

**Introduction**

These meetings really seek to inform members of the current situation and formulate the direction of policy for the coming year. Representatives of CND groups throughout the country take part. Nigel Day, Oxford CND, and Peter Gloyns, Salisbury CND, attend on behalf of the Southern Region of CND and this report seeks to provide feedback to members. If you want any further information, please feel welcome to contact us.

**Sophie Bolt**, the General Secretary of CND, gave a very useful overview of the current situation. Her presentation is shown below. Please pay particular attention to the section at the end of Sophie's piece on guidance for our actions, following the proscription of Palestine Action. This really could effect us all. You will be surprised to read that Sophie is herself now facing prosecution for alleged breaching of conditions of a demonstration.

**Campaigning context introduction**

- Very serious expansion of Britain's nuclear capability
- Trump secured huge increase in military spending of NATO states to 5% of GDP - increases nuclear risks across Europe and increases risk of global war
- US and Israeli bombing of Iran – impact on Middle East. On nuclear proliferation. And nuke threats.
- Further attacks on right to protest in Britain – what this means for campaigning on Palestine and against militarism and nukes

The NATO summit in the Netherlands in June saw the agreement by NATO states to increase military spending to 5% of GDP, with the exception of Spain. In 2024, total military spending by NATO members amounted to \$1.5 trillion – that's already 55 per cent of global military expenditure.

It is clear that this increase in military spending goes beyond military support for Ukraine and is – as Secretary General Mark Rutte has explained - about Europe coordinating with the US so that Trump can reorientate the US military focus towards the Asia Pacific.

But European NATO states aren't increasing military spending so the US can reduce its spending. The US 2026 budget is looking to increase military spending by 13.4% to over 1 trillion dollars.

So this huge spending increase will maintain military tensions – and the threat of nuclear confrontation with Russia in Europe – and also drive a global war, that risks nuclear confrontation and China.

So strengthening and rebuilding a European-wide and global movement against nuclear weapons is critical.

CND participated in the counter summit at the Den Haag. Very positive. 500 people. 5000 at demonstration. We are also part of wider European initiatives which Kate will speak to.

### **Britain's role in this drive to global war**

#### **Strategic Defence Review – has made clear a decisive shift to ‘war-fighting readiness’ and greater integration into NATO nuclear mission**

The purchase of 12 F35A nuclear-capable fighter jets from the US - likely delivery is end of 2029 and stationed at RAF Marham - is a huge expansion of Britain's nuclear weapons capability, enabling it to launch nuclear weapons from both the sea and from the air.

This means it is highly likely that US B61-12 nuclear bombs will be stationed at RAF Lakenheath and possibly at RAF Marham.

This decision has been made without any parliamentary debate and likely breaches the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. As a signatory, Britain has agreed to take steps to disarm its nuclear weapons, not increase them. **CND is seeking a legal opinion on this.**

The purchases and ongoing **costs** have not yet been published by the government. The jets are estimated to be about £80 million each. The US estimates for maintenance costs is \$6 million annually per jet. This would cost in the region of £1 - £1.5 billion. There are also questions over further costs. For instance, whether Britain will lease refuelling tankers from the US, as RAF ones don't fit. And costs to upgrade/refurbish RAF Marham so that it could house US nuclear bombs.

**In response** CND organised an emergency protest at the base and secured good national and local media coverage. We're in the process of bringing together a broad coalition – like No Trident Replacement – to oppose British nuclear expansion. Have paper in plenary for next steps.

### **Nuclear power linked to nuclear weapons**

The SDR also recommended spending on the 'Establishment of a Nuclear Fuels Programme for defence purposes', making explicit Britain's nuclear power programme being linked to nuclear weapons production. Important development for our campaigning against nuclear power.

In the Spending Review, the government announced £14.2 billion for Sizewell C and £2.5 billion for small modular reactors. But Sizewell C announcement attracting a lot of criticism from mainstream media commentators about cost of electricity generation as well as dangers. Stop Sizewell C running strong campaign.

**US and Israeli bombing of Iran – impact on Middle East.**

Very serious development. Resulted in hundreds of dead in Iran and Israel. Reckless, very dangerous bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities by Israel and US. Illegal under international law, UN charter and statute of IAEA. IAEA had reported that Iran was not cooperating with IAEA but made clear it did not have evidence that Iran was developing a nuclear weapons. Natanz report of localised radiation – within the facility.

G7 countries supported Israel's actions, including Britain. Started to move military hardware to Diego Garcia, like Typhoon jets. Had to give US permission to use base as jointly owned.

Following US bombing of underground facility at Fordow and other sites Israel intensified its bombing campaign, Iran launched an attack on US military base in Qatar. Trump's ceasefire holding. Critical this continues.

