CONFERENCE DELEGATES' BRIEFING

MONDAY BRIGHTON 1989

Don't Rearm—Disarm!

BY JEREMY CORBYN MP

UNILATERAL nuclear disarmament is a just and necessary policy. It is right because:

•It lays to rest the ghost of the Cold War.

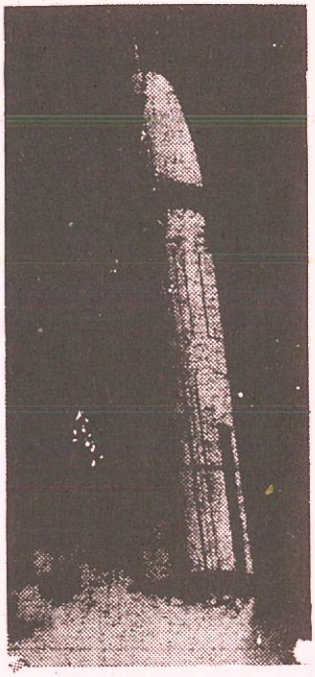
•It gives Labour the political authority to call for peace and cuts in military spending both at home and abroad.

•It rids us of all US nuclear bases - and the dangers they pose to our safety and our democratic rights.

•It allows us to start, at last, the urgent process of arms conversion.

•It is a concrete, unequivocal step towards lasting peace for Britain and the world.

Those who believe that in abandoning unilateralism Labour is merely embarking on a "tactical retreat" should think hard about the implications of the proposed new policy.



Trident: soaring on its way to bring in all those Labour votes from the "middle ground".

First, it will *not* allow us a seat at the negotiating table (no British government has had a seat at any significant negotiating table since Potsdam).

Secondly, it will mean that a Labour government holds not only Polaris but also a number of half-completed Trident submarines. Since Labour will be committed to "negotiating" these away it will first have to complete them.

Thus the immediate consequence of this policy change will not be "multilateral disarmament" but a Labour government *rearming* - at a time when millions in every country are demanding arms cuts and a transfer of resources to basic human needs.

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LABOUR CAMPAIGN FOR LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS

LOBBY & DEMONSTRATION of Party Conference

Monday, 12 noon, outside Conference

•At a time when lesbians & gay men are under increasing attack Labour must have a clear commitment to equal rights.

•Labour should reinstate the policies of full equality for lesbians & gay men democratically adopted in 85, 86 & 88 with overwhelming majorities.

•Labour must ACT on its policy commitments and mount a vigorous campaign to promote lesbian & gay equality at every level of the party.

LABOUR—TAKE THE POWER!

TODAY'S DEBATES

NUCLEAR POWER - NO THANKS

ANY party which hopes to "meet the challenge" of the new green agenda must come to grips with nuclear power - and get rid of it once and for all.

The Policy Review rules this out by prolonging our use of nuclear power to at least 2037 - the date actually named in the NEC debate on this subject.

COMPOSITE 13, calling for all nuclear reactors to be phased out within 15 years, will be moved by ARTHUR SCARGILL. It's a serious challenge to the anti-democratic nuclear industry & to an unstable, undisposable, uneconomic technology which inevitably threatens major disaster.

Many nuclear reactors also produce plutonium for military use, which may be why many goverments subsidise nuclear power so heavily. Even the Tories admit to having problems privatising such a risky business.

Only the backstage influence of the irresponsible nuclear industry keeps Labour from agreeing with rational, informed opinion - and phasing out nuclear power as fast as humanly possible.

The NEC thinks 15 years is "unrealistic" but experts disagree. You should too.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

We are committed to rebuilding our health service and ending the scandal of cardboard box cities, credit sharks, and teacherless children.

But we must *choose*. Otherwise we will end up telling our own supporters: sorry, but new Tridents mean no new schools.

The Euro-elections were a success for Labour, but there were two clear notes of warning. First, we won on a turn-out of less than 40%. Second, *two million* people voted for a party committed to removal of all nuclear bases from this country.

There is a substantial body of opinion that *will not vote* for any party committed to nuclear weapons. We cannot take these people for granted.

Those who seem concerned about Labour appearing "serious" on defence should bear two things in mind.

First, of the six Tridents testfired so far *three* failed to go off, three more landed in the wrong place, and Greenpeace stopped the rest (and saved the US more embarrassment) with a £500 state-of-the-art rubber dinghy.

