace group which has no immediate focus can twin with another from the town or city already twinned through civic auspices. The possibilities are numerous. Please contact Kate Cameron-Daum if you would like any help with your twinning plans and keep her up-to-date with those successfully taking place. Kate would like to know of any exchange of local details such as parliamentarians and local papers as this will greatly assist in media work for disarm the seas week, and, in the event of an accident at a port or whatever, a solid data base for communication and press work.

For further information contact:- Kate Cameron-Daum, 37 Wordsworth Rd., Salisbury, SP1 3BH. +44/722-330916. Electronic mail - gn:kate.

NENIG

NENIG - Northern European Nuclear Information Group

NENIG operates as an information and research centre on nuclear issues which threaten the communities around the northern North Sea and North Atlantic. The group ensures that these threats are monitored and the information widely circulated through a co-ordinated approach between local and national government bodies together with fishermen and environmental organisations.

NENIG's first international meeting was held in the House of Commons, London in November 1987. Since then, NENIG has helped raise nuclear questions in the European Commission, the parliaments of Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Faroe, Greenland and the UK as well as in many international conferences.

For more information :
NENIG, 22 Commercial Road
Lerwick, Shetland UK
+44 /595 4099

Scotland

The past few months have seen a great increase in interest in Disarm the Seas issues and environmental concerns from the Scottish media. Attention has focused on nuclear submarine reactor accidents and the emergency plans to deal with them, and also the contamination from Chernobyl which has still left "hot-spots" of radioactivity in Loch Rannoch and Kinross in Perthshire, where pollution is up to 40 times official estimates. Concern has been expressed in Parliament that the public may have unknowingly eaten meat from contaminated sheep and deer from the affected areas, although the government hotly denies any danger.

Existing concern about pollution near the submarine bases on the Clyde was heightened by the publication of results of a survey by the Greenpeace vessel "Moby Dick" at Faslane and the Holy Loch last summer.

A report compiled by independent scientist Dr Paul Johnson of Queen Mary College, London revealed that Caesium 137 at Faslane were four to five times the figures published by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, and that Cobalt 60 and Caesium 137 levels at the US Navy base at the Holy Loch were up to nine times higher than official figures.

Although higher than official estimates, these figures still fall within the "acceptable" limits set by the authorities. These limits have had to be constantly lowered in the light of new research, and are not a measure of absolute safety.

The pollution at the bases is believed to arise mainly from discharges from nuclear-powered subs, which can discharge reactor coolant water into the sea when the reactors are being started up after a period in dock. Faslane also discharges effluent from a primary coolant filter bed into the Gareloch on a regular basis, although the MoD deny this.

Greenpeace have called on the US and UK Navies to release the unpublished results of monitoring in the area, to fund independent monitoring in future, and to cut all discharges from the bases drastically.

The Greenpeace report built on local concern from a Channel 4 documentary "The Base Line" which cast grave doubts over the emergency plans and routine safety procedures at the Clyde bases.

In the documentary, ex US submarine Commander Captain James Bush expressed profound regret at the way the US had abused the hospitality of the Scottish people during his tour of duty at the US base, by dumping primary coolant from their subs into the Clyde, leading to contamination of mud-flats at the Holy Loch with Cobalt 60. There is growing evidence of a cluster of rare and childhood cancers in the area surrounding the US base.

A Faslane spokesman, while unable to refute the Greenpeace findings, dismissed the story as "alarmist", saying: "Greenpeace have admitted that they have a vested interest in the figures, they have a policy of unilateral disarmament". The Royal Navy, of course, has no vested interest in keeping such findings from the public!

Meanwhile at Faslane, Defence Secretary George Younger paid a visit to Faslane on March 6th. Unlike normal visits, the Press were not informed of this, but Jim Chestnut from Faslane broke into the base during the clandestine visit, to let Mr Younger know that his presence was no secret!

In northern Scotland concern is divided between possible plans for a nuclear waste dump at or near Dounreay on the northernmost coast, low-flying military jets, and test-drilling in Glen Garry on the West coast for an aerial system to communicate with submarines.

