

CAATnews

Dick hands on the baton

Sir Dick Evans steps down as Chairman of BAE Systems



Do I have to give
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**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE**

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Outside the BAE AGM in 2001 Photo: Richie Andrew



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Thank you also to our dedicated team of CAAT News staffers

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CAAT was set up in 1974 and is a broad coalition of groups and individuals working for the reduction and ultimate abolition of the international arms trade, together with progressive demilitarisation within arms-producing countries.

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UK gives green light for Indonesian war crimes

The Government says “our position on human rights is clear and unequivocal”, and that it “does not want to see British-built military equipment contribute to human rights abuses or fuel conflict overseas”. Our investigations can now expose how vacuous such statements are.

Prior to August 2002, the Indonesian Government agreed not to use UK-supplied equipment in the Indonesian province of Aceh, and to inform the UK in advance if it planned to do so. These conditions were set down because of the war in Aceh, and the appalling human rights situation there, largely brought about by Indonesian Army (TNI) violence.

We recently discovered that after the Indonesians in August 2002 told the FCO they would use UK-made APCs in Aceh for *casualty removal*, the FCO used this opportunity to agree to TNI using *any* UK equipment without *any advance notification*. Jack Straw wrote to the Quadripartite Committee to tell them about the vehicles for casualty removal but not the changed conditions (discovered after questioning by Jeremy Corbyn in Parliament 10 months later).

The context is crucial. The level of violence in Aceh in 2002 had increased to a horrific level from that seen in 2000 and 2001. In the FCO’s own words (Annual Human Rights Report 2002 – covering July 2001 to July 2002) it says (page 32) “In Aceh there was a rise in the level of violence following the expiry of the Humanitarian Pause in January 2001... the majority of casualties have been civilians”. Reporting from TAPOL corroborates the conclusion. For example, in April/May 2002 TAPOL reported that the daily death toll in 2001 was 10 per day, mostly non-combatants, calling 2001 “a very bleak year”. In September 2002 TAPOL reported that in 2002 the death toll, mostly civilians, was around 15 a day. In December TAPOL said that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) had increased 50% in 2002 from 2001, strongly suggesting the level of violence increased in 2002.

To give you an idea what life in Aceh is like under TNI, the latest Human Rights Watch Report *Aceh Under Martial Law* on

page 24 gives a typical (not sexed-up) example: “He was a small child, a boy... he went to the market to buy fish for his mother. The TNI stopped him, checking him because he was buying fish. A soldier said to him ‘Where did you get this fish from?’ The boy replied, ‘No, I am going to give it to my mother. I want to go home.’ The TNI were accusing him and threatening him. He was threatened with a gun. The soldier said, ‘You surely want to give this fish to GAM [the separatists].’ After that the boy was really frightened. His answers were not so clear, he was really panicked. So the soldiers took him and threw him into the military truck. The seven soldiers, the others stayed in the market. The seven soldiers were wearing



Jack Straw: the priority is arms sales, not human rights

TNI camouflage uniforms... After that his body turned up on the side of the road. I saw the body. There was a bullet wound in his forehead. Just one. The back of his head was all destroyed, and his body was full of red marks, red torture marks.”

The FCO decision to relax the conditions on the use of UK equipment in Aceh in August 2002, while human rights abuses were rampant and escalating gave a green light for war crimes to TNI. At the same time during 2002 the Government tripled the number of licences issued for arms to Indonesia (182 from 54 in 2001) as well as increasing the value by twenty-fold (£41 million from £2 million in 2001).

The TNI got the message! Subsequently, Scorpion tanks, Hawk aircraft and Saracen armoured personnel carriers joined the war in Aceh in 2003. In January this year the Guardian reported that “local television has shown heavy machine guns mounted on Scorpions firing at alleged separatist positions on several occasions since they were deployed

to the restive north Sumatran province in June.”

The FCO say none of this matters because they have assurances from TNI that the weapons will not be used “offensively” or “in breach of human rights”. Human Rights Watch says “known human rights abusers have played significant roles in the preparation and conduct of the war in Aceh”. Sjaffie Sjamsoeddin, described by UN investigator James Dunn as “implicated as one of the key military officers responsible for the development of the TNI strategy that led to serious crimes against humanity in East Timor, “commanded a unit that used Scorpions against protesters in 1998. Last May he said he had no problem in breaching the assurances “For us, we have already paid so there is no problem. We use fighters [Hawks] to defend our sovereignty”. The FCO’s assurances come from an institution that committed crime against humanity just five years ago, and has deployed some of those criminals to Aceh. One commander has used UK equipment to abuse human rights previously.

CAAT and TAPOL recently challenged the Government to explain its actions. The explanation given for relaxing the assurances is to “bring practice in line” with the EU criteria. It was unnecessary – operative paragraph 2 of the criteria explicitly state member states can have more restrictive national policies if they want to.

At the Quadripartite Committee recently Straw defended arms to Indonesia by saying “the security forces have a legitimate right to adequate protection whilst carrying out their duties, as long as they operate in accordance with international human rights standards and humanitarian law.” As Human Rights Watch have documented for the past few years, that is precisely the opposite of what TNI do in Aceh. Straw also said “we are not turning a blind eye to anything”. But conveniently TNI have closed Aceh to the world, meaning their operations can be conducted without oversight, guaranteeing the FCO can maintain its “see no evil, hear no evil” line. In another sense the Government is not turning a blind eye. It knows full well what it is doing – as the evidence shows, the FCO’s “position on human rights is clear and unequivocal”. ■

Nicholas Gilby & Richie Andrew

aldermaston2004

STOP THE NEXT GENERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

London-Aldermaston march 9-12 April 2004

In 1958 thousands of people marched to Aldermaston because of the fear of a nuclear war. That fear is still here. In 2004 we march to stop the next generation of nuclear weapons from being built at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston

For more information or to register for the march, please visit the website, or contact us at the address below. **NOTE:** only registered marchers will be guaranteed food and accommodation.