Second, if Labour is holding nuclear weapons as part of NATO it must mean *being prepared to use them.*

THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE VOTING ON TODAY.

NEC ELECTIONS

Labour needs voices of dissent!

IN the last year, the only check on the *complete domination* of Labour's national structures by Kinnock and Hattersley has been the small, determined left-wing minority on the NEC: Benn, Livingstone, Skinner, and the YS representative.

A classic example: when the NEC considered the Policy Review section on *trade union law*, Benn proposed an amendment to repeal all the Tory trade union laws (current Party and TUC policy!).

All but the 4 left NEC members voted against Benn's amendment. Even a call for a recorded vote was blocked.

On unilateral nuclear disarmament, nuclear power, women's rights, abortion, anti-racism, black people's rights, lesbian and gay rights, Ireland, the left NEC members have spoken out for thousands inside the Party - and millions outside it - whose voices Kinnock and Hattersley would ignore and suppress.

As for LCC favourite sons Blunkett, Cook and Gould, their "independence" from the leadership is non-existent. All 3 voted *against* Conference being able to amend the Policy Review, *against* local choice Martha Osamor's addition to Vauxhall's by-election shortlist, *against* supporting industrial action by rail, docks and Town Hall workers.

On Wednesday, Cook and Blunkett refused to vote for the forming of a Black Socialist Society ensuring success for Hattersley's racist sabotage of Black Sections' struggle. With Gould, they then voted for Kinnock's pro-colonist witch-up.

If the LCC have its way and Benn, Livingstone and Skinner are thrown off the NEC there'll be no dissent left on the Party's highest democratically elected body.

If the Soviet Central Committee can now permit dissent and a plurality of views, should our NEC do less?

SUPPORT:

CONSTITUENCY SECTION:
Abbott, Benn, Livingstone,
Mahon, Skinner, Wise.

TREASURER: Strang.

WOMEN'S SECTION: Pettifor, Marjoram.

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE, CLPs' SECTION: Willsman.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTE: Slater.

TODAY'S DEBATES

ECONOMIC POLICY REVIEW: AARGH!

THE next Labour government will inherit a severe economic crisis, for which this key section of the Policy Review leaves us totally ill-equipped.

"Competing (against whom?) for Prosperity" is a recipe for a re-run of the 70s' disasters. Not identifying how & where we'd get the resources for our social programmes, it threatens wage controls and/or high taxes on ordinary workers.

It embraces market forces & has no time for public ownership, planning, and workers' control, without which the manufacturing base can't be rebuilt.

The trade gap now plaguing the Tories could quickly become Labour's albatross. Bland promises (more money on R&D, better conditions for investment) are no substitute for a comprehensive strategy starting with takeover of banks and financial institutions controlling the flow of capital.

Inflation would once again be controlled at workers' expense. Public sector cash limits are threatened.

Promised improvements in infrastructure are welcome, but who pays and how will new investment be guided? The Review sees no new role for private or public sector workers, except as passive shareholders.

Kinnock, Gould etc. think we can persuade capitalists not to behave as capitalists! Britain's economy *won't* grow fast enough for Labour to keep its promises. With Tory union law intact the consequences are terrifying. *SCRAP THE POLICY REVIEW!*

GUIDE TO VOTING

MORNING SESSION

COMPOSITE 9: SUPPORT. We need an integrated nationalised telecommunications network.

COMPOSITE 10: OPPOSE. Fine words on training, arms conversion worthless in context of Policy Review, which this Comp. endorses. Also: co-ops within a capitalist economy cannot be "central" to socialist strategy.

COMPOSITES 11, 12: SUPPORT. Public ownership is a central plank of socialist strategy. Neither Comp is sufficient in itself, or addresses *real* workers' control, but both point in the right direction.

COMPOSITE 13: SUPPORT. See article.

PRODUCTIVE & COMPETITIVE ECONOMY (Policy Review): OPPOSE. See article.

AFTERNOON SESSION

COMPOSITE 46: OPPOSE. "Total worldwide nuclear disarmament" - some day after the day after tomorrow. Cant.

COMPOSITE 47: SUPPORT. Reduce weapons spending, transfer to social needs. Mover: Bruce Kent. Sensible, essential.

