



NPT Review Conference: Abolition when?

Our CCND delegation, in New York for the first week of the conference, had an interesting time, not what you could call wholly successful exactly, with some frustrations and some triumphs.

Some of the frustrations related to the conference itself, particularly the lack of agreement to an agenda, which by the end of the first week threatened the continuance of the conference. Many states were unhappy with the demands of the USA and France to exclude references to the Final Document of 2000.

The General Debates were poorly attended, whilst the observers' gallery was packed out with some of the 1752 NGO delegates (although attendance was gratifyingly good for the NGO presentation on 11th May).

As far as the organisation of the conference was concerned, there were many complaints that although the numbers of NGO delegates had increased considerably (including 200 Mayors), the room set aside for NGO use (meetings, briefings, display of literature, use of computers and photocopier etc) was much smaller than last year's - and that wasn't huge either! UN Security frequently

threatened to close down the panels and presentations if people tried to sit on the floor because the limit of 42 people (42!) was exceeded. Considering the time and money spent by activists in attending the conference this was indeed a poor show. Complaints were made about lack of access to the opening debate, the General Assembly Hall and public documents such as the speeches of the delegations which NGOs have always had in the past. Access to the Review Conference delegates was severely limited.

The CCND group confirmed that compared with last year when delegates could be found in all public areas of the UN building, and generally seemed approachable, they were nowhere to be seen this year.

Our group, along with many others, had petitions to hand in and a letter addressed to the Chair of the

Conference, Ambassador Duarte. this caused more than a few problems, both in finding the right person to ask about handing them over, and in liaising with other NGOs with petitions. Eventually, a representative of the conference chair was located and kindly agreed to our photo session (see page 3).



Left to right: Caroline Gilbert, Patricia Pulham, Michael Pulham and Liz Griffiths at the Hiroshima Exhibition at the UN in New York, May 2005

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Eventually our group managed to contact the UK delegates, although after getting agreement from Ambassador Freeman to meet with CCND, he later had to bow out and our group met FCO & MOD officials to hand over the petitions.

What was successful about the trip? The vigils were very popular. And gratifyingly, they continued even without us! The CCND banner was clearly visible hanging by the “Swords into Ploughshares” quote on the wall at Ralph Bunche Plaza, even from across the road at the UN. The rally on May 1st was considered a success, and attracted news reports worldwide. Again, CCND’s banner was visible in many photos. We met and networked with many useful contacts. We were there.

Daily reports on the proceedings and a final analysis are available from www.reachingcriticalwill.org, or by con-

tacting the CCND office. Final reports, including one from Liz Griffiths, who came with us representing Clergy Against Nuclear Arms, Rebecca Johnson of Acronym and other organisations, particularly BASIC, will be available from the office.

Thanks are due to our funders, the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, the Fund for Social Justice and the United World Education & Research Trust. We also need to thank everyone who sent in donations sponsoring someone to go to New York. And of course we thank our delegation: CCND members Caroline Gilbert, Patricia Pulham, Michael Pulham, Barbara Sunderland, and Vanessa Wilde. Also Davida Higgin, Chair, Norwich CND, Gina Shaw, Chris Ballance, Member of Scottish Parliament and Rev Liz Griffiths, St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, who were present at many of our vigils and presentations.



More vigilling. Joined here by Rev. Osagyefo Sekou (centre) who is co-ordinator of Clergy and Laity Concerned about Iraq, an inter-faith group committed to peace and justice.



One of the ex CND & CCND interns Rick Wayman is pictured here at the May 1 rally.

Other News

Conscientious Objectors' Day 15th May

Tavistock Square, London

Tony Kempster from Anglican Pacifist Network presented the various speakers, and played guitar for Sue Gilmurray's songs too. Speakers included Angela Sinclair of Islington Pensioners' Group, who was a CO in WW2, Colum McAndrew from Amnesty International and Simon Heywood from Conscience the Peace Tax Campaign. Bill Hetherington from Peace Pledge Union read out a list of names of COs both present and past from around the world, whilst flowers were laid on the CO Stone.

