

Feedback from the Spring CND Council Meeting 29.3.26

Nigel Day, Oxford CND and Peter Gloyns from Salisbury CND represent the Southern Region on CND's Council. This report aims to give you a feel for the main decisions taken. If you would like further information, just contact either of us.

Sophie Bolt – General Secretary

It's been a very busy period. The US' illegal military attack on Venezuela in January – laid bare in the US National Security Strategy – breached the UN charter and undermined the 1967 nuclear free zone Treaty of Tlatelolco. CND and Stop the War were part of a coalition organising protests.

We raised concerns at the dangerous 'Statement of Intent' signed by Britain and France – who reaffirmed their nuclear cooperation commitment last year – to commit thousands of troops and install military hubs across Ukraine in the event of a ceasefire deal with Russia.

Donald Trump's threat to Greenland has caused public splits within NATO and increased public opposition to Britain's so-called 'special relationship' with the US.

We've run a successful social media campaign to help increase awareness about Britain's nuclear dependence on the US as well as the scale of US bases in Britain. We've campaigned to raise awareness about and oppose the expiry of the START Treaty, with members lobbying the Foreign Secretary to press for renewal.

We've been working hard to raise awareness about Britain's nuclear expansionism and build support for our successful demonstration on Saturday 28 February at RAF Marham.

In the build up to more attacks on Iran, we've drawn attention to repeated sabotage of nuclear talks by the US and Israel, and the need for a nuclear weapons-free Middle East. The illegal attacks by Israel and the US against Iran since Saturday 28 February – with Iran's subsequent retaliation – risk creating a devastating war across the Middle East. We are now working with Stop the War organising emergency protests. Trials are underway against leaders of the Palestine Coalition, including PSC's Ben Jamal, Stop the War's Chris Nineham. Trials for STW's Alex Kenny and myself will follow in mid March. They are part of a wider attack on the right to protest, which continue but with significant obstacles, including the successful judicial review against the proscription of Palestine Action and acquittals of direct action protestors against Elbit. The government is attempting to overturn these results. Legislation is still going through parliament to ban protests on the basis of 'cumulative impact' and 'serious disruption'.

NATO and European Nuclear Proliferation

Council resolves to:

a) publicly promote the fact that discussions on a 'European Nuclear Deterrent [sic]' are actively underway and explain why this a dangerous development;

- b) work with the European peace movements to fully integrate opposition to nuclear weapons into the new wave of opposition to militarisation;
- c) highlight and promote CND's commitment to a European nuclear-weapon-free zone and other alternatives such as common security;
- d) seek clarification from the British government on its involvement with French/German plans;
- e) reiterate our opposition to NATO.

Opposing war on Iran

CND Council Resolves:

1. To work with all those who oppose this illegal military intervention on Iran in order to bring the conflict to an end.
2. To pressure the British government to (i) end its military involvement and the use of British bases, (ii) follow Spain in clearly condemning the US and Israeli strikes on Iran as illegal and (iii) use its international position as a permanent member of the UN Security Council to call for a ceasefire and a political solution to the war in line with UN founding principles.
3. To call for a return to diplomacy to ensure transparency regarding Iran's nuclear programme and the lifting of sanctions on that country.
4. To reaffirm CND's support for the Treaty for the Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone (WMDFZ) including the role of the British government, as a primary sponsor of the UN resolution.

New START motion

CND Council resolves:

To highlight the dangers of a renewed arms race, we will aim to organise effective actions demanding that the US and Russia negotiate a new treaty to limit their respective nuclear armaments. This shall include protests outside both the US and Russian embassies during the NPT to highlight the dangers of the new nuclear arms race, and to call for nuclear arms reduction measures including the extension of the START Treaty.

There was extensive discussion of the forthcoming action at Lakenheath, which starts this week, and also about future actions at Fairford. CND is considering organising a March at Fairford at the end of April or early May. Details will be circulated as soon

as they are finalised. CND will also put focus on the role of Artificial Intelligence in the military world. AI is involved in targeting decisions and also autonomous weapons.