

**February 5, 1983**

**CND [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament] and Early  
General Election - Immediate, Non-Sectarian  
Demands**

**Citation:**

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<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/300276>

**Summary:**

This paper, prepared for the CND Council in April 1983 by Ian Davison, Secretary of Scottish CND, sets out the possible outcomes of the election and the implications for Cruise and Trident. Davison concludes that 'only a Conservative victory brings us no gain'.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

C.N.D. AND AN EARLY GENERAL ELECTION

- IMMEDIATE, NON-SECTARIAN DEMANDS

Possible Election Results (plus continued C.N.D. pressure)

If the Conservative Party wins an early General Election, arms limitation will be very difficult, real disarmament impossible. Even Trident will be hard to stop.

Possible successes = 0 to 1.

If there is a Conservative - Alliance "coalition" of some kind, part of the Alliance's price would probably be cancelling Trident, but not cancelling Cruise.

Possible successes = 1.

If the Labour Party wins, Trident and Cruise will be stopped, and "negotiations" will start on withdrawal of U.S. "Nuclear" Bases.

Possible successes = 2½.

If the Alliance wins the election, Trident will stop but probably not Cruise.

Possible successes = 1.

If there is a Labour - Alliance "coalition" of some kind, Trident will be cancelled, and perhaps Cruise.

Possible successes = 1 - 2.

Therefore only a Conservative victory brings us no gain (unless you count "dual-key" on Cruise, which is not worth discussing, no matter which party delivered it.)

Before the Election

We should not be afraid, therefore, to say that a vote for a Conservative looks like a very bad thing for disarmament and even arms limitation. But other than that, we should not get into the niceties of party electioneering or tactical voting.

We should advocate voting only for the following individual candidates, and in this order :

- (1) people who fully support C.N.D.
- (2) people who would ask the U.S. to withdraw bases
- (3) people who would cancel Cruise missiles
- (4) people who would cancel Trident.

Slogan : "Vote for : No Cruise Missiles, No Trident Missiles, No World War III"

After the Election

No matter what the result, we should expect to keep campaigning just as hard, and in at least as many different ways. What should vary with the election results are (a) the level of our immediate Parliamentary demands, and (b) the choice of our next-stage demands.

The irreducible minimum of immediate demands will still be

- (1) stop Trident (winnable even with a Tory Government)
- (2) stop Cruise (probably an irreversible C.N.D. commitment now for 1983-4.)

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SCND

(5.3.83)