

# No More Bombs



## Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

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Newsletter No. 6

November, 2018

Greetings Everybody,

This issue is a little different from our previous tries. It is focused mostly on a single topic: the INF, or Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. It is in the news now because the Trump administration has announced it intends to withdraw the US from the treaty. Back in the 1980s, when this treaty was negotiated, it served a desperate need, to reduce the danger of a nuclear war breaking out in Eastern Europe. It succeeded, and it has continued to provide security in the region ever since. Now that stability is threatened again, on a much broader scale, and understanding the INF will help us deal with the current challenges. Pages 2 and 3 will explore the INF in some detail, and are one section of a more comprehensive document covering most of our nuclear weapons treaties, soon to be available on our [website](#).

On a personal note, I want to let you all know that I am reactivating my [Dove Project](#), as a method of raising funds for specific peace projects. I have recently carved a few new doves, mostly small, in alabaster, limestone, and marble. The first gallery now offering them is the gift shop at MONA, in La Conner. As before, all my share of the sale price of each dove sold will be donated, but this time the designees will be either Ploughshares Fund, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, WPSR, or our own No More Bombs. Purchasers can decide which. I have a few at home too, and will carve more. For Peace, tracy

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**Hold the LYNE Act** (to ban new “low yield” nuclear explosives, also called “tactical nukes”, the kind prohibited in the INF treaty): HR 6840 , introduced by Reps. Ted Lieu (D-CA) and Adam Smith (D-WA), was most recently cosponsored by Rick Larsen (D-WA). A good step to be sure, but it faces a long struggle, like all the bills attempting to restrict nuclear weapons. It will need our support, and we ought to thank Rick Larsen too. This is his first public statement against any nuclear weapons. His Everett office: (425) 252-3188

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**Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site** has been reactivated, and security updated, preparing for new weapons development. This is directly related to Trump’s abandoning the INF Treaty. [Story here](#).

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[Truthout just released a great story](#) about Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility's leading role in the new national Nuclear Disarmament Movement. As you all know, we are a member of WSPR’s Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Please take the time to read this article. It covers the movement very well, and reminds us how important this work is. And it is heartening to know we are part of something much bigger.

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**INF - The Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty** was signed on December 8, 1987 and entered into force on June 1, 1988. The fundamental purpose of the INF Treaty was to eliminate and ban US and former Soviet nuclear armed ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as associated support equipment, with ranges between 300 and 3500 miles. Both sides had been deploying them in Europe throughout the 1980s, and their numbers were increasing rapidly. The treaty successfully eliminated 2692 missiles.

**The Soviet missiles were the RT 21-M “Pioneer”, AKA SS-20 “Saber”. ↓**



They were 2 stage solid fueled rockets, with a single 1 mt nuclear warhead, later upgraded to carry up to 3 warheads of 150 kt each. The launchers were road mobile, and could be fired from hardened bunkers, or anywhere in the field. Their range made them capable of striking anywhere in Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, Pacific islands, or Alaska.

**The US counterparts were Pershing 1 and 2 Ground Launch Cruise Missiles. ↓**



The MGM-31a was a road mobile, wheeled and/or tracked launcher, with a 2 stage solid fueled missile carrying a single nuclear warhead of 60-400 kt yield, with a range of 460 miles, and was deployed in Germany from 1969 to 1981. In 1983 the US upgraded its GLCMs with the Pershing 2, a much more accurate 2 stage rocket, able to carry the new W85 warhead, of 5–80 kt yield, up to 1100 miles. 280 were built, from 1981 to 1989.

After the INF went into effect, in 1988, both countries began removing their missiles from Europe, under the verification regime that included on-site inspections and satellite surveillance. By May, 1991, the US had removed all its 846 missiles from UK, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, and West Germany. The USSR, and its successor states Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, had eliminated 1946 missiles from East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Both sides were allowed to keep the warheads and redeploy them. Follow-up inspections were continued for another 10 years, to ensure compliance, and for another 2 decades beyond, the situation was stable.

In the last few years, both sides have accused the other of violations, although no formal negotiations have taken place, and charges have been less than specific. The US claims that Russia has been testing a banned missile, perhaps an extended range version of the Iskander-M, an existing Russian weapon, or a new variant of the sea-launched Kalibr land attack missile that has been used by the Russian navy against targets in Syria. Russian officials deny the U.S. charges and point to their own concerns that the U.S. missile interceptor launchers deployed in Romania might be used to deliver offensive missiles.

And in fact the huge \$700 billion defense bill president Trump signed recently does contain \$25 million to seed initial development of a new road-mobile, ground-launched cruise missile, and the Nevada nuclear test site has been ordered to upgrade its readiness from 3 years to six month notice, to resume activity. New law enforcement restrictions are in place surrounding the sites, a sure sign that preparations are already underway. And of course the latest proposals to fund brand new "low yield" nuclear weapons are a part of the overall plan. Although these new warheads are promoted as being intended for the new fleet of submarines, they would just as easily become land based, and in both configurations be used to threaten not only Russia, but also every nation in the Middle East, North Africa, and South and East Asia.

Who would benefit from abandoning the INF and restarting production of new intermediate range missile systems? A few of them are General Dynamics, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Honeywell, and Boeing, plus all their suppliers and subcontractors, and all the banks and investments funds who finance them. Add in the politicians in whose districts all these corporations operate, and we have the latest incarnation of the Masters of War. This is deadly serious. This is not just grandstanding foolishness by one misguided narcissist. We need to pay attention, and decide if this is the world we want for our grandchildren, and what will we do about it.

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**As always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions, please let us know what you think.** Contact us any time: Bud Anderson, [budathome2012@hotmail.com](mailto:budathome2012@hotmail.com), Wim Houppermans [wh5314b@gmail.com](mailto:wh5314b@gmail.com), Lyndon Greene [anacomaritimectr@msn.com](mailto:anacomaritimectr@msn.com), or me [tracy@nomorebombs.org](mailto:tracy@nomorebombs.org)

Join us at our next meeting, Wed Nov 21, 4:30 to 6 PM, at Anacortes Library meeting room, for our continuing efforts to prepare and practice public speaking on nuclear disarmament.

We have not yet scheduled any meetings for December, or into the new year. If you have any ideas, like movies, or guest speakers you would like to hear from, please tell us. This is your peace group, we will pursue every opportunity you want, to help us all move forward, gaining information and enhancing our advocacy.

Thank You All,    tracy w powell

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**Quote:**

“Nuclear War cannot be won, and must never be fought.”

Ronald Reagan

