

CAATnews



FULLY LOADED AT FARNBOROUGH 2004

Contents



Issue 185

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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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Photo: Patrick Delaney

Bomb squad: fun for all the family at Farnborough
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MPs vindicate CAAT complaints on UK arms exports

In May, the cross-party Commons “Quadripartite Committee”, comprised of members of the Defence, Foreign Affairs, International Development and Trade & Industry Committees, published a report. This looked at issues around transparency, licensing decisions in 2002, Indonesia, the EU Code of Conduct and other international agreements, and enforcement of export legislation in the UK.

Previous issues of *CAAT News* have revealed how the UK government relaxed the conditions it had put on the use by the Indonesian Army (TNI) of UK-supplied military equipment in the war in the northern province of Aceh. The Government accepted weaker “assurances” from Indonesia while TNI violence was escalating in Aceh in 2002, with widespread human rights abuses. The TNI subsequently deployed UK-supplied aircraft, tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the war in Aceh in 2003.

Stinging criticisms

CAAT and TAPOL, the Indonesia human rights campaign, had lobbied the Quadripartite Committee on this issue and we were pleased to find the Committee accepted most of our arguments – the chapter on Indonesia contains the most stinging criticisms of the Government in the entire report. The Quadripartite Committee forced the Foreign Secretary to admit that our complaint that the relaxation of the “assurances” was kept secret until nine months after the event was valid.

The Foreign Office had not provided a satisfactory answer to CAAT and TAPOL as to why it decided to relax the conditions on the use of UK equipment while human rights abuses were escalating. The Quadripartite Committee got no further, complaining about a “serious lack of clarity” in the Government’s attempts at explanation.

The most serious criticism was reserved for the Foreign Office’s attempts at monitoring what the TNI are actually doing with UK-supplied equipment. CAAT and TAPOL have long complained that the Foreign Office has put the burden of proof on those being attacked

to prove the TNI is abusing UK equipment, rather than carrying out proper monitoring itself. The Quadripartite Committee agreed – noting that since September 2002 only once had Foreign Office officials bothered to visit Aceh, and on that visit the purpose had not been to monitor the use of UK equipment. The Committee complained that there was no evidence of any follow-up action to a *Guardian* report in January 2004 alleging use of Scorpion tanks in Aceh. The Committee concluded that there is “no evidence that the Government has taken any action (other than talking to the Indonesian authorities) to investigate claims that British built military equipment has been used in violation of human rights” and that Indonesian “end-use assurances are not worth the paper they are written on”.

The Quadripartite Committee’s findings are damning. It shows how cavalier the Government’s attitude towards misuse of equipment by a long-standing client is, how assurances about use of equipment are relaxed at the client’s behest regardless of wider considerations, and the Government’s obvious reluctance to undertake independent monitoring even when UK equipment is being deployed to a war zone by a client with a terrible human rights record. We await with interest the Government’s response and shall report on it in forthcoming editions of *CAAT News*.

Bizarre conclusions

Aside from the chapter on Indonesia, the Report takes a relatively positive view of the Government’s control of arms exports in 2002, and contains some bizarre conclusions and argument.

For instance, its central conclusion is that “the Government’s decisions have suggested to us that the Government has little to be ashamed of”. The Committee says this despite admitting that the Government is inconsistent in the information it permits the Committee to see. The MPs have been refused information on refused licence applications which the Committee admits they “require if we are to evaluate properly

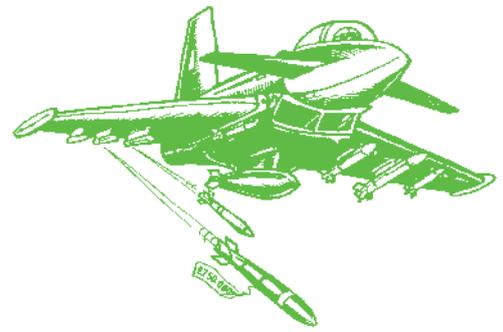
national implementation of the EU Code of Conduct”, and that the Government denies internal documents on export licensing decisions to the Committee “unreasonably”. The Committee concedes that figures in the Annual Reports on values of actual arms exports “cannot be interpreted reliably”. In such a situation how can the Committee be so confident in saying the Government has nothing to be ashamed of?

The Committee says it has looked at confidential information relating to licensing decisions in 2002, including all licences for China, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Syria. It says “the proliferation of weapons is one of the major political issues of our time” and knows the UK is one of the world’s leading weapons exporters. Yet the MPs cannot cite even one instance where a Government decision has been a cause for concern! Why worry about what the Indonesians do with UK-supplied equipment, if there is no problem with the equipment being exported?

Government and BAES hand-in-hand

There is a gem in the evidence (Ev 72) where almost an entire page is taken up detailing the 29 times between the start of 2002 and May 2003 when Government Ministers undertook “promotional activities” for the UK arms industry. Particularly prominent is New Labour’s favourite arms company BAE Systems, which merited ten Ministerial sales pitches to India for the Hawk in that time, as well as sales pitches for equipment BAES is involved with such as Eurofighter to Singapore (seven times) and Gripen to the Czech Republic (three times). In 2002, two visits were undertaken to Bahrain where “general references to defence exports” were made – BAES has recently opened a Bahrain office (*CAAT News* 184) which will no doubt aim to seal any opportunities that have arisen. The Committee concludes that such promotional activity is “appropriate”. It neglects however to explain how it is appropriate that the public’s elected representatives should proactively lobby

Continued on page 12



The Eurofighter Disaster

“The ultimate madness of European defence, manna for Eurosceptics... a shameful abdication by all the governments concerned... no more relevant to European defence than Boudicca’s chariot, and costing an awful lot more” (£20bn in fact, from the UK alone). Strong words on the Eurofighter from the journalist Max Hastings in the *Guardian* (29/6/04). Hastings is not a peacenik – he wants more money to be spent on the Army instead – but it is good to have his confirmation of CAAT’s long-standing opinion. At one time it was hoped to export as many as 500 of these planes to 18 different countries for £15bn. So far there are firm orders for 18 from Austria. Greece may buy 60 if it has any money left after the Olympics. Other customers such as Singapore, South Korea and Norway are no more than “potential”. Moreover these sales were supposed to be a bonus, but our government, desperate to limit the financial burden, now hopes to divert planes from the RAF to the export customers. (*Sunday Telegraph*, 30/5/2004)