But, actions of Israel and US have very profound implications.

Iran has withdrawn cooperation from the IAEA, with IAEA inspectors now leaving Iran.

Shows bombing Iran no way to resolve crisis over fears of nuclear developments, if that really is the concern. This is a consequence of the illegal bombing by Israel and the US, and the sabotage of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action by the Trump administration in 2018.

Iran's decision has been condemned by the UN and the US. US saying 'Iran wrong for not taking path for peace and prosperity'.

Very serious risk of laying grounds for another military assault on Iran. Iran is saying it refuses to talk with US until it rules out further military strikes on Iran.

CND very important role in this campaign.

Critical we keep up pressure to resume talks. Oppose military strikes on Iran – and no role by British government.

The actions of US and Israel risk driving nuclear proliferation, not halting it. Inform wider movement about role of US in sabotaging JCPOA. Hypocrisy of Israel's nuclear arsenal

**But also Our role in exposing the wider nuclear hypocrisy of all nuclear weapons states**, including those signed up to the NPT. Instead of abiding by their commitments to take steps to disarm their nuclear weapons, these states are increasing and modernising their arsenals.

Countries like Britain, justify the use of their nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states that are signatories to the NPT who are in 'material breach of those non-proliferation obligations'. **Far from countering proliferation, these actions of nuclear weapons states only increase the risk of non-nuclear weapons states seeking their own nuclear arsenals.**

Keep pressing for WMD-free Middle East Treaty.

## **Palestine**

Trump has announced possible 60-day ceasefire in Gaza. Part of that agreement being put forward by Hamas is the end of the US-Israel- joint 'Gaza Humanitarian Foundation' which is supposed to distribute aid to starving people and has shot dead 700 Palestinians. In clear violation of humanitarian law. Instead the ceasefire terms include UN and International Red Cross aid distribution.

Critical that this happens.

**It is in this context that we see latest round of attacks on right to protest for Palestinian human rights and against genocide in Gaza.**

Harsher conditions on national demonstration. Stop us marching on Saturday through central London. Unfounded allegations of harassment of Jewish people attending synagogues. Despite peaceful nature of protests and thousands of Jewish people on the demonstrations.

Number of leaders of Palestine coalition have been charged with breaching conditions of demonstration in January. Ben Jamal. Chris Nineham. And now myself and Alex Kenny, STW.

**But also now proscription of Palestine Action** as a terrorist organisation for NVDA at RAF Brize Norton. Vote on Wednesday and Friday in Lords.

26 MPs voted against in Commons. 16 Lords voted against it.

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What this means for us.

Impacting national demonstrations – more violent policing is concerns.

But also chilling effect on demonstrations at military bases.

Getting legal advice.

In the meantime, critical people understand what activity could incur

## **ADVICE FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Our supporters must be fully aware of **things that could lead to a jail sentence of up to 14 years.**

## Things that could put you at risk of a terrorism charge ↓

- 1 Wearing a t-shirt, a badge or a sticker of Palestine Action. Saying 'We are all Palestine Action.'
- 2 Attending a protest in support of Palestine Action
- 3 Holding or speaking at meetings in support of Palestine Action
- 4 **Expressing a personal opinion that Palestine Action's tactics are morally justified**
- 5 Posting a picture wearing a Palestine Action t-shirt or sharing any Palestine Action-related social media posts.

Read a more detailed brief:

<https://netpol.org/2025/06/26/palestine-action-ban-guidance/>

Have to be careful. CND getting legal advice

## Tom Unterrainer, Chair of CND

He stressed the importance of taking note of the advice from Amnesty International. Expressing an opinion is being criminalised. Militarism is a social issue as well as an economic one. Its rise will effect British society fundamentally. The government is preparing for war and those who disagree are being excluded by law. We must all be extremely careful not to jeopardise CND.

## Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed.

### Resolution 1 Building opposition to Britain's increasing nuclear aggression

#### Council resolves to:

- Build opposition to Britain's aggressive military and nuclear expansion in parliament, amongst trade unions and the wider movement.
- Organise a national demonstration at RAF Marham on 18 October 2025.
- Work with TUAG to promote the ADR and resolutions at trade union conferences/ events to challenge the jobs myth, and support the RMT commitment to convene a labour and peace movement summit.
- Support CND regions and groups to organise debates and public meetings to challenge the government's war drive and promote the ADR.

