



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

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Edmonton Peace Council (EPC) Meeting Schedule for 2007-2008:

EPC Meetings will be held every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Stanley Milner Library, 6th Floor Room 7, from 7:00pm-9:00pm.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2007

1. November: Labour and Peace
2. December: Holiday Break
3. January: – May: TBA

Attendees: Please see the library security at the front door to access to the meeting room on the 6th floor.



Edmonton Peace Council Participates in Pan-Canadian Day of Action Against War

The Edmonton Peace Council participated in the Pan – Canadian Day of Action Against War. About 100 marchers took to the streets to call for an end to the illegal US-NATO war of occupation in Afghanistan.

Speakers highlighted the demonization of Muslims and the so called “war on terror” as the means to tighten security measures and introduce Bill C-3. Brian Mason NDP MLA of Edmonton Highlands-Norwood leader of the party called Prime Minister Harper’s war in Afghanistan as misguided and called for the defeat of Harper. Mason said that the most important task in front of Canadians is the defeat of Harper. He said that “some” are unsure of forcing an election at this time - the NDP says “bring it on!”

The Frazer Valley Peace Council will be holding a labour peace meeting on November 18th, 2007. The Edmonton Peace Council will attend and speak to the gathering about the August 2007 World Peace Council Executive meeting in held in Caracas Venezuela, organizing efforts for the Canadian Peace Congresses national convention and participation in the WPC world meetings in Venezuela in April 2008.

**Next EPC Meeting November 15, 2007, 7:00 pm
6th Floor, Stanley Milner Public Library**

Putting the Pieces Together: News Releases on the “Lost” US Nuclear Missiles or 2 Tigers by the Tail

Reports have emerged recently that are alarming and point to US preparations for nuclear intimidation. The reports were first broke by Military Times in the September 2007. US intimidation is reaching new heights. The people of the world will not accept it. The follow are a number of articles pulled from the international press that when pieced together paint a disquieting picture of US nuclear banditry and crimes of the highest order.

From: Global Research - Missing Nukes: Treason of the Highest Order

“According to a wide range of reports, several nuclear bombs were “lost” for 36 hours after taking off August 29/30, 2007 on a “cross-country journey” across the U.S., from U.S.A.F Base Minot in North Dakota to U.S.A.F. Base Barksdale in Louisiana. Reportedly, in total there were six W80-1 nuclear warheads armed on AGM-129 Advanced Cruise Missiles that were ‘lost.’ The story was first reported by the *Military Times*, after military servicemen leaked the story.”

From: USA Today

On the 5th of September USA Today carried a story that alleged (according to the *Military Times*), 5 armed warheads went missing. The article was updated on the 18th September to read: ‘...It was originally reported that five nuclear

See Missing Nukes: Page 14



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Global Public Opinion on Nuclear Weapons

The Simons Foundation, "Global Public Opinion on Nuclear Weapons," Vancouver, Canada, September 2007.

The full survey can be viewed or downloaded from:
<http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/Simons%20Report.pdf>

The Simons Foundation conducted a survey of 15 questions assessing the views of people living in countries that possess nuclear weapons. The survey was conducted in the USA, Great Britain, France, Israel, Italy and Germany.

Italy and Germany participate in NATO's "nuclear sharing" concept. Israel has not declared possessing nuclear weapons and hides behind its "strategic ambiguity" policy.

While the results indicate "national" differences the majority of respondents are in favour of a world free of nuclear weapons and desire treaties and mechanisms that work towards reductions and elimination. On the question of the concluding a treaty banning all weapons in space respondents who "strongly" agreed or "moderately" agreed ranged from 68.6% in the USA to 92.2% in France.

A renewed effort is underway by the leading imperial powers to float "trial balloons" and assess the state of public readiness in a new nuclear arms race that is currently being led by the USA.

Russia is responding to the US-NATO threat. Canadian "Strategic Think Tanks" are testing the case for Canada's participation in Ballistic Missile Defence. (See Viewpoint)

The following are a few of the results from some of the 15 questions:

Do you think nuclear weapons make the world a safer place or a more dangerous place?

	BRI	FRA	ITA	GER	USA	ISR
A Safer Place	18.2%	11.6%	6.9%	4.9%	10.2%	6.7%
A More Dangerous Place	73.4%	76.9%	90.4%	91.9%	79.3%	87.3%
Not Sure	8.4%	11.5%	2.7%	3.2%	10.5%	6.0%

What should be the goal of (your country's) national government when it comes to nuclear weapons?

	BRI	FRA	ITA	GER	USA	ISR
Eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide	50.9%	39.0%	68.5%	80.7%	48.7%	28.6%

	BRI	FRA	ITA	GER	USA	ISR
Reducing the number of nuclear weapons in the world to lower levels	39.7%	44.6%	24.9%	15.4%	33.6%	45.8%
Maintaining the current number of nuclear weapons in the world	4.9%	11.4%	4.1%	1.0%	5.9%	6.7%
Developing new nuclear weapons	0.9%	2.1%	1.0%	1.2%	3.0%	10.7%
Not sure	3.6%	2.9%	1.5%	1.7%	8.8%	8.2%

Nuclear sharing is a deterrence concept of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which involves member countries without nuclear weapons of their own in the planning for the use of nuclear weapons by NATO. The United States has provided weapons for nuclear sharing to five countries, including Germany and Italy. Articles I and II of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) prohibit the transfer and acceptance, respectively, of direct or indirect control over nuclear weapons. Which of these statements comes closer to your own view?

	BRI	FRA	ITA	GER	USA	ISR
NATO's nuclear sharing concept is a violation of the NPT	41.7%	48.5%	56.7%	56.2%	43.0%	53.3%
NATO's nuclear sharing concept is not a violation of the NPT,	28.9%	25.0%	26.8%	24.6%	16.1%	25.7%
Not sure	29.4%	26.5%	16.5%	19.2%	40.8%	21.0%

The conclusions that were arrived at by the survey indicated that a majority of the nations questioned feel that, "Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons remains an important foreign policy goal across the board" and that "nuclear weapons make the world less safe [and] called for action to prevent the weaponization of space".

No to Canada's Participation in BMD



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Canadian Greetings to the Executive Meeting of the WPC in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam November 10-12, 2007

Dear Friends

The Canadian Peace Congress extends our warmest greetings of solidarity and support for the work of the Executive Committee of the World Peace Council meeting in Hanoi Socialist Republic of Vietnam, November 10-12, 2007.

We regret that we cannot, at this time, join you and participate in your important work. We follow closely the work of the WPC at its many important international meetings, discuss the documents and declarations of the WPC, circulate its decisions and appeals and support the WPC family in its international campaigns. We look forward to joining you at the WPC meeting in Caracas Venezuela, April 2008.

We look forward to receiving the declarations, documents and decisions of your important meeting.

In Solidarity and Peace

On behalf of the Interim Executive, Canadian Peace Congress
Don Currie, Member Executive of the WPC

International News

More imperialist excesses?

Condoleezza Rice's Middle East tour fails to achieve the results desired by the White House, where Bush comes out with a feverish conjecture

BY ELSA CLARO — Granma International
Havana - October 25, 2007
www.granma.cu

GEORGE W. Bush's recent statement referring to the possible eruption of World War III if Iran is allowed "the knowledge" to develop nuclear weapons has been taken as a barely disguised threat.

