

2020: The Year of Trump's Euromissiles and Macron's 'European Deterrence'?

Will 2020 be the year that US President Donald Trump follows up on his abandonment of the INF Treaty and deploys new missiles to the eastern edge of Europe? Might 2020 be the year when French President Emmanuel Macron turns his country's 'nuclear deterrent' into a 'European Deterrent'? That it makes some sense to ask these questions highlights the degree to which nuclear tensions and nuclear dangers have escalated.

There has been no scaling back of tensions between the US and Russia and no overt signs that any negotiations or talks are under preparation. The direction of travel of US policy, combined with recent

developments, points towards the possible deployment of a new range of nuclear-capable intermediate-range missiles, most likely in Romania and Poland.

European states have themselves been re-militarising. Much of this process is connected to the strategic needs of conventional military commitments, such as the rapid deployment of troops and equipment. Other aspects of this re-militarisation connect to a vision of the European Union as a military power in its own right. Hence the development of a European Defence Fund and of a 'European Army'.

Where does France's nuclear

'deterrence' fit in to this picture? President Macron and other European leaders will no doubt have 'concerns' about President Trump's commitment to 'defending' Europe i.e. his willingness to come to Europe's 'defence' should the 'need arise'. In the distorted world view where nuclear weapons might conceivably be 'deployed' i.e. where a nuclear power is prepared to murder tens of millions of people, this can only mean another source of nuclear 'protection' must be found. This is Macron's offer to the rest of Europe: "come under my umbrella". All moves to station new US missiles or to develop a European 'deterrence' must be exposed and resisted.

Needed: A Climate Audit of the Military

A series of recent reports, academic studies and surveys have highlighted the environmental impact of the US military. One such report concluded that the US military is "one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate changing gases than most medium-sized countries."

Of course, the US is not the only country with an extensive military: every single nation on the continent of Europe has an its own military and each of these will be a significant contributor to climate change in their own right. Given the enormous and entirely justified attention directed to the climate crisis, the declaration of a 'climate emergency' by the European Parliament and other European states and the massive contribution made to the crisis by military, should there not be a 'Climate Audit' of each and every armed force in Europe? Shouldn't the results of such audits be a matter of public record and public debate? Shouldn't any such audit include a detailed assessment of the impact of nuclear weapon manufacture, maintenance and an official assessment of their likely impact should they ever be used?



No to the NATO war manoeuvre Defender 2020

The first action conference against the planned NATO war manoeuvre Defender 2020 took place in Leipzig on November 24th.

With 100 participants, mostly from East Germany, the hall in the St. Trinitatis church was overcrowded, participants had to sit in the hallway and on the floor.

Invited were people from the DFG-VK Ost, attac Leipzig and Halle, Aufstehen Leipzig, der Naturwissenschaftler Friedensinitiative and the BI Offene Heide. Present were peace activists from almost all regions, towns and villages of Eastern Germany.

In an optimistic atmosphere, reminiscent of forward-looking times, the significance of NATO's biggest war manoeuvre in 25 years has been judged and condemned as, essentially an aggression against Russia. Even, the period of the manoeuvre, between April and May 2020, is a provocation. The 8th of May 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Germany and Europe from fascism, which was decisively achieved by the Soviet Union.

37,000 soldiers and officers plan to take part in the manoeuvre with NATO troops from 17 countries, including 20,000 US soldiers who will be transferred to Europe by ship and plane and possibly arrive in Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Rostock and Antwerp. They will be transported by roads and rail (with an agreed priority rule) to the east towards the Polish border and then to the Russian western border.

Germany will be the political and logistics hub, according to a Bundeswehr document of July 2018. Germany will be the logistics "turntable" and "potential backseat area" for what? For a war against Russia!

The plan seems to be a "fight, combat support and leadership manoeuvre", which will take place simultaneously in Germany, Poland

and Lithuania and in which the rapid response troops of NATO will participate (from information from the Ministry of Defence and the Obleute of the German Bundestag).

The coordination centres for this mobilization against Russia are in Ulm (Joint support and enable command), in Stuttgart (EUCO) and on the US Air Base Ramstein.

The dimension of the manoeuvre requires comprehensive logistics and planning, the involvement of local and regional authorities and state governments as well as the German railways, it has a dramatic impact on the entire civil infrastructure and transport.

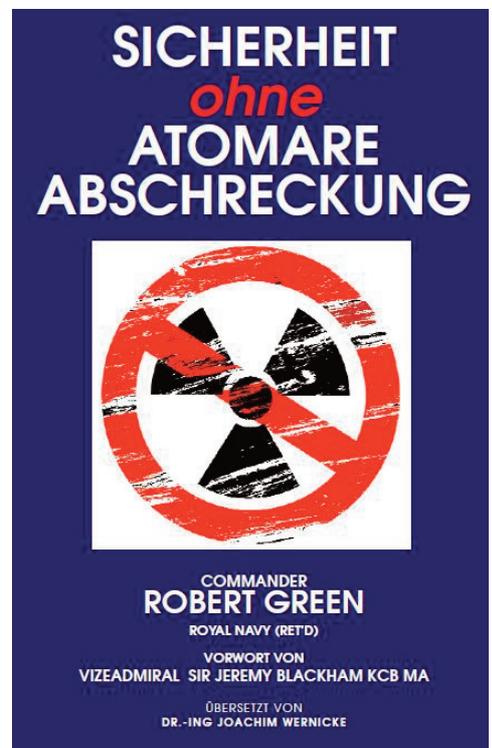
The manoeuvre is an environmental disaster, a waste of resources and a destruction of diverse nature. It is an active contribution of the military to the impending climate catastrophe.

