

PEACELINE



Jan-Feb
2019

Newsletter of London Region CND • Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Road
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A Coup Against the Peace

On 4 December the United States government delivered an ultimatum to Russia: if it didn't 'comply' with the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty within 60 days – by 2nd February 2019 – the US would “suspend its obligations” under the treaty and start the six month process of withdrawing from it.

The INF treaty bans the U.S. and Russia from developing or possessing land-based missiles with a range between 500 and 5,500km.

In 2014 Russia tested an ‘SSC-8’ cruise missile. The U.S. said it violated the treaty.

Russia has consistently denied doing so, saying it “strictly abides” by the treaty. It calls US allegations “groundless”, says the US has provided no evidence and is “manipulating facts to create a pretext” to leave the treaty.

The U.S. State Department repeated the accusation in 2015.

Two years later, in 2017, the deputy chief U.S. military officer said only that the SSC-8 violated the “spirit and intent” of the INF treaty, whatever that means.

Nato held a Summit meeting in July 2018. Declaring that it considers the INF Treaty to be “crucial to Euro-Atlantic security”, it said only that “the most plausible as-

essment would be that Russia is in violation” of the treaty”. That left at least one or perhaps several other possibilities on the table.

On 4 October the United States

“The most plausible assessment would be that Russia is in violation of the Treaty”. Nato Summit Declaration, 11 July 2018

Ambassador to NATO said Russia was in “blatant violation” of the INF treaty and threatened to ‘take out’ Russia’s ‘SSC-8’ missiles before they became operational.

On 20 October President Trump said “we have a tremendous am-

“We strongly support the finding of the United States that Russia is in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty”. Nato Foreign Ministers meeting, 4 December 2018

ount of money to play with with our military. We are going to terminate the [INF Treaty] and we are

going to develop the weapons” so that “there will be nobody that’s going to be even close to us”. He said Russia had “been violating [the INF treaty] for many years”.

He gave no examples.

He said the U.S. would withdraw from the INF treaty unless Russia and China signed a new deal.

The following day British Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said Russia was “making a mockery” of the INF Treaty. Britain would be “absolutely resolute” alongside

the U.S., although it “wanted to see this treaty continue”.

NATO was neither consulted nor forewarned about the U.S. Ambassador’s threat or

Trump’s announcement. On 25 October NATO Ambassadors met to discuss the issue. They said only that the US had “engaged Allies regularly” on the matter since 2014 and they would “continue to consult on this important issue”.

On 28 October, on a tour to “calm European allies nerves”, US Defence Secretary James Mattis said that the Nato Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels in December would be some kind of “culminating point”.

NATO Foreign Ministers met in Brussels on 4 December. They issued a statement saying “Allies

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Friday 25 January
7-10pm
Ev Restaurant SE1
£18 in advance
See page 2**

have concluded that Russia has developed and fielded a missile system which violates the INF Treaty. We strongly support the finding of the United States that Russia is in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty".

That day the United States issued its ultimatum to Russia.

In July Nato members had concluded only that "the most plausible assessment would be that Russia is in violation of the INF Treaty". Suddenly, all doubt was gone and Nato Foreign Ministers "strongly supported" the United States in saying Russia was "in blatant violation" of the treaty and "had been for many years".

There was no suggestion that anything new had come to light about Russia's missiles. There had only been the US Ambassador's threat followed by Trump's declaration that he would withdraw from the treaty.

China was never a signatory to the INF treaty. It has some 2,000 intermediate-range missiles. These can hit the chain of U.S. bases off its coast and the giant US aircraft carriers which prowl the neighbouring seas. The United States calls China's missiles a "threat" to itself. The U.S. has to rely on ones launched from its ships, submarines and aircraft which cost more and have limited space.

The United States has always dominated Nato. The 'Supreme Allied Commander Europe' has always been an American with a British Deputy. These are among the real power relations in Nato. The operating formula has always been that 'the Americans cook dinner while the Europeans do the washing up'.

US-led Nato has provided the 'teeth' behind 'western' interests. Nato was firstly a creature of the Cold War and presented itself as



Celebrate the New Year With London CND

Friday 25 January; 6:30 for 7-10pm
Ev Restaurant 97-99 Isabella St SE1 8DD

Waterloo Station 5 minutes; Southwark Tube 2 minutes

£18 payable in advance

- **Hot and cold mixed mezze (Turkish small dishes) with many vegetarian or vegan options**
- **Convivial company in a charming Anatolian atmosphere**
- **Mystery guest speaker**
- **Wide choice of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks can be bought at the bar**
- **Disabled access**

HOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Your place is not reserved until you pay. There are three ways to do this:

- 1) By direct bank transfer to London Region CND; Please use the reference 'social'. Our bank details are: Metro Bank, 1 Southampton Row WC1B 5HA. London Region CND Account no 19885078 Sort code 23-05-80
- 2) Send a cheque to Phil Sedler, LRCND Treasurer, 6 Headlam St E1 5RT
- 3) Via Eventbrite – go to: www.eventbrite.co.uk and look under 'London Region CND'

'defensive'.