It has been repeated so many times in Washington that Iran wants to produce a nuclear arsenal that, at this point, they have come to believe their own story. This wouldn't be the first or only time.

There is still talk about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq four years after the occupation and long after it was proven that the Bush administration and the Blair government in London lied in order to justify the war. It was so much so that the conspiracy between that duo with the then-president of Spain, José María Aznar was, or is, so intimate that it predated the latter summoning

them to the Azores to oblige the European Union to accept the decision of two of its members who were supporting the United States and its aggressive acts planned beyond the confines of the United Nations and behind the backs of the European allies.

It is possible that such precedents prompted Vladimir Putin to say in Tehran that U.S. dreams of creating a unipolar world were not realistic, as demonstrated by the adventures undertaken in Afghanistan and Iraq where there is today less order, less gratitude on the part of citizens, or possibilities for a good future.

The Russian president's statement was made in the Iranian capital where he attended a meeting of heads of state of countries bordering the Caspian Sea, currently the location of one of the world's largest oil reserves. The leaders of those countries are seeking consensus among themselves as to the limits of the territories belonging to each one and becoming aware that the fragmentation being pushed by the trans-nationals is not to their advantage in terms of this natural resource.

This meeting of Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan is considered highly significant given that its final declaration includes statements such as: "Our armed forces do not have the objective of attacking other countries of the Caspian Sea area," and emphasizes that in no circumstances will use of the area as a launching pad for aggressive or punitive actions against third countries be permitted.

This last statement comes in relation to alleged public statements by observers that Azerbaijan, whose leaders have a close relationship with the United States and agreements with several U.S. oil companies, could serve as a base for future aggression against Iran. This is Vice President Richard Cheney's favorite idea, according to various sources and one among many related speculations.

Others are asserting that it will be Israel who commits a possible attack or takes charge of creating provocations, thus unleashing a problem that will serve as "justification" for a U.S. military intervention. The war on Lebanon and recent Israeli aircraft incursions into Syria are being perceived as Zionist rehearsals aimed at the other objective of Iran, always among several of the many nurtured by the Bush administration's anti-Iran verbal offensive, which has reached the point of evoking a confrontation of global dimensions without explaining why or how it might erupt, and not even who would be involved, despite the emphasis afforded the issue.

During his visit to Tehran, Putin said that no matter how large or how strong a world power might be, it will not "be able to solve the world's problems by itself; its financial, economic, material and political resources would not be adequate." Referring to the possibility of



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attacks on Iran, the leader said this would be a serious error. First, the U.S. should withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible, given that as long as U.S. forces remain, the government in Baghdad cannot develop its own capacities.

Putin's statements during this trip and in subsequent meetings in Russia are in line with what he has been saying since last January when, speaking at the International Conference on Security Policy in Munich, he asserted strongly and coherently the unacceptability of an exclusive and egocentric foreign policy, given the nature of the threats facing the contemporary world.

He repeated those ideas to Condoleezza Rice and Robert Gates, just weeks ago when the U.S. secretary of state and Defense Department leader visited Moscow to address the issue of a missile shield, leaving the hosts unhappy with the lack of acceptable options.

The unilateral actions taken by Bush invite suspicion of the negative bias projected by the White House when discussing Iran's peaceful nuclear program, drawing the Europeans into its expansionist ideas. (Remember that the French foreign minister stated recently that the irremediable had to be accepted.)

These recent events and previous ones were cited by the Russian leader when speaking of the urgency of expanding and strengthening the leadership of the United Nations and at the same time honoring international law, which has for some time been underestimated, ignored and disrespected.

The five dignitaries meeting in Tehran went on record in support of Iran's civil development nuclear program and the right of any other country to do the same, as long as it complies with international agreements governing this type of activity, as Iran is doing. Perhaps because of this, Vladimir Putin also alluded to the necessity of strictly respecting national sovereignty and improving efforts directed at agreement rather than confrontation.

Some commentators have suggested that Russia might abandon its cooperation with Iran in the area of nuclear development as a result of U.S. pressure but, on the contrary, it was announced during the meeting that Moscow will finish the Busher nuclear plant in southern Iran as planned.

This important statement and its not inconsiderable consequences may not be enough to put a brake on the longstanding U.S. intention of launching an attack on Iran "as punishment" for having interfered with its economic and military objectives, and in order to leave the country impoverished and toppled from its position as a regional power respected by nationalist social movements throughout the Middle East.

No doubt the agreements reached represent an unexpected and troubling thorn in the empire's side, as indicated by Bush's shrill references to a third world war that he can only unleash if nobody deters him in one of his classic moments of obstinacy.

Bush's World War Three

By Michel Chossudovsky
Global Research, October 17, 2007

"We got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel. So I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from have the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon. I take the threat of Iran with a nuclear weapon very seriously...." (George W. Bush, 17 October 2007)

Grin and Laugh: *"Here's his expression while saying the words "World War Three"* (Huffington Post, 17 October 2007)

"I believe that. I believe that [the revolt of passengers on the hijacked flight 93 on September 11, 2001] was the first counter-attack to World War III." (George W. Bush, May 6, 2006)

"This notion that the United States is getting ready to attack Iran is simply ridiculous... Having said that, all options are on the table." George W. Bush, February 2005)

We are not living in a sound and rational World, where far-reaching decisions by the US President are based on an understanding of their likely consequences.

A World War III is no longer a hypothetical scenario.

During the Cold War, the concept of "mutual assured destruction" (MAD) was put forth. An understanding of the devastating consequences of nuclear war largely contributed to avoiding the outbreak of war between the US and the Soviet Union.

Today, in the post-Cold war era, no such understanding prevails.

The spectre of a nuclear holocaust, which haunted the world for half a century has been relegated to the status of "collateral damage".

US foreign policy under the Neocons is based on a diabolical and criminal agenda. The "war on terrorism" is a lie; Iran does not constitute a threat to global security as confirmed by a recent IAEA report. Iran does not constitute a threat to Israel.

The US president is a liar, who believes his own lies.

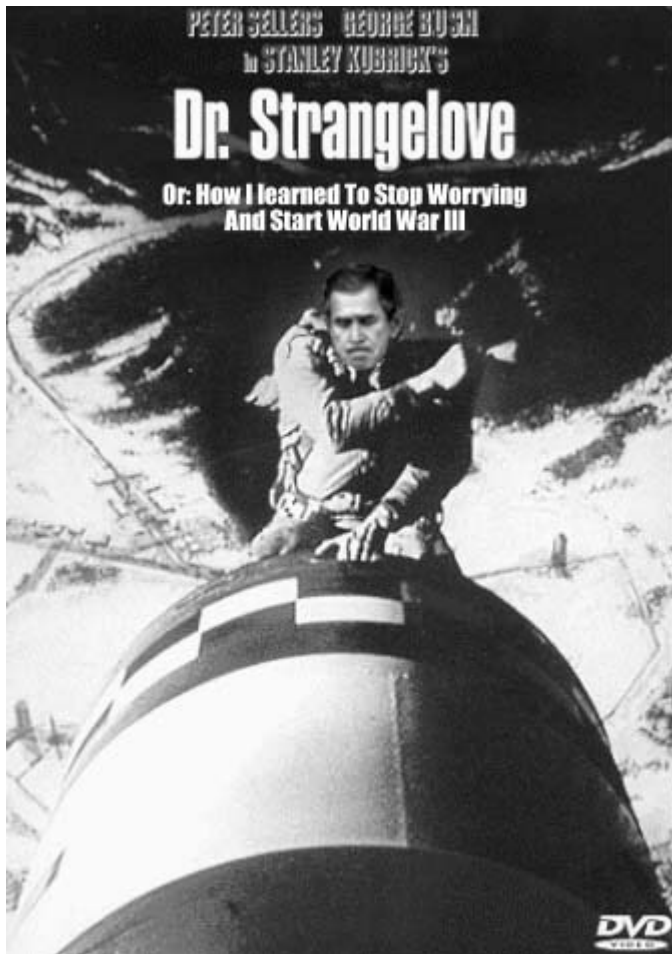


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While Iran's non-existent nukes are said to constitute a lethal and deadly threat, so-called tactical nuclear weapons "Made in America" are described in Pentagon documents as "harmless to the surrounding civilian population".

