UK nuclear weapons and the Trident programme.

Economics, Politics, Ecology, Violence ...
The Wider Role of Health Professionals in Global Health

Medact conference, 11 November 2013

Peter Burt
UK will only consider using nuclear weapons “in extreme circumstances of self defence”.

UK will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

BUT

The assurance does not apply to “any state in material breach of these non-proliferation obligations”.

The UK reserves the right to review this assurance if the future threat, development, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction make it necessary.
2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review

• An overall arsenal of no more than 180 nuclear weapons by the mid 2020s – down from no more than 225 warheads in 2010.

• 40 warheads on board each submarine on no more than 8 missiles.

• No more than 120 “operationally available” warheads (three submarines).
Building new Trident submarines will cost us £15-20 billion. What else could we do with the money?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>600 new schools</th>
<th>11,000,000 homes insulated and made more energy efficient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>350,000 affordable homes</td>
<td>7,500 megawatts of wind power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 fully equipped new hospitals</td>
<td>1,280 high speed trains</td>
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Volunteers for Peace
Thank you friends.

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Atomic Bombs

HYDROGEN BOMBS

 Extreme heat from atomic bomb explosion + $^2\text{H}$ Deuterium and Tritium

 Fused Hydrogen Isotopes

Light, heat, concussive blast, explosion, soot cloud

Blindness from a distance

Supersonic shockwave knocking down buildings for several miles from the blast

An atom bom is needed just to start a hydrogen bomb’s fuse