

Letter from the Chairman

Dear MAW Member/Supporter/Sympathiser

Welcome to the second edition of MAW NEWS. It is a great step forward in keeping us all in touch with what is going on. Since the last issue in December I have spent a lot of time travelling the country in support of the appeal from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for a serious start to abolition of nuclear weapon negotiations. At every meeting, and there have been many, there is general agreement that getting rid of war itself has to be on the agenda as a practical possibility.

Maw has signed up for the national coalition which is promoting the 'Make Poverty History' campaign. Already the Birmingham section of this campaign has asked for a MAW representative to work with them. If Birmingham, why not around the country? Don't wait to be asked. Find out what is going on in your area and join in. A world that spends nearly a trillion dollars a year on war and its preparations cannot be serious about poverty if it is not also working towards the end of war.

Lastly, more good news. Martin Bell, the man in the white suit and a very impressive speaker on our War No More video, has agreed to speak in the Imperial War Museum on Remembrance Sunday (Nov. 13th, 2 pm) on an abolition of war theme. Perhaps you can get something going at that time in your area - or join in with others.

And do put the date of our AGM in your diary - November 19th, in Vaughan House near Victoria Station, London.

Good wishes

Bruce Kent

I would urge everyone to pursue the policy of what's needed, and to abandon the policy of what's possible.
Saeb Erekat, Palestinian Cabinet Minister

MAW STRATEGY DAY

Held in London on 15th January, and facilitated by Diana Francis (her recent book *Rethinking War & Peace* is available from Pluto Press), this turned out to be a very valuable day. Some 50 people attended and took an active part in discussion groups and feedback sessions. The day began with a force-field analysis. This considered the role of MAW in relation to recent international developments and the activities of other organisations in the peace movement. We asked 'what is going for us?' and 'what is in our way?'

Many issues were discussed including the shift in public opinion which has accompanied the Iraq War, the climate of fear about terrorism that has followed 11.9, the potential significance of faith groups in challenging war policies, and the weak political opposition to the Labour Government. We identified the key issues which were likely to assist MAW in moving the peace/anti-war agenda into the main stream. On the negative side, concern was expressed about the fragmentation of the peace movement, its age structure and its inertia to change. Prejudice against the military was also thought to be a problem. Also of concern was the common use of 'military' terms in our language.

Discussion then took place in groups charged with looking at particular issues and suggesting future action, as follows: -

Media/Language - action - an exercise for schools to use in discovering the language of war.

MAW and the Peace Movement - action - National Committee attendance at Network for Peace meetings.

Popular trends/ current events (1) - action - connect with Make Poverty History, more celebration of anniversaries that encourage a focus on peace, make our presence known to the public through radio programs such as Home Truths.

Popular trends/current events (2) - action - write letters to national and local press, emphasize peace in Remembrance Day services.

Domestic & International Law, and the UN - action - support the Peace manifesto and the Ministry for Peace movement, publish war law on the MAW website.

Education - action - raising the right questions, links and twinning with schools in conflict areas, encourage better teaching of history.

Summing up - these were some of the national initiatives that Maw could do as an organisation.

Develop links with other peace organisations in the UK and in the world. - send MAW committee rep to Peace network meeting. Hold a competition for a MAW logo or symbol. Publish the current laws of war on the website - or signpost to a site that does. Publicise Peace Child International. Start a debate on ways of cutting out the profit from war. Communicate with Faith Groups on the ideal future - what will it look like? Promote a universal language of Values. These points emerged during the final discussion and are now being considered by the Executive Committee. Particular emphasis was placed on the fact that MAW was visionary organisation concerned uniquely with pointing out that war can be abolished. It was important to celebrate developments and issues which move us towards this abolition, by marking and publicising them. Education of youth and the next generation was crucial to this work.

Furthermore, MAW should not be duplicating activities carried out by other organisations in the peace movement. But it was important to establish close links with the key organisations so that we can promote ideas or events that support our general message.

Particular reference was made to the **MAKE POVERTY HISTORY** campaign.

Abolishing Nuclear Weapons

2005 is a crucial year for deciding the future of nuclear weapons and the treaty that was meant to rid the world of them. On 2nd May in New York there will be another - and perhaps the last - Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), ratified in 1970.....Either a process of negotiating a treaty aimed at the elimination of all nuclear weapons everywhere begins, or we face ever-increasing dangers from nuclear accidents, nuclear proliferation and deliberate use of nuclear weapons.