The reasons for its rejection are manifold: politically, militarily, geostrategic, ethically, morally, historically, the climate and environment, traffic and infrastructure. This comprehensive rejection should lead into a coalition of diversity, diverse actors and diverse actions, as well as international cooperation.

The kick-off was the action conference in Leipzig. Much is still in the planning and the creativity and commitment are virtually unlimited. It is already clear that the manoeuvre is encountering broad and varied active resistance, mobilizing and bringing together the peace movement (and hopefully many other forces). The planning has begun: An 'Action Conference North' will be on 18.01.2020, a 2nd 'Action Conference' will take place on 26.01.2020 in Leipzig.

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(member of the coordinating group of actions against Defender 2020)



New Title: German translation of Cmdr Robert Green's *Security without Nuclear Deterrence*. Contact *END Info* for info.

Carbon Boot-Print

The International Peace Bureau has released a new report, detailing the impact of the US and European military on climate change.

The US military is not only the most funded army in the world, it is also "one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries". The Department of Defence's daily consumption alone is greater than the total national consumption of countries like Sweden, Switzerland or Chile. And the US has been continuously at war, or engaged in military actions, since late 2001.

War and militarism, and their associated 'carbon boot-prints', are severely accelerating climate change. It is not only the US army that has a severe impact on climate change, Europe's military is also running its bases and its various operations and contributing to the rise in carbon emissions.

Visit www.ipb.org to download the report

After the NATO Summit - 70 Years On - NATO: Nuclear Armed and Dangerous

“NATO remains the only place where Europe and North America discuss, decide and act every day together ... And all leaders were very clear. We stand together all for one, and one for all. Our commitment to Article 5, the collective defence clause of our Alliance, is ironclad.” So announced NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenburg at the final press conference of the 70th Anniversary summit, held in the UK in the first week of December, 2019.

Stoltenburg also announced the following ‘concrete’ outcomes of the summit: an “increased readiness of our forces”, which amounts to the completion of the ‘NATO Readiness Initiative’ (30 troop battallions, 30 air squadrons and 30 combat ships at 30 day readiness for deployment); Space was formally declared as a fifth “operational domain” for NATO; a new terrorism action plan and a commitment from Canada and European member members to spend an additional \$400 billion dollars for military purposes. “This is unprecedented. And it’s making NATO stronger” declared the General Secretary.

NATO’s attitudes to Russia and China were also discussed: “We also had a substantive discussion about Russia, and the future of arms control. We are committed to strong deterrence

and defence, while remaining open to meaningful dialogue with Russia. NATO is responding to Russia’s deployment of intermediate-range, nuclear capable missiles in a defensive and coordinated way ... For the first time, we addressed the rise of China - both the challenges and the opportunities it poses. And the implications for our security. Leaders agreed we need to address this together as an Alliance.”

What does ‘responding to Russia’ and ‘addressing China’ actually mean for NATO? The ‘Defender 2020’ manoeuvres on Russia’s border (see Page 2) already strikes a provocative posture in conventional terms. Will there be a non-conventional response to the consequences of the collapse of the INF Treaty? How will NATO continue to ‘address China’? By further, provocative statements and further deployments to the region?

With regards to Russia, Stoltenburg referred to a “dual track” approach during questions from the media. Such an approach involves saying you want a dialouge whilst increasing tensions through deployment. In the absence of any genuine dialogue or formal means by which to progress a dialogue, a “dual track” can only mean a further, dangerous, ratcheting up of tension.

‘Addressing China’ looks likely to amount to demanding that China signs up to ‘arms control’ arrangements of NATO’s own design.

Continued on back page...



What is NATO?

Rae Street’s response to The Guardian newspapers (UK) coverage of the recent NATO summit.

Under the heading 'What is NATO?' (04.12.19) a few facts were missed out. NATO is a nuclear armed military alliance which has now expanded across the world to Asia and Australasia, even as far as making an agreement with Colombia which is in a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (Tlatelolco Treaty 1967). Despite differences between member states, its policies continue to be dominated by the USA. Under its policy of nuclear sharing, which breaches the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty, there are US nuclear bombs, the B61s, at bases in five 'non-nuclear' countries: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. The latter are based at Incirlik not far from the border with Syria. At the same time, Erdogan is saying he would like Turkey to have its own nuclear capability. Currently, the US is planning to upgrade the B61 to a B61-12 which will be more accurate and earth penetrating. Already the B61 could have up to 340 tons of killing power; the bomb Hiroshima was 15 killing tons. NATO still holds a policy of first use of nuclear weapons, slavishly followed by the UK. Next year NATO will be carrying out huge military exercises, entitled 'Defender' across eastern Europe, and these will continue year on year. None of the above is likely to bring peace and security either for citizens in the member states nor across the globe.

Rae Street



No to Trump - No to NATO demonstration, Buckingham Palace, London, 03/12/19

NATO continued...

Why should Russia or China take any of this seriously? Why, more to the point, should they submit to dictats from NATO about arms control when the most 'senior partner' in the Alliance has sabotaged not one, but two, arms control arrangements - the INF Treaty and the 'Iran Deal' - over the last twelve months? What has NATO got to say about this? Nothing!

Which is precisely the point: NATO is itself a nuclear armed alliance and its approach to Russia and China looks set to make 2020 a year of dangerously increased tensions. It looks like Trump has managed to secure a posture of his liking towards Russia and China, has managed to extract further spending commitments and has escaped with simply reaffirming support for Article 5, without any further details on collective defence.

Such a situation will only drive Macron's determination to expand France's 'nuclear cover' to other EU member states and will continue to drive the remilitarisation of Europe as a whole. NATO is not 'brain dead', but dangerous to the extreme.



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