The return of Sandline

It’s five years since CAAT published a paper on mercenaries (*The Privatisation of Violence*) – or ‘private security contractors’ as they are now called – and they have become big business, outnumbering British troops in Iraq by nearly two to one. A South African company called Erinys (Greek for “Fury”) employs as many as 15,000 of them, including former hard men of the apartheid regime. And now a \$293m contract, creating “the world’s largest private army”, has been awarded by the occupation authorities to a UK-registered company, Aegis Defence Services (Pratap Chatterjee, *Corp Watch*, 9/6/2004). This is the latest creation of Colonel Tim Spicer, formerly head of Sandline, part of a curious network that was active in Sierra Leone and elsewhere, linking South African mercenaries, former British intelligence officials and Canadian diamond companies. Another member of that group, Sandy Mann, is currently detained in Zimbabwe on suspicion of plotting a coup in Equatorial Guinea. With him are two directors of Meteoric Tactical Solutions, which is contracted to protect the Iraq operations of the

Department for International Development. Critics, including Sir Menzies Campbell, feel that the DfID should be more careful of the company it keeps. (*Guardian Unlimited*, 6/6/2004)

Good news

Turkey has cancelled plans to spend billions of dollars on foreign purchases of tanks, helicopters and unmanned aircraft. And Greece has likewise decided not to waste a billion dollars on a corvette and 300 armoured vehicles. Both countries are under financial pressure, but they also feel that still unresolved problems such as Cyprus should no longer keep them under the shadow of war.

Bad news

Unfortunately this outlook isn’t shared by the governments of Pakistan and India. Despite starting a process to resolve their long-running dispute over Kashmir, Pakistan’s 2004/5 budget allows for an increase of around seven per cent in military spending to 193 billion rupees (\$3.37 billion) and India has announced a 16.7 per cent increase in theirs, to 770 billion rupees (\$16.8 billion). Pakistan’s extra expenditure has been put down to a need to fund operations in western Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan (Pakistan’s contribution to the “war on terror”) and to maintain its forces on the eastern border with India. India’s massive increase is simply for the “modernisation of the defence forces”. (*Reuters*, 12/6/2004; 8/7/2004)

What next at BAE Systems?

Not long ago BAE was talking about getting out of old-fashioned manufacturing in favour of systems integration and the like, and seemed to be keener on expansion in the US than in the UK. It was rumoured to be trying to sell off its shipyards, and to be seeking a merger with the US company General Dynamics. But now it has snatched the



a peace pledge union project

WHITE POPPIES

for peace without violence

Originally made by the widows and mothers of men killed in WW1 the white poppy became a symbol of protest at the remembrance ceremonies which, by glorifying the dead, justified that war. And so it is today.

For a nonviolent future wear a white poppy this year

Today the white poppy continues to challenge the beliefs, values and institutions which make war possible. It calls for active steps towards disarmament and vigorous promotion of conflict resolution and peace-building.

Call for catalogue of resources
 Pack of 5 white poppies £5.00
 Remembering War Info pack £4.00
 add postage & packing £2.00 (17p per copy)

- anti-war demonstration passing the camera, London



www.whitepoppy.org
 PPO 1 Peace Passage London N7 0BT
 020 7420 8444 info@whitepoppy.org

armoured vehicle manufacturer Alvis from under the nose of General Dynamics (*Jane's Defence Industry*, July 2004).

Perhaps this is a way of mending its fences with the MoD, which was not happy about US ownership of the only UK producer of armoured vehicles. The upshot is to leave the company in charge of almost the whole of the UK arms industry, apart from Rolls-Royce and the UK operations of the French company Thales and the Italian company Finmeccanica, which has just bought Westland Helicopters from GKN. But Boeing is talking vaguely of UK acquisitions. The manoeuvres within the arms industry are very hard to decipher!

Indonesia arms spending

Indonesia is doing better these days, with a growth rate of six per cent in 2002, so it discovers "an urgent need for the Armed Forces to review its defence capabilities to meet changing regional and international strategic developments". In other words, if you've got any money you naturally spend it on buying arms. Noting that UK licences for the export of armoured vehicles to Indonesia were issued in 2002, CAAT supporters asked the Department of Trade and Industry for more information, and were told that it was "commercially confidential".

Thales wins UAV contract

In a move heavily trailed in the press, Geoff Hoon announced the selection of a team lead led by Thales for the UK's Watchkeeper UAV requirement. This will lead to the construction of aircraft, designed by Israeli firm Elbit Systems, in the UK. Some reports suggest that as well as being constructed for the Watchkeeper battlefield surveillance role there may well be versions of these UAVs made in the UK for other export markets. Other companies in the Thales consortium include Boeing, Logica, CMG and Cubic. (*Sunday Times*, 9/5/2004)

Sudan gets 12 fighter jets from Russia

It seems that although the world is finally paying a little attention the growing crisis in Darfur that little or nothing is being done to stop the flow of arms into the region. As part of a deal signed three years ago Sudan has recently received the last of 12 MiG fighter jets ordered from Russia. This despite the warnings of Human Rights groups. Lesley Lefkow of Human Rights Watch told Voice of America: "I collected a number of testimonies from refugees from Darfur who specifically identified MiGs as having been involved in the bombings of villages... They drew pictures of what the planes looked like." (*VOA*, 22/7/2004)

Cannonball Run School

Old Swinford Hospital, a school founded in the 17th century from the proceeds of arming both sides in the English civil war, has won specialist status in business and enterprise. The school was set up by Thomas Foley who sold cannon balls to Royalist and Parliamentary troops to finance the school which was to give "opportunities for those who would not otherwise enjoy them". The school has to raise £50,000 through private sector sponsorship – thankfully, head teacher Melvyn Roffe told the Birmingham Post: "We have no plans ourselves to work with the arms trade." (*Birmingham Post*, 5/7/04)

DMA diversification?