NIREX, the UK agency in charge of nuclear waste dumping is due to announce its proposed site for a nuclear dump any time now. The two main possible choices are Sellafield in northwest England, where there is already a waste dump at Drigg, and either Altnabreac near Dounreay, or Dounreay itself. Both areas depend on the nuclear industry for work, but many of the Dounreay workforce are opposed to nuclear dumping, though job-losses arising from the cancellation of the European Demonstration Reprocessing Plant may change some minds. Siting the dump in northern Scotland would mean the rail transport of waste over long distances, which opposition groups see as a major campaigning issue. Unofficial statements indicate that Sellafield may be the most likely site, but studies prior to test-boring are being carried out in the Dounreay area to test its suitability for a low and medium-level waste dump - either for Dounreay's own waste, or from the whole UK. Once the decision is made, NIREX plan a major advertising campaign



TAHITI: HEALTH SURVEY REJECTED IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In early February, after three years of deliberations, amendments, and manipulations, the European Parliament defeated a resolution calling for an independent health survey to be conducted in Tahiti to measure the effects of French nuclear testing on both the population and the environment. The vote was 136 against, 106 for the survey with 16 abstentions.

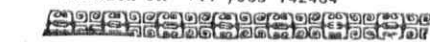
The European Environment Commission has said that, regardless of the vote, they view the issue with concern and will initiate talks with the French government. European parliamentary elections are coming up in May. It is hoped that people will question their prospective Euro MPs as to their stance on continued French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

For more information:

S.O.S. Tahiti 19 Cite Dupont 75011

Paris FRANCE

Diana Shanks 10 The Drive New Costessey,
Norwich UK +44 /603 742484

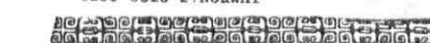


BELAUAN ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUPS NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The Minority Rights Group (USA) together with more than 200 other groups and individuals from around the world have nominated two Belauan organisations KITAL-RENG and OTIL A BELAUD for the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize. The groups represent Belauan women and men who are struggling to maintain their country's nuclear-free constitution in the face of U.S. pressure and often violent intimidation.

If you wish to participate in this nomination write directly to:

The Nobel Institute, Drammansveien 19
0255 Oslo 2. NORWAY



NAN PROTESTS WAR GAMES IN SOUTH KOREA

In February, Charlie Scheiner for NAN wrote to President Bush, the U.S. Department of Defence, and President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea protesting the 'TEAM SPIRIT' war games in South Korea. This year's exercises are the largest peacetime military manoeuvres ever undertaken by the Pentagon and significantly threaten the recently-opened dialogue between North and South Korea.

The exercise, running from February through early May, involves over 200,000 U.S. and South Korean military personnel and covers all forms of combat readiness including training for chemical and nuclear warfare.

Letters of protest to the U.S. government are recommended.

URANIUM SHIPMENTS ARRIVING IN EUROPE FROM ROXBY DOWNS, AUSTRALIA

As we go to press, people are preparing to protest the arrival of the first shipment of uranium (yellowcake) for the British Central Electricity Generating Board due, via Rotterdam, between 18th-20th March. Supporters will 'greet' the ship Comdock II, carrying 18 freight containers of yellowcake, when it arrives first in Rotterdam. It is then expected to dock in Felixstowe where it is hoped there will be a protest as well as at Springfield, the British uranium enrichment plant.

Roxby Downs, owned by Rio Tinto Zinc and British Petroleum, violates Kokatha peoples' sacred land and escalates the global dangers of nuclear power and weapons. The Swedish State Power Board also has contracted with RTZ to receive Roxby Downs uranium.

For more information:

Women Working for a NFIP, 82 Colston St. Bristol BS1 5BB UK
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BELAU CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDA

The Belauan election was a seven-way race officially won by a pro-U.S. candidate Ngrirakel Epison, who defeated his pro-nuclear free constitution rival by 31 votes. Despite demands for a recount and an inquiry, the Election Commission upheld the result. Epison's party 'Ta Belau' was formed by furloughed government workers in 1987 to promote the U.S.'s interests in Belau. However, the newly-elected Belauan House and Senate are not heavily in favour of the 'compact of free association' with the U.S. and have issued a statement that no voting on the constitutional issue will take place until 1990.

