



Abolition 2000 UK

Sept 2010 Newsletter

To achieve for the new century a global treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons

Blackaby Papers

The eighth (2010) Blackaby paper, on 'Nuclear Weapons Abolition: an idea whose time has come', authored by Rebecca Johnson (Acronym), is available in hard copy from the office (send a cheque for £3 to the address below) or on line as a pdf file from our web site . It has been provided to a number of delegates at the NPT Review Conference in New York and to FCO officers and MPs in the UK. It also outlines an action programme for the post-2010 NPT Review Conference era.

We currently have funding for a ninth Blackaby. Provisionally Peter Burt (Mayors for Peace and Nuclear Information Service) will write a paper on the role of the military and their weapons in British society, and the way in which we look first to military solutions and so see nuclear weapons as the ultimate

symbols of military power, in contrast to some of our peer nations that adopt a more prominent 'soft power' approach.

Nuclear weapons play a role in defining Britain's perceived military status, both within and outside the traditional defence structures - vide the current debate between the MOD (Fox) and the Treasury (Osborne) as to where Trident funding is to come from. Would Trident renewal cancellation cause a loss of UK military prestige? Those who think Trident militarily useless may nonetheless support its retention, and some who currently oppose more nuclear weapons spending might change their views if this meant a loss of face within and towards the army. To get rid of UK's weaponry may require more than persuasive security, historical and political arguments.

The NPT RevCon (New York, May 2010)

A number of detailed post-NPT RevCon reports are available on-line. Rebecca Johnson's thoughts "The 2010 NPT Review Conference: moving beyond partial non-proliferation approaches", her initial analysis (dated 10.6.10), is available from www.acronym.org.uk.

ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), in collaboration with Acronym and Reaching Critical Will, has prepared a 55-page June 2010 report on the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference 2010 entitled "Towards Nuclear Abolition" and available from www.icanw.org.

Key components: The ME WMD-free zone proposal. Greater emphasis on NWC. UK uncertainties - example from Rebecca. A bit more confidence since

the Coalition settled?

Abolition 2000 UK supported ICAN UK representative Tim Street's presence at the RevCon and several A2000UK members travelled to NY for the event.

Caroline Gilbert - the first 10 days of the NPT Review Conference 2010 - extracts from a blog

Saturday May 1: With CCND colleagues Patricia and Michael Pulham, I attended the Riverside Church conference 'For a Non-nuclear, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World'. The workshop 'Atomic Bombings and Indiscriminate Attacks

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Newsletter produced by Claire Poyner. Opinions printed in this newsletter are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of Abolition 2000 UK, unless otherwise stated.

on Civilians' summarised the long history of indiscriminate attacks using aircraft and poison gas, from before WWI. The nuclear cycle workshop explained uranium mining in India - all its nuclear industry is located in 'tribal' areas around Orissa; mining degrades their lands so they can never go back to their old way of life.

Sunday May 2: Official UN accreditation took at least 2 hours. The public demonstration was fantastic, apart from standing in the same hot sunny place for hours of speeches, all very good, but... The march along New York canyons was most impressive, with an enormous Japanese presence, so many little cranes.

Monday May 3: 1st day of the conference - an absolute downpour with lightning; we went to the Isaiah Wall, 'They shall beat their swords into ploughshares', to start a vigil. At 10 am the General Debate began. All the NGOs were herded into the Gallery, so one could not get the papers or get at the Delegations. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, made a positive speech, serious and on the ball on nuclear disarmament. The NPT Chair had his speech read (delayed by the Icelandic volcano), also serious, with the right omens. The new IAEA President, not so good, advocated a tremendous roll-out of nuclear power. The Non Aligned (NAM) statement by Indonesia built on the 1995 and 2000 RevCons and ignored the 2005 failure. Then we heard President Ahmadinejad! After a few minutes some delegates left; so we thought: lunch or walkout? Later it sounded like a polite walkout. Most of what he said was fairly reasonable. Disquiet among NGOs, that this was not a good situation, and some alternative diplomacy was needed. Irish briefing: Ireland did not walk out, but thought it important to stay and listen. Details of a Nuclear Weapons Convention probably could not be discussed at the RevCon - time limitations. All were keen to get actual progress on NPT issues - cannot afford another 2005 failure.

