



COUNTDOWN TO HIROSHIMA

Countdown to Hiroshima Campaign Briefing

The 1945 bombings

The Manhattan Project, code name for the US top-secret development of the atomic bomb, began in 1942. The first atomic explosion took place over the New Mexico desert on 16 July, 1945. The test was considered a success, and the Truman administration gave the order to drop the atomic bomb in Japan only nine days later, on 25 July¹.

On 6 August, 1945, the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The bomb, called 'Little Boy' contained Uranium-235 and had the destructive power of over 15,000 tons of TNT². The bomb exploded at 580 metres above the city. 'Fat Man', the bomb dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August, contained Plutonium-239 and had the destructive power equivalent to 21,000 tons of TNT. It exploded about 500 metres above ground.

The intense heat rays from the nuclear explosions incinerated tens of thousands of people and caused disfiguring burns on many survivors. It is thought that the temperature at the site of the blasts reached millions of degrees centigrade at the peak of the explosion³. Intense shock waves levelled all structures within a wide radius, and massive amounts of radiation were released.

The official Hiroshima government estimate is 140,000 dead – they stopped counting after December 1945 when acute illnesses subsided⁴. Many thousands more died in the months and years following the attacks.

The damage to Nagasaki was somewhat less, probably due to the topography of the city. Even with this natural protection, at least 70% of the city was destroyed by 'Fat Man'⁵ and approximately 100,000 civilians were killed.

Radiation sickness is now a well-known condition that has affected thousands of Japanese over many years and incidents of leukaemia and cancer are high in these two areas.

Dispelling the lies

Conventional wisdom has it that the US dropped

the nuclear bombs in order to minimise casualties, claiming that a ground war would have killed many more people. However, historical records have shown that Japan was in fact trying to surrender at the time. Dwight Eisenhower, commanding general of US forces in Europe in World War II and President of the US from 1953-1961, said, "*Japan was at that very moment seeking some way to surrender with minimum loss of face. It was not necessary to hit them with that awful thing.*"⁶ The annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a defining moment in global warfare and marked the emergence of the US as the world's dominant super power, a position secured by its unchallengeable nuclear might – and its preparedness to wield it. This is the only time that nuclear weapons have been used in war.

The new nuclear threat

60 years on, however, the threat of nuclear weapons being used in war is growing once again. At least eight countries possess nuclear weapons⁷, all far more powerful than the bombs dropped in 1945. Despite the responsibilities of Nuclear Weapons States under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), there has been no significant move towards disarmament.

In fact, we are seeing a drive for greater nuclear capability, led by the United States. The US 2002 Nuclear Posture Review outlines the role of nuclear weapons in winning wars and names North Korea, China, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Libya as countries where 'contingencies' could lead to a first-strike use of nuclear weapons.⁸

The development of the US National Missile Defence (NMD) shield would enable the US to launch a nuclear attack on another state without fear of retaliation. Many governments and experts throughout the world are concerned that the successful implementation of this system will lead to a new arms race. Indeed, Russia has already tested the SS-27 Topol-M missile, designed to defy interception by the NMD system⁹, and in 2003 North Korea withdrew from the NPT.

The British Government has now adopted a 'first



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strike' use policy, agreed publicly to the use of Fylingdales for US NMD, and signed an US agreement for greater ballistic collaboration. Experts believe that plans for a laser testing facility at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), could be used to develop new nuclear weapons. The British government is also seeking to replace the Trident system. The Prime Minister has made clear his support for pre-emptive war, stating that Britain must "*act even when the threat (seems) so far off, if not illusory.*"¹⁰

These moves toward greater nuclear capability and to first-strike use – in the context of the on-going pre-emptive war drive – increase the threat of a nuclear arms race and of nuclear weapons being used once again.

No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis
In an attempt to communicate the scale of the devastation of the tsunami, many international commentators likened it to Hiroshima. This shows what a resonance the 1945 bombings have on the world consciousness. Furthermore, research shows that Hiroshima is people's primary spontaneous association with nuclear weapons.

The 60th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is an important opportunity for us to raise awareness amongst the general public of the horrifying reality of nuclear war, and the need to join CND's campaign for global nuclear abolition and against new nuclear weapons. In particular, members should put pressure on the British government to meet its disarmament obligations and end its support for the US pre-emptive war drive.

