

Notes for Mobilisers Introductory Talk

Political Context

Trident Replacement

Decision coming very soon

Window of Opportunity but only for two years

Scotland

70%+ opposition to Trident in Scotland

All UK nukes based in Scotland at Faslane

Scottish Parliament now exists but doesn't have formal power over this area (but can act especially if it uses the illegality of Trident arguments!)

Successful actions in Scotland over recent years – need more sustained, broad action.

Need for Direct Action

Examples from around the world

Show that Direct Action/Civil Resistance works

But show it needs to be broad, sustained and inclusive

To achieve change we need a full range of approaches, from Lobbying to Letter Writing to Demonstrations to Direct Actions

Lobbying, etc. has been going on for years and is still. We are networking with the people doing that

The gap (missing link) is sustained, broad direct action. We aim to fill that gap.

What Faslane 365 Is

We want to blockade Faslane for a year

With a series of different, autonomous groups.

Each group:

Commits to a 48 hour slot

Provides 100 people willing to risk arrest plus support

Overlaps with the group before and after (new group arrives each day)

Each group owns its own slot (message, etc.)

Only common commitment is to Non-Violence guidelines and to core message (say what that is)

Links with other issues, reallocation of resources, conversion/creative resistance

International Law

Statement of Support (who's already signed it)

Rota

Won't even publically launch unless we have 100 groups signed up to do the first 100 days

Blockade planned to start 1st October 2006

Launch event on 9th September in Edinburgh where all the groups can meet, network and showcase their issues and the links to Trident and where there will be a formal civic reception by Edinburgh City Council