The NPT was supposed to be the beginning of the end of nuclear weapon dangers. It was framed as a bargain. Non-nuclear powers would not seek nuclear weapons; nuclear powers would, by renegotiation, get rid of theirs. Unhappily, the nuclear powers have regularly ignored this side of the bargain.....There have never been any negotiations aimed at the elimination of all nuclear weapons, despite the legal obligations to start them...

There are those spokespeople for nuclear weapons who are claiming that they have a legal right to such weapons.....Dennis McShane, British Foreign Office Minister, said in September 2004, *'Under the NPT, five states....are legally entitled to possess nuclear weapons.'* President Bush, in February 2004, said.....*'The NPT was designed more than 30 years ago to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons beyond those states which already possess them.'*

One does not have to be a high grade moral theologian to realise that, 'Do as I say, not as I do,' will never be an effective formula for disarmament. The overwhelming majority of the world's countries have always called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Those views are spearheaded by the seven countries of the New Agenda Coalition led by Sweden, Mexico, Egypt and Ireland. In another initiative, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are heading an international campaign to get an abolition treaty, and to have it signed by 2010, with a view to the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2020. A draft treaty which covers all the contentious issues of verification, inspection and policing, has been carefully prepared and lodged with the UN by Costa Rica. All the ground work has been done. What is lacking is the will of the nuclear powers.

Excerpts from an article by Bruce Kent.

Two of those nuclear powers (Britain and France) are part of the EU. It is therefore really encouraging to receive this news via the very active lobby group, Abolition2000.

Nuclear Weapons at the EU Parliament.

On March 10, 2005 a Resolution in the European Parliament listed several new proposals for shifting the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) out of its present impasse. It was sponsored by Parliament's Green/European Free Alliance Group. The Resolution stressed the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel warning that the erosion of the NPT "could become irreversible and result in a cascade of proliferation". Mohammed ElBaradei, director of the IAEA, has also emphasised the need to secure nuclear disarmament by Nuclear Weapons States both a c k n o w l e d g e d a n d u n a c k n o w l e d g e d .

The 29 articles review the current concerns in the NPT, paying special attention to urgent anxieties about such states as Iran and North Korea. However, the Resolution robustly asserts that the NPT is not just a non-proliferation tool. It is also about "the complete elimination of nuclear weapons". This is set in the context of Common Security, asserting that "the prevention of any threat to the security of any country requires a commitment by the international community". It is a strong reminder of the European spirit of "effective multilateralism" and a forceful call for a common position by all EU States at the forthcoming NPT Review Conference in New York this May. The Parliament urges the EU to work hard for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, a draft of which

has already been submitted to the UN by Costa Rica. It also calls for negotiations actually to begin in the Conference on Disarmament "without further delay". There is a strong call for the USA to stop the development of new generations of battlefield nuclear weapons and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The USA should also "clarify the situation of the quantity and strategic objectives of its tactical nuclear arsenals stationed on European bases". Finally, the Resolution "renews its support for the International Mayors' campaign - initiated by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - on nuclear disarmament and recommends the international community to carefully consider the Campaign's 'Project Vision 2020', urging a scheduled program of elimination of all nuclear weapons".

George Farebrother for Abolition2000

(see p7 - Mayor Akiba of Nagasaki - speech to the EU Parliament)

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Do not try to override the world with force of arms. It is in the nature of a military weapon to turn against its wielder. Wherever armies are stationed, thorny bushes grow. After a great war, bad years invariably follow.
Lao Tzu - Tao Teh Ching

At a conference held at the Royal Society of Medicine in 2002, titled 'Caught in the Crossfire: the effects of war on civilian health', there was a session led by Colonel Ewan B. Carmichael. His lecture can be summed up thus: -
"War occupies part of the spectrum of Conflict. If studied objectively, and not from a Western liberal viewpoint, war can have a utility. It should be viewed from the perspective of the individual and the state: war can be used for advancement; the threat of war can be used for peaceful ends. Conflict is an enduring feature of the human condition and, while technological advances may

alter the way we wage it, war itself is unlikely to disappear." And the theme of his lecture? The Utility of War. It makes me want to use the 'F' word! Try **Futility**, Colonel!

If nothing else is considered, he should at least take into account the effect of war on the people that he commands. It is becoming unavoidably clear that after each conflict we engage in, the death toll among servicemen is greater from suicide than from actual combat. In the first Gulf war, 107 died from suicide as opposed to just 24 in combat. In the Falklands 264 veterans have killed themselves (the figure is still rising) as opposed to 255

who died in combat. We have yet to see how much mental damage will be caused by the present venture into Iraq. Deborah Orr, writing in the Independent, said 'The budget set aside to offer counselling to members of the armed forces who may suffer difficulties with mental health on their return to civilian life from this Gulf war, is zero.' I can only suppose that to provide a budget for this would be an admission that that there is a problem. And once you start to compare the problems that war causes to the doubtful benefits, particularly to those who are not at the top of the tree, war starts to look very futile indeed.

