

PEACELINE



Mar-Apr
2018

Newsletter of London Region CND • Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Road
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Ramping Up the Danger

President Trump took office last year declaring that he would “put America First” and “determine the course of America and the world for many, many years to come”. He promised ‘menacing unpredictability’ backed by ramped-up US armed forces.

He said “we will spend what we need to rebuild our military. We will develop, build and purchase the best equipment known to mankind. Our military dominance must be unquestioned”. That included “greatly strengthening and expanding our nuclear capability”.

Much publicity was given to President Putin’s speech on March 2nd in which he spoke of a Russian “breakthrough in developing new models of strategic weapons” designed to evade US missile defenses. Those defenses could enable a US ‘first strike’ on Russia’s nuclear arsenal. None of Putin’s new weapons have been produced and commentators were divided over whether they could be.

But little publicity was given to major announcements from the US. In December the US government released its National Security Strategy. In January it released its National Defense Strategy. In February it released its Nuclear Posture Review. Meanwhile ramped-up military budgets were agreed.



The Strategies point the finger at nuclear powers Russia and China saying they “challenge American power, influence and interests”. The Defense Secretary said “great power competition, not terrorism, is now the primary focus of US national security” and warned “if

you challenge us, it will be your longest and worst day”

China is accused of seeking “to displace the United States” in Asia. Russia is accused of “seeking to restore its great power status and establish spheres of influence near its borders .. to weaken US influence in the world and divide us from our allies and partners”. The Strategies build on language used since 2015.

The Defense Strategy plans to strengthen and modernize the United States’ armed forces while it leads the NATO military bloc in the west and builds up ‘Indo-Pacific’ military alliances in the east.

The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) comes at a time when the United States accounts for half the world’s nuclear weapons spending. The US has submarine-launched, land-based and air-launched nuclear missiles, & nuclear bombs.

Trump inherited the Obama administration’s nuclear weapons modernization programme. This is costing at \$1.2-1.7 trillion over 30 years and consists of new submarines, new bombers and air-launched missiles, new land-based missiles, new ‘smart’ bombs, new command-and-control systems and new nuclear warhead production facilities.

Trump’s NPR adds a new ‘stop-gap’

Saturday 24 March

**London CND
Social Media Workshop**

See page 2 for details

Tue 27 Mar 6:30-8:30pm

**London CND
PUBLIC MEETING:
‘US Nuclear Strategy:
Are we headed for
nuclear war?’**

**With Dave Webb, Chair
of CND, and Ted Seay
At SOAS – See page 2**

**Easter Sunday April 1
CND at Aldermaston**

See page 3 for details

warhead to that list, to be followed by a new sea-launched nuclear cruise missile. His NPR largely lines up with the 2010 NPR, but removes the section on "Reducing the Role of US Nuclear Weapons".

It says that the US may use its nuclear weapons "in extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the United States, its allies, and partners". It may also use them after a 'mass casualty attack', following a 'cyber attack', in response to a 'terrorist attack' and in a range of other situations.

The NPR takes great pains to show that the proposed nuclear weapons modernization programme will cost 'relatively little' as a proportion of the total military budget. US military spending is well above the Cold War average. It is greater than that of the next 9 countries put together, most of whom are its allies. It is ten times greater than Russia's and four times greater than China's. China's economy is now second only to the United States', but Russia's is smaller than Italy's and its entire military budget is \$10 billion less than the increase in the US military budget for 2018.

Yet the US Defense Secretary called for higher military spending claiming that, because of 'caps' on military spending, "our competitive edge has eroded in every domain of warfare" and "our advant-

ages continue to shrink".

Trump's strategy is to ramp up military spending, cut non-military spending and taxes, and borrow the difference. The US national debt has increased from \$5.8 trillion to \$21 trillion since the start of the 'War on Terror' in 2001.

Trump's plan would increase it by another \$7.1 trillion over 10 years. The US military budget for 2018 increased by \$89 billion to \$700 billion. Trump called this "accelerating the process of fully restoring America's military might."

Trump introduced his military budget of \$716 billion for 2019 in February. He boasted "we took care of the military like it's never been taken care of before." His Defense Secretary said the new budget would "bring us back to a position of primacy." US military spending in 2019 would equal the next 12 countries put together.

The military budget increases which were agreed to by Congress exceed what Trump asked for and total nearly \$165 billion more than the military had been expecting. Apart from 2 years at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, US military spending in real terms will be higher than under Ronald Reagan in the 1980s and than during the Korean and Vietnam wars in the 1950s and 1960s.

The US government says "modernizing the nation's nuclear delivery

systems is [its] number one priority, and these programs are fully funded in the 2019 budget".

British governments have made it a cornerstone of their policy to be the junior partner of the US.

As soon as Trump took office, Theresa May flew to Washington to be the first to congratulate him. Trump led her by the hand; she invited him on a state visit. Three demonstrations in quick succession and nearly 2 million signatures on a petition showed the depth of public opposition. Well over a year has gone by. Trump visited every capital on his list except London.

Trump is said to have now accepted to come to London on a much-reduced 'non-state-visit' later this year. Public opinion can then again show its opposition.

In the meantime intensive US-British nuclear weapons collaboration continues at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment - as it has done for 60 years. We can show our opposition to that on April 1st.

Jim Brann

London Region and SOAS CND Public Meeting

US Nuclear Strategy: Are we headed for nuclear war?

Tue 27 March 6:30-8:30pm

**B102, SOAS Brunei Gallery
Thornhaugh St WC1H 0XG**

With

Prof Dave Webb, CND Chair
Ted Seay, weapons expert &
former arms control advisor

What technological developments are taking place?
What impact on Trident, the UK's nuclear weapons system? What role do they play in US security strategy?

Russell Square tube

Saturday 24 March

Social Media and Press Workshop

162 Holloway Rd N7 8DD

The workshop comes two parts:
social media and local press.

A really good opportunity to learn how to use Facebook to communicate with members and supporters, and how to publicise your activities in your local press.

£15 to those attending on behalf of a local group and £5 suggested for those attending as individuals. We only have space for **10**

attendees so please email
info@londoncnd.org
to book your place!

CND at Aldermaston • Easter Sunday • April 1st

This is the 60th anniversary of both CND and the first of the big Aldermaston marches.

They were marches that changed the face of politics and protest, putting CND at the cutting edge of radical social change, mobilising and inspiring generations in the struggle for nuclear disarmament.

Assemble at 12 noon at AWE Aldermaston, West Berkshire RG7 4PR

Join us for speeches, music, memories, fence decorating and forward planning. The event will conclude with an inter-faith vigil.

Get the coach from London

Leaving from Victoria Embankment at 10am and from Aldermaston at 3pm.

Tickets are £12

To book, email info@londoncnd.org.

To pay by cheque: Make it out to 'London CND' and send it to:

London CND
Mordechai Vanunu House
162 Holloway Road
London N7 8DQ

To pay by bank transfer: Send to London Region CND

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Account no.: 19885078

Include 'coach' as a reference

Marking the 7th Anniversary of the Fukushima Disaster

Sunday 11 March 2018

12:00 for start at 12:30

MARCH on Parliament

Assemble outside Japanese Embassy, 101 Piccadilly W1

Fancy dress/bright colours

welcome – especially yellow!

14:00 – 16:00pm (approx.)

**RALLY at Old Palace Yard
Opposite Parliament**

Wednesday 14 March 2018

19:00 – 21:00

**PUBLIC MEETING in
Parliament**

Attlee Room, Portcullis House

Chair: Catherine West MP

Speakers: Kate Hudson, CND •

Amelia Womack, Green Party •

Dr Ian Fairlie • Professor Andy

Stirling • Professor Steve

Thomas • Rika Hirose Haga

Westminster tube

Please arrive at Portcullis House early to get through security.

Organised by Kick Nuclear, Japanese Against Nuclear and CND

Aldermaston – The Protests Never Stopped

In 1952 there was a march to Aldermaston.

Over 4 days at Easter 1958 several thousand people marched the 52 miles from Trafalgar Square to the base. The march was supported by the newly-formed CND.

From 1959 an annual Easter march from Aldermaston to London was organised by CND.

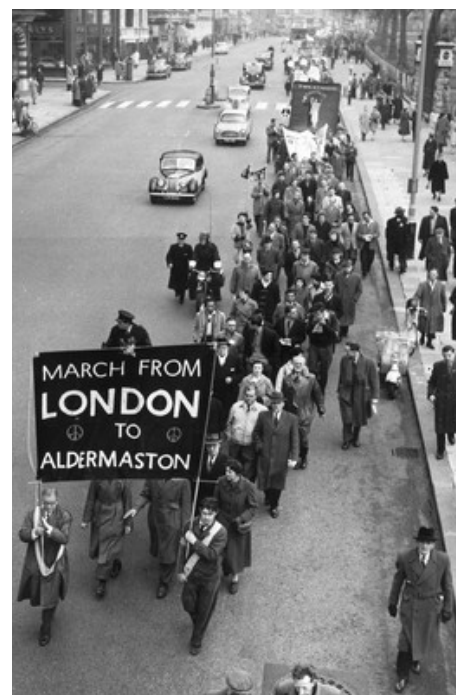
At their height in the early 1960s the marches attracted tens of

thousands of people and were the highlight of the CND calendar.

In 1963 an estimated 100,000 people filled Trafalgar Square as the march arrived.

In 1972 and 2004 there were revivals of the Aldermaston march in the original direction.

And there have been numerous large and small protests at Aldermaston over the years.



Coming Events

London CND Events

020 7607 2302

www.londoncnd.org.uk

Tue Mar 27 • 6:30-8:30pm •

Public Meeting: "US Nuclear Strategy: Are we headed for nuclear war?"; Room B102, SOAS Brunei Gallery, Thornhaugh St, WC1H 0XG; With Prof Dave Webb, Chair of CND and Ted Seay, tactical nuclear weapons expert and former advisor with US Mission to NATO; Org SOAS CND and London CND

Local Group Events

Bromley

Sun Mar 18 • 3pm • Group planning meeting at the Therapy Centre, 96 Martins Road, Shortlands;

Thu Apr 26 • noon-3pm •

Chernobyl anniversary stall and vigil in Bromley Market Place. Info: anncgarratt@yahoo.co.uk

Haringey

Sat Mar 17 • 11am-12.30pm •

Stall and leafletting in Crouch End Broadway N8, in front of Town Hall; **Thu Mar 22nd • 6-8pm •**

"Crisis in Korea: Will it be War?" Speaker: Dr. James Hoare, who served in HM Diplomatic Service, including in Pyongyang. At Earl Haig Hall, 18 Elder Avenue, N8 9TH. Info: David, 020-8431 5997; davidtrpolden40@gmail.com

Wimbledon

Fridays • 6-7pm • "Vigil for Peace" outside the library in St. Mark's Place; Info: Joanna 020 8543 0362; www.wdc-cnd.org.uk

Other Events

Sat Mar 17 • Noon • March

Against Racism on UN Anti-Racism Day. Assemble Portland Place for march to Parliament Square rally. Info: www.standuptoracism.org.uk

Sat-Sun Mar 17-18 • "Fly Kites not Drones" events including at Parlia-

ment Hill, in memory of people killed by drones. Info:

www.flykitesnotdrones.org

Mon Mar 19 • 6.45pm • "The complicity of the Saudi Coalition in the starvation & destruction of the Yemeni people." Speaker: Kim Sharif, Director, "Human Rights for Yemen." At: Café Diplo, The Gallery, 70/77 Cowcross Street EC1M 6EL. (Tube: Faringdon.) £3/£2. Organised by Friends of Le Monde Diplomatique; info 07435 844 130.

Tue Mar 20 • 10am • "Embassies Walk" Meet at Dick Shepherd Chapel, St Martin-in-the-Fields for walk visiting various Embassies to discuss progress of Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. Org. Christian CND. Info: 020-7700 4200.

Sat Mar 31 • 7pm • "Wobblies of the World: A Global history of the International Workers of the World." Speaker: Peter Cole. £3 redeemable against any purchase. Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd N1. (King's Cross Station.)

**Easter Sunday April 1
12-2pm**

**CND at Aldermaston
Atomic Weapons
Establishment, Berkshire**
See page 3 for transport
and other details

April 10th, 7pm: "Pacifism and Laughter." London Pacifism and Nonviolence Discussion Group. At Housmans Bookshop (5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1. <https://londonpacifismnonviolence.wordpress.com/futuremeetings>

Wed-Thu Apr 11-12 • 10am • 5 people from Faslane Peace Camp on trial at Stratford Magistrates' Court for aggravated trespass thro' obstructing deliveries to DSEI arms fair last September. Suppor-

ting demo outside court starts at 9.30am, when defendants arrive.

Info: enquiries@caat.org.uk

Sat Apr 14 • 2.30pm • Musical Protest: No More Arms Fairs, outside Excel Centre where a major arms fair is held. Custom House DLR station; follow signs to Excel. Info: www.elaaf.org

Mon Apr 30 • 6.45pm • "North Korea: dangerous, isolated and ready for war? The reality behind the caricature." With Professor Hazel Smith, Centre for Korean Studies at SOAS." At: Café Diplo at The Gallery, 70/77 Cowcross St EC1M 6EL. (Tube: Faringdon.) £3/£2. Friends of Le Monde Diplomatique; info 07435 844 130.

Tue May 1 • Noon • May Day March; Clerkenwell Green; March to rally in central London. www.londonmayday.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 in Holborn; Info: David 020 7700 2393; www.kicknuclear.com

2nd weekend each month • Women's peace camp at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Factory; 07946 676 761; www.aldermaston.net

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