¹ From <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/English/Stage1/S1-4E.html>

² From <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/English/Stage1/S1-3E.html>

³ From http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/g_1/levine/bombing.htm

⁴ From <http://www.hiroshima-is.ac.jp/Hiroshima/historic.htm#DEATHS>

⁵ From <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/nagasaki.htm>

⁶ Alperovitz, G. 1966. Atomic Diplomacy: Hiroshima and Potsdam. London: Secker & Warburg

⁷ United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan; North Korea has claimed to possess nuclear weapons, but this has not yet been independently verified

⁸ US Department of Defense, Nuclear Posture Review, p.16

⁹ Ritter, S. 4/1/2005. Rude Awakening to Missile Defense Dream. Available online at ¹ <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0104/p09s02-coop.html>

¹⁰ Blair, T. 5/3/2004. Speech at Sedgefield. Full text available online at <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,1162991,00.html>



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Countdown to Hiroshima Campaign Action Plan

This aims to help local groups and regions plan activities to commemorate the 60th anniversary, to raise awareness of the new nuclear threat and to build public support for nuclear abolition. Groups are encouraged to organise joint activities with other peace and anti-war organisations, trade unions, schools, universities and faith groups.

Activities could include:

- Organising a Hiroshima and Nagasaki display in your local library, school, university or town hall. Exhibition materials can be ordered from CND and are available from April. For details of these materials, please see the sheet '*60th anniversary – Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-Bombings materials*'.
- Organising a film showing. Again, see sheet '*60th anniversary – Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-Bombings materials*'.
- Organising fundraising events to cover the costs of someone attending the International Peace Conference in Japan from 5–9 August. For more details (see separate sheet '*Visiting Japan in 2005*'). Sheffield CND, for instance, are organising a student essay competition with a £1000 prize, towards costs for the winner to attend. Costs for flight, accommodation and internal travel are approximately £1,200 - £1,300 per person.
- Approaching your local councillor/MP/community leader to sign the statement. Please let Ruth Tanner at CND know who you sign up. Either phone through on 0207 700 2393, e-mail to pressoffice@cnduk.org or post them to us at 162 Holloway Road London N7 8DQ.
- Sending a letter to the local press (see model letter attached). New model letters will be regularly available by email or on the website. If you do not have access to the internet, please request that letters are sent to your local group.
- Including the 'Abolition Now' petition on street stalls to raise awareness of the anniversary.
- If you live in a town or city with a 'Mayor for Peace', you may want to approach them to host a commemorative event.
- Painting shadows in various places, representing what was left of many victims is a moving and dramatic way of drawing attention to the anniversary. Horsham CND says that chalk is very effective and not permanent!
- The Atomic Mirror suggests that the Litany of Remembrance for the Nuclear Age is a suitable reading for commemorations. Visit www.atomicmirror.org/litanyprint.htm.
- Swansea CND is commemorating the anniversary at a 'Dove' tree they planted to mark the 50th anniversary and using candles in jars to form a candle-lit CND symbol. Also, floating candle-lit lanterns on a river is a very popular form of remembrance.
- Organising a peace camp around the anniversary weekend (6 – 9 August) to draw attention to Britain's nuclear arsenal. For instance, there will be a peace camp over this weekend at Aldermaston, AWE, near Reading.
- Some activists are organising a fast over the anniversary weekend. If you would like more information, please call Zina Zelter on 0116 270 6436 or e-mail zinazelter@yahoo.co.uk.

CND's Press Officer, Ruth Tanner at CND on 0207 700 2393, will be able to help give press support, so please let her know what events you are organising for the anniversary.



Countdown to Hiroshima Campaign Statement

The Countdown to Hiroshima Campaign statement calls on the government to make a commitment that the UK will neither use, threaten to use nor develop nuclear weapons and to take immediate steps for their abolition.

For the statement to have an impact we need to get support from high profile and influential people, groups and organisations across the country.

The statement, along with its supporting names, will be publicised widely to draw attention to the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and raise awareness of present UK nuclear policy.

It will then be presented to the government on the eve of the 60th anniversary.

Actions

- Contact your MP, councillor, community or religious leaders, local celebrities to put their names to the statement.
- Contact your local union, political party or campaigning organisation and ask them to support the statement.
- Collect supporting comments, quotes, and photographs of people and groups who have supported the statement.
- Ask for the statement to be printed in newsletters, on websites and in the local paper.
- Use the statement for local media coverage.
- Send your list of supporters, their messages, photographs and contact details to Ruth Tanner either at pressoffice@cnduk.org or by post to CND, 162 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DQ.
- Please make sure that you send their contact details so that we can verify that the individual/organisation is happy to have their support publicised.