Peace Vigil at Imber

Two prominent peace campaigners - Bruce Kent of the Movement for the Abolition of War and Sidney Hinkes of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship - were among around 30 people who gathered for a peace vigil at the 'ghost' village of Imber on Salisbury Plain, on New Year's Eve. The event was organised by Ruth Underwood of MAW - many thanks to her for organising an uplifting event - a good way to close a year full of world conflict.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

MAKING HISTORY IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE



**FEBRUARY 2005
20,000 LISTEN TO
NELSON MANDELA**

At the beginning of February one very special person stood in Trafalgar Square and issued a challenge. For those of us who were lucky enough to be there to hear Nelson Mandela speak, it was an inspiring occasion. He came to start the campaign Make Poverty History. Old and frail he may be, but the passion and commitment are still there; and when he had finished there were tears in more eyes than mine. There was also a determination in all our hearts that we should aim to achieve the vision of Make Poverty History in

Mandela's lifetime.

"Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. The G8 leaders, when they meet in Scotland in July, have already promised to focus on the issue of poverty, especially in Africa. I say to all those leaders: do not look the other way; do not hesitate. Recognise that the world is hungry for action, not words. Act with courage and vision.

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection

of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.

Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom. Of course the task will not be easy. But not to do this would be a crime against humanity, against which I ask all humanity now to rise up.

Make Poverty History in 2005. Make History in 2005. Then we can all stand with our heads held high."

At first people refuse to believe that a strange new thing can be done. Then they begin to hope it can be done. Then they see it can be done. Then it is done and all the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago.
Frances Hodgson Burnett

Make Poverty History involves more than 300 different organizations, of which MAW is now one. As Bruce Kent says: - **'Making Poverty History' must also mean making war history.**

He goes on to say: -

'The link between war and poverty has been pointed out often enough. In 1992 Mostafa Tolbe, then Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme, having listed all our global needs, concluded that without progress on disarmament all other positive agreements 'are worthless'.

The connection between war and poverty is too obvious to be a matter of dispute but in practical terms it has not always been made.

Perhaps one reason is that bringing war to an end looks like an impossible dream despite its noble ambition. We applauded Pope John Paul in 1982 when, while the Falklands war was still in progress, he said 'war should belong to the tragic past, to history; it should find no place on humanity's agenda for the future', but could it ever happen? After all, the UN was founded 'to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war'. Yet the years since 1945 have been bloodstained with wars and shadowed by the threat of war.....

Consigning war to history means taking practical steps to build a culture of peace; to reject 'peace' resting on threats of massive retaliation; to end the arms trade, source of so much destruction and so much debt; to create a public conviction that killing people is a barbaric way of resolving conflict.

For such changes to come about we need to build a global society in which the rule of law is paramount. Professor Joseph Roblat, who refused in 1944 to work on the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, is the inspiration behind, and the President, of the Movement for the Abolition of War. He remains a realistic optimist: 'War must cease to be an admissible institution.'

Making poverty history is a practical possibility, but it will not happen unless at the same time we start to cut out the cancer of militarism.'

Terrorism is the poor man's war. War is the rich man's terrorism. Oscar Wilde

Ever since 9/11 I have listened in vain for any major politician in this country to seriously address the question of the causes of terrorism. Generally speaking, two views have been presented to the public: -

First, that we should 'make war' on terrorism, and secondly, that in waging that war we will actually increase the number of terrorists and terrorist attacks. I wouldn't argue with the second opinion, but it does not look at *why* there is terrorism, and so makes no attempt to question, and more importantly, alleviate the conditions that make desperate people resort to terrorist activities. There may be those who simply like violence, but I believe that most 'terrorism' can be traced back to desperate people whose needs are not only not met; those unmet needs are the direct result of others' selfish actions. Whilst I deplore any act of violence I do understand that those who do not possess helicopter gunships, or tanks, or cluster bombs will in the end resort to suicide bombs. Put bluntly, powerful countries' policies can result in such poverty and powerlessness for other people that the only weapon they think they possess is made up of some explosive and their own bodies. They *do* have another way (I hesitate to use the word 'weapon') to fight the injustices under which they live – it's us; you and I, fellow workers for peace, for justice, for equality, for a much fairer share of the world we live in. And this year there is at least one way that we can all work together – we can Make Poverty History. *Editor*

PEACE GARDEN AT THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

To mark the 60th anniversary of the end of WW2, the Imperial War Museum is planning a special commemorative garden at this year's show. Using peace as its central theme, the garden is a place for quiet reflection. Many of the trees and flowers have been selected for their symbolism in relation to war, peace and remembrance. Forming the backdrop to the garden, a stone wall is inscribed with the word 'peace' in different languages. Growing in the garden will be a specially commissioned new rose, named 'Remember'.

