

1983**30 Questions and Honest Answers about CND
[Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament]****Citation:**

"30 Questions and Honest Answers about CND [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament]", 1983, Wilson Center Digital Archive, CND/2008/15/25 (1of2), Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) Collection, LSE Library,
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/projects/peace-security/cnd-archives>
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/300269>

Summary:

Pamphlet produced by the Coalition for Peace through Security, using the same format and questions as a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament pamphlet but with a very similar title but providing markedly different answers.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from London School of Economics and Political Science & The Open University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

30 QUESTIONS...



**HONEST
AND ANSWERS ABOUT CND**



This leaflet is based on 30 questions posed in a CND leaflet. Unlike the answers given by CND, these answers to their questions tell the truth.

1 What is CND?

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is a Left-wing dominated pressure group which wants Britain alone to give up its defences. It swings into action whenever NATO looks like acquiring or updating weapons but belittles or ignores comparable Soviet behaviour.

CND opposes all efforts by the West to maintain an adequate defence against the Soviet Union. It believes the Soviet Union presents no threat to our independence and freedom, and directs its propaganda in a direction favourable to Soviet aims.

2 What are its aims?

CND's aims, clearly set out in its Constitution, but fudged by its speakers, are 'the unilateral abandonment by Britain of nuclear weapons, nuclear bases and nuclear alliances.' This means, as CND leaders admit when forced to, that

Britain would become neutral – just like Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway, whose neutrality failed to save them from conquest by the Nazis in 1940.

3 Does CND believe in change by violence?

Not so far, although some of its extremist supporters who march in demonstrations do believe in tactics of physical confrontation.

Demonstrators outside defence bases have engaged in civil disobedience and believe their campaign justifies breaking the law.

4 Is it unilateralist or multilateralist?

CND quite clearly advocates unilateral (one-sided) disarmament as opposed to multilateral (balanced) disarmament involving all countries. A principal point made in CND propaganda to justify its reckless policy is that 'multilateral disarmament has led nowhere.' This conveniently ignores the many agreements reached between nations as a result of quiet and patient negotiations.

Moreover, unilateralism positively undermines multilateralism which depends on agreement through bargaining. Would you agree to pay £4000 for a car if the dealer offered it to you for nothing? Similarly, if Soviet leaders knew that Western leaders would give up our nuclear defences without expecting any Soviet reduction in return, then the Soviets would simply sit tight with no incentive to negotiate the arms reductions we want to see.

5 Wouldn't independent action like this make us weaker to an attacker?

Of course it would. We would even be unable to resist blackmail via the threatened use of nuclear weapons against us. Attacking a feeble and defenceless Britain would become a cost-free option for any aggressor. In the Falklands crisis what might a nuclear Argentina have done to the approaching Task Force if Britain had unilaterally given up its nuclear weapons? Britain retaining its independent nuclear

deterrent is a guarantee of our ability to defend ourselves at any time. Even though our nuclear force is small compared with that of the Superpowers, its ability to inflict unacceptable damage on an enemy has helped deter war and keep the peace in Europe for nearly 40 years. This is exactly the same policy adopted by France whose new Socialist Government has announced its decision to build a 6th nuclear submarine.

6 How does CND see the 'Soviet threat'?

CND tackles this thorny problem by closing its eyes and trying to pretend that it doesn't exist. CND makes the incredible assumption that, really, Soviet leaders are 'just like us'. CND swallows every 'peace' propaganda speech coming from the Kremlin yet ignores all those calling for the world-wide victory of Communism. The huge build-up of Soviet arms is pooh-poohed.

CND bends over backwards to excuse Soviet imperialism in Eastern Europe and Soviet aggression in neutral Afghanistan as being motivated by fear of Western 'encirclement'. The ruthless repression of independence movements in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland is brushed aside. CND does not tell us how many more countries it will justify falling under Soviet 'protection' before the poor Kremlin can stop feeling 'insecure'.

7 Does CND oppose NATO?

Totally. CND claims to work for the dissolution of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact, but of course it has no effect whatsoever on the politics of Eastern Europe's military bloc. Moreover, Russia needs the Warsaw Pact to control the freedom-seeking populations of its satellite states.