In a bitter irony, those who decide on the use of nuclear weapons believe their own propaganda. A preemptive nuclear attack on Iran is upheld as a bona fide humanitarian undertaking which contributes to global security.



And now the US Head of State, who has a limited understanding of geopolitics, let alone geography, is hinting that if Iran does not give up its nonexistent nuclear weapons program, we might be reluctantly forced into a World War III situation. Bush has insinuated that as Commander in Chief, he could decide to launch a war on Iran, which would result in World War III.

"Dr. Strangelove rides again." In an utterly twisted logic, World War III is presented by the US President as a means to preventing collateral damage.

The war would be triggered by Iran, who has refused to abide by the "reasonable demands" of "the international community".

Realities are twisted and turned upside down. Iran is being accused of wanting to start World War III.

Media Blackout

World public opinion has its eyes riveted on the cataclysm of "global warming". World War III on the other hand is not front page news. We are talking about the loss of tens of thousands of lives: the consequences of the US military agenda which includes the pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons in a very concrete way threatens the future of humanity.

At present US and coalition forces including NATO and Israel are in an advanced state of readiness to launch an attack on Iran. Leaders of the coalition fully understand that such an action will result in a World War III scenario. Escalation scenarios have already been envisaged and analyzed by the Pentagon. US sponsored war games have even foreseen the possible intervention of Russia and China.

World War III has been on the lips of NeoCon architects of US foreign policy from the outset of the Bush regime. It is contained in a document published in September 2000 by the Project of the New American Century (PNAC). The PNAC's declared objectives imply a "long war", a global war without borders:

- "defend the American homeland;
- fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theatre wars;
- perform the "constabulary" duties associated with shaping the security environment in critical regions;
- transform U.S. forces to exploit the "revolution in military affairs;"

Former Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, former Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney had commissioned the PNAC blueprint prior to the 2000 presidential elections. The PNAC outlines a roadmap of conquest.

The pre-emptive nuclear doctrine contained in the Nuclear Posture Review is supported by the Republican Party and Washington's conservative think-tanks

George W. Bush is an instrument of powerful economic interests. A pre-emptive war on Iran has widespread support by the US Congress; it is also supported by America's European partners and allies. Leading Republicans have expressed their support for a pre-emptive World War III scenario. In a 2006 interview at the height of the Israeli bombing of Lebanon (July 16,



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2007), former Republican leader of the House Newt Gingrich candidly acknowledged:

"We're in the early stages of what I would describe as the third World War and, frankly, our bureaucracy's not responding fast enough and we don't have the right attitude. And this is the 58th year of the war to destroy Israel and, frankly, the Israelis have every right to insist that every single missile leave south Lebanon, and the United States ought to be helping the Lebanese government have the strength to eliminate Hezbollah as a military force — not as a political force in the parliament — but as a military force in south Lebanon.

The Bush Administration has adopted a first strike "pre-emptive" nuclear policy, which has now received congressional approval. Nuclear weapons are no longer a weapon of last resort as during the Cold War era.

In a classified Pentagon document (Nuclear Posture Review) presented to the US Senate in early 2002, the Bush Administration established so-called "contingency plans" for an offensive "first strike use" of nuclear weapons, not only against the "axis of evil" (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and North Korea), but also against Russia and China.

Viewpoint: Energy Superpower – Superpower Military Budgets, A New Canadian Imperialism

Canadian foreign policy is under close scrutiny by the upper echelons of economic and political power elites and their paid stooges. Guided by the power interests of finance, energy and military capital these discussions are shaping and outlining the future direction, place and role of Canada in the expanding and sharpening belligerence of inter imperialist rivalries for decades to come.

Trends emerging within these discussions expose a deepening economic and political crisis of global capitalist relations and divisions within Canadian economic oligarchy. Front and centre in these foreign policy discussions is "Canadian security" and "Canadian energy superpower" status. Canadian corporate elites are formulating plans to ensure that they are in the profits of any future "permanent" and/or transient political-economic imperialist alliances.



End the War!

Establishing the "Party Line"

Confounding a "full court press", by the power brokers of Canadian finance capital and the minority government of Prime Minister Steven Harper, to a more aggressive role in imperialist relations are Canadian workers. Canadian workers understand that there is nothing in war and aggression that serve their interests or the national interests of Canada. The dichotomy facing the corporate planners of Canadian foreign policy is how to convince workers of an intensified role of Canadian capital in imperialist power plays.

Several reports have been published in recent months that are beginning to construct a framework for future foreign policy introduction and expansion. Canadian foreign policy think tanks are working overtime to find the "party line" to convince workers that they should ply their labour in a more aggressively militarized role of Canada in international relations.

Of note, two reports from the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute (CDFAI), Calgary and one from the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies' (CMSS) Journal of Military and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary are ongoing academic discussions which argue for a more offensive role by Canada in imperialist relations.

The deliberations, while academic in nature, layout the basis of Canadian political foreign policies and frame these policies around a larger role for Canadian energy and natural resource in global relations, larger military budgets and participation in US strategic ballistic missile defence (BMD) plans. The economic reality in the view of these reports is that "the relationship" (Canada/US) "is critical to our survival, essential to our prosperity and, we believe, **constitutes a great advantage for Canada in dealing with the rest of the world.**" (Our emphasis)

The fully exposed and failed Bush/Cheney Neo Con policies of military interventions and war profiteering are being repackaged in Canada to soften public opposition on a US fomented and now implemented global arms race. These policy frameworks are an attempt to convince Canadian workers to accept war as an option for protection of "Canadian interests" and relinquish an overwhelming rejection of a "nuclear option" and accept US BMD on Canadian soil.

Competing Economic Interests and the Growing Political Crisis

Reflected in the reports are the growing political divisions and diverging economic interests within competing Canadian capital corporate associations. What is agreed upon between these competing interests however, is a demand by Canadian corporate power to



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increase Canada's economic share of world markets. What corporate group will profit from these demands first and foremost is being sharply debated. How these policies will be implemented is reflected in the political crisis in Canada's parliament where Canadian foreign policy is defined and implemented in secret board rooms meetings by Bay St., Wall St. and the imperial councils of NATO.

Not satisfied with record breaking profits through decades of exploiting the domestic working class Canadian finance capital now searches for new "global" opportunities. To implement more aggressive postures and expansions into global markets finance capital seeks domination over the state and to supplant parliamentary power with corporate associations, alliances, "international agreements" and think tanks.