The Defence Manufacturers Association has taken to publishing direct challenges to NGOs that oppose some or all of the operations of their members. For example, on their website you can find an argument that DSEi is not an arms fair because in an amongst all the armaments you can find companies selling office furniture, air-conditioning, rechargeable batteries and thermal underwear. I am sure that nobody in CAAT would like to challenge the usefulness of these products, but the DMA fails to address the argument that all the customers at the show are military. Other nonsensical and biased opinions can be found at www.dma.org.uk. I guess they would say the same about our opinions. In fact, that is exactly what they are saying – but it's nice to know they care. ■

East London Against the Arms Fair (ELAAF)

Last September, whilst many CAAT supporters were protesting outside the DSEi 2003 arms fair at the Excel Centre in London Docklands, the arms traders inside were being told that they were invited back to the next one, in 2005. The Excel Centre has been booked for more arms fairs in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

ELAAF is campaigning for cancellation now as we think this is more constructive than waiting until nearer the threatened date when Reed, Spearhead and Excel will have accepted more bookings for DSEi and made final arrangements.

We need all the help we can get –

please support the following events:

- From August we plan to **leaflet door to door locally**. People can volunteer to do this in their own time as convenient.
- Saturday 4 September, 1pm–4.00pm: **Musical protest outside the Excel Centre**, next door to Custom House DLR station. More singers and musicians are needed. We would also welcome jugglers, dancers and props (a cardboard tank, dove and hawk, Saddam Hussein's loyalty card, etc) banners, flags and so on. Even if you can't sing, you will be welcome to just bring

yourself. Take turns to leaflet, gather a petition and applaud the musicians.

- Thursday 9 September, 7.30pm: **ELAAF meeting**. All welcome. The Garden Café, 7 Cundy Road, London E16 3DJ. Cundy Road is off Prince Regent Lane, near Prince Regent DLR station. ■



ELAAF, c/o Community Involvement Unit, Durning Hall, Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB

Fanning the Flames campaign

For the past year, CAAT supporters have been campaigning for an end to the promotion and export of weapons and military equipment, particularly to countries engaged in conflict. The Fanning the Flames campaign highlights the fact that the Labour government, since coming into power, has exported arms and military equipment to 20 countries engaged in serious conflict. And that we are not only exporting these arms, but the UK government is actually promoting arms exports through the Ministry of Defence's Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), and thus further fanning the flames of conflict around the world. DESO's web site (www.deso.mod.uk) declares "Our Mission is to help UK defence exporters succeed" and "Our Vision is... providing a world-class service, and being widely regarded as indispensable to defence exporters." All funded by UK taxpayers.

As part of the Fanning the Flames campaign CAAT has been asking people to sign a petition and send a postcard to Tony Blair, urging him to close DESO and move the economy away from arms production to civil production. CAAT supporters all over the UK have held stalls to encourage people to sign the petition and send off a postcard.

So far we have received over 800 postcards and 5433 signatures on our petition. This is fantastic – thanks so much to those of you who have worked so hard on this campaign. However, there is still time to increase these numbers!

On Tuesday 21 September 2004, we will be handing in the collected petitions and postcards to the Prime Minister. Please get involved in this last push for the campaign in one or both of the following ways...

Collect more petition signatures and postcards locally

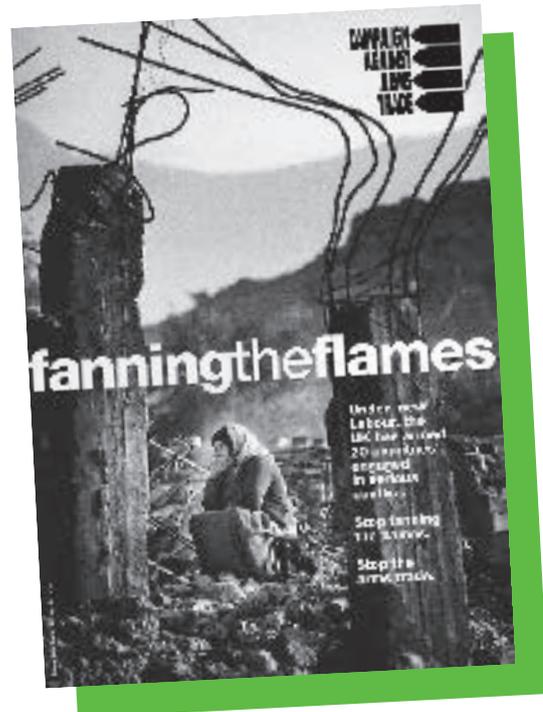
Are there any public meetings coming up where you could publicise the campaign, or circulate the petition and postcards? Or could you organise a street stall between now and the hand-in on 21 September? If so, contact the CAAT office for petitions, postcards, leaflets or campaign packs.

Come to the hand-in on 21 September

On 21 September we are having a rally and procession to mark the hand-in of the petitions and postcards collected over the last year or so.

We will be congregating at 11.00am outside DESO's offices in Central London for a short rally. From there we will process to the Department of Trade and Industry for another short rally, before continuing to Downing Street where we will hand in the collected petitions and postcards to Tony Blair. We hope that this procession will reflect our concerns that the millions of pounds worth of taxpayers' money being ploughed into promoting arms exports through DESO could, and should, be spent far more productively on alternative energy industries for instance. It is scandalous that huge arms companies such as BAE Systems receive £888 million of government subsidies while more productive civil industries receive only a fraction of this subsidy.

Please join us and help us to get this message heard by the public, the media, the employees in DESO and the government.



It will be worth taking the day off for!

Thanks again to all of you who have taken part in this campaign and challenged the Government and the arms companies to stop fanning the flames of conflict. Please do get in contact if you need any advice, resources or further info. ■

Beccie D'Cunha, Local Campaigns Co-ordinator
beccie@caat.org.uk

Diary date: 'Fanning the Flames' hand-in

When?

11am on Tuesday 21 September.

Where?

DESO's offices: meet at the side of DESO in Bury Place (the side road between Bloomsbury Way and New Oxford Street), London WC1A. The nearest tube stations are Tottenham Court Road and Holborn. The area is also served by numerous bus routes.

