

campaign

NATO's latest exploits



CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** outlines the dangers of NATO's new political direction.

LAST MONTH NATO published a new report NATO 2030: united for a New Era. Commissioned at the NATO Heads of State summit held in London a year ago, it's designed to strengthen the 'political' dimension of NATO. With an emphasis on unity and increased coordination between member states, it was no doubt meant to address the problems caused by the Trump presidency. Yet while he is now exiting the White House, it still reveals the direction of travel that NATO is taking.

Key elements of this NATO assessment

are what we would have expected: it's self-congratulatory of course – the most successful military alliance ever, and it has an increased stress on the need for political coherence. It talks about the need to adapt with the times and address emerging and disruptive technologies. It also makes specific mention of climate change and pandemics.

The stress on unity and political cohesion brings the document to its chief concern: how to maintain western dominance in a world where China is

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rising economically? NATO's answer is to expand its orientation to the Asia Pacific, to deal with the 'impact' of the emerging China.

Ahead of the report's launch, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that China poses 'important challenges to our security', adding that China 'is coming close to us'. The report itself says that NATO should treat China as a 'full-spectrum systemic rival, rather than a purely economic player.' The UK's contribution will be to send an aircraft carrier to the Asia Pacific next February, while the US ramps up its military presence in the region.

One of the points that we made in our press response is that this follows a pattern seen since the end of the last cold war: NATO operates right up to the borders of countries it considers rivals, in the name of containing their expansion.

We've seen how that worked with NATO expansion in Europe and this document refers to that too: over two decades of NATO expansion including into former Soviet republics is described as 'the reincorporation of former captive nations into the democratic West'.

Nevertheless, the document blames Russian aggression for

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the deterioration in relations with NATO and, in spite of the orientation towards China, it still identifies Russia as the major military threat to NATO.

Working to prevent cold war and war with Russia and China remains a strong focus for our work. The new Biden administration needs to roll back on Trump's rhetoric, get back into the Treaties, and opt for diplomatic solutions to complex political problems.

How is backing Russia or China into a corner through military expansionism going to help stop a war? The danger is it will start one.



Spotlight

This month Greater Manchester and District CND



The end of the year is a good time to take stock of our work. And no CND group has been busier in 2020 than GMDCND! A review of their year includes webinars, interviews, a raffle of experiences, film screenings and press coverage. And we're sure there is plenty more planned for 2021!

If you live in the Greater Manchester area, the group would love to hear from you: contact GMDCND by phone: 0161 273 8283 or email: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org.

Stop Sizewell C

As the government begins talks with EDF about building a new nuclear power station at the Sizewell C site, Together Against Sizewell C (TASC) Chair **Pete Wilkinson** writes about why the project shouldn't go ahead.

THE nuclear sword of Damocles has been hanging over the heritage coast on East Suffolk for more than a decade. A Sizewell C to sit alongside the A and B plants has long been mooted but twice fought off. In 2008, it came back again when then Prime Minister Tony Blair announced his risible 'nuclear renaissance'. TASC was established to fight alongside the Shut Down Sizewell Campaign and what eventually became the Stop Sizewell C group. A ten year guerrilla campaign of petitions, reports, consultation responses and presentations to councillors culminated in the 10-point plan that was announced on November 18th and we all held our breath, expecting Sizewell C to be named as the 'large' nuclear plant among the 'small modular reactors' to attract some sort of funding arrangement to bail out the €41+ bn-in-debt EDF, which has come cap in hand to the British public to finance its huge prototype nuclear experiment, originally and disingenuously touted as a 'no subsidy' venture. Sizewell C was not named in the

statement, but on December 14th, we awoke to newscasters telling us that 'the PM has given the green light to Sizewell C', not that he has the power to do so without ignoring the year-long planning examination period which begins early in the New Year. The energy white paper was finally published with promises of keeping nuclear in the future energy mix.

This depressing news followed the previous week in which campaigners in Suffolk witnessed the premature felling of hundreds of Coronation Wood trees which they had successfully protected through the courts for the best part of a year: EDF wants to build its car park now despite the planning permission decision on Sizewell C being at least 18 months away. Despite controversy over lack of the appropriate bat mitigation licence, despite police presence at the site and despite Natural England's confirmation that no bat protection licence had been issued, the contractors moved in to clear a bit of what government apparently believes is invaluable and diverse real estate, essential,

it tells us, in the effort to realise the 'green revolution.'

Building a largely untried nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast as the effects of climate change ravage its unstable and eroding cliffs; building a reactor referred to by its French designers as a 'prototype', its construction destined to devastate large tracts of the coasts and heaths areas of outstanding natural beauty, is monstrous. Building a nuclear power plant anywhere as the demand for electricity falls in parallel to the cost of renewables while just as predictably, the cost of nuclear climbs says volumes about the government's priorities.

That is what it has come down to: nuclear is a busted flush but if it is to be kept alive, it will only be because of its ability to help the continuation of the UK's possession of illegal, unusable and immoral nuclear weapons, at the expense of community cohesion, environmental sustainability and the further sully of the UK's international reputation.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus situation, CND nationally and at a local level continues to arrange mainly virtual events. Keep checking our website and social media accounts.

CND End of Year Quiz

17 December, 7pm-8:30pm

Via Zoom

■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

International Day of Action on Yemen

25 January

■ For more information contact enquiries@cnduk.org

Wellbeing for Future Generations: building a more peaceful world

28 January, 7pm

A Youth and Student CND event via Zoom.

■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

The nuclear ban is here

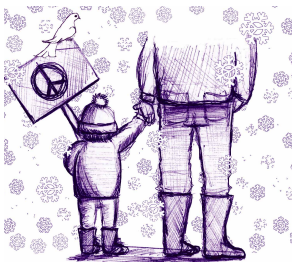


The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

(TPNW) will officially become international law on January 22nd, outlawing nuclear weapons for the first time. 51 countries have already ratified the agreement, with a further 86 signing it.

CND is calling a period of action in the run-up to the treaty entering into force and asking our supporters to arrange a virtual meeting with your MP between January 11th-22nd. Find out more about this – and all the other actions planned – on CND's website

www.cnduk.org/tpnw



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our supporters

Thank you to all our supporters and groups for their support in this momentous year. Together we have adapted, learned how to Zoom (!) and made sure the campaign for a world without nuclear weapons continued strongly, even through a global pandemic.

Have a wonderful festive period and here's to a hopefully brighter 2021!

Meet the staff

This month: Ed McNally, Press and Communications Officer

"I am responsible for CND's communications output, across press, digital, and broadcast. I make sure we are up to date with all news relevant to our campaigns, keep in touch with journalists, and manage our social media channels. I work closely with the rest of the campaigns team, and am planning to help boost our profile in the national press over the next few months.

CND is a great place to work, and I'm looking forward to a busy new year working for disarmament and peace."