Extreme right wing reaction relentlessly pursues the suppression of the state apparatus. Prime Minister Harper is preparing his class for more antagonistic policies aimed at transferring the deepening crisis more openly onto the backs of Canadian workers.

The minority government Prime Minister Harper calmly implements the policies of finance capital, big oil and militarism. Canadian Press reporter Keith Leslie in a November 8, 2007 Globe and Mail article "McGuinty meeting yields no Ottawa help" exposed the indifference of Harper to the plight of Ontario workers.

Leslie reported that Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty in a meeting with Harper appealed to the Prime Minister to raise interest rates to protect Ontario manufacturing but that "fell mostly on deaf ears". In the meeting with Mr. Harper, McGuinty requested that some of the projected \$11.6 billion federal surplus is used to help the battered Ontario economy with upgrade roads, sewers, infrastructures and to aid in "\$1.1-billion jobs fund to work with each auto maker individually to attract new plants and investment". Mr. Harper rejected that proposal and instead "he seemed more interested in sector-wide tax cuts or incentives".

As a result of the crisis in capitalist economic relations CAW President Buzz Hargrove is faced with a dilemma; how to protect auto worker wages, health and pensions in openly hostile attacks on labour by Prime Minister Harper's corporate backers.

Many on the left are vilifying Hargrove for his acceptance of the Framework of Fairness deal between the CAW and Magna International Inc. and its "no strike clause". Eastern manufacturing is confronted with increasingly predatory capital absorption by big oil and mining capital, the frantic search by CAPP to free up more mobile labour for the labour intensive expansion of the tar sands development and the abandonment of eastern manufacturing by Harper. Hargrove had to

choose between concentrating industrial labour through organizing Magna plants increasing wages and benefits for those workers and "leap frog" over years of organizing or abandoning Magna workers to the self-righteous proclamations of left editorial high priests of labour resistance. It was a huge concession brought on by decades of imperialist excesses and global labour attacks. Imperialism is responsible not Hargrove.

A Choice for Canadian Labour

Canadian foreign policy and national economic development are *the* questions facing Canadians. In front of Canadians is a choice between supporting a more concentrated and rabid parasitical class of war profiteers, energy speculators and banking credit investors represented by Mr. Harper or strengthening and supporting an embattled labour movement disparate to save jobs and protect the lively hoods of Canadian workers faced with two realities; a gutted, destroyed and paralyzed manufacturing industry in Ontario and Quebec on the one hand and the extreme intensification of labour in Alberta where workers are being worked to early deaths through 50-70 hour work weeks.

Within this context the policy frameworks of CDFAI and CMSS begin to make sense and the diverging views of power elites are best understood. Capitalist economic relations and profits are at the root of the crisis - divisions of world resources and economic markets the prize. War, military intervention and police aggression the stick used to intimidate workers to labour in silence.

The increased imperialist ambitions of the minority government of Prime Minister Harper and his political masters at the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, the Canadian Bankers Association and the tyrannical oilgarchs at the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers in Calgary represent the view of a new Canadian policy of capital and military export into the "big leagues" of imperial power.

These foreign policies are clashing with Canadian labour. Corporate policy of aggression and power are in opposition to Canadian workers desire for an all Canadian democratic policy of labour and peace through the expansion of manufacturing and resource development for the benefit of all Canadians and withdrawal from US imperialist alliances of NATO, NORAD and NORTHCOM.

"Emerging Energy Superpower" Status: Setting the Stage for a Superpower Defence Budget

October 29, 2007 in Ottawa, Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute (CDFAI) sponsored their annual foreign policy conference entitled "Canada as the Emerging Energy Superpower: Testing the Case". The



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conference looked at Prime Minister Harper's claim that Canada is an "emerging energy superpower". It addressed some questions such as Life as an Energy Superpower, Implications for Canada-US Relations, Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection, and Energy, Environment and the Arctic. Jim Prentice Minister of Industry and Gary Lunn Minister of Natural Resources were keynote speakers. The conference report has yet to be released.

On July 14th 2006 in a speech to the Canada-U.K. Chamber of Commerce on the eve of the 2006 St. Petersburg G8 summit Prime Minister said, "One of the primary targets for British investors has been our booming energy sector. They have recognized Canada's emergence as a global energy powerhouse – the emerging 'energy superpower' our government intends to build."

In a follow up speech on September 20th 2007 to the Economic Club of New York Harper said, "Canada is an emerging energy superpower, the only stable and growing producer of this scarce commodity in an unstable world. Our strong and robust economy, with its enormous energy potential, represents a tremendous opportunity for American business and a crucial element of continental energy security. And given the deep integration of our own economies, these global challenges and opportunities call for a continental response."

Academia vs. Energy Capital

Prime Minister Steven Harper has been touting Canada as an "emerging energy superpower" since he came to power. What does this mean in the context of Canadian foreign policy, sharpening imperialist rivalries and Canadian economic policy? Some argue that it means very little and is nothing more than bravado.

This view is echoed by Embassy Magazine writer Jeff Davis in an October 31st editorial entitled "Canada as Energy Superpower an 'Empty' Idea, Experts Say". Reporting on the CDFAI conference Davis said that Mike Cleland, president and CEO of the Canadian Gas Association, was skeptical when he first heard Harper's describe Canada as an emerging energy superpower. Cleland told the conference of academics, bureaucrats and energy executives, "I heard from some federal officials that I won't name that it is just a slogan".

Annette Hester, Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, Ontario and Senior Associate at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., presented her conclusions on the question to the October CDFAI conference from her paper of the same name.

Hester concluded in her paper that, "Canada is not an energy superpower, if criteria identified in other jurisdictions can be taken as indicative. Although energy resources are abundant, from the oil markets' vantage point, Canada's relatively small production – less than three millions barrels a day – defines the country as a price-taker, not a price-setter. Moreover, the federal government does not control the resources enough to be able to effectively leverage them for a political purpose, and indeed appears not to aspire to achieve such control. Finally, its reach is strictly regional. Curiously, in spite of the prime minister's eagerness in declaring Canada such a superpower, Canadians are loathe to impose their will on others."

In isolation from the broader energy and resource sectors Hester's conclusions may be correct. However, far from closing the door on the notion of superpower status Hester then adds, "The relevant question is not whether Canada is an energy superpower, but how Canadian energy resources can be used to turn the country into a powerful modern nation, an example of capitalism done right."

In a September 25, 2006 speech on the eve of the Canada Europe Roundtable for Business (CERT) 3rd Annual Conference entitled, "Building the Future: Canada, an Emerging Energy Superpower", TSX Group CEO Richard Nesbitt in an evident reaction to "Harper's" claim of the "superpower" line, corrected the record by saying that, "Canada, an Emerging Energy Superpower" – is a phrase I started using more than a year ago."

Nesbitt on describing the term indicated that "in the narrow sense it refers to one of the biggest energy projects in the world – the development of the oil sands." However the reality Nesbitt says includes natural gas, coal, coal-bed methane, frontier and offshore gas, electrical power generation, pipelines and transportation infrastructure and new nuclear power plants.

As part of the tar sands expansion, tailings will net titanium and zircon which together represent \$12 billion in global markets. TSX Group serves both major energy and mining interests which as Nesbitt concludes, "[Lines] between energy and mining are blurring more and more every year."