The U.S. Pacific bases scheme is heavily dependent on the Philippines, South Korea and Japan. As dissent grows in these three countries, more pressure surely be brought to bear upon Belau to renounce its nuclear-free constitution and 'welcome' U.S. military interests.

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PO Box 946 Koror Republic of Belau



Canada

Towards the end of last year the Innu of Labrador spent 3 months protesting against military expansion at the Canadian Forces Base at Goose Bay. The actions began with the occupation of a nearby bombing range and continued as groups of people, numbering up to 200 repeatedly walked onto the runways. Although a number of the protestors spent a night or longer in jail, this action did halt the dropping of projectiles from the F-16s and Tornados of the Dutch, British and W.German air forces.

The Innu of Labrador continue to protest about the illegal seizure of their land. Their claim has been recognised but not acted upon. Instead the Canadian Government continues to give it away from under their feet. This threatens both the Innu culture and the local wildlife. Much of the land is used for military purposes and the Innu look on as low level flying increases. A NATO Tactical Fighter and Weapons Training Centre is planned for the area, as are two hydro-electric developments which would flood the region.

The Sheshatshiu Innu will soon be subjected to supersonic flights taking place over their main hunting areas. This is part of the escalation since 1980 which has resulted in a massive increase in low-level flying, the (unauthorised) use of laser technology and hangers for the West Germans to house their Tornados, F-4s and Alpha-jets.

The Canadian Government is finding the demonstrations embarrassing. The riot squads are quick to leave behind their combat gear when they see peaceful men, women and children walking and singing amongst the razor wire.

April 1989 sees the return of the low flying jets and in addition to being the trial month for 24 demonstrating Innu, is when the land on which the airbase is built is scheduled to be transferred to the Defence Department. It promised a tough line.

Support for the Innu cause is growing, both nationally and internationally. Peace and environmental groups, churches, support groups and concerned individuals have all written to the Canadian Department of Indian and Northern Development.

Belgium

In June 1988 a resolution drawn up by CACTUS was presented to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Parliament. The resolution was supported and signed by M.P.s representing both the Flemish and Walloon Green parties, the Flemish Nationalist Party and the Flemish Labour Party.

The resolution asks for a total ban on visits of nuclear powered or armed vessels to Belgian ports.

As the resolution was left lying CACTUS lobbied to get it onto the Committee's agenda by means of a postcard and letter writing campaign. This resulted in a meeting with the Leader of the Flemish Labour Party who said they had other priorities on defence.

The militarisation of the seas is now an issue in Belgium. When a recent visit by a U.S. destroyer and flotilla took place a protest action by 25 people took place.

CACTUS will be at the 16 April demo which calls for the rejection of the Lance modernisation and no redeployment for the I.N.F. systems.

Everyone welcome - CACTUS - ST-AMANDSTRAAT 13, 8000 BRUGGE . 050/33.20.14

to assure the public that there is little danger. Advance publicity suggests that the campaign will claim that living next to a dump will be no more dangerous than, for example, smoking one cigarette a year. Perhaps the environmental movement can come up with a counter-campaign - "Living next to a nuclear waste dump is safer than..." (Complete in your own words).

The campaign against the low-flying military aircraft which plague the Scottish Highlands has been strengthened by the number of aircraft crashes recently, but the government have refused to review the practice.

STOP PRESS NIREX have indeed announced on March 8th that Dounreay and Sellafield are their choices for waste dump sites. They have requested permission to carry out test drilling, which may be granted before Easter, and do seem to prefer Sellafield, though the geology may mean this is not possible. If opposition does not succeed in stopping the programme, the final choice will be made in 1991, and a public enquiry held in 1992. Both sites, it is said, may eventually be needed.

Iceland

Camb is preparing a big cultural event to remind people of what participation in Nato has meant for Iceland. The 30th of March will be the fortieth anniversary of the Icelandic Parliament's decision to join NATO. CAMB has organized an art exhibition where about 20 of the best artists in Iceland will show their work as their part in the struggle against the US base and Nato. The exhibition will be from the 22nd to the 30th of March, and then there will be a big meeting on the 2nd of April. Every day there will be something happening there. Poets and writers will read from their works and all kinds of musical programmes will be on. A theatre group has written a play based on American "secret documents"

that were revealed in Iceland a year ago and show the relations of Icelandic politicians with the American Embassy and CIA before Iceland went into Nato and the base agreement between Iceland and US was made. Writers of both classical music and pop music plan to write works connected with the militarization of our land.

