

PEACELINE



Nov-Dec
2019



Newsletter of London Region CND • Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Road
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On its 70th Anniversary 'London' Summit: No to Trump - No to NATO!

In May Nato's Secretary-General announced that the bloc's prestigious 70th anniversary Summit was to be held in London on 3-4 December.

Nato is the world's only integrated military bloc. It says that nuclear weapons play a 'unique and essential' role in its planning.

Its members are a small minority of the countries of the world, yet Nato accounts for more than half of world military spending.

Its 'Supreme Allied Commander' is



always an American whose first loyalty must be to his constitutional Commander-in-Chief – the US President.

In June President Trump faced mass opposition for the second year in a row on his State Visit to London.

London has state-of-the-art purpose-built international conference venues such as the Queen Elizabeth II centre off Parliament Square. Yet in September it was announced that Nato's 'London' Summit had been moved to a country hotel in Hertfordshire which boasts that it's 18 miles away! Such was their fear of protests.

The only 'London' element left is a Buckingham Palace reception hosted by the Queen for Nato leaders on Tuesday 3 December (see box right).

Nato began as a 'self-defence' pact 70 years ago. Three years later it had been transformed into a military-political bloc with an integrated command structure.

Six years after Nato began, the Warsaw Pact was formed. Yet Nato then claimed the threat from its rival as the reason for its own existence!

In 1990-1 the Warsaw Pact dissolved, Soviet forces withdrew and the Soviet Union broke up. But, rather than dissolve itself, Nato has been transformed for intervention outside its territory and for worldwide expansion.

Trump pressed other Nato members to increase their military spending. His office said that he will use the Summit "to review the Alliance's unprecedented progress on burden-sharing, including adding more than \$100 billion in new defense spending since 2016".

We can't leave the fate of our world in the hands of such a man leading such a military machine. Come to the Counter-Summit and come to the demonstration on 3 December.

Saturday 30 November

'The New World Disorder'

International Counter-Summit: No to Trump - No to NATO

10:30-17:30

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

**235 Shaftesbury Avenue
WC2H 8EP**

With Tariq Ali • Chris Williamson • Medea Benjamin • Lindsey German • Kate Hudson • Reiner Braun • Aaron Bastani • Kerry-Anne Mendoza • Arielle Denis

Tuesday 3 December

No to Trump - No to NATO National Demonstration

**Assemble 5PM
Trafalgar Square
Music and Speeches
Then March to
Buckingham Palace**

**London CND
New Year social
Ev Café, 97-99 Isabella
Street SE1 8DD
6.30pm Fri. 24 January**

Please note that London CND's conference and AGM has been postponed to Saturday 8 March

High time to end the illegal NATO Bloc!

Nato is planning to celebrate its 70th anniversary at its 'London' Summit in December. It will discuss the bloc's continued transformation for military intervention, its expansion, its increasing worldwide role, pushing up against Russia and China, and its members' increased military spending.

It won't discuss its right to exist, having gone from an agreement to defend its members' territory 70 years ago to become the world's only integrated military-political bloc with a worldwide role and a history of aggressive wars.

Twenty years ago in February 1999, as NATO approached its 50th anniversary, it produced a Commemorative Review ahead of its Summit meeting in Washington that April.



The Review began by quoting the preamble to Nato's 'founding document' - the North Atlantic Treaty signed at Washington in April 1949.

This begins "the Parties to this Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations" and ends with "they are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security".

An Introduction by Nato's Secretary-General set the scene saying "the Alliance began as a commitment among members to defend each other from attack" but it was now "enlarging", "building ever-stronger partnerships" and "taking on new roles and missions".

Then came the first of two 'keynote' articles. It was by Professor Lawrence Kaplan - 'one of America's foremost authorities on NATO history'. He gave

some background to the signing of the treaty by 12 countries in April 1949. But he pointed out that it wasn't until 2 years later that "NATO leaders reshaped the Alliance into a military organisation with an integrated command structure and established supreme allied commands for Europe and the Atlantic".

US General Eisenhower had been made Supreme Allied Commander Europe with British General Montgomery as his Deputy. An American has commanded Nato ever since, with a Briton under him.

Kaplan wrote that "the transformation of the Alliance from paper treaty to living organisation was crowned in February 1952" when a Secretary General's position was created. "The Alliance, established by the North Atlantic Treaty and now supported by both political and military structures, had become NATO".

In 1952 Greece and Turkey had joined, followed by West Germany In 1955.

Kaplan wrote that "by the end of the [1950s] the Alliance had a fully-fledged



nuclear strategy. The US pledge of 30 nuclear-weapon-armed [army] divisions was the psychological bedrock of NATO's defence plans." The end of the Cold War in 1990-91, the withdraw-

al of Soviet forces to their own territory, the dissolution of the Warsaw pact and the break-up of Soviet Union itself had "elicited provocative questions and soul-searching over whether NATO should even continue to exist".

But in 1991 "NATO [had] adopted a new strategic concept, providing for

new missions for the Alliance". This was to include "the gradual integration of the former Warsaw Pact countries into Western structures".

