

YOUR CHILDREN DESERVE A FUTURE

FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS THE SHETLAND BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT HAS BEEN SPEAKING AND WRITING ABOUT THE IMMINENT DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS POLITICIANS IN THE EAST AND WEST HAVE BEGUN TO TALK THE LANGUAGE OF COLD WAR AGAIN, AND THEIR MILITARY 'EXPERTS' HAVE BEEN QUIETLY DEVISING METHODS OF WINNING WHAT THEY CALL A 'LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR' IN EUROPE. GOVERNMENTS ARE STOCKPILING VAST NUMBERS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS--ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE WORLD SEVERAL TIMES OVER--AND SPENDING, IN A STARVING WORLD, TENS OF BILLIONS OF POUNDS PER YEAR ON 'DEFENCE'.

AT THE MOMENT OUR OWN GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO IMPORT 164 AMERICAN OWNED AND OPERATED CRUISE MISSILES, EACH WITH THE POWER OF THE BOMB THAT DESTROYED NAGASAKI, AND TO PURCHASE THE TRIDENT MISSILE SYSTEM (THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE NUCLEAR WEAPON YET INVENTED) AT A COST OF £7,260 MILLION.

THESE EVENTS CONCERN SHETLANDERS AS MUCH AS ANYONE. IN THIS LEAFLET, WHICH WE ARE POSTING TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN SHETLAND, WE HAVE TRIED TO SPELL OUT THE TERRIBLE DANGERS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. WE HAVE SHOWN THE EFFECTS OF A NUCLEAR STRIKE ON SHETLAND--NOT BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE ALARMIST, BUT BECAUSE WE MUST FACE REALITIES. WE HAVE TRIED TO SHOW THE IRRESPONSIBILITY AND EMPTINESS OF PHRASES LIKE 'DETERRENCE' AND 'DEFENCE'. THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT IN A NUCLEAR WAR THERE ARE NO WINNERS.

SHETLAND C.N.D. INVITES YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER, AND TO PROTEST AND FIGHT WITH US AGAINST THE MADNESS OF THE ARMS RACE. IF WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO LIVE WE MUST ACT NOW.

15,000 DEAD IN SHETLAND?

The effects of three ten-megaton weapons are shown on the accompanying map. We have suggested three likely targets: RAF Saxaford, Sullom Voe, and Mossy Hill (NATO Communications). The effects would be:

WITHIN DARKER SHADED AREA

All buildings destroyed. Anyone not killed by the blast would be unable to survive the heat--no survivors are likely.

WITHIN LIGHTER SHADED AREA

Most houses damaged by blast and/or fire. There would be some survivors, but most would be injured in some way (severe burns, broken bones, etc.) with little hope of medical attention.

RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT

What we have described above would happen within minutes of the explosions. The survivors would then be endangered by radioactive fallout, both from local bursts and from explosions elsewhere in Europe. Fallout causes radiation poisoning, for which there is no proper medical treatment. It can bring death in two to three weeks, or a lingering death from cancer.

WHO COULD DO THIS TO US?

Our nuclear weapons are aimed at similar targets in the Soviet Union. So both sides would be guilty of mass murder. We are protected only by an uneasy stalemate.

HOWEVER, IF BRITAIN GOT RID OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND CLOSED U.S. NUCLEAR BASES IN BRITAIN, WE WOULD NO LONGER BE A TARGET. THIS POLICY, CALLED UNILATERAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, IS THE PRIMARY AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.