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Countdown to Hiroshima

Campaign statement

COUNTDOWN TO HIROSHIMA

Hiroshima anniversary statement

In August 1945 the US dropped nuclear bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. The cities were obliterated, over 250,000 people were killed and generations poisoned by radiation. The use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity. In May 2000, the nuclear weapons states agreed on an 'unequivocal undertaking' to accomplish the elimination of nuclear weapons. Yet even now, tens of thousands of nuclear weapons still threaten the survival of the world. Britain has just under 200 nuclear warheads. Each warhead has eight times the power of the bomb that devastated Hiroshima.

We are deeply concerned that rather than taking steps to eliminate its nuclear arsenal the British government:

- Has begun developments at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston which could lead to the production of a new generation of nuclear weapons.
- Has said it would be prepared to use nuclear weapons in a first strike capacity, even against a non-nuclear weapons state.
- Is planning a replacement for the Trident nuclear weapons system.

These developments undermine international treaty obligations, global stability and peace and make the use of nuclear weapons more likely.

As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are calling on the government to make a commitment that the UK will neither use, threaten to use, nor develop nuclear weapons, and will take immediate steps for their abolition.



Countdown to Hiroshima

Visiting Japan in 2005

A personal view by Rae Street

CND has for many years had a strong link with Gensuikyo, the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs, which organises every year a World Conference Against A & H Bombs just before the 6 and 9 August. For many years CND has sent official representatives to speak at the Conference, which is organised in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and sent solidarity messages. During the conference, visits are arranged to the Peace Parks and the memorial museums in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I would personally like to urge as many CND members as possible to make the trip. My visits have certainly been the most moving of any in international work for peace. To stand in the Peace Park beside the memorial flame has always reduced me to tears. I thought of the scenes of devastation just recently seeing the fearful effects of tsunami. I recalled the photos of the cities and the people laid to waste, when only shadows were left – only in 1945 it was man-made carnage. The Japanese we meet never show bitterness, always they press simply for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons: their cry is ‘No More Hiroshimas – No More Nagasakis’.

If you register at the Conference, you will receive helpful information on Japanese culture and customs; everything in fact to make your stay easy. You will be able to take part in the beautiful and poignant lantern floating ceremony along the river. You also have the opportunity to meet up with many other delegates from across the world and hear, again often moving presentations, from those who have suffered from the development of nuclear weapons, that is testing (cancer sufferers

from the Marshall Islands or Chelyabinsk) or uranium mining.

But it is not all too serious. We laugh together, (and at our clumsy selves – I have no sticks with chopsticks or fans...!) at our language difficulties, we can enjoy meals together and of course for British Islanders, as I write this on a cold, wet January day, we can in August enjoy the sun and the sightseeing.

I can only say that after my visits to Japan, I was strengthened in my determination to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons and oppose my own government’s part in nuclear weapons policies.

*Forgive us, that we had to see your passion to remember
What we must never again deny: Love one another.**

* End of a poem by James Kirkup; Ghosts, Fire and Water, published in ‘No More Hiroshimas’, first published by Kyoto Editions in Japan in 1983 and published by Spokesman in 2004

■ Flight, accommodation and internal travel costs are approximately £1,200 – £1,300. Gensuikyo can help make reservations for travel and hotels and help with homestays. Visit website <http://www.airline-network.co.uk/flights/> for flights to Osaka airport, Japan. Local groups and regions may want to organise fundraising events to sponsor someone attending.

If anyone would like to visit Japan and take part in the conference, please do get in touch with me through the Greater Manchester and District CND Office, 22a Beswick Street, Manchester M4 7HR email gmdcnd@gn.apc.org



Countdown to Hiroshima

A-bombings exhibition materials

In order to communicate the reality of the A-bombings to as many people as possible and to heighten awareness of the need for nuclear abolition, CND is encouraging local groups and regions to organise displays of the Hiroshima Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition or organise film showings. The exhibition and films, detailed below, have been ordered from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Japan and will be available to borrow from April 2005.

To book the materials, please call CND on 0207 700 2393 or e-mail cnd@cnduk.org.uk.

