

PEACELINE



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Newsletter of London Region CND • Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Road
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Trashing the Treaties

On 2 October the U.S. Ambassador to NATO threatened to bomb Russia to 'take out' its 'SSC-8' missiles before they became operational.

She claimed the missile was a threat to all 27 NATO members and that Russia was in "blatant violation" of the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in developing it. The treaty prohibits both the U.S. and Russia from having land-based missiles with a range between 500 and 5,500km.

Later she withdrew her bombing threat and instead threatened that the U.S. would "match" Russia.

On 20 October President Trump followed up on her words saying "we have a tremendous amount 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 that would happen unless Russia and China signed a new deal with the U.S.

On 23 October in Moscow U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton confirmed Trump's announcement and said that "in due course" the U.S. would give six months notice of leaving the INF treaty.



U.S. Vice President Pence boasted that "we've been making the strongest military in the history of the world stronger still. Earlier this year, the President signed into law the largest increase in our national defense since the days of Ronald Reagan – \$716 billion to extend our military dominance in every domain" (see Peaceline May 2018). He said that included "modernizing our nuclear arsenal" alongside air, sea and space forces. U.S. military spending equals that of the next 10 countries in the world put together. It has a \$1.5 trillion nuclear weapons modern-

isation programme. In the pipeline are a new strategic nuclear bomber, a new long-range land-based nuclear missile, new nuclear missile-carrying submarines, new air- and sea-launched nuclear-tipped cruise miss-

iles, a new air-dropped nuclear smart bomb and up to 9 types of nuclear warheads.

The U.S. has plenty of sea-based and air-delivered missiles; freed from the INF treaty, it could develop land-based ones as well, although it would then face the question of where to put them. It was public hostility in the 1980s which helped see them off.

Trump's announcement comes after his administration has declared that "great power competition is now the primary focus of US national security", with Russia and China "challenging American power, influence and interests".

Scrapping the INF treaty would 'legalize' the SSC-8 missile and free Russia to develop and build intermediate-range land-based missiles. But the increase in U.S. military spending is greater than the whole Russian military budget. The Trump administration likely calculates that an arms race would break Russia.

China is not a signatory to the INF

Coming Events

Thursday November 15 • 7:30-9:30pm • Croydon Peace Council Re-Launch at Ruskin House CR0 1BD with Jan Woolf (No Glory in War) and a showing of the film 'March to Aldermaston'

Sat Jan 12 • London CND AGM and Conference at School of Oriental and African Studies; More details TBA

treaty and presents what the United States calls an “anti-access/area denial threat” to itself. There is a string of U.S. bases down China’s east coast and giant American aircraft carriers patrol its shores. But the bases and carriers are vulnerable to China’s intermediate-range land-based missiles. The U.S. has to rely on ones launched from its ships, submarines and aircraft which cost more and have limited space.

China would have to spend more on its military and less on its economy, or come to an agreement with the US which seriously limited its defences.

The United States has always dominated Nato and its ‘Supreme

Commander’ has always been an American. Nato was neither consulted nor forewarned about the US ambassador’s threat or Trump’s announcement. This was met with concern from other members. The Czech Prime Minister called it part of a new Cold War.

The British Defence Secretary said Russia was “making a mockery” of the INF treaty and “we will be absolutely resolute with the United States” but Britain “wanted to see the treaty continue”.

Trump has also denounced the 2010 ‘New start’ treaty which expires in 2021 and limits the number of strategic nuclear warheads deployed by the US and Russia. If the INF treaty is killed off and New

start is allowed to die, it will be the first time in almost 50 years that there are no limits on nuclear arsenals.

Jim Brann

East London Network

A well-attended meeting on Thursday 8th November agreed to set up a local network for progressive groups in East London to share their future events by an email link.

For more details email info@londoncnd.org

In Memory of Joanna Bazley

Beating heart of the peace movement in Wimbledon – inspiration and role model

The Steering Committee is deeply saddened to announce the death of Joanna, our indefatigable secretary and leader of WDC/CND since the formation of the group. Joanna was a dedicated member of CND and helped to found the Wimbledon Disarmament Coalition/CND in the 1980s during the cruise missile crisis which brought a resurgence of peace activity nearly everywhere.

Joanna bore the main responsibility for our monthly peace table. Also, she was instrumental, together with UNA and the Quakers, in establishing, in 2001 following 9/11, our weekly peace vigil, held in all weathers.