We urgently need financial donations to support this event. If you can help, cheques should be made payable to "Aldermaston2004" and sent to this address:



aldermaston2004
c/o AWPC, 18 Greenway Rd
BRISTOL BS6 6SG
07880 941 849
email info@aldermaston2004.net



<http://www.aldermaston2004.net>

a2004 organising collective: Aldermaston Women's Peace Campaign, CND, Slough4Peace.

UK is eager to help arm his forces and is pressing the EU to end its embargo. Amnesty continues to receive reports of torture in his jails. (*FT*, 11 Feb 2004)

An accolade for BAE

A study by Oxford Economic Forecasting highlights the value of BAE to the UK economy. BAE commissioned this independent report, for which it paid £80,000. OEF insists on its independence, stating that it talked "not just to BAE but to their suppliers, government and the National Audit Office" – but not, of course, to CAAT. (*Guardian, Telegraph*, 11 Feb 2004)

But which way is it going?

BAE, not for the first time, has been sending out contradictory signals. On the one hand it claims that its shareholders would be happy to see it walk away from the UK market altogether, which yields poor returns and sometimes actual losses, so that it can concentrate on becoming a global company (*Telegraph*, 24 Feb 2004). On the other hand it denies having made any great effort to link up with big US companies (which showed no enthusiasm anyway) and will now be focussing on sorting out its UK problems (*Independent*, 27 Feb 2004). In this connection, the retirement of Sir Robert Walmsley, head of procurement at the MOD, is of some interest. Sir Robert has not been the company's favourite person, as he has insisted on opening up UK defence orders to competition. In a few months he will be joining the board of one of BAE's chief competitors, General Dynamics, fourth biggest US arms company and a substantial player in the UK. (*Observer*, 22 Feb 2004)

And will Alvis slip from its grasp?

After snubbing BAE following merger talks last year and then recruiting an influential MoD insider, General Dynamics has delivered a further blow to BAE by launching a bid for Alvis, the UK tank and armoured vehicle producer. The Alvis board is recommending the bid but a counter bid from BAE is anticipated. BAE already owns 29% of Alvis – a stake acquired partly to try and keep General Dynamics out. (*FT*, 12 Mar 2004)

Peace in South Asia – and arms sales?

The prospects for peaceful relations between India and Pakistan are now so good that an Indian cricket team is about to tour Pakistan for the first time since 1989. Good news for everyone – except perhaps the UK arms industry. The Indian Government's £800m order for BAE Hawks has still not been signed. (Apparently, it now has to be renegotiated due to an "accounting oversight" which could increase the cost "by several million pounds per aircraft." *Times Online*, 11 Mar 2004). Lord Bach, the minister for arms procurement visited the recent arms fair in Delhi. Jack Straw did not, but he did say that the interests of companies such as Rolls Royce and BAE Systems were among the reasons why "India is so

important to Britain". See article opposite for latest developments (*Private Eye*, 18 Feb 2004).

Our Russian partners

On the subject of Hawks, BAE is planning to collaborate with the Russian arms company Irkut on the development of a successor to those ageing planes. The Irkut company describes Mike Turner, chief executive of BAE, as "a very wise man". BAE makes it clear that it hopes to break into the Russian arms market by establishing links with the "indigenous industry". (*Daily Telegraph*, 1/3 Mar 2004)

... and our Libyan ones

There is also good news from Libya. Now that Gadaffi has been rehabilitated the

Government clinches India Hawk deal for BAE Systems



Stop press!

As CAAT News was about to go to press several news agencies reported that after nearly seven years of trying BAE Systems has finally secured a contract to supply 66 Hawk jets to India. Since 2001 a succession of cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister, have been dispatched to India to lobby on behalf of BAES, turning the Embassy

into a virtual timeshare apartment block for the arms industry. An Indian Government statement said: "A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the government of India and the government of the United Kingdom was concluded for the effective and uninterrupted implementation of the contracts regarding acquisition of 66 Advanced

Jet Trainers from British Aerospace Systems and other equipment manufacturers of United Kingdom." The deal is valued at \$1.63 billion. In recent weeks there had been speculation that the deal was in some jeopardy because of problems over the cost of the contract. However AFP reported Indian Defence Ministry officials as saying "those details have been ironed out". The problem was put down to "an oversight" by Hindustan Aeronautics who had failed to account for the cost to the government of tooling its factory for Hawk Assembly. The Hawk has been purchased primarily as a training aircraft but they can be configured for a combat role. The British ambassador to India, High Commissioner Michael Arthur also announced that the UK would train the first 75 Indian pilots for the Hawks. India saw a requirement for a training jet as its pilots were graduating to MiG 21s with no experience of fast jets, this led to a series of air accidents and the aircraft being dubbed "flying coffins". ■

(AFP, 19 March 2004)



BAE Systems

A scent of corruption

The OECD (i.e. the principal rich countries) has a convention requiring its members to criminalise the bribery of foreigners. The US has long maintained strict anti-corruption laws – but the UK until recently had no such legislation. Anti-bribery clauses were inserted into the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002, but that act, having been damned by a committee of privy councillors, may now lapse, and the anti-bribery clauses with it. In any case there have been no prosecutions, and the Foreign Office has indicated that it would wink at small payments made in accordance with local custom (*FT*, 19/25 Feb 2004). However, the payments rumoured to have secured the massive arms sales to Saudi Arabia in the 1980's

and 1990's were not small. So there is special interest in the *Guardian's* report (8 Mar 2004) alleging that in 1997 BAE moved "filing cabinets full of evidence of corrupt payments to foreign politicians to a vault in Switzerland", using a subsidiary registered in the Virgin Islands. Invited to institute an inquiry, the DTI said that it could not comment "as we do not confirm or deny the start or existence of investigations". (*Guardian*, 9 Mar 2004)

The cost of the new imperialism

The UK is preparing to build two massive new aircraft carriers, the main contract being shared between BAE Systems and the French (or rather Anglo-French) company Thales. The cost, originally said to be £2.9bn, is likely to rise to £4bn

(*Times*, 25 Feb, 10 Mar 2004); and when the US strike planes to be carried on the ships are added in, it will be much more than that. In addition, air tanker planes are to be purchased by means of a PFI contract that will cost us £13bn spread over 27 years – £0.5bn a year for a generation. Altogether we shall be spending well over £20bn on equipment that cannot be said to be related to "defence" in any proper sense of the term. The projects make sense only if the government envisages a long series of military adventures in distant places.

