

# PEACELINE



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## Trump Fills His War Chest

Donald Trump campaigned for the Presidency vowing to “spend what we need to rebuild our military” and saying “we will develop, build and purchase the best equipment known to mankind. Our military dominance must be unquestioned”. And he vowed to “greatly strengthen and expand our nuclear [weapons] capability”.

He became Commander-in-Chief of the world’s overwhelmingly dominant armed forces. These outspend the next 8 countries in the world put together and account for half the world’s nuclear weapons spending.

Trump inherited a US nuclear weapons modernization programme costed at at least \$1.2 trillion.

The Trump administration released its National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy and Nuclear Posture Review. These target nuclear powers Russia and China saying they “challenge American power, influence and interests” so that “great power competition is now the primary focus of US national security”. US military spending is 10 times greater than Russia’s and 3 times greater than China’s.

Trump plans to ramp up military spending, cut non-military spending, cut taxes, and borrow the difference. That would increase the US national debt by \$7.1 trillion,

**Friday 13 July**

**No to Trump’s  
Visit to Britain!**

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breaking the promise of the ‘fiscal conservatives’ in the Republican party to cut the national debt.

A deal with both parties in Congress saw a major increase in the planned US military budget, with \$1.416 trillion allocated for 2018 and 2019. US military spending would then equal the next 12 countries put together.

On 23 March President Trump signed the \$1.3 trillion government spending bill for 2018. More than half of it - \$700 billion – was for military spending.

At the signing ceremony he repeatedly stressed his “disappointment” at having to include so much non-military spending. He called this a “waste” and said “there are a lot of things that we shouldn’t have had in this bill, but we were forced to if we want to build our military.” He said “we had no choice but to fund our military, because we have to have, by far, the strongest military in the world” and the “strongest we’ve

ever had”. But he said he would “never sign another bill” with so much non-military spending in it.

He stressed that “we’re spending a lot of money on our nuclear systems. So we’ll have by far the most powerful nuclear force on Earth, and it will be absolutely in perfect shape and condition. There will nobody that’s even close”.

The Defense Department says that nuclear weapons are a “top priority”. It says the programme should cost no more than 6.4% of the military budget, “comparing favourably” with modernization programmes in the 1960s and 1980s.

Defense Secretary General James “Mad Dog” Mattis thanked Trump for delivering “the largest military budget in history”.

Trump’s ‘triumph’ led to a clear-out of ‘fiscal conservatives’ in the Republican party. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, former rising star and vice-presidential nominee, is retiring at just 48. He called government debt “a betrayal of the next generation of Americans”. 40 other Congressional Republicans are also leaving.

Trump is serious and determined in his pursuit of military dominance and armed force as a bedrock of his strategy, however ‘unpredictable’ he is otherwise.

**Jim Brann**

# Popular Opposition Scuppered a Trump 'State Visit' Protest at the Face-Saving Substitute - Friday 13 July

As soon as Trump took office in January 2017, Theresa May rushed to Washington to be seen to be the first to congratulate him. Trump took her by the hand and said she could be 'his Maggie' - referring to the relationship between US President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s. May invited Trump on a summer State Visit to Britain.

The Royal website tells you what such a symbolic State Visit consists of: a carriage ride down the Mall and a State Dinner and overnight stay in Buckingham Palace.

Three demonstrations in quick succession and nearly 2 million signatures on a petition showed the depth of public opposition.

Sections of the establishment spoke out: the Speaker of the Commons said that Trump wouldn't be invited to address Parlia-

ment. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner warned of the cost of policing anti-Trump protests.



ment. As the British government wavered, Trump made it known that he wanted a proper State Visit including the ride in the golden carriage to Buckingham Palace.

Then he made it known that he wouldn't come if he was going to face 'large-scale protests'.

He visited all the 'important' friendly capitals - except London. The Queen listed the forthcoming State Visits - but not Trump's.

Instead, Trump was guest-of-honour at France's Bastille Day celebration on July 14<sup>th</sup>. He was so impressed with the military parade

that he ordered one to be held in Washington every November 11. There was talk that Trump's downgraded visit might happen in October. It didn't.

The new U.S. 'fortress' embassy in London was to open in February 2018. In December the US Ambassador said he looked forward to Trump coming to open it. In January Trump said he wasn't coming.

A year after Theresa May had rushed to Washington and invited Trump to come, London was going to be the last place he would visit.

In April the White House announced that Trump would come to London on a 'working visit' on Friday 13 July. It was hoped a week-day visit would keep the protests small.

But 'people power' had already scuppered the grand plans and humiliated both President and Prime Minister.

## Opposing the Bombing of Syria - 14 April

On 7 April 40 people, mostly women and children, were said to have been killed in a chemical weapons attack by the Syrian government on the town of Douma.

President Trump tweeted "President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay".

The Syrian government denied that it had launched a chemical weapons attack. The Russian Foreign Ministry warned against bombing based on "invented and fabricated excuses".

On 14 April, heading off an investigation by weapons inspectors or a parliamentary debate, and violating post-war agreements on the use of force in international relations, US, British and French forces bombed three sites in Syria supposedly connected to a 'Syrian chemical weapons programme'.

Prime Minister Theresa May said "I think it is right that the international community has come together and said we will not accept this", thus making out that the US, Britain and France are the 'international community'.

There were protests against the bombing, like this one in Bromley,

outside Downing Street in central London, across Britain and around the world.

5 weeks on no independent investigation has determined that there was a chemical weapons attack.



# U.S. Nuclear Strategy: Are We Headed for Nuclear War?

**F**rom London and SOAS CNDs' public meeting at the School of Oriental and African Studies on 27 March

**Ted Seay**, former arms control advisor to the US Ambassador to NATO, said that since retiring in 2011 he had put his expertise to use opposing the nuclear danger. Looking at the Trump and Obama strategies, Ted thought that 'Trump bad, Obama good' was far too simplistic: they were equally to blame for the mess the US was in. But Trump's nuclear strategy removes Obama's commitment to shrink the role of nuclear weapons and not to threaten to use US nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states. All US nuclear weapons systems were being modernized, a process which began under Obama. An aspect of Trump's strategy was to rely on smaller nuclear weap-

ons and even on non-nuclear warheads fitted on nuclear-capable missiles. This was especially dangerous.

The idea of 'tactical' or 'theatre' nuclear weapons was an illusion: all nuclear explosions have a strategic effect.

Obama had been thwarted by the nuclear weapons lobby.

Trump's strategy document provides no justification for new nuclear weapons – it just 'asserts' that they're necessary.

**Dave Webb**, Chair of CND, said Nato declares that it will remain a nuclear-armed alliance 'as long as nuclear weapons exist'.

Nato also says that cyber attacks could trigger an armed response from it, even though the source of such attacks is very difficult to determine.

All nuclear weapons states are modernizing their arsenals at the

cost of trillions.

After a gap of 20 years, 5 new US nuclear warheads are being developed in the years up to 2040.

The US B61-12 'dumb' air-dropped nuclear bomb deployed in Europe is being made into essentially a new precision-guided nuclear weapon whose explosive power can be varied.

The British 'Trident replacement' programme has been under way since 2007. The new submarines, named 'Dreadnoughts', have been under construction since 2016 and the Trident missiles rented from the US stockpile have life-extended warheads.

Both the US and Britain have deployed the new 'superfuse' on the Trident warheads. This makes them more accurate, deadly and useable. One expert called their impact 'revolutionary'.

## Hiroshima-Nagasaki Fast, 6-9 August, London

**T**he international Hiroshima-Nagasaki fast has been held every year since 1984, first in Germany and France and then spreading to 6 countries including the UK, the US and New Zealand. The fast is both a *commemoration* and a *call to action and to awareness*. Last year the fast was followed by over 150 people worldwide. It is combined with different forms of non-violent direct action, pointed but peaceful protest, commemorative events, and reflective sorrow and joyful good humour in equal measure and at appropriate moments.

In France the fast is forever associated with Theodore Monod and Solange Ferneix. The fast was particularly visible in Paris, where

fasters staged an "activist-clown" protest action, occupied the centre of the *Place de la République*, and launched a hot-air balloon in the shape of a bomb into the Parisian sky.

The London fast was based during the day outside the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The 8 fasters – and others in support – spent many hours distributing leaflets and engaging in discussions with MoD staff and the many tourists.

Downing Street was the scene of a great protest on the evening of 8 August: for an hour we displayed our large "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Fast" banner and cheerfully blew bubbles in front of our "Blow bubbles not bombs" banner, undisturbed by the police and at-

tracting overwhelmingly sympathetic remarks from tourists.

The fast was also followed by 3 people in Plymouth and Barnstaple in Devon.

People will be fasting in Devon again this year, as well for the first time as in Iona, Scotland.

The main UK fast will again be in London. We encourage people to get involved in whatever way they can, whether by fasting or by organising events with us in Westminster. We will occupy our usual post outside the MoD.

Contact me for further details on 07563 725 829 or [marcwmorgan@btinternet.com](mailto:marcwmorgan@btinternet.com)

**Marc Morgan, Haringey CND**

# Coming Events

## National CND Events

020 7700 2393

[enquiries@cnduk.org](mailto:enquiries@cnduk.org)

**June 4 • 6.30-8pm •** "Campaigning in the age of Trump: CND at 60." Public lecture. Speaker: Kate Hudson. Chair: Mary Kaldor. At Wolfson Lecture Theatre, New Academic Building, London School of Economics, Houghton St, WC2  
**July 8 •** Brussels: protest at nuclear-armed NATO's summit

## London CND Events

020 7607 2302

[www.londoncnd.org.uk](http://www.londoncnd.org.uk)

**August 6 • Noon-1pm •**

Hiroshima Day Commemoration in Tavistock Square

## Local Group Events

### Kingston

**Sat 18 May •** Kingston Market Place Stall

**Mon 28 May • 10.30-4pm •**

Garage Sale at Lower Ham Rd, rear of Maggie's house, 289 Richmond Rd KT2 5DJ; Decent bric-a-brac, 2nd-hand books & plants; contributions welcome. If you can help: [angecooper47@hotmail.com](mailto:angecooper47@hotmail.com)

### Tower Hamlets

**Mon May 28 • 2-6pm •** Marg Behrman memorial meeting; Kingsley Hall, Powis Street E3 3HJ

### Wimbledon

**Sun May 19 • 2-5pm •** Fete of the Earth; St Marks Church Hall, Compton Rd SW19 7ND (behind Library)

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

## Other Events

**Sat May 18 • 7.45pm •** "Stand-Up For Gaza." Comedy benefit in aid of Palestine Trauma Centre with Sara Pascoe, Alexei Sayle, Frances-

ca Martinez, Jeremy Hardy; Ian Saville compere; YAA Cntr, 1 Chippenham Mews, off Marylands Rd, W9 2AN. Tickets £17.50/£14 from [www.wegotickets.com/event/435208](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/435208).

**Sat May 19 • 2.30-5.30pm •** Musical Protest aiming to raise awareness of the arms trade and campaign for the cancellation of all arms fairs; outside Motor Show at the Excel Centre in Docklands where biennial arms fairs are held. Even if you are not musical you will still be welcome. From Prince Regent DLR Station follow the signs to ExCeL [www.elaaf.org](http://www.elaaf.org) [elaaf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elaaf@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sun May 20 • 9am-4.30pm •** Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return on 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Naqba. Speakers include Dr Ghada Karmi, Hazem Jamjoum, Dr Ruba Salih, Eitan Bronstein, Amjad Iraqi, Mohamad Fahed, Sarona Bedwan, Tareq Baconi, and Ben Jamal. At RADA Studios, 16 Chenies St WC1. Info [www.70palestine.com](http://www.70palestine.com)

**Sat Jun 16 • 2pm •** 33<sup>rd</sup> annual celebration of the London Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park, Carriage Drive North SW11 020 7228 9620; [londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com](mailto:londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com)

**Sat June 30 •** "NHS 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration" People's Assembly and Health Campaigns Together a national demonstration in London to celebrate the NHS' 70th year and call on the Government to return it to a fully comprehensive, universal, publicly funded, publicly owned, publicly provided & publicly accountable health service [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net) 0300-311 22 33.

**Sat-Sun Jul 7-8 • 10am-4pm •** 1968-2018: "A Celebration of 50 years of Resistance, Campaigning

& Alternatives for A Better World – despite 50 years of police opposition, spying and repression."

**Sat 7 • 1-3pm •** Rally in Grosvenor Square W1.

**Sun 8 • 10am-4pm:** Conference & Exhibition; Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq WC1 • **8pm •** 'The Secret Spycop's Ball' with Stewart Lee, Evelyn Mok, Mark Steel & Rob Newman. £16/£10. Jacksons Lane, 269a Archway Rd N6

<http://campaignopposingpolicesurveillance.com/>

**Thu Aug 9 • 7.30pm •** assemble for annual peace walk from Westminster Cathedral to Battersea Park Peace Pagoda for Lantern-Floating Ceremony by the Thames there at dusk. 020-7228 9620; [londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com](mailto:londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.kicknuclear.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> weekend each month •** Women's peace camp at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Factory; 07969 739 812; [www.aldermaston.net](http://www.aldermaston.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:walkinpeace@hotmail.com)