

briefing



Date: 18th November 2010

No.78

Subject: **Summary of the key points from the NFLA 30th anniversary Steering Committee Meeting, Manchester Town Hall, 4th November 2010**

1. **Opening speech from the Mayor of Nagasaki, Tomihisa Taue**

As part of the NFLA's 30th anniversary, the Mayor of Nagasaki had asked to attend the meeting and was the NFLA's guest of honour over the 4th and 5th November. Mayor Taue is the Chair of the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NCJNFLA) and Vice President of Mayors for Peace. Mayor Taue said how honoured he was to share in the NFLA's 30th anniversary and open the meeting. The NCJNFLA campaigns in Japan on the nuclear weapons issue solely and has 268 member authorities. Mayor Taue welcomed the co-operation with the NFLA and hoped this would continue for many years to come.

Members thanked the Mayor of Nagasaki for attending and agreed to co-operate further with Nagasaki and the NCJNFLA, including hosting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki exhibition across the UK and Ireland. Other events being held over the 4th and 5th November included the launch of this exhibition in Manchester, the unveiling of civic plaques, the launch of the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail, the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board meeting and the NFLA's 30th anniversary civic reception.

2. **National NFLA Forum meetings**

The NFLA Secretary reported on progress with all four NFLA national Forums.

NFLA English Forum – the Forum held its autumn seminar in Manchester on the 17th September on nuclear emergency planning issues. The seminar was very useful and productive and was discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

NFLA All Ireland Forum – the Forum held its autumn seminar in Swords, Fingal on the 22nd October considering radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea and the NFLA / KIMO's report to the OSPAR Commission.

NFLA Scotland Forum – the Forum will be holding a business meeting in Perth and Kinross on the 19th November, where it will be specifically discussing the 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections and nuclear policy issues.

NFLA Welsh Forum – the Forum will be holding its autumn seminar on the economics of nuclear and renewable energy in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion on the 25th November. Confirmed speakers include Dr Paul Dorfman, Tim Richards, Dylan Morgan and Stephen Murphy.

Agreed: Members were encouraged to attend the appropriate meeting for them.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

3. **NFLA 30th anniversary commemorations**

The NFLA Secretary explained that a number of events had been organised on the 4th and 5th November to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the NFLA. The evenings' special civic reception would include speeches from the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the NFLA Chair, the Mayor of Nagasaki, the Chair of Nagasaki Council (and an A-bomb survivor), Senator Mark Dearey and Tony Lloyd MP. Along with NFLA Steering Committee members, the civic reception would also include members of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Board, who were meeting on the 5th November. These included the cities of Nagasaki, Manchester, Glasgow, Florence, Hanover, Ypres, Malakoff, Halabja, Granollers and Frogn.

Agreed: Members thanked the NFLA Secretariat and Manchester City Council for all the dedicated hard work that had taken place for a successful commemorative series of events. Members were encouraged to consider hosting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition.

4. **NFLA Finance and Development**

The NFLA Secretary presented an interim report which outlined that the NFLA Secretariat's administration arrangements required urgent review as the contract for the existing temporary administration assistant had to be terminated at the end of November, due to changes in Manchester City Council's recruitment process and the winding-down of its Temps Service. The report recommended the Secretariat seek to recruit student interns / placements from February 2011 onwards. It also outlined that, with the severe financial economies now placed on all local authorities over the next four years, priority would have to be given to membership retention. A more detailed report would be developed for the NFLA AGM for approval.

Agreed: To approve and note the report.

5. **New Nuclear Build**

The NFLA Secretary provided a detailed report outlining the facilitative actions by the UK Government to approve a programme of new nuclear power stations in England and Wales. These included the formal 'justification' of new nuclear reactors by the Energy Minister and a re-consultation on the National Policy Statement on Nuclear Power Generation. The report outlined involvement of the NFLA in a stakeholder dialogue with the UK Government's Department of Energy and Climate Change and special meetings with other Environmental NGOs.

Agreed: To note with concern developments with new nuclear build and continue to highlight key issues around waste, health, safety and financial costs.

6. **Radioactive Waste Management Policy**

The NFLA Secretary provided a detailed report outlining developments with radioactive waste management policy. The Committee was asked to endorse an official NFLA response to the Environment Agency's consultation on the waste issues around new nuclear reactors. It was agreed to submit consultation responses to the NDA's Draft Strategy and the Scottish Government's additional consultation on its draft high activity radioactive waste policy. There was also agreement to continue to formally liaise with CoRWM, NuLEAF and SCCORS.

Agreed: To note the report and support the NFLA's official submissions to the Environment Agency, NDA and the Scottish Government.

7. **Radiation Safety Standards**

The NFLA Secretary provided an update giving an overview of the recent NFLA seminar (for the Irish Forum) on radiation safety. Letters to the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland and the Irish Government were approved. The NFLA's response to the Department of Energy

and Climate Change's (DECC) consultation on radiation exemptions under the Environmental Permitting Regulations was also endorsed. Discussion also took place over the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) and the delay in its report responding to the German Government's KIKK report on childhood cancers around nuclear sites.

Agreed: To endorse continued work in this area and write to DECC and the Department of Health over concerns with the future work of COMARE.

8. ***Mayors for Peace***

The NFLA Secretary provided a report on the expansion of the Mayors for Peace organisation to over 4300 members worldwide. It noted that the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board was meeting in Manchester on the 5th November to discuss its strategy for 2011. Manchester and Glasgow would attend this meeting and other NFLA members were planning to observe it.

Agreed: To support further co-operation between NFLA and Mayors for Peace and encourage NFLA members to join Mayors for Peace.

9. ***Nuclear weapons and Trident replacement***

The NFLA Secretary provided a report with progress in the debate over nuclear weapons proliferation and the upgrade of the UK's Trident nuclear weapons programme. The report noted a recent decision to co-operate on developing new nuclear warheads between the UK and France, which was deplored by the Committee as going against the spirit of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The report noted co-operation with Parliamentarians aiming to pass resolutions advocating a nuclear weapons convention in Parliamentary assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The Committee agreed to encourage Councils to pass resolutions opposing Trident replacement based on a model provided by Shetland Islands Council. Concern over recent emergency incidents at the Aldermaston nuclear weapons facility was also raised.

Agreed: To note the report and endorse the resolutions and letters mentioned within the report.

10. ***Nuclear emergency planning arrangements***

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of the presentations from the recent NFLA England seminar on nuclear emergency planning. The Secretary also outlined the UK Government's recent National Security Strategy. Concerns over recent emergency incidents in the nuclear sector at Aldermaston, Faslane and off the coast of Skye were reported.

Agreed: The NFLA Secretariat develops a questionnaire on various aspects of nuclear emergency planning readiness of local authority emergency planning units.

11. ***Submarine Dismantling Project***

The NFLA Secretary provided a brief update of progress with this Ministry of Defence project. Stakeholder events were expected early in 2011.

Agreed: NFLA members should be encouraged to attend the stakeholder events in 2011.

12. ***NFLA AGM***

Members agreed that the NFLA AGM would be held in Dundee on the 28th January 2011. Bailie Regan was thanked for agreeing to host the meeting.

NFLA Secretariat
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