CAMB has invited Peter Armitage from Canada to come to Iceland and speak about the effect of Nato's military exercises on the life of the Innu people of Canada. He will address the meeting on the 2nd of April and will probably also meet Icelandic politicians.

At the beginning of June CAMB plans to have an action as a part of the "Disarm the Seas" week. Last year CAMB sent letters to all Fishermens Unions in Iceland and pointed out how much damage an accident in a nuclear submarine could do to our fishing industry. CAMB also had a meeting in Reykjavik where an MP and a worker from a small fishing village which is completely dependent on the sea gave speeches.

The question of a new Nato airfield in Northern Iceland has been taken up again after a new Government came to office last October. Icelandic people are told that Nato is planning to build airfield in Iceland or East-Greenland. The Icelandic Foreign Minister Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson has said that he very much supports the idea but the Government as a whole has decided that "no big new military upbuilding will be allowed in Iceland". CAMB has been working together with the farmers that own the land where they have planned to put the airfield and we are sure that they are ready to do everything to stop these plans.

details:- CAMB, PO box 5487, Mjolinsholti 14125, Reykjavik, Iceland.
E-mail:- greennet:camb

Wales

The Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarine HMS Tireless ran into opposition on a visit to Cardiff Docks on January 28th, when three people were arrested while trying to stop the sub entering the harbour, in a demonstration organised by South Glamorgan CND.

CND Cymru (Wales) held a press conference before the visit to highlight the inadequacy of the public safety plans prepared to deal with a nuclear reactor accident at the docks. This prompted Welsh local authorities to launch a campaign against the use of port facilities by nuclear subs.

The three protesters were arrested when one of them chained himself to the sea gates of Queen Alexandra Docks in an attempt to stop the sub entering the harbour until the tide had turned. This would have led to the Tireless having to wait until the next tide before entering.

Barry Docks, the only other berth in Wales where nuclear subs can dock is unusable at present as the sea gates are leaking, which might lead to a sub being stranded at low tide.

As a result the Royal Navy is now carrying out a feasibility study into the use of Swansea Docks for this purpose, their main criteria being a 550 metre zone around the berth free of public buildings. Negotiations are due to start soon with the City Council, but if the response to the Cardiff Docks visit is any indication, the Navy may be unable to answer criticisms of their safety plans. The City Council will be under pressure to insist on very detailed and widespread emergency and evacuation plans, which may mean the Navy has to withdraw its proposal.

These developments come at a time when the Welsh peace movement is pressing the UK government to recognise the fact that all eight County Councils in Wales have declared themselves Nuclear Free Zones, to respect the fact that Wales itself was declared a Nuclear Free Zone seven years ago, and remove all nuclear facilities based there.

Further details from CND Cymru, 56 Bryn Aeron, Duvant, Swansea, Wales SA2 7UX, or telephone Peter Burt on +44/222-483340.

USA

The U.S. nuclear weapons production industry is virtually shut down, with major facilities at Rocky Flats, Colorado; Hanford, Washington; Savannah River, South Carolina; and Fernald, Ohio all closed for safety and environmental reasons. Since no tritium is being manufactured, the 18-year half-life of tritium is causing a phased

unilateral disarmament of the U.S. nuclear stockpile as warheads become less dependable. Huge amounts of money, in the order of \$100,000,000,000 have been requested to clean up, re-open and build new facilities; this is controversial because of the sorry state of the U.S. economy, but the peace movement suggestions to 'stop the restart' haven't yet made it into mainstream debate. Bush's new Secretary of Energy (the Department of Energy manufactures nuclear weapons) is retired Admiral James D. Watkins, author of the 'Maritime Strategy' and the first career military man to head the DOE.