This means that in effect CND is working only

to destroy NATO, the defence alliance which has kept Europe free and out of war since 1945. CND's constant opposition to NATO has won it praise from the Soviet Government, one of whose oldest objectives has been the destruction of the Western defence alliance from the inside. In this respect CND and the Kremlin share identical aims.

8 Is CND pacifist?

If pacifism means refusing to fight to defend one's country then CND is pacifist. Nowhere does CND argue for a conventional defence build-up as an alternative to relying on the nuclear deterrent. CND supporters include outright pacifists and neutralists – people who

would not have lifted a finger to stop Hitler in 1939, and who would rather surrender this country to an enemy than offer resistance. CND sneers at the armed services, opposed British action in the Falklands, and fights against any sensible defence policy.

9 Does CND support the Soviet Union?

Through its every action aimed at weakening Britain's capability to defend itself and contribute to NATO, CND helps the Soviet Government. A vicious anti-Americanism inspires many CND members whose banners match those used in Soviet Government-organised demonstrations against the USA. CND anti-NATO demonstrations provide good news film for Soviet TV which shows this to prove 'how peace-loving Soviet policies are supported in the West'.

Various CND leaders are unashamedly pro-Soviet. CND's 1982 Vice-Chairman, former Communist Party candidate Michael Pentz, was a sponsor of the Soviet-approved British Peace Assembly, the British arm of the Soviet-funded World Peace Council. CND's former National Organiser, Sally Davison, said on Moscow Radio in June 1982 that, unlike the British Government, 'obviously the Soviet Government is in favour of peace'. ▶



30

QUESTIONS... HONEST AND ANSWERS ABOUT



10 Why isn't there a CND in Russia?

Because as the Russians have made absolutely clear they see unilateral nuclear disarmament as totally impractical and unthinkable. As the authoritative Major-General Milovidov wrote in 1981, 'The Soviet Union cannot undertake the unilateral destruction of its nuclear weapons and indeed has no right to do so, as it is responsible to the peoples of the whole world for peace and progress'. Yuri Andropov's dismissal of unilateralism as a policy for the USSR is even more blunt: 'We are not naive people' he said, within days of becoming Soviet leader. Unilateral disarmament is for export only. Furthermore, any group independent of the Soviet Government, or disagreeing with its official policies, simply is not allowed to function. This does not prevent CND leaders from sending solemn delegations to confer with

Eastern offshoots of the World Peace Council — a notorious Soviet front organisation. These officially-approved 'peace groups' can only faithfully echo their Government's line. CND draws no lessons from the fate of Solidarity and the suppression of genuinely independent peace groups which are denied access to Soviet media and forbidden to demonstrate their views. When one such tiny group did question Soviet policy in 1982, its leaders were clapped into detention by the authorities. Instead CND irrelevantly points to countries in the Western hemisphere where human rights are also infringed, conveniently ignoring the fact that, unlike the Soviet Union, these countries are simply not strong enough to aim for world domination.

11 Why do you think CND can succeed when there are no unilateralists in the Kremlin?

Because CND is only interested in undermining the West's defences. It knows it has no influence on the policies of Soviet leaders who have never had to face an election in their lives. By contrast, citizens of the Western democracies could elect to power those Parties with unilateralist policies. That is why CND and its foreign counterparts find it easier and more worthwhile to campaign only in the West.

But when Soviet Generals can describe nuclear missiles as 'fearsome weapons of war' in the hands of 'imperialism' and 'a positive shield of peace' in the hands of 'socialist states', then even the most trusting CND supporter should question the double-standards employed by the Soviets and their motives for encouraging CND activity.

12 Why is CND opposed to 'Civil Defence'?

Because CND propaganda depends on creating a climate of fear and hysteria via such crude statements as 'everybody will die in a nuclear war'. To admit the fact that the Civil Defence precautions adopted by other countries — including Russia — would save millions of lives, would undermine CND's own scaremongering tactics. CND makes the ludicrous allegation that passive, humanitarian shelter and rescue

provision signals 'preparation to fight a nuclear war'. Tell that to neutral Sweden and Switzerland with their massive Civil Defence precautions! CND's anti-Civil Defence stance would leave Britain totally undefended against non-nuclear chemical, biological or even conventional attack. Thanks to CND this country is even less able to protect its population than it was in 1939.

