

CND - TRADE UNION resolution on Trident replacement

This Branch/Conference notes:

- The Trident submarine nuclear weapons system was introduced into Britain in 1994 and will reach the end of its life in 2024. The system is composed of 4 nuclear-armed submarines, each carrying up to 48 nuclear warheads. Each warhead has an explosive power of up to 100 kilotons – 8 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.
- The report of the Defence White Paper 2003 which stated '*decisions on whether to replace Trident are not needed this Parliament but are likely to be required in the next one*'.¹
- The UK's continued reliance upon US research for its nuclear weapons and the amendment to the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement in June 2004 which extended the period whereby the US Government can share nuclear technology and transfer materials to the UK to the 31st December 2014.²
- The Labour Party Manifesto 2005 '*we are also committed to retaining the independent nuclear deterrent*'³ and recent reports in the press which suggest that the government has already made a decision to replace Trident with a new nuclear weapons system.⁴

This Branch/Conference also notes:

- The US "Doctrine for Joint Nuclear Operations" of 2005 which speaks of "integrating conventional and nuclear attacks", the report of the US Nuclear Posture Review in 2001 which outlined proposals for a new generation of nuclear weapons such as the as part of an 'offensive strike system'⁵ and the change in UK policy to support pre-emptive strikes even against non-nuclear weapons states.⁶

This Branch/Conference believes:

That in the 60th Anniversary year of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where two bombs killed approximately 250,000 people, all developments that threaten a greater risk of nuclear weapons use should be opposed.

- With the UK willing to engage in pre-emptive nuclear strikes and the US researching and developing new nuclear weapons which it would seek to use in future conflicts, a replacement of Trident will make the use of nuclear weapons more likely in future.
- Replacing Trident will go against Britain's commitment under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to get rid of its nuclear weapons.
- Replacing Trident will send the wrong signals to non-nuclear countries around the world who may be encouraged to develop their own systems.
- Replacing Trident will waste billions of pounds of taxpayers' money that could better be spent on jobs, pensions, education and health to improve the lives of the British people without threatening the lives of others.

This Branch/Conference resolves

- To oppose the replacement of Trident and to call for the decommissioning of the existing Trident weapons system.
- To affiliate to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

1 Defence White Paper *Delivering Security in a Changing World* (2003).

2 *Disarmament Diplomacy*: <http://www.acronym.org.uk/dd/dd77777mda.htm>

3 *Labour Party General Election Manifesto 2005*, <http://www.labour.org.uk/manifesto>

4 'A New Generation of Nuclear Weapons? Let's Talk About It', *The Guardian*, 4th July 2005

'Blair Goes Wacko for £5bn Missiles', *Daily Mirror*, 17th June 2005

5 *Nuclear Posture Review* [Excerpts], <http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/policy/dod/npr.htm>

6 'Saddam can be absolutely confident that in the right conditions we would be willing to use nuclear weapons', Geoff Hoon on *Breakfast With Frost*, 2nd February 2003