Clean Investment Campaign 2004

New shareholding figures out on 7th April 2004

As CAAT News heads for the printers, we are finalising the shareholding figures and background information for this year's Clean Investment Campaign launch.

There is plenty of good news:

- UNISON now has an ethically managed staff pension fund that excludes major arms and tobacco companies as well as a number of other companies felt by the trustees not to fit into their policy on sustainability.
- The Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS) is organising a survey of all customers to find out their views on Socially Responsible Investment. People can register at www.cis.co.uk where they can also let the CIS know of any issues that are of particular concern to them prior to the survey.
- Hope Valley Peace Group has been very active in questioning Derbyshire

County Council over their investments.

Some lively correspondence in a local paper, fuelled by a hostile Labour MP, has led to an invitation to readers to vote on the motion "Should councils such as Derbyshire have a policy of not investing in the arms trade?" As of 15th March, the vote stood at 97% for 'Yes'!

There remains, however, less encouraging news:

- Many charities and organisations committed to public welfare and health continue to hold shares in arms companies that sell weapons across the world. These include Cancer Research UK, the Nurses' Pension Fund and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.
- Many Local Authorities appear to believe, or are at least willing to state,



that they have an ethical investment policy even though they do not restrict, to any extent, their holdings in arms companies. This is part of a wider trend amongst institutional investors that hold

arms company shareholdings, a trend that CAAT sees as a public relations ploy (see previous *CAAT News*, page 7, 'Engagement').

The Clean Investment Campaign pack and new shareholding figures will be available on the CAAT website from Wednesday 7th April (www.caat.org.uk). If you do not have access to the web, please call the office and ask for a pack. There is also a new 'Update' newsletter specifically aimed at local Clean Investment campaigners – if you are interested in this and haven't already received a copy, please ask. ■

Quaker Peace and Social Witness – Peaceworker wanted

Develop your skills in campaigning, organising and communication

We are seeking to appoint three enthusiastic people in sympathy with the values of the Society of Friends who wish to develop their strong interest in peace and justice through secondment to a national peace group in Britain. These recently have included Peaceworkers UK, Leap Confronting Conflict and the Campaign Against Arms Trade. The aim is to match the interests and skills of the worker with the receiving organisation. The work will be varied but sometimes routine and should include involvement in a specific project. Main qualifications are: commitment to peace and social justice, adaptability, patience and self-discipline.

QPSW will pay a remuneration of £14,908 for the 12-month placement plus preparation period. Other employee benefits will also be provided. Membership of a pension scheme is available.

The successful applicant is expected to complete a medical questionnaire.

For more details and application pack contact: www.quaker.org.uk

HR Section, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Telephone: 020 7663 1151 Email: viviens@quaker.org.uk

Please quote ref. QPSW 18

Closing date for completed applications: 26 April 2004

Week of interviews: week beginning 10th May 2004

Weapons and equipment costs

Equipment		Cost	Producer
Aircraft	B-2 Stealth Bomber	\$1,000m	Northrop Grumman
	C-17 Globemaster Transport	\$232m	Boeing
	Eurofighter Typhoon	\$98m	BAE Systems/FADS/Alenia Aerospazio
	F-16 Fighter (Block 60 for UAE)	\$80m	Lockheed Martin
	C130J Hercules Transport	\$55m	Lockheed Martin
	Global Hawk UAV	\$75m	Northrop Grumman
	F-35 Joint Strike Fighter	\$40-\$50m	Lockheed Martin
	F-16 Fighter (Block 50 for US)	\$25m	Lockheed Martin
	Hawk Trainer/Fighter	\$21m	BAE Systems
Helicopters	MH-17 Chinook	\$67m	Boeing
	AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter	c. \$50m	Boeing
	Tiger Attack Helicopter	\$33.5m	Eurocopter
	Super Lynx	\$8m to \$32m	AgustaWestland
Armoured Vehicles	Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank	c. \$10m	Krauss-Maffei Wegmann
	Scorpion Light Tank	£1.6m	Alvis Vickers
Ships	Aircraft Carrier (CVF)	£1,500m	BAE Systems
	Astute Class Submarine	£662m	BAE Systems
	Type 45 Destroyers	£500m	BAE Systems/VT Group
Missiles and Bombs	Tomahawk Block III Cruise Missile	\$1.8m	Raytheon
	Storm Shadow Cruise Missile	\$1.75m	MBDA
	AIM-120 AMRAAM (air-air missile)	\$386,000	Raytheon
	Hellfire Missile	\$100,000	Boeing/Lockheed Martin
	Stinger Missile	\$88,000	Hughes Missile Systems/Raytheon
	BLU-82 'Daisy cutter' Bomb	\$27,000	US
	Cluster Bomb - US CBU 87	\$14,000	Alliant Techsystems
Small Arms	M1 Automatic Weapon & Sight	\$1,381	Colt
	SA-80 Rifle	£1,160	BAE Systems
	M16	\$586	Colt
	AK-47 Kalashnikov	\$400-600	Originally Russia but now many imitations

Note: the currency used depends on the equipment manufacturer's nationality and the availability of a suitable source.

In the last edition of *CAAT News* we kicked off our new 'Facts and Figures' section with a 'Beginners Guide' to the world's leading arms suppliers and recipients, the total value of the arms trade and the top arms companies. This time we are focussing on the financial cost of weapons and equipment, in particular some of the arms we hear about most frequently. The topics covered in future 'Facts and Figures' pages are not set in stone so if there is information you think would help your campaigning, please do let us know (email ian@caat.demon.co.uk or ring the office).