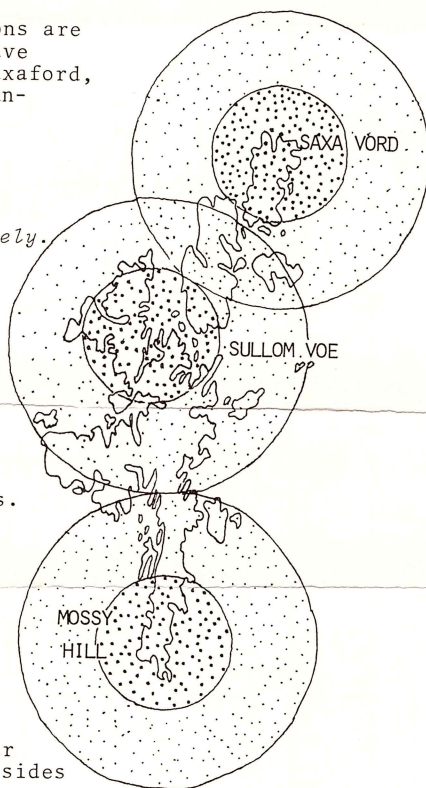
THE NUCLEAR 'DETERRENT'.

Successive British governments have argued that the nuclear deterrent is our only hope of survival--that if nuclear weapons are balanced neither side will seek confrontation on a world scale.

Unfortunately for us all, this view is now seriously out of date. The notion of deterrence is effectively dead--certainly in the minds of the Pentagon strategists who are planning future wars. For some time now they have been preparing for what they call a 'theatre' nuclear war, to be fought in a limited area: Europe. The weapons are to be in place by 1983, and the Soviet Union is installing corresponding armaments. Both sides hope that the war will not extend beyond Europe. In particular, the Pentagon strategists reckon that the U.S. will not be affected, despite the fact that the weapons based in Europe will be under direct U.S. control.

If the deterrent is to work for ever, then nuclear war has to remain unthinkable. *This is no longer the case.* As Mr Brzezinski, President Carter's Security Adviser, put it: 'the U.S. must have a wider range of options than either a spasmodic nuclear exchange or limited conventional war'. In other words, the U.S. must not be incinerated, but a few score millions of Europeans can be sacrificed in the interests of American 'democracy'.

This is bad news for Europe. But the idea of a limited nuclear war is nonsense anyway. Does the U.S. really think the Russians will play be American rules, and check whether missiles are coming from Nevada or Berkshire before retaliating? The former Chief of British Defence Staff, the late Lord Mountbatten, took the view that the idea of limited nuclear war is nonsensical. 'There will be no chances, no survivors', he said. 'All will be obliterated. ... I can see no use for any



any nuclear weapons which will not end in escalation, with consequences that no man can conceive.'

The C.N.D. does not pretend that working for peace--which amounts to living for democracy rather than dying for it--is going to be easy. It will be very difficult, and will need dedication, courage and imagination. But the struggle for peace is our most urgent priority, and it is desperately important that everyone should appreciate the dangers we face now that the old concepts of deterrence have lost their meaning. Those who are working for peace and disarmament will welcome the support of anyone, whatever his or her political allegiance. That support is essential. Unless we wish to die there is really no alternative.

Albert Einstein, when asked to prophesy what weapons would be used in a Third World War, said: 'On the assumption that a Third World War must escalate to nuclear destruction, I can tell you what the Fourth World War will be fought with: bows and arrows!'

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

We live in a democracy, and we enjoy a degree of personal freedom which compares favourably with that in other countries. We are told by our politicians that the retention and expansion of our nuclear armaments are essential for the protection of our democracy and our freedom. But the very existence of these weapons undermines the very principles which it is claimed they defend.

The Trident programme on which Britain is currently embarked will cost an estimated £7,260 million. This vast sum is being spent when cuts are being made in all social services, and when unemployment figures are higher than ever before. The misery and frustration caused by poor health, inadequate housing and the inability to find work, to play a useful role in society: all these things conspire to make 'freedom' an empty and meaningless word. They also pose a threat to democracy potentially as great as, if not greater than, any external force.

Our freedom to choose what role if any our country should play in any nuclear conflict is also being seriously eroded. It is part of the 'defence' policy of the present government to allow U.S. Cruise missiles to be based in the United Kingdom--if they have their way 164 will be sited here by 1983. These missiles, whose presence will make Britain even more of a priority target, will remain totally under the control of the U.S. government. We will have no direct influence over how and when they are used. In effect the United States will be using Britain as a launching pad. Should Cruise missiles ever be fired millions of British men, women and children would die as a result of the inevitable retaliation, and British territory would be devastated. Concern for the safety of their populations has led Belgium, Holland and Norway either to refuse or defer acceptance of Cruise missiles. It is not too late for us to change British policy in the same way.