- From the success of CND's demonstrations at Barrow and Devonport, help strengthen these regions and local groups to organise further actions
- Organise a national action at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment against the new warhead development
- Increase campaigning actions at US Air Base Lakenheath and active engagement in Lakenheath Alliance for Peace and also focus campaigning against any upgrades at RAF Mildenhall
- Liaising with Scottish CND, support 2026 action at Faslane

## **Resolution 2. Pakistan/India Conflict**

Note Murad's overview of situation in this link :

<https://muradqureshi.com/india-pakistan-conflict-over-kashmir-a-persistent-nuclear-threat/>

### **The recommendations;**

1. The national campaign should not lose sight of this more regional nuclear conflict usually heard at the UNGA annually
2. It would be a far better way to interact with South Asian communities rather than via religious affiliations.
3. London CND should add visits to the Pakistan & India High Commission as well on its annual trips to diplomats in London.

## **Resolution 3 "Predictable Mendacity-the Labour Strategic Defence Review 2025"**

### **CND National Council resolves to**

1. Encourage members and groups across the UK to oppose the Labour government's attempts to convince the public of the necessity of 'the nuclear deterrent' in 'public outreach' events.
2. Encourage members and groups to demand the Labour government engage with its responsibility for nuclear disarmament in international conferences and NATO meetings, and debate with MPs, Labour party members & councillors.
3. Liase with other pressure groups to demand that expenditure on new nuclear weapons is cut. Provide real support for the NHS, new housing in suitable sites, urgent reform of our prison systems, decent road infrastructure, address river pollution and much more. Welfare NOT Warfare is the popular mantra.

### **Approval of a new Vice-president of CND**

Alex Gordon was approved as a Vice-President of CND.

Alex is a leading trade unionist, until recently President of the RMT and now a train driver, and is active in the cause of peace, speaking with clarity and authority. He is one of the team, alongside Sam Mason and Kate Hudson, who initiated and led the Alternative Defence Review process and publication.

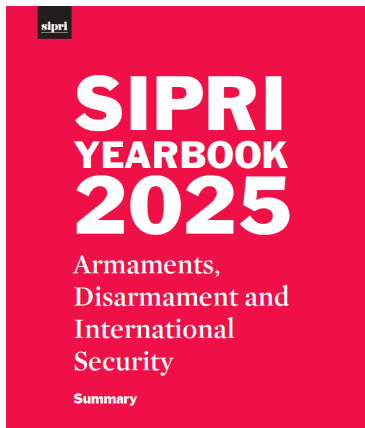
CND's trade union work has been developing well in recent years, with an active Trade Union Advisory Group, under the current leadership of our Vice-Chairs, Sam Mason and Tony Staunton, and previously Annie Tunnicliffe.

The addition of an active and leading trade unionist to our team of Vice-Presidents would further strengthen our work in this sector - vitally needed at a time when some major trade unions are backing nuclear weapons, war, and increased conventional weapons spending.

### Useful links shared during the meeting

From Philip Gilligan : <https://stoprearm.org/>

From CND : SIPRI 25\_summary\_en.pdf .



From Junayd Ul Islam : Is this the documentary you were referring to, Carol? <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/gaza-doctors-under-attack>

From Richard Bakewell: <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/jul/03/gaza-doctors-under-attack-review-channel-4-crucial-film-stuff-of-nightmares>

From Richard Bakewell: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iv3wpeJ6Oco&t=3s>

From Annie Tunnicliffe: Stating the obvious but could a message go out to membership asking them to ensure they are explicit about speaking in a personal capacity, not as CND members, if expressing an opinion about P Action

From Kate Hudson to Everyone: <https://www.stopwar.org.uk/article/why-military-keynesianism-does-not-add-up/>

From Carol Turner: Update on Lab CND report:

We have recorded another podcast and are in the process of circulating details on social media – Alex Gordon, on Alternative Defence Review, focussing on jobs. In two or three week's time we'll be releasing part 2 – ADR with Sam Mason focussing on climate.

Find it on

Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/episode/09hwgweuBHnvREgd7CrTCo>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LabourCND>

From Bill Ramsay SCND Observer: Rented Missiles and Worn out Submarines. Mark Felton Productions. NOT an ally but with over 670,000 you tube hits it is message that has real utility for the anti nuclear movement. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2Z0Y-mFMBk>

From Carol Turner: India Pakistan Conflict Over Kashmir: A Persistent Nuclear Threat  
London CND webinar with Murad Qureshi and Achin Vanaik  
<https://www.londoncnd.org/latest/2025/6/8/d4uwqolns274us7ob6bunwcbzpbfxw>

includes a link to Murad's slide presentation at the webinar

From CND: <https://muradqureshi.com/india-pakistan-conflict-over-kashmir-a-persistent-nuclear-threat/>

From Philip Gilligan: RE. Gov pressure on Alan Turing Institute, see <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-uk-politics-2025-7-alan-turing-institute-told-to-focus-on-defence-or-lose-funding/>