The cost of military equipment depends on many factors such as the version of the equipment, who is buying, the size of the deal, the level of servicing and support, and where it will be manufactured. We have attempted to identify a normal, representative cost for each piece of weaponry and have tried to avoid complex deals and ambiguous information. Sources for the figures are available on the CAAT website (www.caat.org.uk/

[information/publications/other/faf-weapon-costs-0303.php](http://www.caat.org.uk/information/publications/other/faf-weapon-costs-0303.php)), or can be obtained from the office. ■ *Ian Prichard*

Equipment on display at the Farnborough 'air show'



BAE SYSTEMS AGM PROTEST

Wednesday 5th May 2004 – Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, Westminster, London. Email action@caat.demon.co.uk about the outside protest and ann@caat.demon.co.uk about participating inside the AGM, or phone the office on 020 7281 0297

On Wednesday 5th May, BAE Systems is holding its Annual General Meeting. But it isn't just any AGM – it is Sir Dick Evans' final one as Chairman. There has been no announcement of his successor, but the papers are reporting that it will be Dick Olver, deputy group chief executive of BP.

To ensure we have a strong presence, CAAT will be hosting a morning of activities outside the event, as well as participating inside, and we need your help in getting the message across.

The company

BAE Systems is Europe's largest arms company, selling around £9.4 billion worth of arms each year. It sells weapons indiscriminately and has the substantial sales support of the UK Government, including Tony Blair. It has also long been the subject of corruption allegations – most recently involving deals with Saudi Arabia, India and South Africa.

This is the ideal time to highlight the indisputable role that BAE Systems plays in this cycle of death and destruction

Much of BAE's weaponry is destined for the United States for use in its 'war on terror'. However, this has not deterred the company from positioning itself to move into the arms market of Iran, one of the countries in Bush's 'axis of evil'.

At a time when armed conflicts are raging around the globe, BAE Systems continues to sell arms to oppressive regimes, into conflict regions and to countries desperately in need of increased spending on development. It is not hard to see the link between the money made by BAE and the death and suffering of others. With widespread public discontent and resentment over recent aggressive US and UK military policies, this is the ideal time to highlight the indisputable role that BAE Systems plays in this cycle of death and destruction.

The AGM

The company AGM is a significant occasion as it brings together BAE Systems' shareholders and key players under one roof. This

provides CAAT with the excellent opportunity of making our views known both inside and outside the meeting.

CAAT's activities outside the meeting will be centred around the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in Westminster, where the AGM is being held. Suggestions to liven up the day have so far included street theatre performances and a samba band. We are currently on the lookout for innovative ideas to make this outside aspect of the day effective and thought provoking.

As many of you will be aware, the CAAT Action Network has set up an email group in order to involve as many people as possible in the planning and co-ordinating of the event. So get your thinking caps on and email action@caat.demon.co.uk to take part in this exciting event.

As usual, we will also be making our presence known inside the AGM by utilising our BAE Systems shares. The shares, which we can transfer to supporters, enable us to gain entry to the meeting and ask the company board why they continue to pursue their destructive military agenda. If you are interested in attending the AGM as a shareholder, please email ann@caat.demon.co.uk.

The BAE Systems AGM is an important event in the CAAT calendar, so whatever role you wish to play, get in touch via e-mail, or call the office on 020 7281 0297. ■ *Kat Barton*

Eurosatory arms fair

Eurosatory, the big French arms exhibition, takes place outside Paris every two years. This year it is taking place from Monday 14th to Friday 18th June.

In recent years, French peace groups have come together in a coalition to organise protests against Eurosatory. CAAT supporters and others from around Europe have joined these. This year the French groups are making their peace festival, a couple of weeks earlier, the priority. In consequence, there is no anti-Eurosatory coalition arranging protests for CAAT to support.

A few French Quakers do intend to hold a vigil or mark Eurosatory in some other way at some point during the week. Please contact Ann on 020 7281 0297 or ann@caat.demon.co.uk if you would like to join them and want contact details.

Contributing? Consulting? Colluding?

Dan Lewer has spent some time at CAAT examining one specific, but complex, element of the relationship between Government and industry – ‘advisory bodies.’ Here he provides an overview of his initial findings

What are advisory bodies?

Advisory bodies come in a bewildering array of formats and labels, but their main function is to provide politicians and civil servants with direction from non-governmental actors such as firms or academics. They vary in membership, legal status and permanence. Some are given official titles such as ‘Non-Departmental Public Body’, while many others have no formal status and are apparently brought into being on an ad-hoc basis according to the government’s current needs.

It might be expected that an advisory body’s name would provide clarity its purpose, but it turns out that titles, such as ‘agency’, ‘board’, ‘committee’, ‘council’, ‘group’, ‘panel’, ‘task force’ and ‘team’, tell us little. An MoD civil servant, replying to a query regarding the government’s own understanding of these groups, revealed that there was no official classification system. There is an extensive and growing structure of bodies contributing to military policy, and it seems odd that such a vast sprawl could come into existence with no apparent planning.

Advisory bodies in the military arena

Military advisory bodies can help shape decisions about both the sale of weapon systems abroad and how public funds are spent on UK military equipment. Central to the military advisory network are the ‘National Defence and Aerospace Systems Panel’, which advises both the DTI and the MoD on scientific matters, and the ‘National Defence Industries Council’, which is a long-standing forum for ministers to meet high-profile figures from arms companies and trade associations. Surrounding these two bodies, neither of which has clear status regarding its constitutional purpose in the UK government, is a sprawl of sub-groups and further bodies whose remit appears to overlap. The administration of these bodies is usually handled by industry associations like Intellect and the Society of British Aerospace Companies.

Senior government ministers are present at many military advisory bodies’ meetings, particularly the eminent bodies that consider general policy strategy. The National Defence Industries Council, for example, gives nine members from the private sector privileged contact with ten government officials, including Geoff Hoon (Defence Secretary), Adam Ingram (Minister of State for the Armed Forces) and Sir Kevin Tebbitt (Permanent Under Secretary for Defence).



Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon enjoying the first UK production Eurofighter at Farnborough 2002 Ian Waldie/Reuters

Are military advisory bodies different?

A comparison between the advisory bodies for military policy and those in other policy sectors is one indication of whether the arms companies have disproportionate access to politics. While such an evaluation is complicated by the dissimilarity in form and function of the bodies relating to different areas of policy, there are some features of the military network that are quite singular. Most obviously, there are considerably more bodies giving the government military advice than in any other policy area. All government departments sponsor some advisory bodies. The DTI, for example, has specialist bodies to formulate national business strategies for each economic sector it identifies. None of these networks, however, form a system so comprehensive as that under the MoD and the DTI Aerospace and Defence Unit.

A second difference is the level of access that representatives from the private sector have to ministers. In policy areas such as transport, education, or economic sectors other than military industry, advisory bodies tend to provide expert advice to their parent ministries, via a secretariat hosted in the private sector, rather than coming to decisions in collaboration with ministers.

Conclusion

The network of bodies that advises the government on military policy is certainly extensive, and it also seems to be growing. Perhaps the most astonishing feature of this strange web is that its own sponsors, the ministries and government agencies receiving direction, do not have any overall plan of what these groups are for or how they work. It is clear that the interests of arms manufacturers are exerted through advisory bodies with greater effect than those of other industries. ■

Lockheed Martin lock-out!

On Monday 2nd February, the main doors of Lockheed Martin's offices were locked with a bicycle chain for 6 hours from 8.00am–2.00pm by Trident Ploughshares activists.

Lockheed Martin produce 'bunker buster' munitions and cluster bombs. They make components for Trident and are most likely involved with the new generation of weapons being developed at Aldermaston.

Lockheed Martin's offices are hidden away in an unmarked building in Carlisle Place, a residential street near Victoria station. Four of us from the Muriel Lester affinity group locked the door and sat in front of it holding a banner saying 'Lockheed Lockout WMD maker'. We wanted to draw attention to the fact that the largest arms manufacturer and exporter in the world was hiding away.

Lockheed rent two floors of the eight storey building. Although access could be gained by a back entrance, their work was still disrupted for several hours. We felt it was OK to disrupt the work of others in the building, as we wanted them to question the desirability of having Lockheed as neighbours.

Other Trident Ploughshares activists handed out leaflets to passers by which



Trident Ploughshare activists outside Lockheed Martin's London office near Victoria

included many local residents and those coming to the building to work, for meetings or for delivery. Many of the other tenants were unaware that Lockheed were their neighbours, and most of the local residents were shocked by the news.

Lockheed Martin refused to speak with us but the managers of the building did come and talk with us. They said they would consider the issues we raised before

renewing their lease, which did not expire for another 8 years.

The police respected that it was a peaceful protest and although they arrived with bolt cutters no attempt was made to remove neither the lock nor the protestors. At 2.00pm we removed the lock ourselves and stood in a circle in silence for two minutes to remember the victims of the arms trade. ■ Lyn Bliss



Hello Stan
A big welcome to Stan, born on 19th February. He is the first child of CAAT's Research Co-ordinator, Ian Prichard, and Sarah Green



The Movement for the Abolition of War's new **War No More** video has contributions from, amongst others, Martin Bell, Bruce Kent, John Snow and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It comes with photocopier-friendly printed discussion outlines and is available priced £8.00, including postage, from 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ. Please make cheques payable to MAW.

Letter

To *CAAT News*,

In the CAAT steering committee election manifestos, one candidate said CAAT should “continue in the tradition with which it started... as a campaigning, action-led organisation”. While CAAT was always campaigning in the sense of taking action to get things done, it was never action-led if by this is meant direct action.

I was not there for the first nine months but from 1975–80 while I was coordinator we did vast amounts of work with schools (producing a pack for use by teachers), trade unions (including vast amounts of work to publicise the Lucas shop stewards’ plan and other proposals

for conversion of arms industries), development organisations (producing a booklet and a widely used “mini exhibition” linking third world poverty with the arms trade – a radical concept at the time), human rights organisations (producing a booklet called *The Repression Trade*), churches and religious organisations (producing large amounts of material for use in worship and study groups), and MPs (producing briefings and getting the arms trade onto the government agenda). We developed a filing/information system that was widely consulted by journalists and researchers. We produced a slide show on the arms

trade and a booklet listing all known UK manufacturers of military equipment. We did some initial work on disinvestment, especially in relation to Marconi and EMI. We set up a network of CAAT contacts in communities and universities around the country to raise local awareness.

Yes, CAAT organised demos – especially at arms fairs and outside the then Defence Sales Organisation and EMI – but they were always small-scale and respectful, in the form of vigils with occasional small-scale street theatre, and they were only one part of the overall campaigning. ■

Sandy Adirondack
CAAT coordinator 1975–80
sandy@sandy-a.co.uk

CAAT accounts

The CAAT accounts for 2003 are available if you send a SAE to the CAAT office:
CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ

Steering Committee statement regarding Martin Hogbin

On 28th September 2003, *The Sunday Times* published an article alleging that between 1995 and (at least) 1997, British Aerospace had paid a firm directed by Evelyn LeChene to infiltrate CAAT and collect information about its workings and activities. In an attempt to discover who provided LeChene with this information, CAAT staff checked security and items were discovered which gave rise to a suspicion that Martin Hogbin had been passing sensitive confidential information outside the organisation.

On legal advice, Martin was suspended on full pay on 3rd October 2003 pending an investigation. However he resigned on 5th October before the investigation could begin. A meeting of CAAT Steering Committee on 11th October wished nonetheless to investigate and charged a team of four to carry this out. The investigation has now assessed all the available evidence and has been unable to clear Martin from suspicion. ■





European Parliament elections

On Thursday 10th June you will be able to vote for your Members of the European Parliament. The election, which takes place every five years, is done on a regional basis. Each party compiles a list of its candidates and seats are allocated in proportion to the votes.