Capital is required in massive quantities to finance the fixed capital and labour intensive expansion of these projects. Nesbitt said that TSX Group is one of the top four exchange groups in the world to raise capital and "energy companies represent a big chunk of that". In the first six months of 2006 \$US23.2 billion was raised on TSX and TSX Venture. In the same period in a market of 12 times the size of Canada's New York Stock Exchange Group could only raise \$US45.6 billion - barely twice as much.



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The TSX Group CEO said that the TSX Stock Exchange listed more than 60% of mining companies in the world and 430 energy companies with a market capitalization of \$US553 billion in 2006. More mining and energy companies are listed on the TSX than any other exchange. Nesbitt said that, "the market cap of all our companies hit \$2 trillion for the first time [in 2006]."

He went on to say, "Historically, boom times in Canada send many companies abroad to raise money. No longer...Canada is a capital exporter... in mining and oil and gas, we provide most of the exploration and development capital on every continent." Mr. Nesbitt emphasized Canadian capital role in the global market place by saying, "We're playing in the global big leagues".

Canadian Banking Capital

According to the Canadian Bankers Association 2006 report, Top 150 Global Banks Ranked by Assets, Canada accounts for 7 of the 150 largest banks in the world with combined assets of \$US2.69 trillion and combined gross profits of just under \$US31 billion. (See Table 1)

RBC is ranked 40th overall in assets with \$US478 billion and 33rd in gross profits at \$US5.5 billion. Quebec based Desjardins Group is ranked 109th and has combined assets of \$166 billion (U.S.). In 2006 Desjardins posted a \$US1.2 billion profit.

Canadian banks however rate lower when return on assets (after tax profits) is compared and fall into the lower half of the top 100 banks. This has prompted a response from the banks. In a October 4, 2007 speech to the International Finance Club of Montréal, Nancy Hughes Anthony, President and CEO of the Canadian Bankers Association stated, "At the federal level, the CBA is recommending that the scheduled reductions in the corporate income tax rate should be accelerated and then reduced even further to 16.5 percent by 2012". Currently the banks pay taxes at a rate 34.2% and are scheduled to fall to closer to 30% by 2011. Banks are calling for a massive cut in taxes of over 50%.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty responded by out doing Liberal leader Stephan Dion's promise to reduce corporate tax to the levels demanded by CBA and *delivered* the tax cuts demanded by the CBA. In the October 31st Globe and Mail it was reported that "There will be a cut to corporate taxes of 1 per cent in 2008 with on-going reductions that will see business taxes fall down to 15 per cent by 2012 from 22 per cent today. That will leave Canada with one of the lowest corporate tax rates among the industrialized economies."

The expansion and export of Canadian finance capital is increasing rapidly bolstered by the US sub-prime mortgage collapse, the Asset Backed Commercial Paper

credit crisis and the high value of the Canadian dollar as a result of high commodity prices.

Canadian capital is penetrating into the US and South America markets. These penetrations are illustrated by the \$2.2-billion purchase of Caribbean bank RBTT Financial Holdings Ltd. by RBC. The RBC purchase was preceded by its \$US1.6-billion purchase US Alabama Bank weeks before. The TD Bank is bidding \$US8.5-billion for Commerce Bancorp Inc., while BMO is said to be looking at a \$3.5-billion-plus acquisition of Minnesota-based TCF Financial, which has 446 branches and 5,600 employees. Many more "deals" are on the table for the Canadian insurance and financial management sectors.



Canadian Energy Capital

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) represents companies that combined produce 95% of all crude oil and natural gas in Canada. According to CAPP's June 2007 report: Crude Oil Forecast, Markets and Pipeline Expansions, "Together, these members and associate members are an important part of a \$100 billion-a-year national industry that affects the livelihoods of more than half a million Canadians".

The US Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Information Administration (EIA) is a close and very well informed detail watcher of Canadian energy developments. In the April 2007 EIA "Country Analysis Brief – Canada" said, "In total for 2006, Canada exported to the United States 2.3 million barrels per day (bbl/d) of oil and petroleum products (11percent of U.S. supply), 3.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas (16 percent of U.S. supply), and 41.2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity (1 percent of U.S. supply)." The report confirmed that Canada "sends over 99 percent of its oil exports to the U.S."



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In 2006 Canada's total oil production including liquids was 3.3 million bbl/d compared with a daily consumption of 2.2 million bbl/d. Simple mathematics will support the fact that despite Canada's status as a "net exporter" in 2006 1.2 million bbl/d was imported. Primarily imports were to eastern Canada and came from Algeria and Norway for crude oil and the US for refined products.

The EIA report underscored this fact by saying,

Threatened with significant reductions in revenue through reduced gas royalties the Alberta Royalty Report findings can be traced to simultaneous increases in tar sands productions. After initial dire warnings from CAPP about the demise of Alberta's "booming" economy the warnings have ceased and it is business as usual. Why? As Gordon Laxer reported in the Edmonton Journal on October 22, 2007, "Rather than increasing royalties by 20 per cent as headlines tell the public, the

Asset Rank 2006	Pre-Tax Profit Rank 2006	Return on Asset Rank 2006	Bank	Assets (\$millions CDN)	Pre-Tax Profit (\$millions CDN)	Pre-Tax Return on Assets (%)
40	33	59	Royal Bank of Canada	557,147	6,439	1.16
47	38	41	Toronto-Dominion Bank	407,822	5,737	1.41
49	44	56	Scotia Bank	393,387	4,722	1.20
56	60	62	Bank of Montreal	324,622	3,587	1.11
58	65	67	CIBC	315,519	3,441	1.09
109	107	74	Desjardins Group	135,126	1,404	1.04
119	112	75	National Bank of Canada	117,454	1,225	1.04
Global Total				71,646,418	718,893	1.00
Canadian Banks				3,136,757	35,996	1.15

Exchange rate 1 USD = 1.1653
CDN December 29, 2006

Table 1 - Canadian Bank Rankings in Top 150 Global Banks

"Canada's major population centers in the eastern part of the country are not well connected to its principle production facilities in the western interior, meaning that it is often easier to import oil along the coastlines rather than transport it domestically."

Similar patterns are continuing in the power generation and transmission sectors. In the November 7 Globe and Mail article "Newfoundland Looks South", Virginia Galt reported that Newfoundland is "frustrated by the lack of an east-west power grid in Canada" and the large sources of clean and renewable hydro-electric power of Newfoundland could be a major source for Ontario and other Canadian markets. Galt reported that Dean MacDonald chairman of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro said that Newfoundland decided to build a new power transmission system to ship power south into US markets due to the absence of an all Canadian power grid.

Canada's natural gas reserves, after years of US plunder, have declined at a rapid pace. Despite being the 3rd largest global producer of natural gas Canadian proven reserves have shrunk to a fraction of previous sizes to 58 Tcf. By comparison US proven reserves are 204 Tcf.

panel's recommendations would, if fully implemented, reduce them by 20 per cent by 2016...Alberta would collect only \$7.6 billion in 2016, compared to \$9.5 billion in royalties in 2006." Big oil is delighted with Premier Ed Stelmach.