COMPOSITE 48: SUPPORT. The unilateralist motion.

COMPOSITE 49: SUPPORT. Despite reservations on "two state" solution, condemns Israel & supports "just revolt" of Palestinians.

RESOLUTION 501: OPPOSE. Simon Peres! Are they kidding?

COMPOSITE 51: ? (Misprinted in CAC Report).

COMPOSITE 52: SUPPORT. Commitment to impose sanctions on South Africa.

BRITAIN & THE WORLD (Policy Review): OPPOSE. Chauvinist, crypto-militarist drivel.

Yesterday's Debates

NO surprise in the heavy defeat of COMPOSITES 1 & 2 on amending the Policy Review. Speaker after speaker from the CLPs defended Party democracy and attacked Kinnock's scheme for making policy on the hoof.

Only one speaker opposed the COMPOSITE (Birmingham Erdington) and *not one trade union delegate joined the debate* - though it was the union block vote which killed off the Party rank-and-file's last chance to influence the top-down Review.

BILL JORDAN wasn't keen on any debate - he called for a card vote and down came the axe. WHITTY said NEC statements had always been unamendable. The implication is that *only* the NEC is capable of resolving policy conflicts; Conference is an irrelevance.

Sidelight: when TOM SAWYWER pushed NUPE Conference into backing the bomb he insisted that NUPE's policy would *not* be the same as the Policy Review - because NUPE wanted transfer of spending from arms to public services.

The logic of his position: amend the Policy Review accordingly. The reality: vote with Kinnock to block all amendments.

Reference back on PERGAMON was lost on a *third* show of hands. Union delegates who thus assured this dispute would not be raised in Conference should be made to explain this to their members.

Labour Party Black Section Briefing for Delegates
Monday October 2nd, 8.30pm
Royal Albion Hotel, 35 Old Steine
Chair: Narendra Makanji, National Chair LPBS
Speakers: NEC Members, Diane Abbott MP (NEC Candidate), Bernie Grant MP, Bill Morris (invited).

Fringe Reports

BRIEFING FRINGE

AT the *Briefing* fringe meeting an all women platform discussed a new political agenda for the Labour left.

REBECCA FLEMMING (LCLGR) argued that the New Realists had *no* understanding of the reality of ordinary people's lives: what it is like to be beaten up because of your sexuality or harassed by police because you're black.

MARTHA OSAMOR denounced NEC plans for black representation as "the Black and White Minstral Show", reminding us not to be depressed by defeat inside the Conference hall. What happens outside is more important.

MANDY MOORE argued that Conference will see the destruction of the Labour Women's Organisation. Constitutional changes with major ramifications for the whole Party are slipping through (eg Party membership for trade unionists in Northern Ireland).

MANDY MUDD argued that we can only rebuild the Labour left by linking up with struggles outside the Party.

Pergamon striker ANNA WAGSTAFF asked for support from the whole movement; and ALICE MAHON focused on the horrors of being an MP in the anti-working class, anti-woman atmosphere of the House of Commons.

Terry Conway, Islington N. CLP

LABOUR'S LAST LIAISON?

FINE speeches; little analysis of what needs to be done.

LIVINGSTONE encouraged people to join the "dynamic strands" in LLL, stressing LLL is *not* "vague or amorphous" and would help make the Party a socialist Party.

ANNI MARJORAM stressed that constitutional changes were needed to support women's organisation so that "millions of women are given the confidence to vote Labour."

Few speakers mentioned the relationship of the class struggle on the Labour Party: as if the left will win if it spends long enough arguing for constitutional change.

It was left to MARTHA OSAMOR to stress that the Policy Reviews might not help but would not stop the working class in their battles.

AUDREY WISE attacked the LCC for their lack of support for socialist women being on the NEC.

Cllr Steve French, Lambeth

CAMPAIGN GROUP RALLY (Saturday)

IN a witty, telling polemic KEN LIVINGSTONE warned an audience of 150 against voting for "nice people" for the NEC; pointing out that Blunkett, Cook and Gould sold out on Black Sections and Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Anna Wagstaff, one of 23 Pergamon workers sacked by Maxwell, spoke of the support their dispute had received from Britain and internationally (especially France and Polish *Solidarnosc*).

