

A new foreign policy is necessary

Whoever is announced as leader this Saturday, one thing is clear. Labour needs to change foreign policy having been so discredited by its links to George W Bush.

Scrapping Trident and withdrawing our troops from Afghanistan are the only spending cuts we should make. Trident warheads have eight times the firepower of the bomb which destroyed Hiroshima. Their use would be a crime against humanity and an irrational act.

The Trident system is not independent and is not a 'deterrent'. It is not independent because it depends on a targeting system owned by the United States. The idea that submarines carrying Trident missiles cannot be destroyed is not proven. As technology advances they become less secure and they and their bases become a target for attack.

Mankind will abolish nuclear weapons or they will ultimately abolish mankind. It is a race against time. The UN General Secretary has recently supported the idea of a nuclear weapons convention designed to ultimately abolish all nuclear weapons. That objective should become the prime objective of British diplomacy.

But we cannot persuade others to not develop nuclear weapons while we continue to proliferate.

The 'War on Terror' and the invasion of Afghanistan were panic reactions to 9/11. A principled Prime Minister, like Harold Wilson, would never have agreed to send British troops. Tony Blair did. The Afghans had suffered unprovoked invasions by the British, the Americans and the Russians, but

had forced the invaders to withdraw. Those like General McChrystal want to stay there for 40 years. The Afghan government supported by the Allies is not necessarily any better than its opponents. Once the foreigners have left, the civil war situation may be resolved over the years. At present the lives of soldiers and Afghans are sacrificed merely to save face. This is Western barbarism. It is time to leave unconditionally and immediately, and tell the US and NATO to do likewise.

Our nuclear and Afghan follies are a drain on our resources, prevent job creation and encourage public service cuts. To abandon them would prove that Britain was becoming a civilised country. In this respect, as in others, Labour must lead.

Walter Wolfgang

Trident: a threat to jobs

A new report for CND entitled 'Trident, jobs and the UK economy' which examines the employment consequences of replacing Trident, was launched at the TUC earlier this month.

It concludes that more defence jobs would be lost than gained through Trident replacement - and that the likelihood of cost over-runs in the defence budget would at the same time impact on public service jobs. Given the current stage of the Strategic Defence and Security Review it is not possible to make any precise estimate of the scale and geographical distribution of employment losses arising from Trident replacement - although shipbuilding and jet fighter production are clearly in the frontline.

Trident replacement, particularly given its dependence for the provision of missiles and missile launch technology on US-based contractors, will cost more jobs than it will generate.

The cost of replacement will mean that a number of defence programmes scheduled

For British industry over the coming decade will either be cancelled or significantly reduced.

The most vulnerable programmes, both from the impact of Trident costs and the overall budget reduction, are in the areas of surface ships, jet fighters, helicopters and armoured vehicles as well as the servicing of airbases and dockyards. The cancellation of such programmes will endanger in excess of 10,000 jobs and is likely to result in the closure of major workplaces

The report stresses the need to implement the industrial perspective outlined by the TUC in its 2009 resolution on the economy. It highlights in particular investment in areas that would give Britain a market lead in new technologies and instances that of marine energy.

The renewed nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, signed by the British government in May 2010, committed signatories to 'accomplish the total



elimination of their nuclear arsenals' and to 'accelerate progress towards disarmament rapidly moving towards an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons.'

At the Copenhagen Climate Change summit in December 2009 the closing Accord stated 'we recognize the critical impact of climate change...and stress the need to establish a comprehensive adaptation programme including international support'. The non-replacement of Trident would provide the opportunity for Britain to make a major international contribution to both these objectives and at the same time contribute effectively to the well-being of communities affected.

Save Shaker Aamer, the last Londoner in Guantanamo

SUPPORT BATTERSEA LABOUR PARTY'S CONTEMPORARY RESOLUTION

Battersea Labour Party has submitted the following resolution for this year's conference.

On September 10, Barack Obama admitted that he had "fallen short" on his commitment to close the US prison camp at Guantanamo Bay and again stated his intention to close the facility.

Shaker Aamer has been held in Guantanamo Bay for more than eight years without trial or charge. He was a resident of Battersea, south London, before his detention, and his wife and four children -the youngest of whom he has never met - are British citizens and remain local residents.

Shaker Aamer was cleared for release by the American authorities in 2007. We therefore call on Labour representatives and members to lobby Foreign Secretary William Hague and the British Government to make the strongest representations possible to the US administration to secure his release from Guantanamo Bay in order that he can be re-united with his family."

Labour CND urges all delegates to call for conference to find time for this urgent issue to be discussed. All the other UK detainees have been released from Guantanamo. They have all suffered from the US and UK complicity in torture abroad. Shaker is a victim and witness to torture. According to his US lawyer, he is still being tortured and his

continuing detention is in order to silence him. Please be a voice for Shaker and demand his immediate return.

We need a Labour Party that refuses to tolerate abuses of human rights. We need the truth about torture and Shaker Aamer must be released immediately to end his shameful treatment. Be ready to challenge Conference Arrangements Committee Reports every day if this submission from Battersea Labour Party is not on the Agenda.

Please stand up for justice for Shaker.

Joy Hurcombe,
Vice Chair Labour CND

Congrats Ken - Labour's Mayoral candidate

Labour CND congratulates Ken Livingstone on being selected as Labour's candidate for Mayor in 2012.

London needs a Mayor who will stand up for ordinary people, as the policies of Boris Johnson and David Cameron make life harder. Whether it's imposing housing benefit cuts, a child benefit freeze or increased fares whilst continuing to fund nuclear weapons and the war in Afghanistan, Ken will speak up for Londoners.

As Mayor, Ken helped to facilitate the enormous marches held against the war in Iraq that Londoners so opposed.

London is an international city and accommodates people from all walks of life and of many varied nationalities. We need a Mayor who understands the significance of that.

We in Labour CND believe that Ken is that person.



CONFERENCE FRINGE MEETING

New leader, new foreign policy? ending New Labour's interventionism

Speakers

Mehdi Hasan, *New Statesman*
Eric Joyce MP
Diane Abbott MP
Yasmin Qureshi MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Kate Hudson, CND Chair

6pm, Monday 27th September
Rosco Room, St James' Building
61-95 Oxford St, Manchester

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CND International Conference
9th October 2010

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