More issues concerning the arms trade and military industry are now decided at European level; most of these, admittedly, at the Council or Commission. Nonetheless, it is important that our MEPs are aware of arms export issues and do all they can to inject a democratic dimension to decisions about them.

- You will be able to get the names of the candidates from your local political parties; look in the telephone directory

or ask at your library for details. Then write to at least the top candidate for each party, asking for his or her views on arms exports in general and to China and Libya in particular. There have been moves to lift EU embargoes on these countries. In 2003, the EU decided, for the first time, to allow its research and development funds to be spent on military projects. Ask your candidates what they think about this.

- Watch out for local meetings where the candidates will be speaking. Go along and raise these issues.
- Please tell Ann at the CAAT office about your candidates' responses. ■

Ann Feltham

BAE Systems and the Serious Fraud Office

Several CAAT supporters wrote to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) following the article in the December/January *CAAT News* about corruption allegations regarding BAE Systems sales to Saudi Arabia. The SFO replied saying the relevant legislation did not come into force until 2002 and was not retrospective.

If you got one of these letters, please respond both to the SFO and to the Solicitor General, Harriet Harman, 9 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JP.

Say that:

- you are not entirely satisfied with the SFO response;
- you are concerned that the SFO may have only considered if there was sufficient evidence to pursue a criminal investigation on the issue of whether a fraud was committed against BAE Systems or the Ministry of Defence;
- you would like to know whether the SFO assessed the evidence specifically with regard to whether the hospitality

offered by BAE Systems to Saudi officials (which Rosalind Wright, the former director of the SFO, herself suggested was in some instances "excessive" and pointing to "extravagance") constituted a criminal offence of bribery of a foreign public official;

- as the evidence that the SFO currently has may not provide "sufficient evidence of a criminal offence", but may point to a possible offence, ask what steps the SFO has taken to gather more evidence. In particular, has the SFO actually required BAE Systems to provide it with full copies of its accounts, board minutes, and correspondence relating to the payments to Saudi officials, or entered BAE Systems' premises to search for this information? (Though it's possible – see 'Arms Trade Shorts' – that this is now in Geneva.) If the SFO has not done so, why hasn't it?
- UK corruption laws prior to the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act of 2001, according to the UK government's

Stop DSEi 2005

The next Defence Systems Equipment International is scheduled to take place from 13th to 16th September 2005 at the ExCel Centre in London Docklands.

DSEi, one of the world's biggest arms exhibitions, is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence, but the actual organisation is undertaken by a private company, Spearhead Exhibitions. Spearhead is now owned by Reed Exhibitions, part of the huge Reed Elsevier group, which is best known as a publisher of trade magazines. (It has nothing to do with the Reed Employment.)

ExCel has bookings for DSEi in alternate years up to and including 2011. Let's try to make sure that 2003 was the last actually held.

- Please write to Crispin Davis, Chief Executive, Reed Elsevier Group plc, 1-3 The Strand, London WC2N 5JR asking him to cancel DSEi, saying that organising an arms fair will bring his company into disrepute.

There is more about DSEi on CAAT's website at www.caat.org.uk. If you don't have access to the internet the DSEi 2003 briefing is still available from the CAAT office priced £3.00. ■

own interpretation of those laws, clearly made bribery of a foreign public official illegal if any relevant act was committed within the UK. It appears that the hospitality given by BAE Systems to Saudi officials took place within the UK, and would therefore be prosecutable under the UK's old corruption laws. Why does SFO think it cannot investigate these bribery allegations under the UK's old corruption legislation?

- if the SFO does not feel it is the appropriate law enforcement agency to investigate these particular allegations, what steps it has taken to ensure that the allegations were forwarded to a more appropriate law enforcement agency? ■

Ann Feltham

Small arms, shattered lives

Robert Parker – Campaign Manager (Arms & Security Trade), AIUK

CAAT supporters are more aware than most that the arms trade is out of control. There are currently over 600 million firearms in the world – one for every 10 people on the planet. The lack of controls at international and national level have an unacceptable human cost.

The ‘war on terror’ should have focused political will on restraining arms sales, but instead many governments, led by the USA, relaxed controls on exports to new-found allies regardless of their human rights records. This puts us all at greater risk, and it’s getting worse. People in the developing world and in many urban centres in the north know armed violence is escalating. Possession and use of high-powered weaponry is becoming widespread, and those entrusted to police society with guns are committing grave abuses, setting the wrong example. Lives and livelihoods are the casualties – an estimated one person every minute is killed by armed violence.

Amnesty International, CAAT and other organisations have campaigned for years for tougher controls on arms exports at a national and regional level. Together we have called for a ban on the transfer of arms that could be used to seriously violate established standards of human rights, humanitarian law and non-aggression and called on exporting states to avoid the sale of weapons that could have an adverse impact on sustainable development or regional peace and security. However, national and regional approaches to arms control can be piecemeal, resulting in loopholes which allow continued arms sales to destinations of concern. This is a global problem which needs a global solution – when it comes to arms sales, everyone should be playing by the same rules – with respect for human rights at the centre.

That is why Amnesty International, Oxfam and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) joined forces internationally to launch the Control Arms campaign in October 2003. Launched in 65 countries worldwide and



The launch of the Control Arms campaign in Trafalgar Square Marie-Anne Ventoura/AI

currently supported by activists in over 150 countries through the Million Faces petition (see below), the campaign addresses both the supply and demand/use of arms.

On the supply-side we are urging governments to negotiate a legally-binding international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) law by the 2006 UN Small Arms Review Conference to regulate arms transfers according to recognised standards of human rights and humanitarian law. It is essential that this initiative is taken on by states from all world regions and is not seen as a Western European attempt to control access to weapons. So far, the states of Mali, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Finland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Macedonia have expressed support for establishing legally-binding international arms controls, and some of them are fully on board with the ATT initiative. The UK government has welcomed the campaign but has yet to publicly endorse the ATT initiative.