Since we live in a democracy it is still possible for us to exercise our democratic rights:

- to halt the irresponsible waste of our resources and manpower which the Trident programme entails;
- to reassert our right to determine our country's future ourselves, by rejecting Cruise missiles;
- to prevent the destruction of millions of British citizens and the widespread devastation of our country by removing all nuclear weapons from British territory.

These aims are ambitious, but we must achieve them if we want to ensure a future for ourselves and our children. If YOU share our abhorrence of nuclear weapons make your views known to the politicians who represent you both at national and local level. One way of doing this is by joining the C.N.D. Obviously we would welcome your active support, but you can help simply by joining: the more members we have the greater our influence on politicians of all the parties.

'If Britain ever used its Nuclear Weapons on its own against the Soviet Union the retaliation would totally destroy this country and almost all the inhabitants in it. The risk to ourselves would be total, while the risk to the Soviet Union would be great but only partial.'
-- Field Marshal Lord Carver, former chief of the Defence Staff.

CIVIL 'DEFENCE'...

When a one-megaton bomb explodes, it turns itself into a small, hot ball of vapour within two thousandths of a second. The fireball produced by the explosion blasts outwards from the centre, burning up everything in its path as it reaches 2000 degrees centigrade. Inside the fireball temperatures may rise as high as 300,000 degrees centigrade. A ten-megaton bomb exploded thirty miles above the ground would send a searing wave of heat over an area of 5000 square miles.

Nuclear bombs are not just conventional-bombs-except-bigger. They introduce completely new scales of destruction and even completely new forms of destruction--radioactive fallout following a nuclear explosion could kill many more people than the explosion itself, and make entire areas of the country uninhabitable.

The idea of civil defence against an all-out nuclear strike is a joke. Which is just as well, because Britain has no civil defence policy designed to protect the population in times of war. The Civil Defence Corps was disbanded in 1968.

Even the government realizes that the sheer scale of a nuclear strike would defy any efforts to combat its effects. Going on the experience of the Blitz it would take 3.2 million people to dig out the three million people who would be trapped

if a one-megaton bomb were dropped on a major city like Birmingham. That's giving them 48 hours to do it. 3.2 million people would be one in six of the survivors of a major nuclear strike throughout the entire country. Meanwhile dozens of other cities would be bombed in the same way. The scale of the problem defies solution. So the government gave it up. It did not, however, give up its commitment to the nuclear weapons that would cause the destruction in the first place.

Since the sixties the state machine, supported by successive governments, has chosen a different tack. If the state cannot protect the population against the H bomb, then maybe it can protect itself against both the weapons and the survivors. Britain has no civil defence policy--it has a policy for ensuring that the state apparatus survives a war. Recently leaked government documents reveal plans to contain people *in*, not evacuate them *from*, the main centres of population. Martial law would be enforced after a nuclear strike. People who are considered dissidents would be got rid of in one way or another.

The only sop left to civil defence is a requirement that local authorities should draw up 'contingency plans' to deal with a war. In Shetland even that has not been done. Details given to Shetland council ors recently showed the ludicrous state of civil defence in the islands. If there was a nuclear war tomorrow Shetland would be a target. There are major military installations at Saxa Vord, Scousburgh and probably at Scatsta. Yet the islands' civil defence HQ has a telephone without a handset. The few hospital beds are of unclear ownership. Even the contingency plan has not been drawn up yet.

It is impossible to defend the population against weapons that could literally blow large areas of the country to pieces. It is possible to get rid of the weapons that cause the destruction. Please fill in the form below and help us before it's too late.



C.N.D. SHETLAND BRANCH

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Souther House, Hamnavoe.
Tel. Hamnavoe 376

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