Why?

To challenge government promotion of arms exports that is fanning the flames of conflict worldwide and diverting taxpayers' money from more worthy industries. Keep an eye on the CAAT web site for more details of the event – www.caat.org.uk.

Local action round-up

Stop Week 2004 news

Thanks to those of you who organised or took part in activities to mark Stop the Arms Trade Week this year. Events were organised all over the UK, and included protests at local arms factories, prayer services, street and library stalls, collection of petition signatures, public meetings and local press work.

To follow are a couple of reports from local campaigners of what they did in their area. It would be great to receive more reports of any Stop Week events or general anti-arms activities you have been involved in. Please email beccie@caat.org.uk or write to the CAAT office with any news.

“Sheffield CAAT has been very active of late. We held a successful display/exhibition in the Sheffield Central Library from 1st–17th June, and had a lot of interest in our city centre street stall on Saturday 5th June. We have also protested against local support for the Waddington International Air Show in Lincolnshire on the weekend of 26–27 June.”
(For more info on SCAAT visit www.scaat.org.uk).

David Turner writes: “Edinburgh CAAT group had a stall on Princes Street on Saturday 5 June. The focus was on getting signatures for the Fanning the Flames petition and on giving out CAAT postcards, but flyers were also handed out for an anti-arms trade conference on 26th June.”

CAAT Christian Network news – Day of Prayer for Child Victims of the arms trade

CAAT Christian Network together with Pax Christi called its seventh annual Day of Prayer to end the arms trade on 6 June. Churches all over the UK held prayer services for child victims of the arms trade and raised awareness that Christian communities overseas are calling on us to act on this issue.

Christina Nicholls from the Justice & Peace group in Paignton writes: “We held a prayer service for child victims of war at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic church on Tuesday 22 June. On the night we were literally deluged with rain plus gales and I would certainly not have gone (I am over 90) had I not been leading it.

Get involved in campaigning in your local area

There are many ways you can be active locally. These include:

1. Becoming a CAAT local contact for your area. We can provide you with contact details for other supporters in your area as well as campaign ideas and resources.
2. Setting up a CAAT group in your area. It can be much easier to campaign locally if you are working with others. CAAT can provide you with a speaker and advice on getting started.

Contact me in the CAAT office if you are interested in finding out more or would like to chat. ■
Beccie D’Cunha, Local Campaigns Co-ordinator – beccie@caat.org.uk

However, about 50 brave souls turned out – this is more than we have had on previous years in Buckfast Abbey!”

Teresa Mitchell from Penarth writes: “On Sunday 20th June we (Penarth Christian Network of CAAT) held a prayer service at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Penarth, where we remembered the two million children killed or maimed in wars over the recent decade. About a dozen people attended and we heard testimonies from child soldiers in Sierra Leone as well as extracts from an email sent by Rachel Corrie (the American International Solidarity Movement activist killed by an Israeli bulldozer in Gaza). We felt it was a worthwhile ecumenical event and



hope that in future years more local people will join in the service.”

Call to Conversion campaign

We also renewed the impetus of a project entitled, “Call to Conversion”, launched originally in Spring 2002 by Pax Christi and CAAT, and aimed at engaging Church leaders and faith communities in a campaign to press the UK Government on arms trade issues. This included a petition that has been circulating over the past year and a statement to which many church leaders have added their signatures.

On Friday 4 June this year, International Day for Children as Victims of War, we held a “Prayer-Pilgrimage-Protest” event in Central London, when the Call to Conversion petitions were handed in to Tony Blair. Beginning at the Memorial to the Victims of War at Westminster Abbey at 11.00am, the procession moved to the Department of Trade and Industry, the Treasury, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and eventually to Downing Street where the petitions to the Prime Minister were handed in. It was a great day to which about 25 people turned out, and it attracted attention in the Christian press.

Over 5000 petition signatures collected...

On 4th June, we handed-in over 4000 signatures on the Call to Conversion petitions to 10 Downing Street (see photo). Since then, we have already received a further 1085 signatures! So please keep them coming in as the campaign is ongoing!

Get involved...

Please get in touch if you would like to be part of the CAAT Christian Network. Also, the next CAAT Christian Network working group meeting will be at the start of September in the CAAT office in London. If you would like to come along, please contact me in the office for details (beccie@caat.org.uk). ■

Does your local anti-arms trade group have a website? If so, please let us know as we would love to put a link to your site from the CAAT website. Write, call the office or email enquiries@caat.org.uk.

Leaflets informing the public of the true nature of Farnborough were handed out (right); a performer with the Pretzels street theatre group (below).

Photos: Richie Andrew

**TAKE THE
ARMS FAIR
OUT OF THE
AIRSHOW**

90% OF WAR VICTIMS ARE CIVILIANS
50% OF CIVILIAN WAR VICTIMS ARE CHILDREN



Farnborough: all the

We could have airdropped our leaflet into the Farnborough Airshow on Saturday 24 July but we decided to do it the hard way. Handing out the ‘Take the arms fair out of the airshow’ leaflets to visitors was Ruth with Leyla, her knee-high daughter. There was Lysa with her smart red and white outfit - Arsenal Football Club would have been proud – emblazoned with ‘Peace’ and ‘Say no to the arms trade’, and the rest of us of course; ten in all. We welcomed the visitors: “Hiya”, “Good morning”, “Would you like a leaflet?” We answered their questions, and smiled. This was public engagement. We were surprisingly well received with only a few hostile remarks – the most perceptive being “you’ve got a nerve.” Too right we have, we take the courage of our convictions plus the training we’d undertaken a few weeks beforehand and tell it like it is. Farnborough is an arms fair, and it should have no part in a family day out to celebrate flight.

Not far away were the Pretzels, a street theatre group, who accompanied us that day. Dressed as the Red Arrows they proceeded to entertain the steady stream of visitors to the airshow – 110,000 people attended over the weekend. The Pretzels’ flight routine included flashes from the underside of their Hawk jet wings with startling facts about the use of the military aircraft – their use in the horrendous conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo for example.