The exhibition consists of:

Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Photo Poster

Is a set of 30 posters, measuring 90cm x 60cm, depicting the damages of the A-bomb. The outline of the posters can be viewed at the following website:
<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/English/Stage3/3-7/3-7-1E.html>

Sadako and Paper Cranes Poster

On CD-ROM, is targeting mainly children. You can print out the posters in whatever size you prefer and keep them. The outline of the posters can be viewed at the following website:
http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_e/tour_e/std_poster_e.html

There are four videos available:

Hiroshima: A Mother's Prayer

Documentary film appealing for the abolition of nuclear weapons and world peace from mother Hiroshima's viewpoint. Colour (partly black and white), 30 mins. (also available in DVD)

Children of Nagasaki

Documentary on the atomic bombing in Nagasaki. Presents the reality of the bombing and its devastating influence on humanity. Colour (partly black and white), 30 mins. (Also available in DVD)

Hiroshima Witnesses

In which three atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima describe their experiences of the bombing. Colour, 30 mins. (Also available in DVD)

On a Paper Crane

Animated cartoon for children to understand the importance of peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Based on the real story of Sadako, the girl who was exposed to the A-bomb radiation and died of Leukaemia when she was 12. Colour, 30 mins



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Sample letter

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The Editor
Friendly Town Argus

Dear Editor,

It has been gratifying to see the outpouring of sympathy and practical help from Friendly Town for all those who have been affected by the huge tsunami disaster.

People who are faced with devastation on this scale struggle for comparisons. Many have recalled the pictures of the aftermath of the nuclear bombs which were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki nearly 60 years ago. At the time, human beings and animals were reduced to shadows and over 250,000 were killed, burned or maimed.

Sadly, many governments, including our own, have felt impelled to develop further the range and killing power of nuclear bombs. Today, the UK's Trident nuclear-armed submarine fleet, based in Faslane, Scotland, (the UK has 4 subs; the US 14) carries over 1000 times the killing power of the bomb at Hiroshima. If only one warhead were fired - and the Trident missiles carry multiple warheads - it would kill over a million people, release unimaginable radioactivity and lay low any towns or cities. Surely, the time has now come for the government to state clearly that it will close this nuclear programme.

We cannot continue to plan for death and destruction. We should be planning for our resources to be put for the welfare of all children, women and men, both inside our own country and across the world.

Yours very sincerely,



Townville campaign for nuclear disarmament

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e-mail: clive@townvillecnd.org.uk

mobile: 01234 198765
web: www.townvillecnd.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE - DATE - For immediate use
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

NUCLEAR CIRCUS COMES TO TOWNVILLE

PERFORMERS TO PARADE GLOBAL JUGGLING TRICK IN TOWNVILLE MARKET SQUARE IN
ADVANCE OF KEY PUBLIC MEETING

Members of Townville CND will be displaying some 'global juggling' in Townville market square this Saturday at 1pm as part of a 'Nuclear Circus'. Townville CND Chair John Smith will try to juggle international peace treaties without dropping any of them on the pavement. To make it harder for him, members of the group will throw in more and more new nuclear weapons to make him drop the lot! The display, which comes a day before a public meeting in the town entitled '**A new era of nuclear weapons - can it be stopped?**' is designed to highlight the way the nuclear states are juggling with international obligations whilst developing a whole new range of powerful nuclear weapons.

Members of the public will be invited to join in the juggling to see if they can do a better job than Tony Blair or George Bush. As John Smith explained, CND is launching a new national campaign to highlight the research and development of new nuclear weapons taking place in the UK and USA and the stunt and public meeting are a chance for Townville people to find out more.

"In breach of all international obligations and the spirit of disarmament the UK and USA are taking us in to a new nuclear era. The USA is developing bunker-buster nuclear weapons for actual use and is researching battlefield nukes for use in war. They are planning to make nukes that you can use. Until now, nuclear states have argued that nukes are for defence. Bush wants to take us to a whole new level and start firing them at each other. And with the UK developing updated versions of its nukes in Aldermaston bomb factory, we can't claim to be any better!"

The public meeting, which takes place at 7pm at the Quaker Meeting House on Olden Road, will include speeches from National CND's Chair Kate Hudson, local MP Jane Bloggs and a presentation by local nuclear weapons expert Pete Williams, who used to work for the MOD.

ENDS

Notes to Editor

- 1) **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:** The Group will be juggling fake treaties and specially made models of nuclear weapons outside the town hall in Market Square at 1pm. There will also be a stall with a petition and leaflets
- 2) For further information, interviews or comment contact Townville CND's press officer on 01234 567891 or e-mail clive@townvillecnd.org.uk
- 3) CND is one of Europe's biggest single-issue peace campaigns with 32,000 members in the UK. Townville CND has been running for 20 years.
- 4) The new campaign being launched by CND is called '**No New Nukes**'.