Afterwards Shan Rees led the “Dances of Universal Peace” which wasn't too energetic but mostly involved people holding hands and walking in a circle. Some of us followed up with a picnic as the weather was lovely. Numbers were up this year, partly due, I think, to Drama School exile Anna Scher, who was present at the ceremony, and later had a “Justice for Anna” rally in the same spot. (Anna Scher ran a drama school in Islington, and was suspended after an illness, her school having been taken over and her name removed from the building.) Consequently, some of her students were present, and having arrived early, joined in the dancing and singing, or bought a badge or two from the London Region CND stall. Certainly reduced the average age of the participants!



Patricia Pulham handing in Essex CCND's letter to a representative for Ambassador Duarte.



Multi-faith Vigil at Ralph Bunche Plaza. This group includes Member of Scottish Parliament Chris Ballance (second right)



Gina Shaw, Patricia Pulham and Caroline Gilbert in the General Assembly Room.

Quote unquote

“Let me be clear: Failure of a review conference to come to any agreement will not break the NPT-based regime. ... But there are cracks in each of the treaty's pillars ... and each of these cracks requires urgent repair.” *Kofi Annan, secretary general of the United Nations.*

“If diplomacy doesn't eliminate nuclear weaponry, then the weaponry will certainly eliminate us” *Rhianna Tyson, WILPF.*

“For the NWS, the scope of the 2005 Conference is almost exclusively on non-proliferation - and more specifically on horizontal non-proliferation, with little or no reference to disarmament.” *Liz Griffiths of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.*



Liz Griffiths and Patricia Pulham hold the banners aloft at the May 1 Rally.

“Delegates from 153 countries failed to build on past agreements and adopt any kind of decisions or recommendations for furthering progress in the vital security issues of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. From start to finish, this conference did little more than go through the motions, and was one of the most shameful exhibitions of cynical time-wasting seen outside the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.” *Rebecca Johnson, Acronym.*

“We call on governments and intergovernmental bodies at all levels to pursue conflict resolution by non-violent means, and to renew their commitments to the quest for peace through justice. Only through such commitment can hope be restored for the new milleninium.” *Robert Smylie, Religions for Peace*

Dates for your diary

Sunday 12 June: Arms trade Day of Prayer. Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ Tel: 020 7281 0297 www.caat.org.uk

18 June: Celebrating Peacemaking Day. Pax Christi AGM and Celebration Day, London. 10.30am - 5.30pm. Contact Pax Christi, 020 8203 4884 to confirm attendance.

18 June: 20th Anniversary of the London Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park. 2pm. Contact Nipponzan Myohoji, The London Peace Pagoda, c/o Park Manager's Office, Battersea Park, Albert Bridge Road, London SW11 4NJ. 020 7228 9620.

Friday 24 June: The London and Mid-Essex groups of the Chernobyl Children's Project present an Evening with Tony Benn at Chelmsford Cathedral On Friday 24th June 2005 at 7-30pm Tickets £10 (£7 concessions) available from Jack and Su Whinney (01245 222239) or Jan Woolhead (01621 772490)

CCND 'Futures' Meeting

To be held on **29 June** in Friends Meeting House, St Giles, Oxford, 10.30am - 5pm. Everyone is welcome - bring lunch to share. Contact the office if you would like to come, if you need directions, if you have any suggestions for future activities, ideas for fundraising to support these activities or can offer any help.

