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Cardiff meetings reaffirms strategy

On the 3rd and 4th December a good number of NFLA councillors and officers from around the UK and Ireland agreed to its strategy for 2010.

The AGM re-elected Baillie George Regan as NFLA Chair for 2010 and agreed a detailed Service Plan for 2010.

The Steering Committee also agreed that it was essential to develop a detailed response to the Government's National Nuclear Policy Statement and the 'Justification' of new nuclear power stations.

The meeting agreed to liaise closely with other nuclear groups opposed to new build and

replacement of Trident. The meeting also agreed to contact all the governments in the UK and Ireland over concerns around low level radiation from reactors or in the Irish Sea. It also opposed the developments of an enriched uranium facility at the Aldermaston weapons facility.

National NPS and Justification Consultation – NFLA briefing

The NFLA Secretariat has produced a detailed summary to help local authorities and concerned communities respond to the Government's crucial consultations on nuclear power and a new build programme.

NFLA 'New Nuclear Monitor' edition 17 covers the National Nuclear Policy

Statement; while edition 18 covers the draft Government decision that new nuclear reactors can be 'justified' to be built.

The briefings, prepared by NFLA Policy Advisor Pete Roche, provide background on issues around nuclear waste, public health, nuclear safety and costs.

The NFLA will respond to the Parliamentary Energy Committee inquiry and produce a detailed response that will be made available to its members.

The two briefings can be downloaded from the NFLA website or by contacting the NFLA Secretariat.



Cardiff Peace Sculpture in the City Hall
- Hiroshima reminder

**NFLA press releases,
December 2009:
On the NFLA website.**

- 7th December – NFLA continuing to campaign against new nuclear build and nuclear weapons proliferation

The official report 'Scotland Without Nuclear Weapons' can be downloaded from:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/288148/0088043.pdf>

Scottish Government's response to it:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1124/0090114.pdf>



Nuclear submarine on patrol

Sellafield site fined for safety breach

The NFLA Steering Committee noted its 'deep dismay' over the recent £75,000 fine against the Sellafield site operator for a safety breach affecting a number of contracted staff.

On 4th December Sellafield was found to be in breach of Section

3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act for 2 employees receiving doses of radiation.

The 2 workers had been drilling a section of concrete floor in the Plutonium section of the Product and Finishing Store. While drilling they were contaminated by airborne radiation.

The judgement noted significant health, safety and training lapses. This is the third fine Sellafield has had in the past 5 years. In 2004 it was fined £60k over the safety of a marine contractor and in 2006 it was fined £500k for a leakage of nuclear fuel at its Thorp plant.

NFLA undertakes study of English Councils & nuclear convoys

The NFLA Secretariat has written to 75 English Councils with a questionnaire on their level of emergency planning in the event of an incident involving a nuclear weapons convoy.

The Councils are all mentioned as possible areas where a MOD weapons convoy from

the Aldermaston site may travel through.

In Scotland, the 'Working Group on Scotland Without Nuclear Weapons' reported to the Scottish Government on such convoys.

Amongst its findings it suggested Scottish Council Emergency

Planning Units 'do not appear to be involved in preparing for incidents involving nuclear warhead convoys on Scotland's roads'.

The NFLA is asking the same question of English Councils and will put its findings to the UK Government in the new year.

Rethinking Trident – public campaign

The NFLA AGM in Cardiff was informed that CND and the think-tank 'Compass' had set up a 'Rethinking Trident' campaign which had been signed by over 100 major political,

military, religious and other figures. The campaign seeks to halt Trident replacement and divert resources to more 'socially useful areas'.

The NFLA will seek to support this campaign at its upcoming NFLA Scotland and NFLA England seminars on Trident replacement and nuclear transportation issues.



Cardiff Peace Plaque

Letters to the press in December:

All are on the NFLA website.

- Councils thinking local and acting global
- Denmark leads the way on renewables – why doesn't the UK follow?
- Sellafield fine shows the folly of new nuclear build
- Scotland doesn't need nuclear- it can be a leader in renewables

On behalf of the NFLA Secretariat, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliann Faoi Mhaise!



Messenger of Peace statue, Manchester Peace Gardens

Mayors for Peace encourage Parliamentary endorsement

The NFLA is co-operating with the Mayors for Peace and the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) asking our elected representatives to endorse calls for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Letters have initially been sent to all MSPs in the Scottish Parliament to 'Endorse calls for a Nuclear Weapons Convention' at the 2010 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Conference.

Similar letters are being sent to UK MPs, Irish TDs and Senators,

Welsh AMs and Northern Ireland MLAs.

The endorsements will be added to the large number of Mayors and councillors who have signed the Mayors for Peace 'Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol' asking for a Convention and nuclear weapons abolition by 2020.

NFLA Forums plan events for the New Year

Preparations have begun for NFLA Forums to organise a number of important nuclear seminars across the UK and Ireland in early 2010.

NFLA Wales are co-operating with the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance to organise a high profile joint

meeting in February in Cardiff on the implications of new nuclear build at Hinkley Point, Oldbury and Wylfa on Wales.

NFLA Scotland and NFLA Ireland are concentrating on Trident and nuclear weapons transportation at seminars in February

2010.

And NFLA Ireland is looking to hold a meeting in Northern Ireland in March 2010 on the impacts of nuclear new build on Ireland.

Further details on dates and locations will be advertised in the January newsletter.

Forthcoming meetings

NFLA SC meetings for 2010 (all likely to be held in the Town Hall, Manchester) –

- **29th January**
- **26th March**
- **25th June**
- **24th September**

- **4th and 5th November – NFLA SC and AGM and the NFLA 30th anniversary commemorative events. Will be held in the Town Hall, Manchester.**

2010 NFLA National Forum business meetings and seminars will be starting in February 2010 – further details in the January newsletter.