This rapid decline in natural gas production is resulting in the construction of 6 new liquid natural gas (LNG) plants for regasification (turning the LNG back into a gas for transport by pipeline) of imported LNG being proposed. The combined capacity will be approximately 5.0 bcf/d. In 2006, Canada exported 3.6 Tcf of natural gas to the United States, representing 86 percent of total U.S. natural gas imports that year. The proposed plants are planned to position Canadian pipeline operators Enbridge, EnCana, Kinder Morgan and others and their large gas transmission pipeline system as a continental natural gas broker and to maintain their dominant position in the "export" market.

The majority of Canadian finance and industrial capital is now "underwritten" by the "equity" in Canada's tar sands. The US DOE/EIA 2006 annual report shows that "North America" is 2nd in global crude oil reserves at 317 billion barrels. North America follows the Middle East which accounts for 743 billion barrels. In a foot note to



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the North American reserves the report says that Alberta's tar sands account for 174 billion barrels or 55% of the total known "North American" reserves.

Canadian Mining Capital

PM Harper's recent tour of Haiti, Columbia and Chile was a play to position Canadian mining and banking interests as dominant hemispherical players and to situate Canada as a regional imperial power broker.

While on his July tour of the region Harper made stops at Barrick Gold's head quarters in Santiago and stopped at Scotia Bank to glad hand. In his July 17th 2007 speech to the Chile-Canada Chamber of Commerce in Santiago Chile Prime Minister Harper indicated that Canada is willing to become a bigger player in the region and "to doing so for the long term". Harper said, "Foreign direct investment from Canada into the Americas now stands at close to 100 billion dollars – a number that is more than twice the size of Canadian investment in Asia."



This places Canada 3rd in direct foreign investment in the Caribbean and Latin America with banking and mining as the dominant players. Harper also expressed Canadian energy capital is ready to supply energy to South American markets and that Canada is prepared to challenge Venezuela in reversing the "return to the syndrome of economic nationalism, political authoritarianism and class warfare". Harper's thinly veiled warning to South American workers to abandon a path of independent socialist development and return to capitalist relations pleases his mining bosses.

Harper said, "Canada is an emerging energy superpower and is committed to working with you in addressing this challenge".

Canada's dominant position in mining is described by Mandeep Dillon in the April 20, 2007 Canadian Mining Watch report entitled "Canadian Mining in Mexico: Made in Canada Violence" as, "Canadian mining corporations lead the global mining industry".

Dillon sights that, "The Canadian industry ranks first in the global production of zinc, uranium, nickel and potash; second in sulphur, asbestos, aluminium and cadmium; third in copper and platinum group metals; fourth in gold; and fifth in lead. It has interests in over 8,300 properties worldwide – 3,400 of which are in 100 foreign countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, which have been identified as the main current geographical target for mineral exploration, Canadian mining corporations represent the largest percentage of foreign mining companies – with interests in more than 1,200 properties".

Canadian Military Capital

Canadian capital in some sectors is tied more closely to US markets such as energy exports while other capital has more "freedom" to move illustrated by Canadian mining capital. Canadian military capital is particularly sensitive to US foreign policy as it derives the majority of its profits from supplying US-NATO military hardware, services and technologies.

This dependency is illustrated in a January 15, 2007 Maclean's article by Colin Campbell entitled "Canada's Arms Industry is Under Attack". Campbell sights Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2005 annual report which places Canada as "6th largest seller of military weapons in the world". Canadian defence industry is worth \$7 billion (US) per year and employs 70,000 Canadian workers. Half of all sales come from the US and close to 80% is to NATO allies.

The Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI) says that the biggest threat to the Canadian defence industry is the US State Department's increasing strict regulations on the sharing of its military technologies. Tim Page, president of CADSI says that if it is not resolved, "The reliable, long-standing Canadian supplier may find itself on the outside of a good bit of commercial business".

Canada now ranks twelfth among the world's nations in military spending. For 2005 Canada's military expenditures were \$10.6 billion (\$327 per capita) representing 1% of the all military expenditures on the globe. Prime Minister Harper's decision to turn a war of occupation in Kabul into a war of aggression in Kandahar has increased military expenditures to \$15



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billion and rising. Canadian Government spending on NATO for 2005 (combined personnel and equipment) was \$6.4 billion, or 60.4% of total military expenditures and an increase of 20% over year 2000. The Canadian Government spends 60% of its military expenditures on NATO and only 40% on the defence of Canadian territory, airspace and coastal waters.

US military expenditures for 2005 were \$482.2 billion (\$1,604 per capita) exceeding by \$116.6 billion the expenditures of the next fifteen highest nation states put together. The US economic dependency on war and military expenditures is the Achilles heel of US imperialism not as many opine, its great strength. US military expenditures on NATO for personnel and equipment totalled \$192.23 billion in 2000 and rose to \$262.29 billion by 2005 a rise of 36.4% in five years.

It is clear from these figures why Canadian military decisions are taken at Brussels and not in Ottawa. The big money is at NATO. On September 18th 2006, the Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment of NATO announced that the 26 member countries have begun building a 75 million euro command and control system for missile defence. This is only the start. NATO has produced a 10,000 page report that endorses the US plan to deploy ballistic missiles to space that will increase the initial investment to unlimited heights. It is the anticipation of huge profits that has caused the Harper Government to state its willingness to re-open talks with the Bush Administration on Canadian participation in Ballistic Missile Defence.

Not satisfied with current levels of military expenditures and Canada's current rejection of US BMD, J.L. Granatstein in the Fall 2007 CDFAI report entitled "A Threatened Future: Canada's Future Strategic Environment and its Security Implications" recommends that "Given Canada's impressive economic capacity, we think an overall defence budget at a level equivalent to the NATO average (2.2 per cent of GDP) would be a reasonable target. In 2007 dollars, that would generate an annual budget of approximately \$25 billion, or roughly \$9 to 10 billion more than the current figure."

David S. McDonough, Ph.D. Programme, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University in the Spring 2006/07, Volume 9, Issue 3 edition of the Journal of Military and Strategic Studies report entitled "BMD and US Strategic Doctrine: Canadian Strategic Interests in the Debate on Missile Defence" conclude that, "In the end, Ottawa should go into any deliberation on missile defence with its eyes open and recognize that a more sophisticated and 'limited' approach to missile defence, while having a clear relationship with an aggressive American strategic doctrine, could also be in Canada's strategic interest."

Labour and Peace - an Alliance to Challenge Harper's Superpower Dream

So what does all this have to do with labour and peace? Put plainly - profit at the expense of Canadian workers jobs, wages and dignified retirement. Canadian workers have no quarrel with workers of other nations. Canadian workers will not accept protection of Canadian jobs at the expense of exploiting the most poor and vulnerable workers of other nations. Canadian workers will not accept that the "interests of the Canadian people" are the interests of finance-oil-military capital. Labour has the capacity to unite and lead the nation around a peaceful program of national economic development.

When Prime Minister Harper speaks of "emerging energy superpower" this is what is meant. Export of capital and the means to ensure super-profit returns for a handful of power elites and the military capacity to sit at the supreme council of NATO with clout. In essence "emerging energy superpower" status is to project Canadian corporate banking and mining interests globally with military force through US-NATO alliances and US BMD strategic defence plans, all under written by Alberta tar sands and Canadian energy resources. Imperialism never looked so good in Canada.