CND did a good workshop. The Chinese emphasised their No First Use policy. Why cannot the UK also give such an assurance? The Chinese seem to think that all the Nuclear Weapon States have some particular virtue; but I do not know what the UK one is...

Wednesday May 5. Good Egyptian briefing: Egypt led the New Agenda Coalition, and the Non Aligned Movement, so heads the Non Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) against the NWS. A

NFWZ is essential for the Middle East, but not easy to achieve. US panel group on their 'Commitment to Disarmament'. A formidable team, but a repeat of the Obama line; they are trying; want to get the CTBT through Congress - a battle; will make no more new NW; I asked 'What about our poor Trident Replacement?' The responding panel member said 'perhaps they lied'.

Saturday May 8. Abolition 2000 AGM at Judson Memorial Church. Good attendance, with the massive NGO presence, but slow, adopting everything by consensus. Started with a Maori ceremony, and remembering our predecessors, so of course our Janet Bloomfield. I wanted to bring up nuclear power and globalisation. All the NNWS insist on their 'inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology', the third 'pillar' of the NPT, but I would not wish nuclear power on my worst enemy. They see it as a statement of sovereignty, and to dissent from the US line on Iran, but it would tie them into the nuclear companies' grip, expensive, dangerous, unsustainable. It results from Art. IV, the central NPT bargain. The IAEA is central to NPT verification but also mandated to promote 'peaceful' use. So we need to work on globalisation, hierarchical power and empowerment. A working party has been set up to bring these issues together within Abolition 2000. Other ways forward: a focus on NATO, including NATO Arctic exercises; the encirclement of Russia by NATO bases; the need to withdraw NATO tactical weapons from Europe. Aaron Tovish suggests a shadow NGO Prepcom next year, a civil society meeting to promote the Nuclear Weapons Convention, the key umbrella idea. Dominique Lalanne plans a possible focus on de-alerting as a campaign for the UK and France.

The NPT Review Conference got off to as good a start as can be expected. Iran did not derail it. They had an agenda, and they started work. The Irish chair a key committee. The US wants to be seen as getting something out of it and cannot afford it to fail after Obama's Prague Speech and the new START. There must be something on Article 4 and something on the Middle East (the NNWS are really determined on this). On the downside, and a massive one, there is to be a huge IAEA-funded explosion of nuclear power to any country, especially poor Third World ones with only a small technical capacity - which will leave them at the mercy of the nuclear industry.

(edited PN & CP July 2010)

Abolition 2000 UK - meeting the FCO (2 March 2010)

A group of us from A2000UK met with Richard Tauwhare, Communications officer, Becky Field, Desk Officer and James Mortimore. John Duncan sent apologies. There was no-one from the MoD this time, though James Mortimore does report back to them.

We felt these were more junior people than those we'd had meetings with in the past. We believe The FCO would rather meet us as part of a larger 'joint NGO' meeting, rather than have our own meeting separately, and possibly if we insist on our own meetings (as we do have our own focus) then we'd have to meet whoever had time to meet us!

The meeting was superficially cordial, but I didn't feel it was quite as amicable as previous meetings. The arguments made were the usual story and there were no surprises. It's apparent the government line is not to get rid of nuclear weapons whilst anybody else still has them. Possibly Labour feel they are seen as 'soft' on defence and therefore want to be tougher than the rest. Maybe a Conservative government will feel they have less to prove and will not renew Trident as part of spending cuts.

Claire Poyner

INLAP/World Court Project UK

An important outcome of the NPT Review Conference, from the point of view of World Court Project UK, was the Swiss Government-sponsored report "Delegitimising Nuclear Weapons", which puts people, rather than states, at the centre of any discussion about nuclear weapons. Working with Rebecca Johnson of Acronym we have plans to follow this up with a citizens' campaign in which individuals dissociate themselves from any use of nuclear weapons on the grounds of the illegality of any such action.

Signatories also ask states to confirm that any use of nuclear weapons would be a War Crime and a Crime Against Humanity. We shall test out Affirmations to this effect as a pilot scheme for Hiroshima Day in Sussex and publicising them on a stall at a festival in Eastbourne. George Farebrother will be speaking about World Court Project at Portsmouth in August and at the Peace New Summer Camp with Kate Hudson of CND and Tim Street of ICAN - good opportunities to promote the venture.

INLAP has met Alyn Ware of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament and are working through people on the mailing list to draw the attention of their MPs to this. Positive responses are beginning to trickle in, although we

also have the familiar phenomenon of MPs responding with a copy-and-paste screed about the need to retain "our deterrent". World Court Project is providing ripostes to this along the lines of asking them to reply to what was actually said in the letters.

Meanwhile, George Farebrother, Peter Burt of the Nuclear Information Service and Sean Morris of Nuclear Free Local Authorities, have been nominated as "20/20 Vision Campaigners" by Mayors for Peace. The first meeting of the group will be on 28 July.

WORLD COURT PROJECT

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World Court Project UK works to uphold the law concerning nuclear weapons.

It is a project of INLAP, the Institute for Law, Accountability and Peace

A2000UK Funding

Abolition 2000 UK needs to be continuously funded at a modest level and depends upon supporting organisations and individuals for donations and annual subscriptions to maintain this.

We are currently ourselves organising the ninth Blackaby paper and planning a further visit to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office this Autumn. We also support several activities in common with other peace and anti-nuclear organisations, currently including promoting the model Nuclear Weapons Convention with ICAN, and being represented in the NO Trident Replacement Core Group and with the WMD Awareness Programme.

Please consider renewing your support for 2010-

11 to help keep our momentum going following the NPT Review Conference (RevCon), and in the expectation that a debate and decision on Trident may provide an opportunity to publicise the issues and perhaps modify the policy in the light of government funding cuts and the differences of opinion within the Coalition.

Standing orders, however modest, are convenient for both donor and recipient. Please contact Claire at mail@abolition2000uk.org for more information. Cheques can be made out to Abolition 2000 UK and sent to us C/O 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.

Thank you.

Next A2000 UK Meeting 11/9/2010

The next Abolition 2000 UK meeting will be on Thursday 9 September in Housman's meeting room, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9DY. 1.30 - 3.30 pm. It will include a report by Martin Birdseye on the Nuclear Morality Flowchart project. Complete agenda to follow.

Important

Please note our current email address: mail@abolition2000uk.org and our web address: www.abolition2000uk.org

The host system (www.netuxo.com) is run by peace movement activists as a co-operative.

Diary

2 – 6 September: Trident Ploughshares Summer Gathering in Reading. Organised by Trident Ploughshares 0845 45 88 361
tpgathering@yahoo.com
<http://www.tridentploughshares.org>

14 September: Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA) Concert for Peace at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, London NW3. Tickets: All seats unreserved £10 (£8 concessions) from MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, NW2 1HU. Please make cheques payable to MANA and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with ticket orders. 020 8455 1030 admin@mana.org.uk www.mana.org.uk

Saturday 2 October: Rally at 'R.A.F.' Croughton during 'Keep Space for Peace' week. A43 south of Brackley. March to main gate 1 mile - starts Croughton village 12.00 midday. Returns 3.30pm. Bring family, friends, flags and Peace! Parking signed western edge of Croughton village B4031. Minibus leaves St. Giles, Oxford 10.45 and Oxford Rail Stn

11.0am Tickets for bus £6.00 - to book and for info: 07949 320 026 / oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 2 October: Annual International week of protest against US Missile Defense called for by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space: www.space4peace.org - demonstration at the American base at Menwith Hill near Harrogate North Yorkshire - more details nearer the time. Organised by the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases - CAAB: www.caab.org.uk

9 - 10 October: CND Annual Conference. Incorporating an International meeting on 10th which will focus on scrapping Trident, achieving a WMD-free Middle East, ridding Europe of US tactical nukes, achieving a Nuclear Weapons Convention and challenging NPT-backed nuclear power expansion. Venue will be Mary Ward House, Tavistock Place, London. Info: www.cnduk.org/conference or contact officemanager@cnduk.org 020 7700 2393 020 7700 2393.