13 Is CND opposed to nuclear energy?

There is no doubt that many CND supporters make a simple link between opposing nuclear weapons and opposing nuclear energy. It is also no coincidence that Arab oil producers, like Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, have taken a great interest in promoting the growth of the anti-nuclear power lobby. After all, if European countries had nuclear energy they would be less

vulnerable to the whims of oil sheikhs pushing up the price of oil and petrol. Similarly, nuclear energy would free Western Europe from undue dependence on Soviet gas supplies which could be cut off by the Russians in a crisis. CND's anti-nuclear policies would simply increase our already vulnerable dependence on foreign energy supplies.

14 Wouldn't disarmament as proposed by CND create unemployment?

Most certainly. And it would be virtually impossible to find similar skilled work for those currently employed in the manufacture of electronics, ships, planes and vehicles. The contracts for these items will simply go to the defence manufacturers of France, Germany,

Belgium, Sweden etc. CND will have no impact on reducing arms production internationally, but it will have the satisfaction of wiping out the British defence industry and jobs, leaving us to rely on importing foreign-made defence equipment.

15 Is CND political?

CND is totally political. It embraces many organisations on the extreme Left of the political spectrum. It has captured the Labour

Party, with the support of Benn, Scargill, and various anti-NATO, anti-European, and pro-Soviet Leftists. Since the Conservatives are totally opposed to unilateralism this makes CND's activities not only political but Party political.

16 What are local nuclear-free zones, and does CND support them?

'Nuclear-free zones' are a farce, encouraged by CND, which make as much sense as removing locks from your door and declaring your home a 'crime-free zone'. Whether somewhere is crime-free depends not on you but on the burglar. The same goes for international security. Countries which declared themselves neutral in World War II were still bombed and invaded. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were 'nuclear-free

zones'. Sweden is a nuclear-free country but still merits the attention of Soviet nuclear-armed submarines. To be nuclear-free is not to be nuclear-safe. Areas declaring themselves nuclear-free cannot escape the facts of geography. Drifting radiation clouds from a conflict elsewhere will not miraculously part to avoid a 'nuclear-free zone'.

17 What does CND mean by a 'European Nuclear-Free Zone'?

Stripping Western Europe of nuclear defences would allow the Warsaw Pact to overrun Western Europe, given its overwhelming superiority in tanks and planes. The creation of a 'nuclear-free zone', by removing the horror of nuclear war, would lead to Europe becoming 'only' a conventional war battleground — just as in World War II. Furthermore, the Soviet Union

would not get rid of its nuclear missiles under this plan. It would simply move its SS-20s out of Europe, back inside its own borders, from where these missiles could still hit every major European city. Because of Britain's strategic importance we would continue to be targets, but unable to retaliate.

18 But isn't CND just like the people who wanted to appease Hitler in the 1930s?

Absolutely. By stubbornly refusing to learn the terrible lessons of the 1930s the CND is even more criminal. Some prominent unilateralists were actually around in the 1930s, trying to persuade public opinion that Hitler had no aggressive intentions and ought to be 'understood'. Prominent Left-wing scientists, academics, literary figures, churchmen and politicians bleated about the 'provocation' and 'futility' of Britain building up its defences in the face of an aggressive Nazi Germany. But CND still cannot admit this. Instead, it makes the extraordinary claim that 'those who were responsible in the 1930s for the rise of Hitler' were 'Western militarists' — even though

Britain was refusing to rearm at the time. Not only does CND refuse to accept that appeasement was wrong in the 1930s, but it seeks to follow the same disastrous course in the 1980s. The defeatists of the 1930s led Hitler to believe that he could walk over Europe with no opposition — and so World War II began. Today the CND encourages Soviet leaders to believe that we would not defend our freedoms. They risk provoking the same miscalculation among Soviet leaders which Hitler made. Now, as then, anybody who dares speak up for strong defences is called a 'warmonger'. There are tragic similarities between the slogans of the 1930s Appeasers and the slogans of CND today.

19 Is CND international?

CND has contacts in other European countries, where the protest brigade consists of the same assortment of neutralists, defeatists and pacifists. In France, however, the only other independent nuclear power in Europe, not a

squeak is heard about unilateral disarmament from the Socialists and Communists in government. Even the Left in France believe their freedom is worth defending.