The organisers of the Airshow were riled by the leafleting outside the pedestrian entrance. They came out and told us we couldn’t be there. When referred to the police the organisers were informed that we were perfectly within our rights. At first the police were concerned about people chaining themselves to the entrances and asked if we had any handcuffs! The day ended peacefully though, as intended, and we achieved our goal – several thousand visitors have read our leaflet and learned about the arms fair they call an airshow.

Farnborough – it’s the business

The opening day of Farnborough week, this year on Monday 19 July, is always marked by an announcement of new business deals, some in civil aerospace, but many in the military sector. This year it was \$9 billion of deals, with prominence given to Thales for winning the \$1.5 billion Watchkeeper UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) – a surveillance plane for the British army – programme. By Thursday the figure rose to \$19 billion as announcements from Geoff Hoon, Secretary of State for Defence, regarding public expenditure were taken as an indication of the Government’s commitment to buy the second batch (or tranche as it is known) of the Eurofighter Typhoon, as well as Nimrod aircraft. Both are built, at least in part, by BAE Systems. While the armed forces

may be cutting staff, the arms companies are seeing no cuts in orders – quite the opposite. By the end of the week deals worth \$20 billion were announced.

At the peaceful demonstration on Monday we marked the first trading day by highlighting the subsidies given by the Government to companies for the sale of arms abroad. So we had a Tony Blair look a like deliver a huge cheque to the gates at Farnborough showing the £888 million in subsidies given each year (see front cover) – that’s £13,000 for each job exporting arms each year. That money buys: the 600 staff in the civil service at the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO); Export Credit Guarantees for arms exports – cheap insurance if you like; the time of ministers, diplomats, embassies; equipment demonstrations by the armed forces; research and development grants, and lots more. Incidentally, 42 official military delegations visited Farnborough. Our message, on placards and the cheque, was ‘Stop Export Subsidies to Arms Companies’. Leaflets, looking like, well, cheques of course (see page 15), were distributed to the visitors of Farnborough’s ‘trade days’, as they are known. The day ended well. There was lots of police attention, including the examining of our cardboard missile props – just in case they were real. Perhaps they should have looked inside the Airshow.

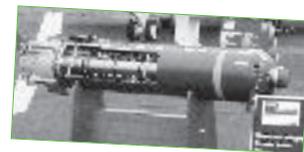
Disbelief

Farnborough sees a huge amount of sponsorship and advertisement. All sorts of things can be sponsored, including the children’s face painting. Lloyds TSB sponsored the President’s Enclosure this year. Many CAAT supporters have written to Lloyds asking them to stop sponsoring an arms fair. But Lloyds continue to insist that

Farnborough is not an arms fair. Perhaps they should listen to Secretary of State Geoff Hoon, who announced: “Farnborough is an important event in the defence calendar and I am pleased to be here to give my support to the defence industry.”

This year CAAT has nominated the Textron cluster bomb, shown both on the trade and public days of Farnborough, as the most despised weapon (see action box below). ■ *Andrew Wood*

Cut it out!



Dear Lloyds TSB

This year you sponsored the President’s Enclosure at Farnborough 2004.

The Textron cluster bomb pictured above was for sale and openly displayed on the trade and public days.

Please stop sponsoring events at Farnborough – the arms fair also known as an airshow.

I look forward to your reply.

Your name:

Your address:

Send to: **J Eric Daniels, Group Chief Executive, Lloyds TSB, 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN**

fun of the arms fair!

Mean machines: on show at Farnborough 2004



Clockwise from bottom left: Tomahawk cruise missile; Super Lynx helicopter; Aster missile; Apache helicopter; FN-Herstal machine gun; Weaponry for the Gripen fighter.

See www.armsfair.com for more pictures of the weapons on display at Farnborough.

