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, Southhampton. 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 OAD, telephone +44/705 811603, or Kate Cameron-Daum, English NAN rep, 37 Wordsworth Road, Salisbury, Wilts, 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.

	April	May	June	July
M	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
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
F	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
S	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
S	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30