20 What has the United Nations said about the arms race and its dangers?

The United Nations, with British Government support, has stressed the need to achieve international disarmament. But good intentions and hopes are not themselves guarantors of security. What ultimately counts is the ability of a nation

to defend itself, not just to rely on UN resolutions which, as we saw during the Falklands dispute, did nothing to remove an aggressor from British territory.

21 Is CND only concerned with nuclear weapons?

At the moment, yes. CND realises it has to concentrate on nuclear weapons as its most emotive propaganda theme. It has no answers to questions like 'How would you respond to a chemical attack on Britain?' or 'Are you pre-

pared to spend sufficient money to build up a credible conventional defence?' In fact CND's next objective — re-emphasised at its 1982 Annual Conference — will be to wreck NATO by a unilateral British withdrawal. A neutral, disarmed Britain would then be ripe for plucking by the Soviet Union.

22 Does CND make statements about human rights?

Only if forced to when Soviet repression of 'peace groups' embarrasses their normally uncritical Soviet stand. Otherwise CND airily states

that there is little difference between Soviet and Western versions of freedom.

23 What are its methods?

Creating a climate of fear and hysteria; smearing all those who don't agree with their brand of appeasement and neutralism as 'enemies of peace'; and staging meetings where informed contrary views are not welcome. Benefiting from the Soviet Government's own enormous propaganda drive in the West, CND tries to make its vocal minority look like a majority through letter-writing campaigns to the press

and public figures; playing up to sympathetic television journalists and others in opinion-forming positions whom Lenin referred to as 'useful idiots'; and transporting activist minorities from all over the country to marches and rallies. CND has regularly exaggerated the numbers attending its events as this gives a sense of importance to the organisation not justified by its actual support.

24 Is CND run by Communists?

Communist Party members have had a dominant influence at the highest level of CND. For six years in succession, CND was chaired by a Communist Party member, and several Communists occupy key positions out of all

proportion to Communist Party support in the country. Aware that their high profile has damaged CND, the Communists are trying to move into less visible positions allowing more 'respectable' Leftists to assume leadership roles.

25 How many members are there?

Only 41,000 according to CND which, considering the numbers claimed for their 'mass' rallies, shows a very low commitment. But numbers alone, as any lemming knows, are not always

right. In the 1934 Peace Ballot, 10 million people endorsed the view that Britain should disarm. How many of them later died in a war they helped start?

26 How is CND organised?

CND policy is made by an annual Conference whose wheeling-dealing style resembles the Leftist intrigues of student union politics. The CND Council is elected, with hard-line Leftists able to control it. The day-to-day running is in

the hands of an élite of full-time paid activists led by the General Secretary, a radical priest who has defended working with Communists in CND.

27 Who pays for it?

CND claims to receive 'no outside money from any fund or organisation East or West', carefully overlooking the fees paid by such highly political bodies as Trade Unions and Constituency Labour Parties whose affiliations it seeks. In fact CND can have no assurance

from where its 'donations' actually originate. The CND magazine 'Sanity' has carried advertising for 'Soviet Weekly'. The same magazine intends to carry advertisements of support from Left-controlled local Councils, paid for out of public funds and local Rates.

28 Has CND had any success already?

CND has had no impact where it matters – on Government policy. It has committed the new hard-Left Labour Party to its support, silencing NATO supporters Callaghan and Healey. Its main success has been media coverage by demohungry reporters. But CND took a battering

when its ill-judged opposition to the Falklands Task Force showed how out of touch it was with majority opinion. Its support also slumped when the crushing of Polish Solidarity showed how little regard the Soviets pay those unable to resist them.

29 Can anyone join?

Yes, if you are sufficiently naive. What's more, you may already have done so, without knowing or wishing it, if you belong to one of those

Trades Unions which affiliate vast numbers of people to organisations like CND without balloting their members first.

30 How can I oppose CND?

By getting in touch with or making a donation to The Coalition for Peace Through Security, the leading anti-CND organisation which is pledged to campaign against the drift towards

neutrality in Britain, and in favour of multi-lateral and balanced arms reductions, Britain's continued membership of NATO, and the maintenance of Britain's nuclear deterrent.

For more information and copies of this leaflet, contact:

The Coalition for Peace Through Security,
Fourth Floor,
27-31 Whitehall,
London SW1A 2BX

Tel: 01-839 3951

Published by The Coalition for Peace Through Security, London SW1A 2BX

Printed by Needham Printers Limited, London EC2A 4BA