Though Bush has had to admit defeat over his selection of John Tower as Defense Secretary, other appointments signal a more professional, competent, and rational administration (hard to be less after Reagan), but no more humane or progressive underpinnings. The CIA gives one a different perspective than the cinema, but the results are no less dangerous. Although the obsession with overthrowing the Nicaraguan government will probably end, U.S. military entanglements in Central America, the Middle East, and East Asia are likely to continue or increase. Financial realities will restrict the Pentagon's access to money somewhat, but new crises will probably be manufactured to justify continued feeding of the military mammoth while people are starving and homeless across the U.S. Demands on U.S. allies to share the financial burden will also increase. Star Wars, Trident, naval deployments, SLCMs, and the B-2 (Stealth) bomber will be demanded: only the last has much possibility of being stopped.

Gorbachev is extremely popular here - some feel that if he had been on the ballot he would have beaten both Bush and Dukakis. In spite of this, and of the clearly lessening tensions between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., there is little popular, Congressional, or governmental support for changing fundamental military and foreign policies. Although the superpower enemy is disappearing, the U.S. continues to be hostile to countries formerly labelled Soviet puppets - Cuba, Nicaragua, north Korea, Syria, Iran, Libya. The decline of the American Empire and the disappearance of its official rationale will cause upheavals in U.S. foreign policy with worldwide effects.

"Scottish Fishing Weekly" reported two near-misses in the Clyde area - the first on February 27th, when a US sub passed between two fishing boats about 100 yards apart as they fed out their nets, the second on March 3rd, when Campbelltown fisherman Cecil Finn, whose boat "Aquila" was towed backwards by the US sub "Will Rogers" in 1980, reported that an unlit sub came dangerously near his boat as it worked off Arran. Following complaints to the Clyde coastguard, reports of these traffic violations have been passed on to the Fisheries office, and the Marine Surveyors Office in Glasgow.

On March 5th, as we were going to press, news was coming in of a Belgian trawler, based at Zeebrugge, "Tijl Ulenspiegel", which sank in calm seas between the Isle of Mann and Liverpool, having sent no Mayday call. The alarm was raised when the body of one of the crew was found, as yet both the boat and the other five crew are still missing.

Much confusion surrounds the orders to submarine captains in the event of an accident. In the "Face the Facts" programme, Richard Sharp said that ballistic missile subs were under orders not to reveal their presence to anyone, but that discretion lay with the commanding officer, and he personally would find it insupportable if a sub did not offer help to a stricken vessel if life was in danger, although the rules might be stricter than he suggested. In the same programme, the Navy said "protecting life is the Commander's first responsibility" but this directly contradicts a Faslane source quoted by the UK "Independent" newspaper on November 4th 1988 as saying: "When a Polaris submarine on patrol is involved they have orders never to surface under any circumstances. Even to pick up survivors of a collision. That goes against the grain of any seaman, but secrecy is everything for these vessels." Apparently the paper did not quote a statement made at the same time that subs would stop and offer help "if operations permitted" (the source refused to explain when operations might not permit). It is against International Maritime Law to refuse to stop and assist in any circumstances, and the evidence so far is that subs do not respond to problems on the surface, even if all the 17 civilian vessels and 32 lives lost in the past 7-8 years cannot be blamed on subs.

Danish fatalities

Danish MP Jens Thoft has unearthed the only fatalities so far which have been officially acknowledged as due to a sub incident. On 28th March 1984, Danish fishing boat "Ana Kathrine" was sunk by the West German sub "Simpson", drowning the 3 crew.

The sub was test-diving off Skagen, in the Skagerak area before being delivered to Chile, and was accompanied by the surface ship "Pallasus II". When the subsequent enquiry proved the sub was responsible, strict regulations were agreed between the West German authorities and Denmark to cover future tests in the Skagerak area, and the victims' families were awarded compensation of between 1 and 3 million Danish crowns (190-250,000 sterling) from the Howaldts Werke shipyard in Kiel. Although the Danish government still has the option to prosecute the sub captain, it has not chosen to do so.

Swedish troubles

Meanwhile, Sweden continues to be troubled by foreign subs intruding into its waters. In mid-January, the Swedish Navy launched a full-scale search of the sea-bed in the Stockholm Archipelago after a sub was detected. As yet all efforts to catch foreign subs have failed, since a Russian sub ran aground near a Naval base in south-east Sweden in 1981.