She never missed an opportunity to take up the peace issue, always trying, and often succeeding, in maintaining a high profile for the

peace movement (including stalls, community fairs, etc.)

A great champion for peace, thinker, prolific writer, activist in



the local and wider community, musician and music teacher, school governor, gardener, environmentalist and much, much more.

Joanna was an inspiration to all of us. An amazing person, we will never forget her, and her work will continue to motivate and inspire us in our future work for peace.

Wimbledon Disarmament Coalition/CND Steering Committee

Tribute Gathering to Joanna Bazley

In accordance with her wishes, Joanna did not have a public funeral, but WDC/CND will be arranging a special tribute for her on

Friday 30th November 7.30 pm
At William Morris House
267 The Broadway, SW19 1SD

The event will be informal, with the **main address being given by Bruce Kent**. As well as peace, music was Joanna's passion, so we are hoping to have some live music.

Please bring some finger food; soft drinks, tea and coffee will be provided.

Please RSVP

maisie1carter@gmail.com

The INF Treaty

In the 1980s the United States introduced Cruise and Pershing intermediate range nuclear missiles into western Europe. The Soviet Union fielded its own SS20 intermediate range missiles.

There was a danger of a nuclear war being fought out in Europe - with the US left being unharmed.

As well as mass demonstrations there were large protests at American nuclear missile bases in Europe, notably at Greenham Common in Britain. This made the effective basing of the missiles in Europe difficult.

The INF treaty was signed in December 1987 by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov. It required

the Soviet Union and the United States to eliminate all their land-based missiles, nuclear and conventional, with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometres.

By the deadline in 1991 2,692 missiles had been blown up, cut in half and crushed.

An entire category of missiles had been eliminated – the only time this has happened.

The Real Reason for Leaving or Just an Excuse to Leave?

On October 2 the U.S. Ambassador to NATO said the Russian SSC-8 missile was a “blatant violation” of the INF Treaty that threatened all Nato members. The British Defence Secretary said that Russia was “making a mockery” of the treaty. President Trump claimed “they’ve been violating it for many years”. But is all that just an excuse?

The U.S. first alleged in July 2014 that Russia was violating the INF Treaty. Russia has continuously denied that it is doing so.

Nearly 3 years later, in March 2017 the deputy head of the U.S. military claimed only that the SSC-8 missile “violates the spirit and intent” of the INF Treaty.

The July 2018 Nato Summit of all its 27 members, 4 years after the U.S. first made the allegation and undoubtedly under great American pressure, said only that “the most plausible assessment would be that Russia is in violation of the INF Treaty”.

It looks like an excuse, not a reason. The real reason seems to be that the U.S. wants to develop intermediate range missiles anyway – especially for use against China.

Taking Us Back to the 18th Century

The U.S. Ambassador to NATO threatened to bomb Russia to ‘take out’ its missiles before they became operational. Such a public threat would have been unthinkable during the Cold War.

Until the 20th century all independent states had the ‘right to war’ - the *Jus ad Bellum*. Under it, as long as certain rules were followed, ‘might made right’.

An illustration of the principle is the 1776 US Declaration of Independence which demands “full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do”.

An 1842 agreement between the U.S. and Britain separated out the right of ‘self-defence’ from the ‘right to war’. This became part of ‘customary international law’. As well having the right to self defence against an attack, a state could also use force against an ‘imminent’ threat of attack. But such a threat must allow “no moment of deliberation nor choice of means”.

The 1928 ‘General Pact for the Renunciation of War’, following the First World War, abolished

the ‘right to war as an instrument of national policy’. This left as ‘legal’ only the 1842 right of self-defence against actual and imminent attacks. The ‘Axis’ powers did not renounce the 1928 treaty, so that violation of it was a key charge in the Nuremberg trial of Germany’s Second World War leadership.

At American insistence, the United Nations Charter of 1945, the new cornerstone of international law, allowed ‘self defence’ only ‘if an armed attack occurs’. Any other use of force had to be sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council. Even then it was legal only if the Council was acting within the Purposes and Principles of the U.N. Charter.

During the Cold War care was taken to appear to be sticking to the law. When U.S. President Eisenhower was presented with a plan to bomb the Soviet Union he rejected such an idea as ‘the invention of Hitler’.

Especially since the end of the Cold War, this body of law has been increasingly trashed. Nato has been turned ‘inside out’ and has gone from being supposedly defensive to intervention and war way beyond ‘its’ territory.

The Ambassador’s threat is only a particularly stark example.

Coming Events

London CND Events

020 7607 2302

www.londoncnd.org.uk

Thu Nov 15 • 7:30-9:30pm •

Croydon Peace Council Re-Launch at Ruskin House CRO 1BD with Jan Woolf (No Glory in War) & a showing of 'March to Aldermaston'

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Local Group Events

Haringey

Wed Nov 14 • 8.15-9.15pm •

'Lessons of WW1 in the age of Brexit and Trump' at Sanctuary Church Hall behind Moravian Church, Priory Road, N8 7HR

Wimbledon

Fri Nov 30 • 7.30pm • Joanna

Bazley remembrance event at William Morris Rooms, 267 the Broadway, Wimbledon SW19; •

Fridays • 6-7pm • "Vigil for Peace" outside the library in St. Mark's Pl

Other Events

To Thu Nov 15 • Antiwar Film

Festival at Sands Film Studios Rotherhithe SE16

<https://twitter.com/sandsfilmscene?lang=en>

Sat Nov 17 • Noon • National

Unity Demonstration Against Fascism & Racism. Assemble outside BBC, Great Portland Street, W1.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1887445111550804>

Mon Nov 19 • 6.45pm • "Incarceration as a Weapon of War." Speaker: Laleh Khalili, Professor of Middle East Politics at SOAS.

£3/£2. At Café Diplo at The Gallery, 70/77 Cowcross Street, EC1. Friends of Le Monde Diplomatique. 07435-844 130.

Wed Nov 21 • 7pm • "Corbyn: The Resurrection" with cartoonist Steve Bell. Entry £3 redeemable against any purchase. At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, N1. 020-7837 4473

Sat Nov 24 • 2.30-5.30pm • Musical Protest outside ExCeL Centre against arms fairs held there. Prince Regent or Custom House DLR. East London Against the Arms Fair. www.elaaf.org

Sat Nov 24 • 10.30am • "Need for UK to sign Global Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons." WILPF Autumn seminar. Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/y9wlsule> free; suggested donation of £10 for lunch. At Salvation Army Hall, 70 Mare Street, E8 4RT. 020-7250 1968

Tue Nov 27 • 6pm • "This Evil Thing." Michael Mears' solo play about Britain's WW1 COs. Free. Marylebone Theatre, 7 Garbutt Pl W1. 020-7487 7700; greenhalgha@regents.ac.uk

Thu Nov 29 • 6.30pm • 'From Pillars to Practice: pushing the boundaries of "Women, Peace and Security."' UK launch of the Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace and Security with its authors. At: Old Theatre, LSE, Houghton St. WC2. Org. LSE. Info: 020-7405 7686.

Sat Dec 1 • noon • "Together for Climate Justice" march. Assemble by the Polish Embassy, Portland Pl W1 020-7833 9311; info@campaigncc.org

Fri Dec 7 • 11.45am-2pm • annual Christmas Protest outside Lockheed Martin offices at 15 Lower Regent Street SW1, with fancy dress, singing, banner and leafletting. Meet by Eros, Piccadilly Circus, 11.30am. Info: 07587-161 980.

Tue Dec 11 • 7pm • "Nonviolence and Traditions." London Pacifism and Nonviolence Discussion Group Meeting. At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross N1. Info: 020-7278 4474; www.secondtuesday@groupmail.com

Wed Dec 12 • 7pm • "A Radical History of the World." Author Neil Faulkner discusses his new book. At

Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd N1 9DX. Info: 020-7837 4473.

Fri Dec 13 • All day • "Women and Weapons." Launching a new project for a Feminist International Law of Peace and Security. Hosted by the Centre for Women, Peace and Security. At the Old Theatre, LSE, Houghton Street WC2A 2AE. Org. LSE. Info: 020 7405 7686.

Fri Dec 13 • 6.45pm • "An evening with Jim Forest." Jim, co-founder of Catholic Peace Fellowship in the US, talks about US peace activists Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day and Daniel Berrigan. At St Pancras Church Hall Lancing St. NW1. Org. Pax Christi. Info: 020 8203 4884

info@paxchristi.org.uk

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