



West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

November/December 2024

Shinichi's tricycle



In September, ICAN took part in the donation of *Future Memory -Tricycle*, an artwork representing the tricycle found in the aftermath of the bombing of Hiroshima - to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum in Geneva.

Three-year-old Shinichi Tetsutani was riding his tricycle when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. Shinichi died that night from severe burns and other injuries, and his parents decided to bury him with his tricycle in their garden. 40 years later, in 1985, they decided to move their son's remains to the family gravesite and donated the tricycle to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and it is now one of the best-known artefacts on display at the museum.

In September, Shinichi's tricycle and story were brought to Geneva - and the rest of the world - through the powerful *Future Memory-Tricycle*, a bronze artwork created with digitally scanned data of the original tricycle and made into an actual-sized sculpture, created by artists Cannon Hersey and Akira Fujimoto, of the Future Memory Project.

When donating the tricycle to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Shinichi's father, Nobuo Tetsunani, said, "This should never happen to children. Please work to create a peaceful world where children can play to their heart's content." The art work was commissioned by ICAN and donated in honour of the efforts by governments and civil society leading to the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force in 2021.

West Midlands CND AGM
26th November 19.30 by
zoom
See page 4 for more details

Read more at <https://www.tricycle-geneva.ch/> .

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BITS FROM ABROAD

Japan and 11 other countries [have] agreed to work together to launch negotiations immediately on a proposed treaty banning the production of fissile materials, including highly enriched uranium and plutonium, for nuclear weapons. A Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty will significantly contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, high-level representatives from the 12 countries, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, said in a joint statement after a meeting in New York. *Japan Times 24th Sept 2024*
<https://tinyurl.com/2zcwhj9f>

Indonesia, Sierra Leone and the Solomon Islands have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. *ICAN, 25th Sept 2024*
<https://tinyurl.com/8wym9m>

Last fall, the international community rose up in defence of the Pacific Ocean. Seafood and salt purveyors, public policy professors, scientists and environmentalists, all lambasted Japan's release of radioactive wastewater from the disastrously damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the sea. At the heart of the contention was tritium, an element that, by mass, is 150,000 times more radioactive than the plutonium used in the cores of nuclear weapons. Odourless and colourless, tritium — the radioactive form of hydrogen — combines with oxygen to form water. Just one teaspoon is enough to contaminate 100 billion gallons more water... What didn't make international headlines — but was quietly taking place on the other side of the world — was Los Alamos National Laboratory's own plans to vent the same radioactive substance into northern New Mexico's mountain air. Japan's releases would take place over three decades. LANL's would include up to three times more tritium — and take place in a matter of days. There is no hard timeline for the release, but if the plans are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, LANL is looking at a period with "sufficiently warm weather," a spokesperson from the National Nuclear Security Administration wrote by email. That could mean as soon as this summer. *Beyond Nuclear 16th Sept 2024*
<https://tinyurl.com/mun2r37k>

FROM THE MEDIA

Anti-arms campaigners today condemned the "outrageous railroading" of the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) renewal through Parliament. The MDA, active since 1958, enables vital nuclear material and technology transfers between the US and Britain, reviewed every 10 years. But the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) condemned the government's intention to make the treaty permanent by removing the clause that requires the treaty to be extended and enables debate and amendment, including rejection. *Morning Star 25th Oct 2024*
<https://tinyurl.com/y753xmc9>
 [See also page 3 for more information on MDA]

SCOTTISH nuclear bases are supported by 1990s-style pagers such as the ones targeted in a mass attack on Lebanon. National security concerns have been raised about the use of the antiquated technology in sites where nuclear weapons are stored and maintained. Two sources have confirmed that the use of pagers remains common at bases in Coulport and Faslane. *The National 18th Sept 2024*
<https://tinyurl.com/53h29ba6>

North Korea inadvertently gives away location of nuclear weapons facility... State media images of Kim Jong-un visiting a uranium enrichment plant did not include its location. But analysts say tell-tale features in the photographs are a 'close match' to a particular site near Pyongyang. *Independent 15th Sept 2024*
<https://tinyurl.com/5bt3hvzc>

There is growing fear that Russia, along with China and North Korea, is about to add a fourth element to the triad of weaponry — in space. All three are known to have discussed putting a nuclear weapon into space. Already the creeping weaponisation of space is under way — with China, Russia and possibly Iran experimenting with attack satellites. Russia and Iran have had linked satellite programmes for decades, and this year Iran put more military satellites into orbit — communicating through Musk's Starlink. *Evening Standard 7th Oct 2024*
<https://tinyurl.com/335wcy66>

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TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

“Public scrutiny of UK-US nuclear pact is essential.” Vice Chair of CND, Carol Turner, writes on the UK-US Mutual Defence Agreement, and what it spells for the so-called independence of Britain’s foreign policy.

One of the Prime Minister’s first foreign policy initiatives after taking office in July was an amendment to the Agreement for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes. Never heard of it? That could be just what Labour is hoping for.

The Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) is a bilateral nuclear pact between the USA and Britain. The United States provides the UK with nuclear technology and know-how in exchange for access to British intelligence facilities.