Sean Currie - Financial Secretary Edmonton Peace Council and "Tar Sands" worker.





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Military Bases More and More in the Focus of Interest

WPC Europa October 25 2007

Report from the German Social Forum in Cottbus
By Hans-Peter Richter (German Peace Council)

The German Social Forum was held in the city Cottbus from October 18th to 21st. Cottbus is 120 km southwest of Berlin near to Poland. The German Peace Council, part of the German net against military bases (NEMA), organized three events in Cottbus. First was a workshop with the title "Military bases in Europe - bases for war and intervention". Speakers were Andrea Licata (MEP) from Italy, Tobias Pflüger (MEP) from Germany and Hans von Sponeck (former UN representative for Iraq).

Von Sponeck stated that there are about 1000 US military bases worldwide. Every nation, which has foreign military bases has to face the risk not to determine its own fate and to be involved in military conflicts. Von Sponeck sees three issues what the peace movement can do: 1) disseminate information about the military bases on a big scale. 2) PR work, put pressure on the members of parliament, try to get good articles into the newspapers, conferences, networking. 3) conferences about the strategy, what, where and how common actions can be done, work directly at the bases. Every base is a declaration of war.

Tobias Pflüger and Andrea Licata visited the base in Vicenza (Italy) and observed the education of the European Gendarme Corps. In this education lacks information about the legal basis. Most of the bases worldwide are owned by the USA, but the EU is trying to be similar (they have now 74 bases), see:

http://www.deutscher-friedensrat.de/materialien_005.htm.

The main locations are Ramstein (transportation hub), Spangdahlem (bombers), Grafenwöhr (biggest army training area outside the USA) and Landstuhl (biggest US military hospital outside the USA). Without these bases the war against Iraq would not be possible. More and more civil airports are involved in the military machinery. This concerns Hahn, Leipzig (leasing of 6 Russian Antonov-planes), Hannover-Langenhagen (UK transports), Magdeburg (training center). Because of this Germany is on war every day. The anti-rocket missile shield, which is going to be deployed in the Czech Republic and in Poland means the prevention of a second strike and therefore makes a first strike possible.

Andrea Licata reported about the US military base in Vicenza. Vicenza in the northeast of Italy is a rich and beautiful city, acknowledged as world heritage by the

UNESCO. Near Vicenza is the US airbase Aviano, which was used for the wars against Yugoslavia, now Afghanistan and Iraq. When the USA decided to enlarge the airbase the citizens became very angry and organized a big demonstration. The successful mobilisation was possible because of intensive information work of the initiative. One year ago only 600 protesters came to their demonstration, this 200.000. Important is also that they show alternatives. In a study they proved that by civil use (conversion) 4.000 new jobs can be created.

A activist from Poland reported that no Polish party is against the new US base (only one right wing party), but 70% of the people. On the ranking of the most important problems the issue of the new base is only on 10. place. In the villages close to the new base the US makes many promises to the people (new flats, etc.). The Polish movement tries to get a referendum.

In the Czech Republic the situation is much better. In the parliament half of the members are against the new radar system. Also the movement is very active. At the same time of the event in Cottbus there was a meeting in Breznice. 120 delegates from 16 European countries, 86 mayors and activists from international organisations opposed the US plans.

The second workshop was about "European cities on the front and the resistance against military bases". This workshop was especially to exchange practical experiences in the struggle against military bases. Activists from Poland, Czech Republic, Italy and Germany reported about their actions. In the introduction I reported about the first world conference against military bases in Ecuador, a CND conference in London against the US missile defence shield in Poland and the Czech Republic and the meeting of the European organisations of the World Peace Council in Portugal, where the military bases were also in the focus of interest.

Roland Brinckmann (FREIEHEIDE /Germany) reported about the activities against a bombing training area 80 km north of Berlin. Due to the resistance and many cases on German courts the initiative was able to hinder the usage of this area now for 15 years, but the struggle goes on. The German air force has not given up. But in case they really start their bombing practice many organisations will occupy the territory to hinder the bombing.

We heard many details of the practical work in Poland, Czech Republic, Italy and Germany and decided to build up connections between each other and the world network.

The third workshop had the topic "US led wars from German territory - a challenge for the German peace



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movement". The initiative "American Voices Abroad - Military Project" reported about the character of the US military system. In the USA there is no conscription but to define the system as professional military is also wrong, because most of the US military consists of young men, who saw no alternative than to go to the military, because they don't get another job, they want to get the American citizenship or they want to study afterwards with subsidies from the US administration. So you have to call it a "job army". These young people got a treaty for four years with 12 months of combat on the front. Now this was prolonged to 15 month. Many soldiers who came back from the battle zones are traumatized and want to leave the military, many even became pacifists. But only in seldom cases they succeed to be acknowledged as conscious objector. In contrary the treaties now are prolonged further than four years against the will of the soldiers. So the number of opponents to this system in the military is increasing and therefore the initiative thinks it is worthy to speak to the soldiers directly and make them desert the military. So the military system can be dissolved from inside.

Joachim Guillard reported about his home town Heidelberg. Besides Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Grafenwöhr and Landstuhl Heidelberg is very important as a centre of warfare. Here 22.000 people work for the US military (4.000 soldiers included). Heidelberg is home town of the US 5th army corps. General Sanchez was the commander in Heidelberg for the Iraq. He is responsible for the war crimes in Falludscha and Abu Ghraib and he is still the chief of the 5th army corps.

Another report came from Germany. In Leipzig (former German Democratic Republic) is a new centre of warfare. Leipzig became transportation hub for the German army, the NATO and the USA. A foreign military base in the former German Democratic Republic is forbidden by the "2+4 treaty" which was signed by the USA, France, UK, Russia, Germany (west) and Germany (east) in 1990. Despite this the NATO and the USA use Leipzig, which has 6 huge transport aircrafts (Antonov) from a Russian company. Activist in Leipzig founded the initiative "Leipzig without NATO". They organize vigils and demonstrations.

The awareness of the problems with military bases is growing worldwide. All participants in Cottbus decided to work together. This are the next dates:

- November 24th conference in Ansbach (Germany)
- December 1st and 2nd, workshops at the annual meeting of the German peace movement in Kassel
- 2008, March, 22nd occupation of the NATO headquarter in Brussels (Belgium)

From Page 1: Missing Nukes

warheads were transported, but officers who tipped Military Times to the incident, who have asked to remain anonymous since they are not authorized to discuss the incident, have since updated that number to six.

From: The Sunday Times

In response, the U.S. Administration set out to minimise the damage of the leak and the mainstream media duly answered the call to carry the government's version of events. Sarah Baxter a journalist with the Sunday Times wrote in her article (21st October) US hits panic button as air force 'loses' nuclear missiles: "It was the first time in the atomic age that the US air force had lost track of nuclear weapons. Any problem of 'loose nukes' was thought to affect former Soviet rather than American weaponry." She then quoted Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists who inferred that standards for handling nuclear weapons had become shoddy: "Part of the reason is that after the end of the cold war and the disappearance of the Soviet nuclear threat, the nuclear career was not very sexy. It was not the way to go if you wanted to advance."

Baxter's article ends: 'Robert Gates, the defence secretary, said last week that while officials wanted to reduce the chance of such an incident recurring, it "would be silly to promise it won't happen again". Indeed.