TALKING TO TERRORISTS

A new play, commissioned by Out of Joint and the Royal Court Theatre, is touring the country between 26th April and 25th June. It can be seen at Oxford, Malvern, Leeds, Manchester, Ipswich, Coventry, Salisbury and Liverpool, and from 30th June at the Royal Court, London.

PEACE WALKS IN LONDON

Please join us in a slow, silent, meditative walk in peace for peace. Meet by Ice-creams/ Honest Sausage café, just south of Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park (Marble Arch tube), at 10.55am to start walking at 11.00am, returning to starting point at 12 noon. Also every first Sunday of the month. Contact: Clare 020 8755 0353 or email beatricemillar@freeuk.com

PEACE WALK IN BEDFORD

May 15th, starting in the centre of Bedford at 2.30pm. Interactive, with clues and quiz, plus a 15 minute video with TV names rejecting war today. This is the 5th anniversary of the planting of the Anne Frank Tree in Russell Park, in memory of child victims of war. Details - contact David Maxwell 01234 352273

HIROSHIMA PEACE WALK

Tuesday 26th July - Tuesday 9th August
For Mother Earth is organising an international peace walk to mark the 60th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Come and show your opposition to nuclear weapons and support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Walk will start on Tuesday, July 26th, in Ypres, and will end at the secret NATO nuclear weapons base at Kleine Brogel, passing via NATO Headquarters in Brussels. At Kleine Brogel a peace camp will be held from August 6th until August 9th. The walk costs €10 per day, per person. This covers food, camping charges and a support car. See http://www.motherearth.org/walk/index_en.php

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HOW IDEAS GROW!

"Everybody wants peace - give them a garden."

United Nations Day of Peace is observed on September 21st. each year. Mike Maybury, who lives in Portsmouth, wanted this day and United Nations Day (October 24th) to be marked with the flying of the UN flag. Due to his efforts (and persistence), for the last two years Portsmouth City Council has flown the UN flag on the relevant days. But – it didn't stop there. Because of the interest he generated amongst some of the councillors, Mike dreamt up the idea of a Peace Garden for Portsmouth. Every week thousands of visitors walk through the heart of Portsea, on their way to the historic Dockyard. Mike proposed that the green area in Queen Street should be improved for the benefit of both residents and visitors, a garden dedicated to peace. His proposal turned into a project, which already has the support of various Portsea organisations, councillors and residents. The Parks Department is supporting the first application for funding. The garden will not only be a restful area, but will celebrate peace and non-violent means of resolving conflicts. Some of the suggested features are: - a mural to depict historical events and hopes for peace; large flagstones commemorating people like Gandhi and Martin Luther King; railings around the site featuring doves, rainbows and other symbols of peace. There is a proposal for peace flags to connect to other sites round the city. But the ideas don't stop there either!

Schools around Portsmouth are now considering their own Peace Gardens (and Christmas trees too), as areas for quiet, meditation, and for resolving conflicts. I have in front of me a copy of a letter from the Education Dept. of the City Council saying that the Chief Landscape Architect will be producing guidance and ideas to help Portsmouth Schools develop their peace gardens. This in turn will encourage schools to engage in projects relating to peace, and will help children to be more aware that we all live in, and share, one world.



Inspired? Would you like to see this in your own city, town or school? Here's how Mike did it.

He got the information and literature he needed about the United Nations Day of Peace from Peace One Day, Block D, The Old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, London E1 6QL. Tel: 020-7456-9180. www.peaceoneday.org He wrote to each of the City Councillors (all 43 of them!) enclosing Peace One Day literature, stressing that the UK Government had sponsored the UN resolution that resulted in the Day of Peace, and making a simple request that the Council flew the UN flag on that day and United Nations Day. Within days he had replies from several councillors, saying that they had approached their Chief Executive in support of his request. This encouraged him to phone those councillors. He thanked them for their support and then said, "What about a peace garden?" Having put the thought into their heads, he sent them some outline ideas. It was here that he had to persist, to keep knocking at the door, to keep the idea of UN flags and peace gardens on the desks and in the minds of the Council. After three months he had a response from the Chief Executive, and now the flags fly, and the gardens of peace are in the making.