Photos:CAAT

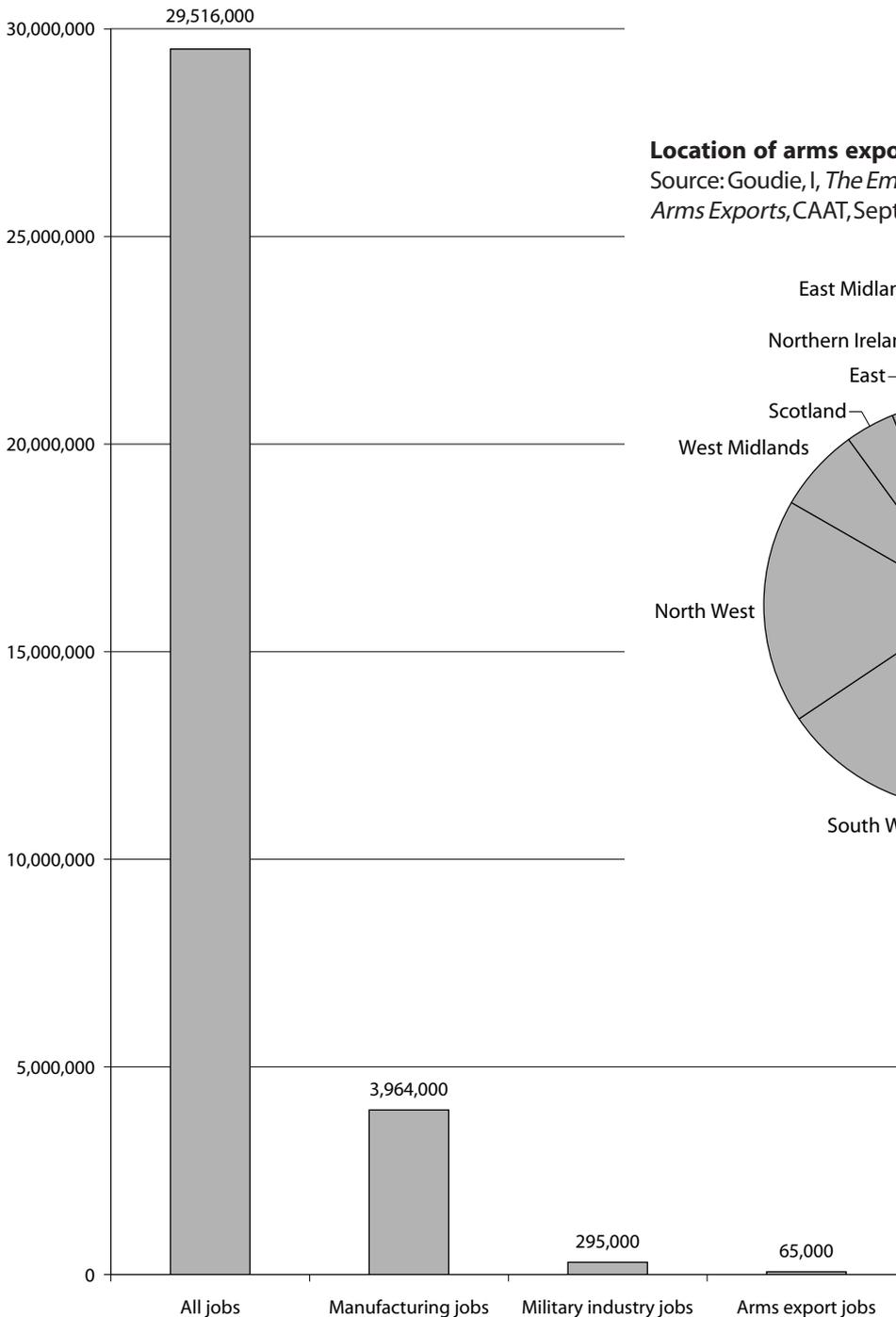
UK jobs in the arms export industry

UK arms exports receive subsidies of nearly £900 million per year from the taxpayer and take up nearly half of the financial support that is provided for exporting companies through the Department of Trade and Industry's Export Credits Guarantee Department.

From this level of support you could be forgiven for thinking that arms exports were a vital element of the UK economy. But you would be mistaken. The Government has recently stated that identified arms exports account for only 0.5 per cent of total visible exports. The situation is even starker for UK employment, with arms export jobs accounting for only 0.23 per cent of total employment. This is illustrated in the chart on the left. The pie chart below shows the location of these arms export jobs. Around two thirds of the jobs are in the South East and South West – regions with virtually full employment. ■ *Ian Prichard*

UK jobs

Sources: National Statistics, 'Labour market statistics', 17 July 2002; DASA, 'Defence Statistics 2003'



Location of arms export jobs in the UK

Source: Goudie, I, *The Employment Consequences of a Ban on Arms Exports*, CAAT, September 2002



Notes from Eurosatory 2004

Some observations from this year's Eurosatory arms fair in Paris. By *Peter Nicholls*

Eurosatory 2004 took place from 14–18 June in Paris. I was not there. Was there a counter-demonstration of any kind? My source does not tell me. But *Jane's News*¹ briefed us all each day, with jolly military language such as “saluting the show”, describing French chief of staff General Bernard Thorette's invitation to all EU army commanders to attend Eurosatory.

Both former antagonists – there are no enemies here – and women (France is no longer sexist in its defence department) were involved: “French defence minister Michèle Alliot-Marie was hosted by Colonel General Nikolai Dimidiuk, Rosoboronexport's director... The French Panhard scout vehicle is fitted with the Russian KBP Design turret.”

Some big actors were present: “The Association of the US Army (AUSA) claimed the largest indoor national pavilion, supported by Gen (retired) Gordon Sullivan, former US Army chief of staff now AUSA president...”

But where was the UK? (Or as they ask, “Où sont les roasts-beefs?”). We were indeed poorly represented. BAE was absent. Alvis arrived expecting to become a BAE subsidiary. *Jane's* tells us that BAE speculation had followed the UK Defence Procurement Agency's appointment of an independent group to assess a future armoured vehicle family. DPA officials are “concerned about... BAE's project management... skills”. But although there was a big money background the land items on show were usually the quartermaster's concern rather than the master gunner's. No big tanks or missiles.

Jane's and Eurosatory's language involves a jokey damning of potential opposition and careful sanitising of the sale item. Old-fashioned military metaphors are employed: “BAE has kept its powder dry.”

Or more ordinary comforting metaphors: “Take care where you cast this Pearl! An entirely new concept for optimal distribution of fragments has been developed for Ruag Ammotec's next-generation hand grenade...”, and: “No good lurking around corners... Dynamit Nobel Defence of Germany and Corner Shot of Israel have combined... to create the Corner Shot Panzerfaust system...” The close cooperation between the Israeli defence industry and central European defence industries was a surprise to this (perhaps naïve) commentator (the gun cannot really shoot round corners).

The modern army is green and company names are child friendly: “The first ProPulse hybrid electric drive technology vehicle is now taking shape at the Oshkosh Truck Corporation.”

It's like kids' toys (if not always furry): “TopOwl joins Tiger and Cobra. A positive menagerie of platforms and systems have been brought together.”

There is a touching concern for health and the environment: “Throughout the ages soldiers have had to dispose of human waste on the battlefield. The portable environmental toilet (PETT)... has proved to be well liked by soldiers. It features an odour-removing powder and zip-close bags.”

And to conform with EU emission standards: “GBC-180 Sherpa 5 vehicles would have... a Euro III emissions compliant engine...”

You need never be bored at Eurosatory – there are entertainers: “Every day delegates (were) educated and entertained by Protecop, one of the world leaders in equipment and training for protection teams that include the feared French CRS.”

Hands-on Buddhist marksmanship was included: “Zen

reduces training costs. India's Zen Technologies has developed an interactive firearms trainer, which visitors to the show can try for themselves.”

And the food was good: “Baked to perfection. Napoleon... said that an army marches on its stomach, while women claim that a way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Bongard has... a record for producing... fresh bread and bakery products as close to the battlefield as possible.”

And it will help sport: “The CEDAR-M electro-optic observation system (Israeli CONTROP Precision Technologies) will provide security at the Summer Olympic Games... to protect the thousands of athletes and visitors... descending on the Greek capital.”

Soldiers are players in fantasy wars with sorcery from the Arthurian legend: “Merlin wields its magic. The UAV sector Sagem Merlin is a twin wing design that can fit in a backpack and be made ready to fly in less than five minutes.”