In 1994 Nato launched its 'Partnership for Peace' programme of bilateral military agreements. States as far away as Central Asia came under its fold in what was described as "more than a halfway house to full Nato membership".

At the same time Nato began the process of admitting new full members. And it began reorganizing its military structure for intervention outside its territory.

The US foreign secretary said that Nato would now operate "a bit further afield but not all over the World".

The following year NATO mounted its first military operation outside its own territory in Bosnia, enforcing a 'Nato peace' there.

Kaplan wrote in the Review that "the enlargement of the Alliance to the east, and its open door policy for further expansion, raises questions about NATO's ultimate geographical frontiers" and its "ultimate role and range". He wrote that "the Alliance itself has grown into something much more profound than its original mission of collective defence".

He asked "what organisation should have the primary responsibility [for] management of future out-of-area conflicts, NATO, the UN or the OSCE ... And what is the legal basis for NATO to intervene in situations outside Alliance borders without a UN Security Council resolution?"

So Nato had 'broken free' of its 'founding commitment' to United Nations authority and become a rival one.

He wrote that "These questions may not be answered before the close of the century".

The second 'keynote' article in the Review was by former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He was introduced as having "played an important role in the evolution of the

alliance throughout much of its five-decade history”.

He wrote that “there has been much talk of a ‘new NATO’ - an idea advanced mainly by the United States”. But the allies “have not been able to agree on an answer to the question: What should the future tasks of the alliance be?”

He pointed out that “the territory protected by [Article 5] is precisely defined in article 6; it does not include, you will note, the Balkan peninsula, or the Middle East or North Africa”. Article 6 limits Nato’s defensive role to its members’ territory.

And he pointed out that “the [North Atlantic] Treaty is expressly based on the United Nations Charter” with “obligations to the UN Security Council”.

He wrote that NATO had threatened to bomb Yugoslavia without a UN Security Council resolution; that had “now become a matter of intense debate”.

He said “If the United States or other parties to the treaty want to broaden the tasks of the Alliance and the duties of the allies to include the joint armed defence of their interests in ‘out of area’ territories, that will require a protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty, to be ratified by all members”.

He wrote “there has been little public debate so far on future ‘out of area’ duties” but “from the democratic standpoint we urgently need a profound public debate ... before fundamentally broadening or reshaping the aims of the alliance”. Such a thing “would have to recognize the precedence of the UN Charter, and especially Article 51, which gives the Security Council the final right of decision even in cases where the allies are exercising their right to self-defence”.

The answer to the issues raised by Kaplan and Schmidt came rapidly, but



in the form of bombs, not words.

On 24 March 1999 the “threatened Nato bombing of Yugoslavia without a UN Security Council resolution” began. It lasted 11 weeks until June 10. As well as hitting military targets it destroyed bridges, industrial plants and public buildings and killed between 500 and 1500 civilians.

While the bombing was in full flow Nato went ahead with its 50th anniversary Washington Summit, welcoming 3 new members.

And it adopted a new ‘Strategic Concept’. This officially sanctioned NATO ‘out-of-area’ actions such as the war against Yugoslavia without UN Security Council endorsement. It dropped the 1991 wording that NATO was “purely defensive in purpose: none of its weapons will ever be used except in self-defence”.

It had rubber-stamped the ‘new’ Nato, burying Helmut Schmidt’s clear warnings.

Nato calls a Strategic Concept an “official document that outlines NATO’s enduring purpose and nature, and its fundamental security tasks.”

Many Nato members’ constitutions require treaties to be ratified by their legislatures. Nato claims ‘Strategic

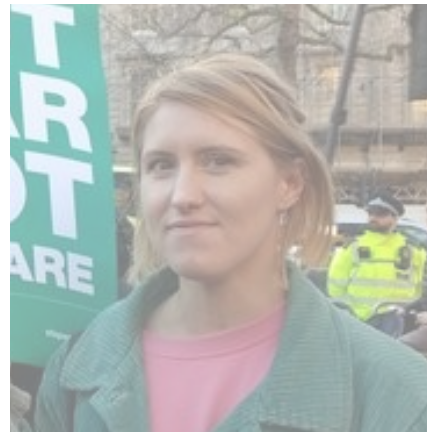


Concepts’ aren’t ‘treaties’, however much they rewrite Nato’s purpose. That allows Nato to cut out democratic scrutiny.

At the same time the UN Charter requires “every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any Member” to be registered with the UN. Nato ‘Strategic Concepts’ aren’t registered with it, even though they are clearly ‘international agreements’ of great importance

In the 20 years since 1999, and in the nearly 30 years since the end of the Cold War, the process of turning Nato ‘inside out’ has continued apace.

Introducing Hannah Kemp-Welch



Hannah Kemp-Welch has temporarily taken on the role of London CND worker.