The full establishment of an ATT will take many years, and there is a pressing need to address the armed violence faced by millions today. However, communities which face armed violence are not passive victims. From Birmingham to Burundi, there are community-level initiatives by IANSA participants such as promoting community policing and gun-free zones. The Control Arms campaign will call on governments, donor agencies and civil society to support these initiatives. A series of thematic reports looking at policing,

militarisation and women, civic education and alternative livelihoods will be published over the next 18 months. The campaign launch report, *Shattered Lives*, and the first of the thematic reports, *Guns & Policing: standards to prevent misuse*, are available on the Control Arms website, www.controlarms.org.

The global campaign action – the Million Faces petition

We need to build a mass movement of people calling for the world’s governments to back an international Arms Trade Treaty and to support the community-level efforts to make people safe from armed violence.

The popular action for the campaign – the way that people can join us – is a global photo-petition. People can join the visual petition online through the campaign website, by sending us their action photos or by using one of the self-portrait action cards we have produced.

So far we have gathered over 100,000 signatures from over 150 different countries. We will use these faces for national and regional campaigning activities in the run up to the 2006 UN Small Arms Review Conference where they will be presented to world leaders as a measure of the global support there is for governments to take decisive action. ■

Please visit the campaign website at www.controlarms.org or call Farshid Talaghani on 020 7417 6363 to find out more.



Fundraising

2004 Appeal

Many of you will have received an appeal letter from me a few weeks ago; thank you to everyone who has responded so far. As I write, the appeal has raised nearly £8,000 – which is a great start – but there is still some way to go before we reach our target of £20,000.

If you are thinking about making a donation but haven't yet had a chance to respond, then please get your chequebook out now and help us to build a secure financial basis for the rest of the year. If you have mislaid the letter (or did not receive the appeal) but would like to make a contribution, please send in your cheque marked '2004 Appeal' on the back, to CAAT, Freepost, LON6486, London N4 3BR.

Run the New York City Marathon for CAAT...

I am delighted to announce that CAAT has the opportunity once again to send a runner to New York, for the world famous Marathon on November 7th 2004.

Last year Edward Bradley raised £2,675 in sponsorship for CAAT, so we know from experience that this is an excellent way to help the campaign. It is of course also a great opportunity for a keen runner to take part in this prestigious event.

A generous CAAT supporter will pay for the flight and entry fee for the

Marathon and we would like you to raise as much money as you possibly can in sponsorship.

If you would like to take part yourself or you know of someone who would, please contact me at the CAAT office, as soon as possible, on 020 7281 0297 or email kathryn@caat.demon.co.uk.

...or the women's 5k Flora Light Challenge

In December's issue of CAAT News I mentioned that we hoped to put together a team of CAAT runners for the Flora Light Challenge on 5th September. There has already been quite a bit of interest and race applications open in April; so if you would like to join the team and help raise some much-needed money for CAAT, then please do get in touch.

Peace Revolutions on the beach!

After a very successful Matrix-themed club night for CAAT in December last year, the Seaside Tribe have approached us once again with an exciting new line up of acts and DJs. This time the theme is a beach party and we are told the night will be more colourful and the message for peace will be even louder.

Peace Revolutions will take place on Friday 23rd April and once again the venue will be the Brixton Telegraph in London SW1. Headline acts include top London techno DJ Zebedee, a superb

Afro-tribal drum & dance band, juggling, live art and many other DJ's spinning acid house, breaks, trance & techno.

The entrance fee is a bargain £5 before 11pm (or £8 after) and proceeds from the event come to CAAT. I look forward to seeing you there!

Peace not War CDs

Over the last year, Peace not War have been compiling a selection of music from a number of different artists from the UK and abroad; including Roots Manuva, Chumbawamba, Billy Bragg, Asian Dub Foundation, Ani di Franco, Public Enemy, Midnight Oil and many more.

We have been given 25 copies of the CD to sell and CAAT benefits from the proceeds. You can get your copy by sending a cheque for £15 (which includes postage and packing) to the CAAT office. Visit the CAAT website to see the full list of tracks.

In memory

Finally, thank you to all those who have made donations in memory of Margot Roberts, Bina Gibson and Jack Howe, three long-standing CAAT supporters who sadly passed away recently. You can be assured that the £1,546.30 given in their memory will be put to good use, as we work towards a more peaceful and just world. ■

Kathryn Busby

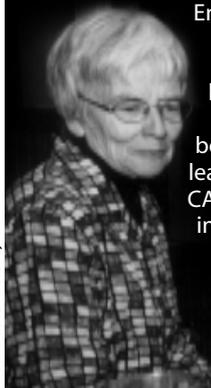
Margot Roberts

The many people in CAAT who knew her were shocked and upset to learn of Margot's death on 7th February. She had never regained consciousness after an operation a couple of days earlier. When she had left the CAAT office before going in to hospital, we never dreamt we would not see her again.

Margot made an enormous contribution to CAAT's work. From 1987 until 1995, she represented the Socialist Environment and Resources Association on CAAT's Steering Committee. She quickly became one of the most hard working people on that Committee, often volunteering herself for tasks. The CAAT staff got to know Margot even better when SERA moved its office into the same building as CAAT's, just upstairs – she was handy when advice was needed.

After leaving SERA, for many years until 2002, Margot ran CAAT's stall at the Labour Party Conference. She had been a very active Labour Party member since her youth, but had become very disillusioned, often considering leaving the Party. By taking charge of our stall, Margot was able to meet up with old friends whilst promoting CAAT. Most recently, Margot was an office volunteer, coming in once a week to help keep CAAT's information files in good order.

Margot gave me great personal support during difficult times at the office. We'd go for lunch at a small restaurant nearby and, over large glasses of red wine, discuss the problems before talking more generally about her trips to the opera and mine to the theatre, holidays taken and planned, and much more. When the problems were over, we'd just go for an agreeable lunch. I can't believe this will never happen again. I've lost a friend and CAAT has lost a great supporter. ■ *Ann Feltham*



get active!