When the Cold War ended Nato didn't dissolve itself because the realities of power hadn't changed. Instead it 'turned itself inside out' and went on the expansion trail.

It has waged 'hot' wars on three continents, including a 15-year-long one in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile it has built a worldwide network of 'partnerships'

from New Zealand to Japan and Argentina.

Time will tell what lay behind the Nato Foreign Ministers' decision in December. It's quite likely that the US said it wouldn't deploy any new missiles it develops on the ground in Europe while it builds up a stockpile of them in the Pacific.

Jim Brann

Scary New Year

New York's Times Square holds pride of place among new year celebrations in the United States. Since 1907 a brightly-lit ball has dropped there in the 60 seconds before midnight.

Ahead of 2019 US Strategic Command - STRATCOM, which oversees America's nuclear weapons, tweeted "#TimesSquare tradition rings in the #New-Year by dropping the big ball...if ever needed, we are #ready to drop something much, much bigger".

A video showed a B-2 Spirit nuclear-capable stealth bomber dropping bombs and causing gigantic explosions. 'STEALTH', 'READY' and 'LETHAL' flashed up.

The tweet met a wave of hostility. The former head of the US Office of Government Ethics asked "What kind of maniacs are running this country?"

They deleted it saying "our previous NYE tweet was in poor taste & does not reflect our values.

We apologize. We are dedicated to the security of America & allies".

It reflected their values very well. The 'mistake' was bragging to the wrong audience. A commentator said "it's a lot like watching a manipulative sociopath learning how to function in normal society".

The U.S. accounts for half of all nuclear weapons spending. It has submarine-launched, land-based and air-launched nuclear weapons and a \$1.5 trillion nuclear weapons modernization programme.

The US Navy's "number one priority" is a new generation of nucle-

ar-missile-carrying submarines.

The US Deputy Defense Secretary said "nuclear weapons remain the most important mission we have. We are going to pay for new submarines no matter what".

The US Air Force's nuclear weapons command is run by a 4-star general for the first time with orders to "bring this nuclear mission



back to the front edge of air force attention every single day".

The B-21 Raider bomber is to replace the B-2s because "a new long-range bomber that can pene-

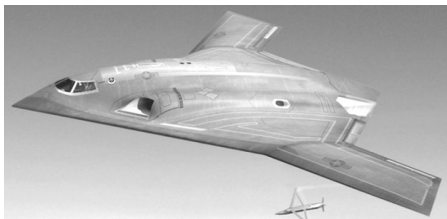
trate the most advanced air defences is seen as vital in preserving America's unique ability to project power anywhere in the world".

The Defense Secretary called nuclear weapons an "essential bedrock" which "comes first in terms of what we spend money on".

President Trump said "our military dominance must be unquestion-

ed" including a "greatly strengthened and expanded nuclear capability".

The US govern-



ernizing the nation's nuclear delivery systems is the number one priority, and these programs are fully funded in the 2019 budget".

B2s bombers need special handling. There are only 3 bases outside the US that can do that. One is the 'British' Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia. Another is Fairford, England with its 2 climate-controlled hangars.

So when STRATCOM is ready to "drop something much, much bigger" it can do so from Britain.

That's the 'special relationship'.

India - the Rising Nuclear Power

In January 2018 India test-fired its 5,000km-range ballistic missile which is capable of reaching all of China and the Middle East.

In November 2018 its first nuclear missile submarine - INS Arihant - made its inaugural voyage.



Two more such submarines are in the pipeline to complement India's land-based nuclear missiles and airborne nuclear bombs.

Credible estimates are that India's nuclear warhead stockpile has roughly doubled since 2010 to 130-140, with enough fissile material for 60-70 more. There is talk of India developing a far-more-powerful hydrogen bomb.

India didn't sign the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (the NPT) which privileges the 5 'official' nuclear powers, including Britain.

In 1974 it carried out a nuclear test. Since 1998 it has pursued a full-scale nuclear weapons programme. In 2005 US President Bush agreed to assist this to counter a rising China despite it fuelling a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

72 years ago Britain ignored the unanimous call for nuclear disarmament and developed nuclear weapons for "our prestige in the world". For 50 years it has ignored its treaty obligation to pursue nuclear disarmament.