DIANE ABBOTT, after denouncing NEC proposals on Black Sections, said that the leadership was moving towards us on issues of race and gender, even if only for "image" reasons.

The audience seemed unconvinced - as they did when AUDREY WISE argued that the Policy Review was positive on the environment.

In the final contribution TONY BENN argued that neither electoral pacts, PR, nor Jacques Delors will bring socialism; there is no alternative to fighting for our ideas.

Terry Conway, Islington N. CLP

LEADER'S PARTY OR LABOUR PARTY?

AT a well attended rally CLPD gave a useful briefing for delegates on Conference issues.

LIVINGSTONE attacked COOK and BLUNKETT for leading the assault on Conference's right to amend the Policy Review.

BENN warned against the *Americanisation* of the Labour Party. PETE WILLSMAN explained that they want to do it through a GMB resolution (Friday) to neutralise Conference and remove MPs from the CLP Section of the NEC.

Bryn Griffiths, Tottenham CLP



PERGAMON

Sunday's Conference failed (narrowly) to support reference back of CAC, but the fight to defeat Maxwell must go on. Earlier this week the sacked 23 were offered a pittance in pay-off money: unanimously rejected by the Chapel, but showing the pressure is telling. Keep up the support!

LABOUR RIFTS? (anag.)

THE appearance of a new Conference Bulletin had delegates wondering "why another bulletin?". A quick flick through reveals why, even if the authors aren't keen to tell us who they are: even the LCC wouldn't put GWYNNETH DUNWOODY on its NEC slate.

Further evidence is given by the advertisement for "Camden 1990", the public caucus ("party within a party"?) of the rump right on Camden Council who favour even greater capitulation to the Tories than the current leadership.

The statements from NEC and NCC candidates printed under the heading "Women First" play on the fact that SANDRA WASHBROOK is the only non-MP standing for the NEC; but fail to admit she & MAUREEN ROONEY are known as rabid right wingers.

Rounded off with an advertisement for the removal of all nuclear bases by the year 2000 (!), various witch-hunting snippets and glorification of the Policy Review, it is clearly the bulletin of the far right. The only thing missing is their nomination of DAVID OWEN for PARTY LEADER.

Pete Firmin, Brent East CLP

BILL JORDAN: *NOT-SO-HIDDEN AGENDA*

AEU President Jordan says he won't give up his block vote until the Party has carried through his idea of reforms: an end to the possibility of annual leadership elections (he doesn't like their "potential for instability"), TUC and Party Congresses held only in alternate years, and ending the unseemly spectacle of "mobs around the rostrum when you are debating law and order."

HE WHO PAYS THE PIPER...

SKY TV, British Nuclear Fuels, British Airways, Falklands Islands government, Nirex, Merck, Kingfisher (ie, Woolies), the Water "businesses", BSB (Maxwell) - all are paying for stands at in the Conference Centre and some (Sky, Merck, BSB) have full page ads in the Conference Guide.

Does it matter? YES!

Labour criticises Tory broadcasting plans because of the power they give to commercial sponsors. *Money buys influence.*

Drug multinational Merck or Murdoch-owned Sky don't fork out at Party Conference as an act of charity. They do so because they believe (with good reason) it'll help them influence a future Labour government.

Besides, if money can be tainted, then Rupert Murdoch's lucre qualifies. Labour shouldn't touch it.

WOMEN FOR SOCIALISM

WOMEN FOR SOCIALISM is a broad, non-sectarian, autonomous women's organisation affiliated to the SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

WOMEN FOR SOCIALISM aims to:

FIGHT for a socialist-feminist future - free from exploitation at work, from racism, and from male power. We want a future where we can have the right to work, to health, to education, to a home, to child-care, where lesbian mothers are not denied custody of their children, and where all women have control over their own bodies.

DEVELOP an active anti-racist, anti-imperialist feminism that is inseparable from the struggle for socialism.

CONTRIBUTE to practical and supportive alliances amongst women, including between women inside and outside the labour movement.

BUILD support for socialist-feminist ideas and actions especially in the labour movement (the trade unions and the Labour Party).

Women for Socialism is organising many activities and helping to provide space for socialist-feminists to discuss their ideas on a wide range of issues. All members receive the W4S Newsletter free.