The campaign thrives on your participation. Below is how you can get involved and stop the arms trade with CAAT

Materials CAAT publications available from the office

Local action

If you are able or would like to put leaflets or CAAT News out into local libraries or health food shops, or give them out at meetings, hold a stall at a local event and require materials, join a local group or become a local contact, get in touch with Philip Barrett.

➔ Email philip@caat.demon.co.uk tel 020 7281 0297

Letter-writing

You can never write too many letters on behalf of CAAT. Most MPs can be reached at the House of Commons address (*Your MP*, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA). You can also make an appointment to see your MP in person at their surgery. Contact Ann Feltham if you need advice on this.

➔ Email ann@caat.demon.co.uk tel 020 7281 0297

Demonstrate!

CAAT demonstrations are peaceful, inclusive and fun. The more people who come, the more effective they are. Have a look at the campaigns diary on the back page, or contact the office for more information.

➔ Email enquiries@caat.demon.co.uk tel 020 7281 0297

Make a donation

CAAT always needs your financial support. If you are able to make a donation, please send a cheque (payable to CAAT) now, to: **CAAT, Freepost, LON6486, London N4 3BR**. Alternatively, you can use the form on the back page to set up a standing order, giving CAAT an urgently needed regular income.

➔ Email kathryn@caat.demon.co.uk tel 020 7281 0297

CAAT postcard

Available for distribution locally

Following the Iraq conflict, CAAT has been very successful in highlighting the fact that the UK armed Saddam in the first place. Our campaign postcard outlines six questions about the arms trade.

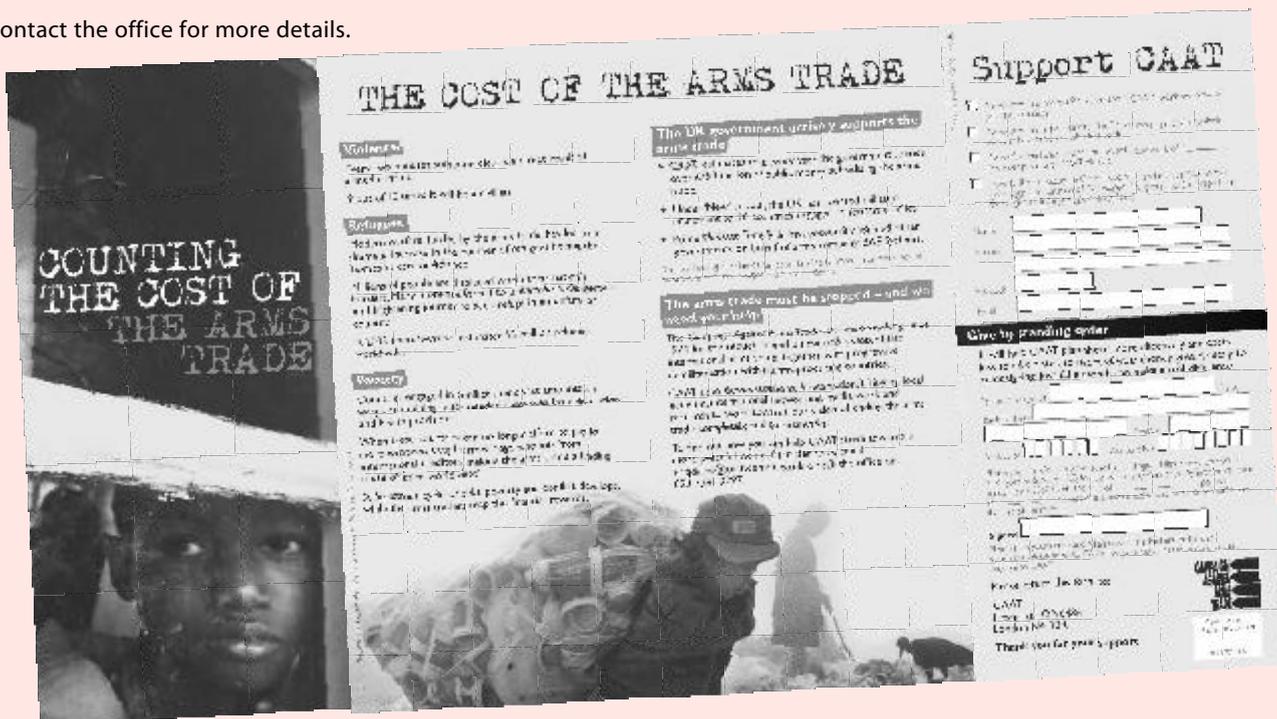
Thousands of these post-cards have been distributed at demonstrations and other events against the war, and have helped CAAT to gain many new supporters.

Now we're asking CAAT supporters to help distribute these cards locally. Could you take 100 or more to hand out at relevant local events? They're free from the office, but we estimate it costs about £4.00 in printing, postage and packing to produce 100. If you can make a donation, it would help us to produce more campaign materials.

Good luck, and thanks for your help increasing support for the campaign. Contact the office for more details.

New leaflet available

Contact the office for more details.



Campaigns diary

7 April: Clean Investment Campaign launch **5 May:** BAE Systems AGM
5-12 June: Stop the Arms Trade Week **6 June:** Arms Trade Day of Prayer
14-18 June: Eurosatory, Paris-Nord, Villepinte, France
19-25 July: Farnborough arms fair



11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ
 tel 020-7281 0297 fax 020-7281 4369
 email enquiries@caat.demon.co.uk
 web www.caat.org.uk

PEACE REVOLUTIONS

THE BRIXTON TELEGRAPH 228 BRIXTON HILL SW1

23 APRIL 2004



THE SEASIDE TRIBE AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE
 TICKETS/INFO 07811 260359 WWW.SEASIDETRIBE.ORG MAZ@SEASIDETRIBE.ORG

Please separate along line

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Please pay: The Co-operative Bank Plc, 1 Islington High Street, London, N1 9TR (sort code 08 90 33) for the account of CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE (account number 50503544) the sum of pounds (£) starting on and monthly/annually thereafter.

Signed

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