Mike says - *One last bit of advice. Everyone, including every child, has a vague idea of Peace. This is what one needs to tap into. But avoid reference in the early stages to extreme views, demonstrations etc. Everyone wants peace - give them a garden, then make sure, once they start planning in detail, that only peaceful means are promoted.*

WHO'S WHO IN MAW

President Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat - A nuclear physicist, he worked on the Manhattan Project during WW2. Resigned, to become Chief Physicist at S. Bart's Hospital. Signatory of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto in 1955. Has devoted his life averting the danger posed by nuclear weapons. Helped found the Pugwash Conferences on Science & World Affairs, with which he shares the Nobel Peace Prize.

Chairman Bruce Kent - has been involved in CND, Pax Christi and other peace and justice organisations for many years. The Hague Appeal for Peace meeting in 1999 inspired him to help found MAW in 2001. Enjoys discussions with young people at schools and colleges.

Treasurer Tim Wallis - taught music. 'Peace camper' at Molesworth cruise missile base. Gained a PhD in Peace Studies and worked for peace organisations including Peace Brigades International, Peace News magazine and the National Peace Council. Now Director of Peaceworkers UK.

Webmaster Mike King and Membership Secretary Bernadette King -

Mike is a computer software and website consultant. Committee member of a charity which promotes disabled access. Bernadette is an LEA officer and works in a local Sixth Form school. Their two boys (the youngest MAW members) are also very involved as the Marketing team for MAW.

Martha Jean Baker - student activist. Active in WILPF and the Seattle Coalition for Peace in the Middle East in early 1990's. Organised an Arab - Jewish Peace Party. Co-founded the African-American/Jewish Coalition for Justice. Now qualified as a lawyer and completed an LLM in human rights at UCL.

Ann Darnbrough - founded the National Information Forum. Member of CND, Amnesty International, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom. Also concerned with animal welfare. Trustee of Artsline which promotes arts for disabled people. Judge of the Snowdon Awards scheme.

Newsletter Editor Lesley Docksey - long-term environmental interests. Active locally (Dorset) in Stop the War, Amnesty and peace groups. Interests - peace education, conflict resolution and networking with peace and anti-war groups in the West Country.

Owen Hardwicke - Served with Friends Ambulance Unit as conscientious objector in WWII. Active in Pax Christi, and CND Cymru. Founded Peace & Justice Centre in Wrexham from which he now works. Is a twice retired Catholic priest.

Robert A. Hinde - pilot in RAF Coastal Command during WW2. Awarded a Royal Society Research Professorship. Worked on animal behaviour and human family relationships. Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1989-1994. Has written on religion and morality in human nature, and the causes of international war. Chairman, British Pugwash Group.

Tony Kempster - retired scientist, now a writer and singer. Special interest in peace education in schools and conflict prevention. On Steering Committee, CAAT, General Secretary of Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and a Director of the Peace Museum, Bradford

Derek Longmire - member of CND and Pax Christi. Founded the local CND group in DISS, Norfolk. Served a prison sentence for campaigning against nuclear weapons at bases in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Founded the Justice and Peace group in Kendal. Active in the Trade and Justice Movement. Wants to promote MAW in the NW of England.

Vijay Mehta - Vice-Chair for Action For UN Renewal, Secretary London Region CND. Is an active speaker on Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament Issues, United Nations Reforms, Abolition of War and Rule of Law.

David Partridge - parish priest for 40 years. During the week works at the Oxfam Bookshop and the Interfaith Centre, Oxford, and with various Peace projects. Hopes to go to the European Peace and Justice Network in Brussels and to work with the Asylum Welcome Centre.

Sally Reynolds - is a GP for homeless people in Oxford. A convinced Quaker, a wife, mother and recently grandmother, she has been active locally in Abingdon Peace Group for years.

Dorothy Rowe - a psychologist and writer who has been concerned about war since childhood, when her father told her of his experiences as an Australian soldier in WW1. She explores the question 'Are enemies necessary?' in her book *Friends and Enemies*.

Christine Titmus - Faiths and Spirituality liaison. A Christian, she belongs to Third Order Society of St Francis. Involved locally in Beds/Cambs in lobbying, writing, publicity. A member of CAAT, PPU, Pax Christi, Christian CND, APF, UNA.

Ruth Underwood

Rob Wallis - based close to the Menwith Hill and Fylingdales bases. Worked at Peace News, now works with Shelter. Also a qualified neighbourhood conflict mediator. Works closely with partner Bethan who spent a long time with Pax Christi and Quaker peace services, and remains involved with Northern Friends Peace Board.

Kathleen Walsh - Consultant for Primary - Secondary Transfer, Ethnic Minority Achievement Service, CEA @ Islington, London. Has worked in school and adult education, university research and in publishing. Is married with two adult daughters.

N.B. these details are necessarily brief, due to lack of space.

Small heroes master their enemies. Big heroes master themselves. *Rumi*

HELP!

MAW desperately needs a replacement treasurer. Tim Wallis has done a wonderful job, but he is going to retire from this post. Are you a member of Maw? Do you like coping with figures? Would you like to be part of a great team of people at the heart of MAW? If the answer is yes, please contact MAW on 020 8347 6162

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The supreme reality of our time is ... the vulnerability of our planet. *John F. Kennedy*

THE PEACE TAX SEVEN NEWS

Letters before Action have already been sent to the Treasury, and the application papers for Judicial Review are being lodged with the High Court. If it is accepted that the case can be dealt with in Court, the group will be represented by the barristers, Mike Fordam and David Pievsky. These were the gentlemen who won the case for the demonstrators whose coach was stopped by the police at the anti war demonstration in Fairford and made to return to London. The group were asked to take part in the All Wales Peace and Justice Festival in Aberystwyth, the weekend of March 19th. Four members of the group attended and spoke at a seminar following the rally, about the issues involved in the campaign. There was also a showing of their video 'Contempt of Conscience' They were in good company, with Phil Shiner, of Public Interest Lawyers, and Clive StaffordSmith, the Human Rights Lawyer representing the two detainees recently returned from Guantanamo.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

Among the main projects that the IPB Geneva staff are working on this year is the commemoration of the centenary of the first Nobel Peace Prize awarded to a woman: Bertha von Suttner. She was one of the founders and a vice president of the IPB. We are organising events in at least 12 countries to bring together women peacemakers and other civil society advocates. You can find out more at: - www.ipb.org www.berthavonsuttner2005.info

ABERYSTWYTH PEACE AND JUSTICE FESTIVAL

From an anniversary of the Iraq war, to a conference on what we can do to stop warmongering. The event started on the Friday evening with a showing of 'Uncovered - the War in Iraq' followed by a deeply searching discussion between the audience and Milan Rai of Justice not Vengeance, Simon Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP and Robin Brookes of Peace Tax 7 forming a panel. On Saturday morning there was a march, and in the afternoon there were 3 workshops on the themes Citizenship, Global Stability and the Peace Tax Campaign. 'Overall the experience was a rewarding one. There is a solid core of many people who have shunned disillusionment and apathy and are working to bring about change. I was most encouraged by Milan Rai who shows in his film 'Counter Terror, Build Justice' that protest does work and has influenced Western Governments. It will be a long haul, but in what other direction can we travel than towards a peaceful and just world?' *Robin Brookes*



Freedom is when the people can speak; democracy is when the government listens. *Alistair Farrugia*

SOMETHING TO STUDY

"But what's the alternative to violent force?" Now we have an excellent tool to help address that oft-asked question! Please do look up this document, launched late last year. *A Human Security Doctrine for Europe* - from the Centre for the Study of Global Governance (also referred to as the Barcelona Report). Download from the MAW website (Home Page, click Resources) – pdf – or phone the Centre on 020 7955 7583 for a paper copy (they have a limited number left).

I cannot recommend this highly enough - 'A set of seven principles for operations in situations of severe insecurity that apply to both ends and means' It's not heavy reading either. Peace comes before human rights in classic peace-keeping, and victory comes before human rights in classic military interventions. This report offers not only a 'third way' but one that may be practically possible – and acceptable to all parties.

Christine Titmus

SPACE FOR PEACE

**If peace be a spring
Born of dark
And the deep,
Through rock will it rise.**

**If peace be a pool
Not stagnant
Nor muddied,
But clear should it stand.**

**If peace be a river
'Cross borders,
Through fences,
So brave must it flow.**

**If peace be the sea
Horizonless, limitless,
Swelling and breathing,
How sure will it be.**

MAW TO BUY	BOOKLETS	The Hague Appeal '99. 50 Steps on the Way to the Abolition of War	50p
		The Final Surrender -Time to Abolish war. Quotations from around the world.	50p
		A World Without War - Professor Rotblat's Imperial War Museum speech, 2002	30p
	POSTCARDS	'I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask - 'Mother, what was war?'	15p
		Girl with flower facing soldiers with bayonets	15p
	A4 CARD	The Preamble to the UN Charter	15p
	VIDEO (14 mins)	War No More - with teacher's booklet	£8 *
	MAW CD	Sing the Music of Healing	£6 *
	BOOK	War No More (paperback) Rotblat/Hinde	£10 *
	MAW Flyers and Posters	Green information leaflet and matching poster	Free
	BADGES Metal	Red with a 'No Entry' sign across war	15p
	Postage: -	Items marked * postage included. Single sample copies of the others, send SAE. Multiple orders, please add 10% to the total price. Please send order to: MAW, 11 Venetia Road, LONDON N4 1EJ	