Probably a computer game – in which they are roboinfantry rather than mortal men: “Elbit Systems (was) selected by the Israel MoD to head the ‘digital soldier’ programme to equip soldiers with miniaturised sensors and computer tools mounted on their backs or helmets.”

And we shall soon not need soldiers at all: “France prepares for ‘unmanned warfare’. Growing use of unmanned aerial vehicles and mobile robotics is changing warfare. DGA is ensuring that France will develop expertise in the evaluation of wheeled robots.”

At the end of an Abram Tertz story² the only things that could overcome the psychowarrior Lenny Makepeace were robot tanks – and in real life those same tanks were used against the Branch Dravidians in Waco.

It's just like school really: “Smart Technologies' Rear Projection Smart Board 4000i featuring a touch-sensitive display delivers the highest resolution in a rear-projection interactive whiteboard.”

And, as a sponsor, *Jane's* are also “helping to keep children safe”, and advertise *Jane's School Safety Handbook* (2nd edition), a quick reference guide for those involved in school safety planning, preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. This edition adds critical information about safe-school planning and response with primary focus on schools within the United States.

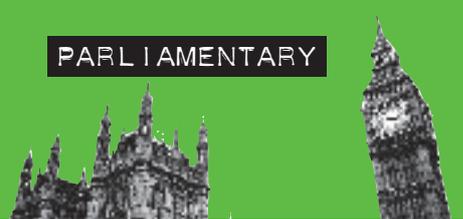
Key contents include:

- School violence
- Terrorism
- Safe-school planning
- School security
- Crisis management and communications
- Threat assessments
- Training
- Sheltering-in-place/lockdown
- Recognising warning signs
- Responding to a range of disasters including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, hazmat, medical emergencies, fire, natural disasters, bomb incidents and structural collapse
- Managing stress”

Stress indeed. Do they truly not see that what they describe is in part responsible for the terrible world we now live in? ■

Peter Nicholls (Essex University) is Chair of Abolition 2000 UK

1. *Jane's* Eurosatory website: <http://eurosatory.janes.com/docs/eurosatory>
2. Tertz, A. (Siniavsky, Andrei) (1965), *The Makepeace Experiment* (Vintage Books, New York)



EU threatening to lift China embargo

There has been a European Union arms embargo on China since the killings in Tiananmen Square in 1989. It has never been a complete embargo - electronics, for example, are not covered - but it does have symbolic value in saying that the people of Europe condemn China's human rights record and its occupation of Tibet.

For some months now, however, there have been attempts within the EU structure to lift the embargo. Help ensure that this does not happen.

An Early Day Motion (EDM 986 – EU Arms Embargo on China), a kind of parliamentary petition, has been tabled by concerned MPs pressing for the UK's commitment to maintain the embargo.

It reads:

“That this House notes that the European Council has invited the General Affairs and External Relations Council to re-examine the question of the embargo on the sale of arms to the People's Republic of China; is concerned that, not only does the existing embargo still permit EU member states to export arms components to the People's Republic of China, but that a number of EU member states have expressed support for the lifting of this embargo at an early date; and calls on Her Majesty's Government to make a commitment to maintaining this embargo and to make representations to EU partners to do

likewise, on the grounds that the People's Republic of China continues to abuse human rights, to occupy Tibet and to use the international war on terror as an excuse to repress people who engage in non-violent political activity.”

- Please write to your MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA asking that s/he sign the EDM 986 when parliament sits in September. If you have internet access, you can check if your MP has already signed at <http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=986> ■

Ann Feltham

Annual Report

The UK government's Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls for 2003 (www.fco.gov.uk/Files/KFile/Full_Report_03.pdf) was published in June. Running to almost 500 pages it is definitely a reference work rather than something to be read from cover to cover.

The Report reveals that in 2003 licences were issued for the export of £86.5 million of UK military equipment to India; £29.5 million to Pakistan (almost double that for 2002); £47 million to South Korea; and £24 million to Taiwan. The Middle East remains a major destination for UK arms exports – in 2003 equipment worth a massive £189.33 million was shipped to Saudi Arabia; £42.37 million to Turkey and around £25 million each to the United Arab Emirates and Oman. ■ *Ann Feltham*

Quarterly information

The 2003 Report will be the last in the current form. The Government will now provide the statistical data on a quarterly, rather than an annual, basis. The information concerning export licences granted or refused from January to March 2004 will be on the Foreign Office and Department of Trade & Industry websites from the end of July; the data from April to June from late October; and so on.

In future, the Annual Reports will summarise the information provided in the quarterly reports as well as describing export control policy developments.

MPs vindicate CAAT complaints on UK arms exports

Continued from page 3

for sales for a company that has had many serious corruption allegations made against it, has allegedly paid people to spy on peace groups, and has downsized its UK workforce with relish while gobbling up Government subsidies.

Although the Committee concludes, probably fairly, that in the past five years there has been “more sustained and detailed attention to the Government's policy and administration in the area of export controls” than any other area of policy by Parliament, the report leaves one with an impression of how weak the scrutiny system still is despite all the progress of recent years. The Committee concedes that it can only scrutinise what the Government allows it to, and this year its most powerful ammunition against the Government was essentially handed to it by CAAT and TAPOL. And the impression is that what it does scrutinise it does so ineffectively, or that it basically starts with such pro-Government assumptions that it is a real rubber stamping exercise – how else can it not find a problem with any UK export licence in 2002 yet still say weapons proliferation is a problem? The report shows that almost all our elected representatives are still entirely accepting the pro-arms trade agenda and that the job of organisations like CAAT has only really begun. ■ *Nicholas Gilby*

NATIONAL GATHERING

London, Saturday 13th November

It has been some while since CAAT organised a day when its supporters could come together. Now, with lots of activity taking place around the country, seems the time to have such a day again.

We will discuss CAAT's policies and campaigns and hear your suggestions for them; and hold both skills and information workshops. There will also be plenty of time for socialising and networking.