Since it was first signed in secret in 1958, the MDA has been brought before parliament for approval every 10 years. This has been a formal process, with no vote and negligible scrutiny. After the MDA is signed by the end of this year, not even the formality of approval will be required in future. Defence Secretary John Healey laid an amendment to the MDA before parliament on 25 July – three weeks after Labour took office, just five days before the summer recess – which removes all mentions of renewal. When the pact is signed this year, it becomes permanent. No parliamentary debate and no change in the law is needed for this.

Labour Outlook 28th Sept 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/26yjna3y>

In response to a written Parliamentary question, the UK government has reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent as part of its obligations to NATO.

UK Defence Journal 17th Sept 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/ms995r3s>

NATO begins nuclear war drills over western Europe. Exercise Steadfast Noon tests the nuclear capability of non-nuclear weapons states under the US’s “nuclear umbrella,” with Dutch F-35A jets declared “ready to perform nuclear roles” for the first time. NATO’s aggressive posturing is sparking a new arms race. The US is spending a staggering \$1.5 trillion (£1.14tn) on upgrading its nuclear arsenal. Britain too is increasing its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Morning Star 13th Oct 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcr9bhx>

NUCLEAR POWER

Should the Nuclear Waste Services plan in Cumbria be taken to conclusion, a giant mine as deep as Scafell (nearly 1000m) and larger than the City of Westminster at 25km square would be excavated under the Irish Sea in order to bury the UK’s high level nuclear wastes in the hope that it would stay buried. The above-ground area of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) at 1km square, would be nearly as big as Hyde Park in London and would sit alongside the National Park boundary on the Lake District coast.

Radiation Free Lakeland 30th Sept 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/3jwjhknf>

One British company - Rolls Royce SMR - and three US-headquartered firms to progress to next stage of high-profile nuclear procurement competition. Rolls Royce SMR, GE Hitachi, Holtec, and Westinghouse have been selected by Great British Nuclear (GBN) to progress to the next stage of the contest to supply the UK with its first fleet of small modular reactor (SMR) power plants. The arms-length government-backed body confirmed that it had now concluded the tender phase of the technology selection process and was inviting the four shortlisted companies to enter negotiations.

Business Green 27th Sept 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/44xvdu62>

A new agreement has been sealed that will see opportunities opened up in Lowestoft to some of those who are furthest from the jobs market. People in the town are set to benefit after Sizewell C signed a new agreement with regional charity Access Community Trust. It will see the recently opened SAMS Wellbeing Hub and Café in Lowestoft extend its provision for those in need in the town as it becomes an important base for the project by raising awareness and access to jobs with Sizewell C.

East Anglian Daily Times 25th Sept 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/3e9yuz9b>

World's biggest banks pledge support for nuclear power. Names including Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs boost COP28 goal of tripling capacity by 2050. Fourteen of the world's biggest banks and financial institutions are pledging to increase their support for nuclear energy, a move that governments and the industry hope will unlock finance.

FT 23rd Sept 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/ywznnd3e>

What's On

November/December 2024

The next **Mailing** is due to be sent out at the beginning of January 2025.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 26th November at 19.30. Speaker will be Sophie Bolt, the new national CND Secretary. Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link.

Hereford Peace Council – Meetings at 10 – 11.30 on the second Monday of the months of January, April, June and September, at Friends Meeting House, King Street, Hereford.

Malvern Churches Justice and Peace group Prayers for Peace, 12 noon on 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays), Lyttleton Well Prayer Room, Church Street, Great Malvern.

Read the latest CND Magazine here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2uh7jeua>

Keep Space For Peace Week 2024 Webinar

Watch the video here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3mbucpfb>

Speakers:

- **Dave Webb:** *Space as an aid to War & Genocide* (GN board convener, UK)
- **Tamara Lorincz:** *Canada's Role in NATO* (Canadian Voice of Women for Peace)
- **Peter Burt:** *UK's expanding space programmes in the spotlight* (Space Watch UK)
- **Sung-Hee Choi:** *NATO expansion & space industry in South Korea* (Activist, Jeju Island)

Noticeboard

Peace posters: Hereford Peace Council produces monthly posters on peace topics, to be displayed as widely as possible. The posters are not dated.

The current posters are:

Every war is a war against the child.

Eglantine Jebb, 1874-1978, founder of Save the Children

'Nobody ever wins a war . . . don't make the same mistakes that we made in going to war, because there's nothing grand about war.' *George Chandler, 99, who took part in the Normandy landings in 1944, speaking to schoolchildren.*

Wednesday 20th November demonstration at Telford arms fair. Please contact wmcndall@gmail.com if you would like to go.

Summit for the Future

In September, the Summit for the Future met in New York. The Pact for the Future and Declaration on Future Generations, which contains 56 actions to address issues from sustainable development, to transforming global governance.

In terms of nuclear weapons, Action 25 focuses explicitly on nuclear weapons and nuclear war and commits all states to "make every effort to avert the danger of such a war". While the Pact is not as ambitious as it could be, UN Secretary General António Guterres called it the "first recommitment to multilateral nuclear disarmament in a decade". The Pact binds all UN members to an agreement to "advance the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons".

In the run-up to the Summit, activists across the world highlighted the gross misallocation of financing for nuclear weapons.