On a more positive note, Friends of the Earth International agreed at their Annual General Meeting in Krakow, Poland last October to launch a campaign "Nuclear-Free Waters: Nuclear-Free World". Coordinated by Irish environmental group "Earthwatch", an international network of groups from South America, Africa, Asia and West and East Europe will work to set up nuclear-free zones and ports, and point out the hazards of nuclear-powered, nuclear-capable vessels, radiation risks to land and sea, and risks to other vessels.

Further information: "Earthwatch", Harbour View, Bantry, County Cork, Ireland. Telephone +353/21-59058; Telex: 265871.

NEW YORK CITY HOMEPORT UPDATE

The U.S. Navy is proceeding with the construction of a homeport for the battleship USS Iowa and other nuclear-armed warships on Staten Island in New York City Harbour. In October 1987 the New York City Board of Estimates (BOE) demanded that an emergency planning document based on a possible nuclear accident in NYC harbour be prepared. Two drafts of such a document have been prepared and rejected by the BOE. A third draft is currently being prepared.

The Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Harbour (CNFH) carried out its own study for such an accident. A computer study of the distribution of plutonium from one nuclear warhead involved in an accident found that this could cause over 30,000 latent cancer deaths as well as other illnesses and birth defects. A companion study for CNFH concluded that such an accident could not be effectively planned for.

CNFH is also active in questioning the entire homeporting strategy, as the dream of a 600-ship navy begins to fade as the need for defence budget cuts grows. The Coalition is pressing for putting Iowa-class battleships back into storage as a way to save money and to contribute to world disarmament. CNFH are also focussing on the danger and destabilising effects of sea launched cruise missiles. They are also helping to launch Voters for a Nuclear-Free New York City in order to help elect an anti-homeport mayor and other city officials.

CNFH has held a number of protest demonstrations at the proposed base. To date, there have been 97 arrests at Stapleton, Staten Island. Further demonstrations are planned for the end of April when, during Fleet Week, President Bush may dedicate the pier at the homeport; and for City Hall on June 3rd and 5th during Disarm the Seas week.

For more information: John Miller, CNFH, PO Box 150753, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215 USA +1 718 788 6071 IGC:FBP Copies are available of CNFH's 224-page study NO SAFE HARBOR: The Consequences of a Nuclear Weapons Accident in New York Harbor, for \$25 sent to the above address, cheques payable to 'Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Harbor'.

NORTH STAR '89: U.S. WAR GAMES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC

The U.S. conducted war games on a grand scale in the North Atlantic in the first week of March. The exercises included low-level bombing missions into northern Scotland simulating attacks on the USSR, and naval manoeuvres in the Norwegian Sea, thereby threatening major Soviet bases on the Kola Peninsula.

Leading the exercise was the aircraft carrier USS America, which was involved in the 1986 U.S. attack on Libya. Along with its battle group, the USS America sailed across the Scotland-Iceland gap and was joined by other NATO vessels assigned to protect the U.S. Strike Fleet from Soviet submarines.

Though the navies of Britain, W. Germany, the Netherlands, Canada and Norway participated in the exercise, code-named North Star '89, it was classified as a U.S. national operation. NATO members, particularly the Norwegians, expressed reservations about the aggressive nature of the war games. Malcolm Spaven, in Scottish Defence News, said, "The fact that 'North Star '89' is a US national exercise not a NATO one, is an expression of these differences. The US carrier battle group would be more constrained in its operations if it was forced to adhere to NATO, as opposed to US, rules of engagement."

Russia

According to the Observer (5.3.89) NATO intelligence services have recently observed a complete absence of Soviet warships in their usual patrolling grounds in the Atlantic and have concluded that the Soviet North Atlantic fleet has come under Gorbachev's doctrine of 'reasonable sufficiency' after 20 years of aggressive forward deployment.

This change in Soviet strategy was later denied by a Norwegian NATO official in another British newspaper the Daily Telegraph. We can only hope that the first report is the correct one!

This possible reduction in Soviet submarine movements takes place at a time when the U.S. is planning at least 8 more Trident subs in the Atlantic, the U.K. is building 4 Trident subs, and France is increasing its nuclear warhead arsenal from 80 to 592!

For more information: SCOTTISH DEFENCE NEWS, Malcolm Spaven 26 Hawkenbury Way, Lewes, E. Sussex

Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker in "near meltdown"

Public concern over the risks of nuclear propulsion has been reported from the Soviet Union, where nuclear-powered surface ships are in wider use than elsewhere.

The icebreaker "Rossiya" was undergoing maintenance in Murmansk last November when crew error triggered an emergency which could have led to a meltdown in its reactor within 30 minutes if corrective action had not been taken in time.

Mr Rotislave Nikolsky, interviewed in "Vodni Transport", the Russian Merchant Navy Ministry newspaper, on March 4th, said that regulations enforcing procedures on nuclear-powered vessels had recently been tightened, and that it was difficult to find crew to serve on such ships because of difficult living conditions.

On the same day, "Tass" reported that, following a dockworkers' boycott at Vladivostok and Magadan of the "Syemvornput", a nuclear-powered lighter used to load and unload larger ships, the crew had gone ashore at Vladivostok to reassure local people that the ship posed no ecological threat.



Ireland

URANIUM SHIPMENTS BANNED FROM DUBLIN

Shipments of uranium fuel for nuclear reactors have been banned from Dublin port by the Irish government, after it was revealed that ships carrying the material were calling at the port several times a year.

The fuel is in the form of a gas, uranium hexafluoride, which is transported on a commercial container ship between Ellesmere, near Liverpool in England, and the Baltic port of Riga, in the Soviet Union to be processed at one of the world's largest commercial uranium enrichment plants nearby. The ship calls at Dublin as part of its regular fortnightly trip with general cargo between Riga and Britain, and in fact carries most Soviet-Irish trade.

The gas, also known as 'hex', is sent to Riga before being made into fuel rods for nuclear reactors. The hex comes from British Nuclear Fuels, who process uranium for a number of countries. Most of the hex is for use by other countries, although a small amount is re-imported to Britain for use there.

The hex is carried in containers about 12.5 feet long and about four feet in diameter. They hold approximately 12.5 tonnes of the

gas, which is only very mildly radioactive. It is chemically extremely reactive, however, and can explode on contact with water, as well as being toxic.

The containers are stored on the deck of the ships, which are run by the Latvian Shipping Company. The vessel normally used on the route is the container ship Inzhenier Kyrelis, although its sister ship the Inzhenier Sukhorukov sometimes makes the run. The uranium hexafluoride is carried on most trips from Ellesmere to Riga, but only occasionally in the other direction, as the enriched hex is sent directly to the third country from Riga. The empty containers are however brought back on board the Latvian ships.

The Irish government was embarrassed at the revelation last September that the vessels were calling in to Dublin port with the nuclear materials on board, as it is officially opposed to the expansion of the British nuclear industry. It has repeatedly called for the closure of the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant.

Vessels carrying the material are being kept out under an agreement made with the shipping agent, Dublin Maritime, last October, rather than by law. Any violation of the agreement would, however, be obvious as British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) have to inform the Irish radiation monitoring authorities of any shipments coming through Dublin. The fact that BNFL had been issued with a licence by the Irish radiation monitoring agency to allow them to transport the fuel through Dublin proved to be further embarrassment to the government.

The net effect of the ban is that the ships must travel directly between Riga and Ellesmere when they have the hex on board, without stopping off at Dublin on the way. Only about four shipments came through Dublin each year, as the containers were usually empty when travelling from the Soviet Union to Britain.

A ship carrying uranium hexafluoride from France to Riga sank off the Belgian coast in August 1984, resulting in a recovery operation said to have cost £2.5 million sterling. Some containers for the gas were salvaged over a period of a month after the Mont Louis sank in 45 feet of water about 12 miles off Ostend. The French government said at the time that the container could stay underwater for a year without leaking.

The Marine Port and General Workers' Union, which handles the ships at Dublin, passed a resolution at their annual conference in October against either nuclear materials or warheads being brought into port.

For more information: GREENPEACE IRELAND, 19 Lower Baggot St. Dublin 2EIRE. +353 /1 619836