

Labour and Trident replacement

Labour CND notes that:-

The UK does not face a nuclear weapons threat from another state according to the Coalition commissioned National Security Strategy published in 2011. The possession of Trident therefore does not increase our security.

A commitment to replacing Trident sends an alarming green light for nuclear proliferation at a time when opposition to nuclear weapons acquisition from the west is robustly advanced to states like Iran and North Korea.

Trident replacement is unaffordable with costs of construction and maintenance amounting to over £100billion over its lifetime to 2060. In the shorter term the maintaining of the existing Trident system and constructing the Trident replacement will cost £55billion over the next 15 years.

Trident replacement is unpopular. There is clear and consistent polling evidence that shows the public is opposed to Trident replacement. Even amongst the defence community, many do not favour a costly nuclear weapon system in the face of other public spending cuts.

Labour CND therefore calls on the Labour Party to:-

Make a clear commitment to scrap Trident and all plans for Trident replacement in the next party election manifesto;

Work with other nuclear weapon states to increase progress on nuclear reductions and disarmament towards the goal of global abolition;

Encourage non-nuclear states to also keep up their pressure for nuclear disarmament as required by the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty;

Back a global nuclear weapons convention with the ultimate aim of the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

Commit funding for a conversion programme for Barrow-on-Furness and related industries to assist with re-balancing the economy into green and other technologies;

Commit to a new foreign policy that supports peaceful negotiations and dialogue through the UN and its member states, in conflict situations.

Labour and disarmament

Labour CND welcomes President Obama's pledge in his recent State of the Union address on seeking to engage Russia in further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, and considers that this warrants a positive and supportive disarmament response from Britain.

Labour CND is further concerned to see the Labour Party, and any future Labour government, working constructively and definitively for disarmament.

To this end, Labour CND will pursue the unequivocal and active commitment of the Labour Party to:

- (i) recognition without reservation of the existing Nuclear Weapons Free Zones; and support to constructively progress other proposals for Nuclear Weapons Free Zones e.g. in the Middle East and North East Asia;
- (ii) a universal international unconditional and legally binding treaty against the use or threat to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states, to be negotiated at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference;