

# PEACELINE



Jan-Feb  
2018

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## The Old Order Takes a Knock

In November the British judge, Christopher Greenwood, failed to be re-elected to the International Court of Justice (the ICJ). For the first time in 72 years there is no British judge on the court.

The ICJ is the 'principal judicial organ of the United Nations'. It was established in 1946, when the UN Security Council was also set up.

The Council has 15 members. 10 of them are elected. Five are the veto-wielding Permanent Members – the 'P5': Britain, China, France, Russia and the USA.

The ICJ's Statute doesn't give P5 members the right to have a judge on the court. But that's been 'taken for granted'. Now, for the first time, the privilege has been denied. A precedent has been set.

All 193 members of the United Nations have a seat on its General Assembly. In January 1946 this met in London. In the wake of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki it unanimously passed Resolution 1. This set up a commission to recommend "with the utmost despatch" to the Security Council steps leading to the "elimination of atomic weapons" and to "ensure that atomic energy is used only for peaceful purposes".

Only the US then had nuclear weapons. That year the British government secretly set about develop-

ing a nuclear bomb with "a bloody Union Jack on top of it" to ensure "our prestige in the world".

In 1949 the Soviet Union exploded an atomic bomb. In 1954 France began its nuclear bomb programme. In 1964 China exploded an atomic bomb. The P5 were now also the 'nuclear weapons states'.

Under the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the NPT) the nuclear weapons states agreed to negotiate theirs away while the non-nuclear weapons states agreed not to acquire them.

Fifty years on nuclear stockpiles have been cut to more 'manageable' levels but nuclear weapons have been made much more effective. The P5 remain the 'official' nuclear weapons states but there are now 4 'unofficial' ones too.

All nuclear weapons stockpiles are being modernized. The US is spending over \$1 trillion on this. Britain has never negotiated on getting rid of its nuclear weapons but is extending their life to 100 years after the NPT was agreed.

The great non-nuclear majority of states have had enough. In July 2017 nearly two-thirds of the world's states adopted the 'ban treaty' "prohibiting and eliminating" nuclear weapons. They were taking forward the demands of 1946. But this time they were not leaving things in the hands of the nuclear powers but keeping them in their own hands.

Britain fought hard to get Greenwood re-elected to the ICJ, but, in particular, his record as an advisor to the British government on recent wars was held against him.

In 2008 parliament was asked to oppose his appointment to the ICJ because he had provided legal 'cover' for the 2003 invasion of Iraq over its non-existent 'weapons of mass destruction'. This was at a time when the Foreign Office's legal advisers were branding the inva-

**Sat 17 February 6:30pm**

**Films for the 60th  
anniversary of CND  
Rotherhithe SE16**

**See page 2 for details**

**Wed 7 March 7-9pm**

**London CND  
PUBLIC MEETING:  
'Trident and New  
Generation Nukes'**

**With Dave Webb, Chair  
of CND**

**At Kentish Town  
Community Centre  
17 Busby Pl. NW5 2SP**

sion an illegal 'war of aggression'. In 1999, when the British government was told that bombing Yugoslavia would be illegal, Greenwood provided legal 'cover' for it.

Parliament was told that "it would be particularly inappropriate for the UN to elect to the International Court of Justice a candidate with such a questionable record on fundamentals of international law and the responsibilities and reputation of the United Nations".

Judges on the ICJ have to be approved by both the Security Council and the General Assembly. Britain managed to get nearly 2/3 backing from the Council, including the P5. But the General Assembly was against by the same margin.

After 11 rounds of voting Britain threw in the towel and an Indian judge was elected. The Foreign Secretary spun this as "a long-standing objective of UK foreign policy to support India in the UN".

In the last 20 years India, a rising power outside the NPT, has taken its cue from Britain 72 years ago and developed a comprehensive nuclear weapons programme. On 18 January it test-fired a 5,000-km range nuclear missile in "a major boost" to its capabilities.

This is smiled on by western powers as 'counter-balancing' a rising China even though it encourages a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

It shows how Britain preserves its own nuclear privilege, encourages the rise of some new nuclear powers, tolerates the rise of others and screams blue murder over yet others which it brands as 'threats'.

But the old order is itself increasingly under threat and there is a choice to make - to stand with the many or the few, with the old order or the new.

**Jim Brann**

## 60th Anniversary of CND

### Screening of 3 Short Films

**6.30pm Saturday  
17th February**

**"March to Aldermaston"**

**"Genie in a Bottle Unleashed"**

**"Embrace! A World free of Nuclear Weapons"**



**At Sands Films  
Cinema Club**

**82 St Marychurch St  
Rotherhithe SE16 4HZ  
Rotherhithe tube**

**Free, but please reserve  
your seat on Sands Films  
website or Eventbrite**

**Please make a donation on  
the day**

## Marking the 7th Anniversary of the Fukushima Disaster • 9-14 March

**Friday 9 March 2018**

**17:30 – 19:30**

**VIGIL outside the Japanese  
Embassy, 101 Piccadilly**

Silence • prayer • poetry • songs  
• speeches • Performance by  
Atsuko Kamura • Open mic  
Please bring any of: torches, candle lanterns, banners, balloons & flowers. Fancy dress welcome!

**Sunday 11 March 2018**

**12:00 for start at 12:30**

**MARCH on Parliament**

Assemble outside Japanese  
Embassy, 101 Piccadilly W1  
Fancy dress/bright colours  
welcome – especially yellow!

**14:00 – 16:00pm (approx.)**

**RALLY at Old Palace Yard**

**Opposite Parliament**

A minute's silence

Performance by Atsuko Kamura •  
Songs by Paul Steele • Poetry by  
Anne Garrett • Speeches by  
Bruce Kent, Neil Crumpton and  
others

**Wednesday 14 March 2018**

**19:00 – 21:00**

**PUBLIC MEETING in  
Parliament**

Attlee Room, Portcullis House,  
Westminster SW1

Chair: Catherine West MP

Speakers: Kate Hudson, CND •  
Amelia Womack, Green Party •

Dr Ian Fairlie • Professor Andy  
Stirling • Professor Steve Thomas  
• Rika Hirose Haga

Westminster tube

Please arrive at Portcullis House  
early to get through security.

Organised by Kick Nuclear, Japanese  
Against Nuclear and CND

# From the Conference: “Living in Interesting Times”

## How the World is Shaping Up Under President Trump

The conference was hosted by SOAS CND and London CND and held at SOAS on 13 January.

**Brian Becker**, national coordinator for the ANSWER Coalition in the US, said Trump is racist, reactionary, misogynistic and xenophobic. But his policy is more continuity than change.



It's clear the US was planning 'surgical strikes' on North Korea, risking a much wider war. But

the rapid start of North-South dialogue has hindered that.

Meanwhile Trump gave other countries 4 months to 'fix' the Iran deal or he will pull out of it. He looks set to step up economic and military aggression against Iran.

The US military budget is equal to the next 9 countries together, 10 times Russia's and 5 times China's. Both parties in Congress support that as well as nuclear weapons modernisation which aims to make these more 'useable'.

Trump, under the slogan 'make America great again', is disruptive, but he follows the same consensus which has led to war after war. He's a real danger.

60% of America's air and naval forces are to be based in the Asia-Pacific region around China. This is for war, or to threaten war.

The largest part of the American people hate what Trump stands for and want to end his presidency. But it's important not to be fixated on his odious personality.

We must oppose his demonisation of whole peoples which is preparation for confrontation with them.

**Jose Enrique Castillo Barrantes** is Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Kingdom. Costa Rica played a key role in getting the nuclear ban treaty adopted by 122 states last July.



He said Costa Rica is marking 70 years since

abolishing its army. Countries which had led the nuclear ban process had received an award and ICAN – the coalition promoting the ban – had received the Nobel Peace Prize.

But the fight was just beginning. It would be long and hard. Short-term spectacular results should not be expected. But we can choose the ground on which to fight and the strategy to use.

Existing organisations in which only governments are represented would remain important arenas of the fight. But they would be limited for that reason. We had to have a wider vision about where we were going to take up the issue.

In most countries the media are controlled by the powerful and the establishment. We had to figure out strategies to counteract that.

We had to promote a new culture for peace and disarmament through all stages of education.

There needed to be a political movement in each country for peace and disarmament. Military-industrial complexes could dominate electoral processes, however 'democratic' these seemed to be.

We had to create a 'counter-power' as a force in every country.

There could be no false optimism. The leak of Trump's likely nuclear

weapons policy shows where power in the world is heading.

**Jim Hoare**, former British Ambassador to North Korea, set up the



first UK embassy there, finding it very militarised.

He said Korea had been divided in 1945 without regard to the

wishes of its people. By 1948 two separate states had been created.

He thought that it was the north, rather than the Americans, who started the war in 1950.

Each side had nearly won. The north had crossed into the south and been driven out. US-led forces had crossed into the north and been driven out. The war ended with huge destruction and a ceasefire line roughly where the war had begun, solving nothing. Since then both sides have said they want reunification; but very little has been done.

The south had seen some transformation since the 1980s. The north had also seen changes.

There have been crises on the Korean peninsula, sometimes very intense ones, since it was divided.

The US had nuclear weapons there from 1957 to 1991. There were large artillery duels in the 1960s.

There has been crisis after crisis; all have been defused. Both sides have backed off because of the horrendous consequences.

A quarter of the population of the south lives in greater Seoul, within artillery range of the north.

The North are expert at putting things underground, dispersing them and moving them around.



# From the Conference: “Living in Interesting Times”

Their leadership is more than Kim Jong Un. They will fight back.

Are things different under Trump? Jim Hoare is a bit more optimistic than others. He thinks the Trump camp are beginning to grasp the realities. An attack would massively disrupt international trade.

The 1994 ‘Agreed Framework’ had capped the north’s nuclear programme for 8 years. Agreement could be reached.

**Catherine West, Labour MP for Hornsey & Wood Green**, said the world had undergone great changes yet felt as it did at the time of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

The nuclear ban treaty and the Nobel Peace prize for ICANW were good news. But the advent of



Trump presents a plethora of new problems and challenges. There’s quite a lot of cross-party parliamentary support for censuring Trump. 1.85 million signatures against a Trump visit showed the scale of public anger. It was good that he’s not coming. Catherine West has received hundreds of emails urging opposition to him.

His trademark ‘unpredictability’ at home and abroad has aroused

fierce opposition. Not one politician in Britain had defended him. Many Americans shared these fears. Trump’s actions are making the world less secure.

Environmental, economic and military security are all under attack. Now Trump plans to expand the circumstances in which the US will use its nuclear weapons.

There were 16,300 nuclear weapons held by 9 countries. The world stands at a crossroads. What kind of world do we want to live in? Alongside the coming of Trump was the rise of racism at home, in Europe and further afield.

## Coming Events

### London CND Events

**020 7607 2302**

[www.londoncnd.org.uk](http://www.londoncnd.org.uk)

**Wed Mar 7 • 7-9pm • Public Meeting:** “Trident and New Generation Nukes” Speaker: Dave Webb, Chair of CND. At Kentish Town Community Centre, 17 Busby Place NW5 2SP

### Local Group Events

#### Wimbledon

**Fridays • 6-7pm •** “Vigil for Peace” outside the library in St. Mark’s Place; **Fri Feb 2 • 7:30pm •** “Brian Haw & Co, Parliament Square SW1”; Documentary film by Japanese film-maker Yumiko Hayakawa, filmed in London over 18 months; At William Morris Hall, 267 Broadway, Wimbledon; Info: Joanna 020 8543 0362; [www.wdc-cnd.org.uk](http://www.wdc-cnd.org.uk)

### Other Events

**Thu Feb 15 • 7pm • Public Meeting:** “Why We Need An Antiwar Government”; With: Brian Eno, Lowkey, Andrew Murray, Lindsey German, Maya Evans, Michael Muir, Elif Sarican; At Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1R 4RL; Holborn tube; Organised by Stop the War

**Sat Feb 17 • 6:30pm •** 3 short films for CND’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary; At Sands Film Studios, 82 St Marychurch St SE16 4HZ; Rotherhithe tube; See page 2 for details

**Thu Feb 22 • 7.30pm •** Musicians for Peace and Disarmament recital by Emma Kirkby DBE and members of Dowland Works; works by John Dowland, Henry Purcell, John Wilson and the brothers William and Henry Lawes; Interval Speaker: Martin Bell OBE, journalist; At Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, 3 Pilgrims Place NW3 1NG (entrance on Rosslyn Hill)

### Regular events

**Every Fri • 10am-12.30pm •** Vigil in solidarity with Japanese activists against nuclear power; Outside Japanese Embassy, 101-104 Piccadilly. Green Park Tube **1-1.30pm •** Vigil at Tokyo Electric Power Company offices in Holborn; Info: David 020 7700 2393; [www.kicknuclear.com](http://www.kicknuclear.com)

**Every Wed • 6-7pm •** Women in Black silent vigil against militarism and war; Edith Cavell Statue, St Martin’s Place WC2. [wibinfo@gn.apc.org](mailto:wibinfo@gn.apc.org)

**2<sup>nd</sup> weekend each month •** Women’s peace camp at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Factory; 07946 676 761; [www.aldermaston.net](http://www.aldermaston.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Sun each month • 10.55am •** Walk in Peace; Slow, silent one-hour walk for peace; Speakers’ Corner café, Hyde Park (Marble Arch tube) Clare 020 8755 0353 [walkinpeace@hotmail.com](mailto:walkinpeace@hotmail.com)