From: The Associated Press

The Associated Press reported a statement by Maj. Gen. Richard Newton the Air Force deputy chief of staff for operations on the 19th of October: "There has been an erosion of adherence to weapons-handling standards at Minot Air Force Base and Barksdale Air Force Base." The article continued "A main reason for the error was that crews had decided not to follow a complex schedule under which the status of the missiles is tracked while they are disarmed, loaded, moved and so on, one official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. The airmen replaced the schedule with their own 'informal' system, he said, though he didn't say why they did that nor how long they had been doing it their own way."

However, Nazemroaya questions the post-9/11 possibility of nuclear weapons going astray and quotes Robert Stormer, a former U.S. lieutenant-commander in the U.S. Navy who made the following points to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the 8th of October, 2007:

- "There is a strict chain of custody for all such weapons. Nuclear weapons handling is spelled out in great detail in Air Force regulations, to the credit of that service. Every person who orders the movement of these



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weapons, handles them, breaks seals or moves any nuclear weapon must sign off for tracking purposes.”

- “Two armed munitions specialists are required to work as a team with all nuclear weapons. All individuals working with nuclear weapons must meet very strict security standards and be tested for loyalty — this is known as a ‘[Nuclear Weapons] Personnel Reliability Program [DoDD 5210 42].’ They work in restricted areas within eyeshot of one another and are reviewed constantly.”
- “All security forces assigned [to handle and protect nuclear weapons] are authorized to use deadly force to protect the weapons from any threat [including would-be thieves].”

...and finally, a rather conspicuous flaw in the ‘oops!’ theory:

- “Nor does anyone quickly move a 1-ton cruise missile — or forget about six of them, as reported by some news outlets, especially cruise missiles loaded with high explosives.”

Many commentators have rightly read between the lines and see the repositioning of U.S. warheads an imminent threat to Iran (and Syria). However, the fact that the missiles were destined for Barksdale (an air base dedicated to conducting Middle East operations) may be misleading at first. Nazemroaya thinks there may be much more to the incident than a nuclear strike on Iran. “The six nuclear warheads were not meant for use in theatre operations against Iran. This is obvious because if they were then they would have been deployed via the proper procedural routes without the need to hide anything.”

It is implausible that Dick ‘n’ Dubya would bother to ‘hide anything’ after three years of incessant sabre-rattling and demonising the Iranians in order to prepare U.S. & EU citizens for another war in the region.

From: AHN News Service

AHN (October 18, 2007 5:12 a.m. EST) reported: ‘President George W. Bush on Wednesday warned that World War III may ensue if Iran is not stopped from developing its own nuclear weapons. Bush issued the warning as Russian President Vladimir Putin met Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran on Wednesday to discuss Moscow’s proposed solution to the atomic crisis and attend a summit of Caspian Sea states leaders.’

On the 16th of October during a visit to Tehran Russian President Vladimir Putin advised the U.S. against the use of military intervention to halt Iran’s peaceful nuclear energy programme. It is always worth remembering that

Russia is a veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council .

From: Taipei Times

On the 19th of October, the Taipei Times reported that ‘US President George W. Bush warned Iran on Wednesday that it must be barred from nuclear weapons to avoid the prospect of “World War III” and dismissed suggestions of a US-Russia rift on the crisis.’

The IAEA too has repeatedly called for negotiation and dialogue between the U.S. & Iran on the issue and an end to the hysteria that is being propagated by the neo-cons. Director General Mohammed ElBaradei has stated several times that there is no evidence that Iran possesses the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. He told Wolf Blitzer on CNN: “Have we seen Iran having the nuclear material that can readily be used into a weapon? No. Have we seen an active weaponization program? No.”

Returning to Nazemroaya, he states in his article: “Nuclear warfare, the militarization of space, and “the missile shield” are interrelated military processes. The overtones of Nuclear Primacy are hanging in the air. One of the goals of the U.S. military has been to effectively shield itself from a potential Russian or potential Russian and Chinese nuclear response to a nuclear “First Strike” from the U.S. military. [38] The militarization of space is also deeply linked to this military project. Like their advanced knowledge about the U.S. missile shield project, Russian and Chinese officials have got wind of these ambitions and are fully aware of what the U.S. intends to do.”

The overwhelming arrogance of the U.S. government is astounding. Despite the debacle of the war in Iraq and little or no progress in Afghanistan, they are continuing unabated with the goals of the Project of a New American Century which is why the Pentagon has been planning an attack on Iran that the neo-cons anticipate will lure Russia and China into a deadly confrontation.

“In a classified Pentagon document (Nuclear Posture Review) presented to the US Senate in early 2002, the Bush Administration established so-called “contingency plans” for an offensive “first strike use” of nuclear weapons, not only against the “axis of evil” (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and North Korea), but also against Russia and China.” (Michel Chossudovsky, *Bush’s world War Three*, 17th October 2007. Globalresearch.ca)

To see the ‘missing nukes’ incident as simply another step toward an attack on Iran or worse, a military blunder of mammoth proportions is to underestimate the threat to global security that is posed by the WMD capital of the world - The United States of America.

- Marie McMeckan



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Peace and Labour Events

Alberta Federation of Labour

Visit: <http://www.afl.org> for upcoming events.

Parkland Institute

Visit: <http://www.ualberta.ca/parkland>

Parkland's 11th Annual Fall Conference: **From Crisis to Hope: Building Just and Sustainable Communities**, November 16-18, 2007, University of Alberta Campus, in Edmonton. Details will be posted on their website when available.

ECAWAR 2007-2008

1. ECAWAR & the other peace movement organizations across the world will have demonstrations and other activities surrounding the 5th Anniversary of the war on Iraq in March 2008. Saturday March 22 is in the middle of the Easter weekend, and for our local purposes, the Arts Barns lobby is not available. It is available the preceding Sunday, March 16. ECAWAR does not get a credit from the rental of the lobby we did not use on October 27.

2. In conversation with Katharine C., MC on Oct. 27, we think that a return to the downtown would be useful for the 5th anniversary of the illegal unjust and immoral war. There are potential 'anniversary themes' which could be played up to increase attendance, no matter which day is chosen. A downtown march could gather at Winston Churchill Square, march around to Canada Place and potentially have an indoor rally in City Hall, or the Milner library.

3. We should have a planning meeting to determine our general direction for the Spring. If we decided to try City Hall for an indoor rally, for example, we should approach our friends on City Council as soon as possible.

4. Provided the music is turned off for a couple of hours, would be pleased to meet at STEEPS on Wednesday November 28 from 7-9 pm. alternatively, the International Hostel could be booked again.

5. Send in your opinions about where what and when and we'll post the next ECAWAR meeting on the website and other media. Please get your views in by Friday November 9 noon so we can post notices, etc.

- Doug Meggison

The 2007-2008 schedules will be announced contact the ECAWAR information line at 780-998-2713 or go to www.ecawar.org

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World Peace Council

World Peace Council Executive meetings in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, November 10-12, 2007.

Report to follow.

The Edmonton Peace Council (EPC) is a member of the Canadian Peace Congress which is affiliated to the World Peace Council.

The Alberta Peace News (APN) is published by the Edmonton Peace Council. The APN is published monthly and relies on volunteer labour and the financial support of our members and supporters. We hope you will help us in our fight for peace by becoming a member of the EPC and/or providing financial assistance.

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