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. *Aesop*

Extracts from Mayor Akiba's testimony to the Foreign Policy Committee of the European Parliament

Mr Chairman, It is a great honour to speak here at your invitation and attempt to do justice to the aspirations of the atomic bombing survivors of my city. To the survivors, it is incomprehensible that the world continues to accept the terror of the atomic bomb. The Cold War was a struggle over the course of civilisation, and the nuclear arms race put the very survival of civilisation on the line. In 2005 the Cold War is long over, and yet a nuclear trance still holds sway in our minds. How can we snap out of this trance and save ourselves before it is too late?

Let us be under no illusion. If we do not wake up and take decisive action now, other cities will undoubtedly fall victim to nuclear attack. We must change the course we are on, and I firmly believe that Europe has an historic role to play in leading humanity toward a nuclear-weapon-free future. In the struggle against nuclear weapons, true leadership flows from pursuing the proper objective: abolition. 'Leadership' that excuses the double standard inherent in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will never control proliferation. Today we are being buffeted by a whirlwind arising from decades of neglect of the treaty's disarmament obligations. True leadership hungers for a nuclear-weapon-free world. True leadership works tirelessly to overcome all obstacles. True leadership does not quietly tolerate the nuclear threat. What prevents Europe from exercising true leadership?

The European Union counts two nuclear-weapon states among its members. Are these states providing leadership on nuclear disarmament? Of course, the former and current nuclear superpowers have the lion's share of arms to disarm, but does that exonerate the other, lesser nuclear powers? You insist on waiting until their US and Russian levels approach yours, but are you really pressing them to get there faster and irreversibly? Or are you sheltering them from international pressure to fulfil their international obligations? Most members of the EU are also members of NATO. I trust you are aware that over 380 nuclear weapons are deployed in 'non-nuclear' EU states. Leaving aside the larger question of why NATO did not go the way of the Warsaw Pact, are you aware that NATO plans to rely on nuclear weapons 'for the foreseeable future'? Article VI of the NPT does not call for disarmament *after* the foreseeable future. How can NATO pursue in good faith a future it cannot even foresee? Let's be honest. The United States is refusing to foresee a future without nuclear weapons, and that is not the future we want. My impression is that this great parliament has on several occasions, most recently last February, made it clear that it prefers a nuclear-weapon-free future.

When Mayors for Peace advances its 2020 Vision, we are not attempting to force the world into some lockstep march toward our vision of 'nuclear disarmament'. We say, 'Take 5 years if you need it. Plan out the process and then take twice that time to implement the plan.' We chose this long timeframe so that no one could doubt that, given the requisite political will, there would be no physical or economic impediments to getting the job done. So it boils down to one question: 'Shall we begin?'

You must make it clear that Europe will always stand with those who are ready to move effectively and comprehensively toward the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Ideally, European nations or the EU as a whole could do at the multilateral and international level what Mayors for Peace is doing at the city and national level.....If Europe wholeheartedly adopts such an attitude, there is not the slightest doubt in my mind that it would find likeminded friends everywhere. Your worthy efforts to stem nuclear proliferation would meet with tremendous cooperation worldwide. If Europe affirms through action the intended transitory nature of the NPT's double standard, you will make the decisive contribution to realising the only acceptable single-standard: a world made up entirely of non-nuclear weapon states.

Mr Chairman, the struggle to abolish nuclear weapons is the moral equivalent of the 19th Century struggle to abolish slavery. Our campaign is not a partisan effort to gain political advantage for any human subgroup. We are sincerely attempting to protect our children and grandchildren from experiences of horror and misery that only A-bomb survivors can imagine. This august body has resolved to support the campaign. Please resolve now, as some of the most powerful individuals on this planet, to do everything in your power to ensure that your grandchildren and mine will think of nuclear weapons, if they think of them at all, as relics of a dark barbaric past.

SCIENCE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS - Where do we go from here? - a paper by Professor Rotblat.

Just published by Abolition 2000 in time for the NPT Review Conference in New York this May. Available from: - Abolition 2000, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DJ. Price £2.50 (cheques payable to Abolition 2000)

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WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN MAW!

Our aim: to create a world where war is no longer seen as a way to solve a problem; where it has ceased to be an option; where conflict resolution means resolution, not more conflict. We have the tools, the skills and the laws that we need. We also need you. We work through education and dialogue, both nationally and in our own local communities; ordinary people taking action to realise our goal - the abolition of war.