Monday 4 July: . Big Blockade at Faslane Trident Submarine base. Trident Ploughshares: 0845 458 8366, www.tridentploughshares.org/

6 - 8 July: Gleneagles, Scotland. G8 Summit. See www.faslaneg8.com/index.html email: info@faslaneg8.com or ring 08454 588366. Official UK government website: www.g8.gov.uk

6 July Global Day of Action at the opening day of the G8 Summit Scottish CND: 0141 423 1222. Trident Ploughshares: 0845 458 8366

8 - 10 July: 'We are Stewards of Creation'. RC National Justice and Peace Conferences, Swanwick. www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

6 - 9 August: Hiroshima & Nagasaki Anniversary events. National Fast from 8am on 6th August to 11.30am on 9th August. In **Liverpool** there will be a small group of fasters at the Peace Garden in St John's Garden, camping out overnight. Contact Merseyside CND office: 0151 708 7764. Between 5 - 10 August there will be a peace exhibition in **Westminster Cathedral**.

6 August: Hiroshima Day. **Coventry:** Chapel of Unity Service. 2.30 - 5.30 pm. Contacts: Alan Race: 0116 299 7624 or Chris Aldridge 0121 449 6196. There will be a coach going to Coventry from various Essex towns. Contact Beryl Lankester on 01277 353450 to book. **Birmingham:** Cathedral Churchyard, evening. **Blackpool & Fylde:** A leafleting ses-

sion outside St. John's Church, Church St., Blackpool, Lancs from 10.30am to 12.30pm. **Cardiff:** Paper boats and candles will be floated on Roath park lake in Cardiff. Contact Ray Davies/ 02920 889514. **Exeter:** 12pm: An information table on Exeter High Street and a vigil on Exe Bridges at 6pm.

Kingston: Launch paper boats on the Thames from Canbury Gardens at 8:45pm. **London:** Commemoration in Tavistock Square, 12 noon. Organised by London Region CND. Vigil outside **Westminster Cathedral** 10am - 5pm organised by Pax Christi. **Medway:** 8am: Leafleting at Medway rail stations. **Newport** Candle floating will take place in Newport Pembrokeshire as it has done for over 20 years. Contact: Mansel Kedward/01239 891 294. **St Albans:** Table at St. Albans weekly market at 10am. Pamphlets, leaflets, and petition. At 4:30pm, a short commemoration at the Peace Pole in Sumpter Yard. **Wales:** There will Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative events on the National Eisteddfod field on August 6th and 9th, at Meifod Montgomeryshire. Contact Rod Stallard 01550.750.260. **West Midlands:** At 12.30pm, A Commemoration in St. Phillips Cathedral Churchyard, including readings and a minutes silence. At 7pm, opening of the West Midlands CND Hiroshima Exhibition at Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, 138, Digbeth. The exhibition will be open for five weeks. Contact: West Midlands CND/ 0121.643.4617.

9 August: Nagasaki Day. **London:** Nagasaki Day 60th Anniversary event. Vigil outside **Westminster Cathedral** 10am - 5pm organised by Pax Christi. Ecumenical services by Pax Christi at Westminster Cathedral Crypt Chapel, in memory of the 62nd anniversary of Franz Jagerstatter's execution. Followed by a peaceful procession to Battersea Park to the London Peace Pagoda for the Floating Lantern Ceremony. All welcome. <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/> **Exeter:** 11am: An information table on Exeter High Street. **Medway:** 11am: Annual River Flower Ceremony at the Sun Pier. **Wales:** There will Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative events on the National Eisteddfod field on August 6th and 9th, at Meifod Montgomeryshire. Details to be arranged. Contact Rod Stallard/01550.750.260

26 - 29 August: Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival at Cheltenham Racecourse. Come along and help run a CCND stall in the Peace Zone. Contact the office more details.

27 August - 10 September: Coulport Disarmament Camp. Trident Ploughshares, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR 0845 4588366 info@tridentploughshares.org <http://www.tridentploughshares.org>

1 - 8 October: Keep Space for Peace week. Yorkshire CND: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk 01274 730795.

13 October: Clergy Against Nuclear Arms Annual Lecture with Nicholas Frayling, Dean of Chichester Cathedral. 5.30pm at St John's, Waterloo. Details: 01865 202745.

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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