If you would like more information about WOMEN FOR SOCIALISM or a membership form please write to: *W4S, c/o 7c Cumberland Park, London W3 6SY.*

ON Tuesday afternoon, Conference debates women's representation in the Party.

Unfortunately the question of giving real power to Labour Women has reduced to the issue of *"quotas"*.

W4S isn't opposed to quotas as such but opposes "quotas" without power. We're angry at how they are counterposed to Labour Women electing the 5 NEC Women's places.

COME to our FRINGE MEETING on Monday evening, 7.30, Brighthelm Centre, North Rd, after which we will be getting together and socialising.

We will also briefly discuss the way forward after the Socialist Movement meeting (Thursday 6pm, Brighthelm Centre).

Delegates who want to make contact with us should find Sarah Roelofs on the press desk at the front of Conference.

[illegible] WITCH HUNT?

LAST Wednesday's NEC decided, to initiate action against the Local Government Committee in Lambeth, South London.

The LGC committed the "crime" of refusing positively to endorse 6 sitting Councillors for selection for next year's Council elections on the grounds of competence.

The NEC has sent Joyce Gould off to sort out the LGC. If they don't reach agreement, Joyce has the NEC's permission to suspend the LGC forthwith.

The NEC seem to have failed to notice that all retiring Councillors *automatically* go onto the panel of candidates and do not need to be endorsed by the LGC.

These Councillors voluntarily submitted themselves to the vetting process and are on the panel regardless of the fact that the LGC did not endorse them.

Suspensions have previously been for long periods and often led to witch-hunts and expulsions of Party members. Is this latest NEC action a prelude to this in Lambeth - as if local government did not already have enough problems with the Tories?

Could all this have anything to do with a declared aim of leading Party figures to "sort out Lambeth" after the Vauxhall selection fiasco?



COPS ATTACK BROADWATER FARM

ON Friday 400 police wielding axes and sledgehammers swamped Tottenham's Broadwater Farm Estate in a sham "drugs" raid staged for the benefit of the media.

31 arrests were made - but only a small amount of cannabis found. Self-styled "community leader" DOLLY KIFFIN had to be escorted from the Estate under police protection - angry residents accused her of being an *informer*.

The police attack came only days after the announcement that DET. SUPERINTENDENT MELVIN will face disciplinary charges over his brutal conduct of PC Blakelock's murder inquiry.

The *Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign* says: "There is no doubt that the police have come here for one purpose: to terrorise and criminalise the community."

PUTTING LABOUR OUT OF WORK

The Alternative Welcome to Brighton

BRIGHTON Council Leader STEVE BASSAM "is proud of Labour's local achievements" (*Conference Guide*).

Unfortunately, the Campaign for a Cleaner Greener Brighton has been somewhat marred by the loss of one third of the Refuse Collection Workforce, resulting from the tendering process. The "dented shield" now resembles a crumpled dustbin lid.

And on the crucial issue of Poll Tax - yes, in column 6, Steve informs us that it "...will make most Brighton people poorer." Well, Steve, Brighton people are well aware of this - what they need is a *lead* in fighting the Tax.

Alas, the rules of New Realism dictate that even a few words of opposition to the Tax might worry our rulers.

Welcome to "socialism-by-the-sea".

Brighton Labour Briefing

FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND!

JEREMY CORBYN is under attack for appearing with GERRY ADAMS at the *Free Speech on Ireland* rally tonight (7.30, Corn Exchange).

KENNETH BAKER has called for Corbyn to be expelled from the Labour Party. Rumours are that *Kinnock's office* sees this as yet another Tory idea that Labour should embrace.

As we near the first anniversary of the Sinn Fein media ban, socialists must take this opportunity to hear the arguments for British withdrawal and take a stand for free speech in Ireland and the Labour Party.

BRIEFING in BRIGHTON

BRIEFING is *your* bulletin - use it!

We want news and views from delegates. Keep your articles short and sharp - and if possible funny!

We have an office at 32 Waterloo Street which will be open from 11am every day. Please get your articles to us by 6pm at the latest.

To help organise a left intervention on the Conference floor and outside it we are organising meetings at 2pm every day at the back of Hewison Hall (1st floor, conference centre) for about 20 minutes.

These are open to anyone interested. They will give us a chance to assess what is going on, and plan out what is happening over the next 24 hours!