India has taken its cue from that as it pursues its own "prestige in the world" as a rising power. Britain is against "nuclear weapons proliferation" - except when it suits.

Coming Events

London CND Events

020 7607 2302

www.londoncnd.org.uk

Fri Jan 25 • 7-10pm • Celebrate the New Year with London CND at Ev Restaurant, Waterloo; See p 2

Local Group Events

Wimbledon

Every Friday • 6-7pm • Vigil for Peace at St. Mark's Place, Wimbledon. Has been held for 16 years. Info: Maisie, 020 8001 5167

Other Events

Wed Jan 23 • 6.30-8.30pm • Campaign Against the Arms Trade demo outside the Grosvenor Hotel, 86-90 Park Lane, Mayfair W1 where arms dealers are holding their annual "Aerospace, Defence and Security Dinner."
www.caat.org.uk; 020-7281-0297.

Fri Jan 25 • 7-10pm • Celebrate the New Year with London CND; See page 2

Sat Jan 26 • 9.30am-5pm • Palestine Solidarity Campaign AGM; At Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1 4RL.
www.palestinecampaign.org 020-7700 6192

Wed Jan 30 • 7pm • "Rethinking Racial Capitalism". With Gargi Bhattacharyya, Professor of Sociology at the Centre For Migration, Refugees and Belonging, University of East London. Entry £3 redeemable against any purchase; At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, N1 Info: 020 7837 4473 www.housmans.com

Sat Feb 2 • 10am-5pm • Labour CND Conference: "Preparing for Government: the peace policies Labour needs." With Fabian Hamilton MP, Shadow Minister for Peace & Disarmament and others;

Birkbeck University, Malet Street WC1; www.laourcnd.org.uk

Sat Feb 2 • 2.30 to 5.30pm • Musical Protest against Arms Fair held at ExCeL exhibition centre, outside the Baby Show being held there. Musicians and non-musicians welcome. Go to Custom House DLR Station and follow the signs to ExCeL. If not there at east end of Excel – go to Prince Regent DLR. Action at end of the walkway just before you get to the entrance to ExCeL; www.elaaf.org

Sat Feb 9 • 1-5pm • Stop the War nationwide student activist meeting at Birkbeck College, Rm G13, Malet St WC1. 020-7561 4830
office@stopwar.org.uk

Tue Feb 12 • 7pm • "Nonviolence and Tolerance." London Pacifism and Nonviolence Discussion Group meeting. In Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings cross, London N1. Info: 020-7278 4474; SecondTuesday@groupmail.com

Sat Mar 2 • 9.30am-5pm • "No Pasaran - Confronting the Rise of the Far-Right." At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP. Supported by Global Justice, Stand Up To Racism etc. 020 7820 4900; offleyroad@globaljustice.org.uk

Sat Mar 9 • 5pm • Campaign Against the Arms Trade weekend of preparation for DSEI with various workshops. At Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, N7; Hosted by CAAT & Stop The Arms Fair; www.caat.org.uk 020-7281 0297.

Tue March 12 • 7pm • "Pacifism & Centralisation." London Pacifism and Nonviolence Discussion Group meeting. In Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings cross,

London N1. Info: 020-7278 4474; SecondTuesday@groupmail.com

Sat Mar 16 • 2.30-5.30pm • Musical Protest against the Arms Fairs held at the ExCeL exhibition centre outside the Food and Drink Show being held there. Musicians and non-musicians welcome. Go to Custom House DLR Station and follow the signs to ExCeL. If not there at east end of Excel – go to Prince Regent DLR. Action at end of the walkway just before you get to the entrance to ExCeL; www.elaaf.org

Regular events

Every Wed • 6-7pm • Women in Black silent vigil against militarism & war; Edith Cavell Statue, St Martin's Pl WC2; wibinfo@gn.apc.org

Every Fri • 10am-12.30pm • Vigil in solidarity with Japanese activists against nuclear power; Outside Japanese Embassy, 101-104 Piccadilly. Green Park Tube **1-1.30pm •** Vigil at Tokyo Electric Power Company offices, 14-18 High Holborn (Chancery Lane tube); Info: David 020 7700 2393; www.kicknuclear.com

2nd weekend each month • Women's peace camp at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Factory; 07969 739 812; www.aldermaston.net

1st Sun each month • 10.55am • Walk in Peace; Slow, silent 1-hour walk for peace; Speakers' Corner café, Hyde Park (Marble Arch tube); Clare 020 8755 0353 beatrice@bmillar.com