

That You act Justly

[Br Vincent Kingston](#)

While the cost of replacing Trident at £25,000,000,000 is a much smaller issue than the threat to world peace and stability that any nuclear weapon represents, I share with you the following from a recent Pax Christi publication. (With permission.)

“A Theft from the Poor.”

That is how Pope Paul VI regarded the money spent on arms; as a theft from the poor and an “intolerable scandal”, while schools and homes and hospitals remain unbuilt.

That was 40 years ago when he wrote *Populorum Progressio* – an era when the Cold War between east and west was fuelling the arm’s race.

But 40 years later the money spent on arms continues to rob the poor. Armed conflict blocks development and human progress; wars make sure that poor people remain poor.

Making poverty history is a practical possibility, but it will not happen unless at the same time we start to eradicate the disease of militarism. Making poverty history must also mean making war history.

Military spending towers above commitments to tackle the deep-seated causes of future global insecurity, such as the gap between rich and poor and the impact of climate change

- In 2005 global military spending rose to \$1.118 billion

- The US accounted for 48% of this - \$534.1 billion
- The second biggest military spender in the world is the UK at \$53.6 billion, about \$904 per person.

The world currently spends over 12 times as much on the military than it does on overseas aid.

Thoughts for your thinking...

Some useful websites for further information:

Campaign Against Arms Trade www.caat.org.uk

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament www.cnduk.org

Movement for the Abolition of War
www.abolishwar.org.uk

In the current issue of “Developments”, the official publication of the Department for International Development (DFID), there is a two-page spread on ‘Water’. It is a series of statistics made more attractive and digestible than statistics usually are by the diagrammatic layout in which they are presented.

I offer them to you – without, I’m afraid, the attractive context! – in the hope that they may help to make us all more appreciative of the wonder of this colourless, odourless and tasteless substance that all

life hangs on; more aware of the issues surrounding water; and more careful maybe of how we use this precious commodity.

(The following is printed with the kind permission of DFID.)

Climate change, rising population, urbanisation and economic growth combine to create a shortage of our planet’s life blood...

- The average person in Britain uses about 104 litres of domestic water each day, but only drinks about 4 litres. The rest goes on cooking washing and flushing.

- Average daily water use per person in litres in

Ethiopia	5.	Dem. Rep. of Congo	11
Nigeria	30.	Cote D’Ivoire	33
Kenya	41.	UK	104
S.Africa	156.	USA	595

Over one billion people live without a safe and reliable water-supply.

-By 2025 it is expected that 3.4 billion people will be living in countries defined as water-scarce.

-Since 1950 the world population has doubled, while water consumption has increased six-fold.

(Under the heading ‘How much water does it take?’ appears the following, which I find quite intriguing...!)

-It takes

35 litres to make a cup of tea.

70 litres to produce one apple.

170 litres to brew a pint of beer.

170 litres to produce a glass of orange juice.

1,450 litres to produce one kilogram of wheat.

4,100 litres to produce a cotton T-shirt.

The publication ‘Developments’ is available free from the DFID:

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I think it comes out quarterly.



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