The next edition of *CAAT News*, which you should receive at the beginning of October, will include all the details of the day and a booking form, but do put the date in your diary now.

Volunteer with CAAT

If you have some spare time and could spend one day each week volunteering in the CAAT office in London, then we need your help.

CAAT's team of dedicated volunteers are a vital part of the campaign; they take on roles as varied as maintaining the website, carrying out research, running a specific campaign and helping with mail-outs.

At the moment, we are looking for volunteers to undertake small research projects, help maintain CAAT's extensive information library and to take on key admin roles such as looking after our standing order donations and responding to requests for information.

In return for your time, we offer travel expenses, a vegetarian lunch and a welcoming environment! We hope to offer something for everyone; so whether you want to meet new people, develop your skills and experience, or find out what it's like to work in a small campaigning office, please do get in touch.

For more information, please contact Kathryn at the CAAT office on 020 7281 0297 or by email at kathryn@caat.org.uk. ■

Wanted: new members for CAAT's Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is CAAT's ultimate decision-making body deciding on the organisation's policy and direction. It currently meets in London on four Saturday afternoons each year – usually spending about half its time considering campaigns and policy with administrative matters accounting for the rest.

As well as representatives of some of CAAT's sponsoring organisations and networks and the staff, the Steering Committee has eight supporter representatives. These latter sit on the Committee for two years, four retiring each year. This year, because of a resignation, there is an additional one year place available.

Please think about standing for Steering Committee. The current Committee would particularly like to encourage nominations from those active in CAAT at a local level. Local activists are poorly represented at the moment and their ideas and contributions are much needed.

- To become a Supporter representative you need to have been receiving *CAAT News* for more than 12 months. You must be proposed and seconded by other supporters of at least 12 months standing, defined as before, only one of

whom may him or herself be a member of Steering Committee. The paid staff, and the person appointed by Steering Committee as the Returning Officer (this year it is Nick Russell), may not make nominations. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday 6 October.

Send your nominations to Ann at the CAAT office or email them to her on ann@caat.org.uk. Please also contact Ann if you would like to discuss this further.

Register to vote

If more people are nominated than there are places, elections will be held later in the year. Ballot papers will only be sent to supporters or groups who have been receiving *CAAT News* for more than 12 months and who have registered as wishing to vote. More than one vote for a household will be allowed, provided that each person fills in a separate voting registration card.

- Voting registration cards are enclosed. If you have not previously completed one and want to vote this autumn, please complete it and return it now.



Fundraising

It has been a busy couple of months since the last issue of *CAAT News* and it is hard to believe we are already half way through 2004. As you will have seen from the reports on pages 8–9, our main focus in July was the Farnborough Arms Fair. Many of you will have received a letter from me asking for your support both by making a donation towards the campaign and by taking part in the peaceful demonstration and public engagement. From all of us, may I say a huge thank you to all who gave their time, their money or both! The fundraising appeal has raised just under £2,500 so far, and if you have not yet made a contribution but are able to, we would really appreciate your support.

Workers Beer Volunteers

By the time you read this, the festival season will be almost over and I would like

to thank all those who gave their time to volunteer in the Workers Beer tents. At the time of writing, their efforts have already raised £1,141.65 for CAAT at the Homelands, Glastonbury and Respect festivals. With Leeds and Reading still to come, 2004 will have proved to be an extremely successful year for CAAT with the Workers Beer Company. I would also like to mention those who put their names forward but, because of limited places, did not get the chance to volunteer this year – thank you for offering your time and please do contact me again next year.

Running for CAAT

This Autumn's fundraising schedule is full of CAAT supporters taking part in sponsored races to raise money for the campaign. You know already about Laetitia Vail, who will be flying off to New York in November to run a Marathon. But

before then, on 5 September, the CAAT supporters' team will be getting ready to take part in the women's 5k Flora Light Challenge. Two of those dedicated runners are Debra Sheehan and Virginia Moffat. Debra, who ran the same race for CAAT in 2003, will be running in the London event in Hyde Park and Virginia will be taking on her first race in Birmingham. So, if you will be in Birmingham or London on 5 September, why not go along to support them at the race and give them a cheer as they go past? Virginia will be easy to spot, as she will be running with a peace flag, leaving spectators in no doubt of what has motivated her to take part. Good luck to all our runners and if you would like to recognise their efforts with a sponsorship donation, please send cheques (marked 'Flora Light' on the back), payable to CAAT, to the office. ■

Kathryn Busby

Peace Not War CDs

Finally, a reminder:

Peace Not War CDs are still available from the CAAT office, now at a special summer offer price of £10.

Featuring inspiring songs from a variety of artists – including Seize the Day, Chumbawumba, Asian Dub Foundation and Billy Bragg – these albums make an excellent gift, and are great value at only £10 for a double CD.

Visit the CAAT website for a full list of tracks and a link to the Peace Not War website, where you can read the lyrics and listen to sample songs. Enjoy the rest of the summer! ■



get active!

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

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 beccie@caat.org.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.org.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.org.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.org.uk tel **020 7281 0297**

Materials CAAT publications available from the office

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 postcards 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 arms trade subsidies leaflet available

Contact the office for details.

Also available to download as a PDF file from www.armsfair.com



Campaigns diary



4 September 1pm–4pm: Musical protest against the 2005 DSEi arms fair outside the Excel Centre (Organised by ELAAF) **9 September** 7.30pm: ELAAF meeting (The Garden Café, 7 Cundy Road, London E16 3DJ) **13 November** CAAT Gathering
See www.caat.org.uk for more information on arms trade events throughout the year

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



ACTING UP AT THE FARNBOROUGH ARMS FAIR **PAGES 8-9**

Photo: Richie Andrew

Please separate along line

Subscribe to CAAT News

Subscription is voluntary, but we need your support. We suggest **£26 waged**, **£14 low income** and **£35 for groups**. Please give more if you are able, or less if not.

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To The Manager of Bank Bank Address
Postcode Sort code Account No.

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

Fill in your name and address with the bankers order and return the whole form to CAAT, not your bank.
Please make cheques payable to CAAT and send with this form to: CAAT, Freepost, LON6486, London N4 3BR.
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