Hannah was previously a Vice-Chair of London Region, elected to National Council and the Labour CND EC. Hannah has a background in community arts and education, and was recently CND’s delegate to the World Conference Against A&H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By 2014 Nato had carried out 3 major ‘hot’ wars on 3 continents:

- It bombed Yugoslavia for 11 weeks in 1999;
- It ‘took over’ command of foreign forces in Afghanistan in 2003 and has remained there ever since;
- It bombed Libya for 7 months in 2011 leading to the collapse of its government;

During that time it recorded 25 other interventions outside ‘its’ territory. And it has concluded ‘partnerships’ around the world from Australia & New Zealand to South Korea & Japan and Argentina & Columbia.

And as it does so it rubs up ever-more against nuclear powers Russia and China.

It’s ever more important to say that Nato has no part in ‘keeping us safe’ and it has no place in a just and peaceful world, especially when its ultimate Commander-in Chief is Donald Trump.

Jim Brann

Coming Events

London CND Events

info@londoncnd.org 020 7607 2302

Fri Jan 24 • 6.30pm • London CND New Year social at Ev Café, 97-99 Isabella Street SE1 8DD

Sat Mar 8 • London CND AGM and Conference; details tba

Local Group Events

Bromley Borough

1st Saturday every month • 2.30 - 4.00pm • Leafleting; 020-8460 1295 annccgarrett@yahoo.com

Haringey

Tue Nov 26 • 7.30pm • "Swords into Ploughshares". Sam Mason, Policy Officer of the Public & Commercial Services Union & member of the New Lucas Plan, introduces a half-hour film about The New Lucas Plan, which details a plan for switching workers involved in weapons manufacture to more socially useful jobs. Free. At: the Community Room, Picturehouse Cinema, 65 Tottenham Lane N8 9BY. Organized by Haringey CND. Info: David, 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; info@wdc-cnd.org.uk

Other Events

Thu Nov 21 • 7pm • We The Peoples Film Festival presents a screening of 'The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons' at Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq WC1R 4RL; Documents ICAN's efforts to bring the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty into being, told through the voices of leading activists.

Fri Nov 22 • 7pm • "How long, how long" Book launch with author Anne M. Jones, sharing her experiences as a volunteer in Calais since 2015. Profits from sales of book (£7) will go to

the registered charity "Help Refugees". At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd. N1 9DX. 020 7837 4473 www.housmans.com/events;

Sat Nov 23 • 10am • "Women go Green for Peace; Eco-Feminism & Pacifism." Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF). Autumn Seminar. At the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, University of London; 020 7250 1968; office@ukwilpf.org.uk

Thu Nov 28 • 6pm • 'The Beginning of the end of nuclear weapons' Film about efforts to bring a nuclear weapon ban treaty into international law and the role of ICAN. At Kings College office@britishpugwash.org

Fri Nov 29 • 6pm • "Versailles 1919 Return of the Dangerous Women." Film of how women tried to influence the Versailles Treaty. At Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, E8 1EA. Org: WILPF. Info: 020 7250 1968; office@ukwilpf.org.uk

Sat Nov 30 • 10am • "Beyond Remembrance: Pacifism in the aftermath of war 1919." Marking the centenary of the final convention of the No Conscription Fellowship. Speakers include Cyril Pearce, David Boulton and Lois Bibbings. Free; booking advised: <http://tinyurl.com/y59d9hgx> At Friends House 173 Euston Road London NW1 2BJ

Sat Nov 30 • 10am • 'The New World Disorder': No to NATO Counter-Summit As NATO heads of state prepare to meet in 'London', a counter-summit to discuss alternatives to war and nuclear weapons. Tickets £10/£5/£2. At Bloomsbury Baptist Church 235 Shaftesbury Ave. Org. by CND and Stop the War. information@cnduk.org 020 7700 2393. See page 1

Tue Dec 3 • 5pm • "No to Trump – No to NATO" Demo; assemble Trafalgar Square against Trump visit to London for NATO Heads of State summit. Let's unite against war and military

aggression. Org by: CND & STWC. See page 1.

Wed Dec 4 • 7pm • "Warrior Nation: Militarism, War and Resistance." Lowkey in conversation with Maya Evans and Joe Glenton about militarism, war and resistance through culture, presented by Forces Watch. Tickets in advance from www.housmans.com/events At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd N1 9DX. Contact: 020 7837 4473

Mon Dec 9 • 7pm • Advent Peace Service. Music led by Julie McCann. Followed by Christmas market in Maria Fidelis School. At St Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Rd Euston, NW1 1TA. Org Pax Christi, 0208 203 4884.

Tue Dec 10 • 7pm: • "Nonviolence, Seriousness, and Enjoyment." London Pacifism and Nonviolence Discussion Group meeting. At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd, Kings Cross, N1. 020-7278 4474. SecondTuesday@groupmail.com

Tue Jan 14 • 7pm • "Being a Pacifist in a Militarist World." London Pacifism and Nonviolence Discussion Group meeting. At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1. Contact: 020-7278 4474. SecondTuesday@groupmail.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

Every Fri • 10am-12.30pm • "No More Fukushimas" Vigil 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

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