'War must cease to be an admissible human institution' - Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat

Events Diary

- 23 April LONDON.** Making War History, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. 10.30-5.00 Network for Peace, 020 7278 3267
- 1 May NEW YORK.** Cities of the World Peace Fair in Central Park. <http://www.abolition2000.org/now/mayors.html>
- 2 – 28 May NEW YORK.** Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Come along and lobby the Nuclear Weapons States. Or organise an event in your area to raise awareness of the NPT. www.abolitionnow.org
- 15 May WORLDWIDE.** International Conscientious Objectors Day.
- 16 May WORLDWIDE.** World Debt Day
- 19 – 22 May DEVONPORT.** Devonport Disarmament Camp. Trident Ploughshares, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR 0845 4588366 www.tridentploughshares.org
- 20 May LONDON.** MANA Concert for Peace with Gemini, directed by Ian Mitchell. St Cyprian's Church, Glentworth Street NW1. 7.30pm. Info from MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. 020 8455 1030.
- 24 May WORLDWIDE.** International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament
- 28 May – 4 June GALLOWAY, Scotland.** One World Festival. One World Office, Ohsawa House, 3 Hamsey Close Brighton BN2 5 GQ, U.K. Telephone +44(0)1273 279439 Fax +44(0)1273 249770 Email oneworldcamp@hotmail.com
- 4 June WORLDWIDE.** International Day for Children as Victims of War.
- 9 June LONDON.** Lecture 'In Larger Freedom', Friends House, Euston Rd, 7pm. Action for UN Renewal
- 12 June COUNTRYWIDE.** Arms trade Day of Prayer. Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ Tel: +44-(0)20 7281 0297 Fax: +44-(0)20 7281 4369 www.caat.org.uk
- 18 June LONDON.** Pax Christi AGM and Celebration Day, London. www.paxchristi.org.uk
- 1 July EVERYWHERE.** Make Poverty History White Band Day – wear a white band as an act of solidarity against poverty.
- 2 July EDINBURGH.** Make Poverty History demonstration in advance of the G8 Summit. <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/why2005.html>
- 3 July DUNGAVEL** Refugee Detention Centre, near Strathaven, South Lanarkshire. Protests outside. www.ncadc.org.uk
- 6 - 8 July GLENEAGLES, Scotland.** G8 Summit. **6 July** - Global Day of Action at the opening day of the G8 Summit.
- 8 July** - International day of action against climate change. See www.apg.org and www.dissent.org.uk
- 4 July FASLANE.** Big Blockade at Faslane Trident Submarine base.
- 8 – 10 July SWANICK, Derbyshire.** 'We are Stewards of Creation'. RC National Justice and Peace Conferences, Swanwick. <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/indexframes.html>
- 3 – 7 August SOMERSET.** Big Green Gathering Tel: 01458 834629, Big Green Gathering Co Ltd, PO Box 3423 GLASTONBURY BA6 9ZN www.big-green-gathering.com
- 6 August WORLDWIDE.** Hiroshima Day. - 60th Anniversary.
- 8 – 14 August HAMPSHIRE.** One World Festival. One World Office, Ohsawa House, 3 Hamsey Close Brighton BN2 5 GQ, U.K. Telephone +44(0)1273 279439 Fax +44(0)1273 249770 Email oneworldcamp@hotmail.com
- 9 August WORLDWIDE.** Nagasaki Day- 60th Anniversary.
- 27 August – 10 September COULPORT.** Coulport Disarmament Camp. Trident Ploughshares, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR 0845 4588366 info@tridentploughshares.org
- 10 September EVERYWHERE.** Make Poverty History White Band Day 2

'If school history is to be of any relevance, I would suggest that one module needs to be an in-depth study of the causes of wars, and a consideration of ways in which war might be prevented.'

Tom MacFarlane - letter in the Independent

Can You
Fill This
Space?

COMPETITION!

MAW needs a logo!

Word or symbol, something that people will recognise. Something that means us and no-one else. Something simple, original, and not a re-hash of every other peace logo. Something that will look good on badges, posters, leaflets and letters. Most important of all, something that gets our message across - we aim to abolish war.

We are offering a small prize to anyone who can design a logo for us. Please send your ideas to: - MAW, 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

What are
you waiting
for?

MAW News, please! We want to hear from members around the country, and we want your actions to inspire others. So if you have organised events/actions, or are planning some, and would like to have them reported in the newsletter, then send the details to the editor Lesley Docksey, 1 Court Farm Cottages, Buckland Newton, Dorset DT2 7BT. E-mail: Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk