

PEACELINE



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Newsletter of London Region CND • Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Road
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Trump's 'Masterpiece' War Budget

Britain Hangs On His Coat-tails

On March 11 the Trump administration unveiled its military budget for 2020. The acting Defense Secretary called it "a masterpiece".

Under it, military spending increases 5% while other government spending is cut by 9%. Well over half of available funds will go to the military.

Donald Trump took office in 2017 promising to boost overwhelming US military spending. 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".

Trump's 2018 strategy documents called for confronting Russian and Chinese challenges to US dominance in their regions, and for a greater role for nuclear weapons.

The 2018 US military budget grew by \$89 billion to \$700 billion. Trump called this "accelerating the process of fully restoring America's military might."

The 2019 military budget rose to \$716 billion, equalling the next 10 countries put together. Trump boasted "we took care of the military like it's never been taken care

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of before."

The 2020 military budget goes up by \$34 billion to \$750 bn. The acting Defense Secretary said it was meant above all to deal with "China, China, China".

Trump has added to the \$1.5 trillion nuclear weapons modernisation plan which is the government's "number one priority". The 2020 budget increases nuclear weapons spending by 9% compared to 5% for other military spending.

\$14bn is allocated to creating a 'United States Space Force' as the 6th branch of its Armed Forces.

Separately from military spending, intelligence spending is planned to rise 6% to nearly \$86 billion.

US government spending is supp-

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osed to be capped by law. But a special fund set up to pay for wars after September 11th 2001 isn't capped. That's where the increase is 'buried'. The wars have wound down but this 'war fund' is set to more than double to \$165 billion.

Democrats now control the purse-strings in Congress. It's said they wouldn't accept this 'bookkeeping gimmickry'. But last year the two sides of Congress united to vote through a record 2-year military spending package. Democrat party leaders are said to be "highly motivated" to reach another deal.

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. He famously took her by the hand. Britain's armed forces, outspent 14 to one by the US military, reflect this 'special relationship'.

The US army has long banked on Britain sending a full division to support it. But the head of the US army said he was 'worried' that the British army may no longer be able to do so.

The new British 'super' aircraft carriers were designed to be 'very useful' to the United States. The Queen Elizabeth's first operational mission is to be to the Pacific carr-

ying a joint force of U.S. and British aircraft. And the carriers will often need US warship escorts.

US forces use British bases around the world while the new British base in Bahrain is tucked inside a giant US one.

The Trident missiles which carry British nuclear warheads are rented from the U.S. Navy's stockpile. The U.S. Lockheed Martin corporation which makes them also has a major share in making and servicing British nuclear warheads and in running the British Trident submarine base.

British Aerospace (BAE) – Britain's dominant military-industrial company and the largest military contractor in Europe – has special access to the US market and depends on it. BAE now sells more to the US Department of Defense than to the British Ministry of Defence and its US operations provide over one ⅓ of its revenues.

Courting Donald Trump and hitching Britain to the US military machine are the outcome of a 60-year-long strategy which threatens danger for the world.

Jim Brann

No to Trump's State Visit

Monday 3 – Wednesday 5 June

When President Trump took office in January 2017, Theresa May rushed to Washington to be seen to be the first to visit him.

Trump took her by the hand. May invited him on a summer State Visit to Britain.

Three demonstrations in quick succession and 2 million petition signatures showed the strength of opposition.

Sections of the establishment spoke out against a visit.

Trump made it known that he wanted a proper State Visit including a ride in the golden carriage to Buckingham Palace. He also made it known that he wouldn't come if he was going to face 'large-scale protests'.

He visited all the 'important' capitals except London. He was guest-of-honour at France's Bastille Day celebration on July 14th.

Rumoured visit dates came and went. Finally he came on a 'working visit' dressed up to look like a State Visit on 13 July 2018.



It was hoped a weekday visit would keep the protests small. A quarter of a million people turned out in London to oppose him. 'People power' had scuppered the grand plans and humiliated President and Prime Minister.

So Downing Street and the White House have decided to try again. Trump is to come on a 'proper' State Visit on 3-5 June before going to France to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day in 1944.

Plans are under way to give him the reception he deserves. Tuesday 4 June is the key date.

Go to the [Together Against Trump website](#) for details.

Public Meeting: Denuclearising the Korean Peninsula

**Mon 13 May 6:30pm
Friends Ho Euston Rd
NW1 2BJ**

**Francis Daehoon Lee,
People's Solidarity for
Participatory Democracy,
South Korea
Glyn Ford, former MEP
and author of 'Talking to
North Korea'
Carol Turner, CND**

Francis Daehoon Lee is a founder of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy in South Korea. PSPD was founded in 1994 by activists, scholars & lawyers from various democratic movements for participatory democracy and human rights. PSPD promotes citizens participation in government decision making processes, socio-economic reforms and peace on the Korean peninsula by closely monitoring the abuse of power of the state and corporations to enhance transparency & accountability. Francis is Research Professor of Peace Studies at SungKongHoe



University and an Executive Member of the PSPD's Peace and Disarmament Centre, which campaigns for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia.

Getting Local Support for the Nuclear Ban Treaty

ICAN Cities Appeal

On 7 July 2017, 122 nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

This bans the use, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination.

Cities and towns can help build support for the treaty by endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal.

Text of the Appeal

“Our city/town is deeply concerned about the grave threat that

nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

Therefore, we support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on our government(s) join it.”

How to endorse the Appeal

The mayor or responsible official of the local authority should send an email to info@icanw.org indicating that the city/town has agreed to endorse the Appeal.

Suggestions for further action

1. Write to the national government: Inform the foreign minister or other relevant official that your city/town has endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal.

2. Inform the media: Issue a press release announcing that your city/town has joined the call for the national government to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

3. Inform your residents: Distribute information or hold a public exhibition about the threat of nuclear weapons and global efforts to eliminate this threat.

4. Divest public funds: Take steps to ensure that funds administered by your city/town are not invested in companies that produce nuclear weapons. See www.dontbankonthebomb.com.

‘No Thanksgiving for Nuclear Weapons’ Friday 3 May 2019

On 3 May hundreds of people protested opposite Westminster Abbey where a service was held to mark 50 years of British nuclear missile-carrying submarines.



Directly opposite Westminster Abbey is Central Hall Westminster. In January 1946 the first session of the United Nations General Assembly was held there, 5 months after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Assembly unanimously passed Resolution 1, setting up a commission to recommend as quickly as possible ways of achieving “the elimination of atomic weapons”.

Nine months later and down the road from Central Hall, a Cabinet sub-committee gave the go-ahead for developing a British nuclear bomb with “a bloody Union Jack on it” so that “our prestige in the world” was maintained.

Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968 Britain has to “negotiate in good faith on effect-

ive measures relating to ... nuclear disarmament”. It never has, but the next year introduced nuclear missile-carrying submarines.

In 2000 Britain, as a nuclear weapons state, gave an “unequivocal undertaking to encompass the total elimination of nuclear arsenals”. But the government went ahead with developing the new generation ‘Successor’ British nuclear missile-carrying submarines. They openly boast that these are good for another 50 years.

Meanwhile, much of the world got sick of that attitude and adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017.

Britain has refused to sign up to the measure that would give life to what was agreed 73 years ago directly opposite Westminster Abbey.



Coming Events

London CND events

Mon • May 13 • 6.30-8.30pm •
Public Meeting: "Denuclearising the Korean Peninsula" with Francis Daehoon Lee, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, South Korea; Glyn Ford, former MEP and author of 'Talking to North Korea'; and Carol Turner, CND. Friends House NW1 2BJ, bitl.y/koreanpeninsula

Local CND Group Events

Bromley Borough

1st Saturday every month • 2.30 - 4.00pm • Leafletting; anncgarratt@yahoo.com for details

Haringey

Wed May 15 • 6pm • Unveiling of conscientious objectors' memorial outside the Salisbury pub, 1 Grand Parade, Green Lanes N4 1JX: Org. Haringey WW1 Peace Forum HFWWPF@yahoo.com

Mon Jul 1 • 7pm • Public Meeting: "In the age of Trump, Putin and Xi, the President of China, has the risk of nuclear war increased?" Part of CND's "Global Dangers tour." Speakers include CND General Secretary Kate Hudson and defence and security journalist Richard Norton-Taylor. At the Moravian Church, Priory Road, Hornsey N8 7HR; Haringey CND 020-7700 2393 davidtrpolden1@gmail.com;

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

May 15 • 1pm • Celebration of Conscientious Objectors' Day in Tavistock Square WC1 by COs'

memorial there. Org. PPU & others. Info: <https://www.ppu.org.uk/events>

May 15 • 3-5pm • Muriel Lesters Trident Ploughshares affinity group invites you to protest outside the London offices of Lockheed Martin (arms producers and dealers, including new nuclear weapons). At Cunard House 15 Lower Regent Street. Info: Ann, 01268 767138.

May 18 • CAAT Direct Action Training for Trainers. events@caat.org.uk for more information

May 18 • 10:30am • Pax Christi Annual Gathering. At: Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent, NW1. 020 8203 4884 info@paxchristi.org.uk

May 25 • 2:30-5:30 • Musical Protest outside but not against MCM London Comic Con. Custom House End. Go to Custom House DLR Station and follow the signs to ExCeL. Action at end of the walkway just before you get to the entrance to ExCeL. Info: www.elaaf.org

May 25 • London CAAT Merchants of Death walking tour of arms companies. Info: events@caat.org.

May 31 • 6.30-8pm • "Atonement in Politics: Perspectives from Mahatma Gandhi." Annual Gandhi lecture, from his grandson. At the Nehru Centre, 8 South Audley Street. Entry by donation. Info: www.gandhifoundation.org

June 11 • 1am • PPU Annual Conference and AGM. At Friends House (opposite Euston station), 173 Euston Rd, NW1 2BJ. Info: 020 7424 9444; www.ppu.org.uk/events

June 11 • 7pm • "Pacifism and Internationalism." London Pacifism and Nonviolence Discussion Group. Meetings are open to anyone interested. In Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross N1. Contact: 020-7278 4474 SecondTuesday@groupmail.com

June 15 • 12.30-5.30pm • CAAT Stop the Arms Fair organising meeting. St Hilda's East Community Centre, 18

Club Row, London, E2 7EY <https://www.facebook.com/events/432514417493720/>

June 22 • 2pm • London Peace Pagoda 34th Annual Celebration. At Battersea Park, Carriage Drive North SW11 4NJ. Info: 020 7228 9620. londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com

June 22 • 9.30am • "Save the Earth, Abolish War". MAW Day Conference. Speakers: Molly Scott Cato (Green MEP), Dr Peter van den Dungen and Dr Stuart Parkinson (Scientists for Global Responsibility). Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maw-day-conference-save-the-earth-abolish...> At Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD.

June 22 • 11am-2pm • Anti-nuclear power stall and leafletting outside the exit from Brixton tube station. Trains carrying highly-radioactive nuclear fuel cross over Brixton High Street by the exit. Help welcomed. Org. by the Nuclear Trains Action Group. Info: David, davidtrpolden1@gmail.com; 020-7700 2393.

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