

British Pugwash Group
Honorary Secretary's Report for the Year 2002/3
and Future Plans

Report for the Year

Following the previously announced resignation of Dr Bas Pease from the Chair, the Committee unanimously elected Professor Robert Hinde to succeed him, and Professor Jack Harris as Vice-chair.

Our report, *An End to UK Nuclear Weapons* was published in October and widely distributed, in the corridors of power and elsewhere. It was reviewed, *inter alia*, in The Guardian, and received further publicity when Sir Joseph Rotblat gave the keynote address, on *Terror in the Balance*, at a Whitehall Security Seminar organized jointly by the Guardian, The Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, and US Physicians for Social Responsibility.

More recently, in response to the Government's public discussion paper on *Missile Defence* we have prepared and submitted a detailed critique, the text of which appears on our website.

We have for long been concerned that, whilst Pugwash has undoubtedly been very effective in much of the work that it has carried out through unattributable scientific meetings, it may be missing opportunities for advancing its goals through influencing public opinion. We have therefore initiated a project, jointly with other likeminded groups, for promoting public awareness of nuclear weapons issues. The current Chair of this group is our representative, Professor John Finney. With support from trusts and *Greenpeace*, a paid assistant is being appointed, and is to be accommodated in the Pugwash office.

A number of British Pugwashites were able to attend the Quinquennial Pugwash conference, in la Jolla, California, several of whom presented papers. We were pleased that, on our nomination, Dr Anne McLaren was elected to Council whilst, of course, Sir Joseph Rotblat retains honorary membership. Following the conference, we arranged for copies of the annual report of Pugwash Council to be sent to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Secretary of State for Defence, and others.

Our own annual winter public meeting was held at the Royal Society, on 14th November, on *What Future for Arms Control?*, attracting a good attendance and generating lively discussion. Then, over the following weekend, we were host to an international Pugwash workshop on *No First Use*, which brought together 29 participants from 15 countries. Texts or summaries of the 20 presented papers are posted on the Pugwash website.

Arising from our concern with the Israel-Palestine confrontation, our Chairman undertook to write to the Israeli Ambassador and the Palestine London office, expressing our concern, and urging them both towards negotiation and adherence to relevant UN resolutions.

Finally, thanks to the expertise of Dr Carsten Rohr, our website is now both more informative and "user-friendly". Go to www.pugwash.org/uk

Future Plans

Plans are in hand to arrange a public meeting on *Causes of War: the Role of the Media*. This is aimed at early summer, and may comprise a single talk and discussion.

For later in the year, we are discussing possibilities for a meeting on *Terrorism*, perhaps focusing on terrorist mentality/psychology.

A number of UK participants have been nominated for this year's annual Pugwash Conference, to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 17th-21st July, around the theme: *Advancing Human Security: the Role of Technology and Politics*.

Any members who would be interested in a **Members' Visit to AWE Aldermaston** should please notify the office (preferably at or before the AGM on 3rd April), as we are currently attempting to arrange for such a visit.