

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 9

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Hello Friends in Peace,

Yes, winter has arrived here in NW Washington, and we have had time to study and ponder, and gather our wits for what will challenge us in the upcoming seasons of nuclear weapons, and other existential threats to life on earth. On January 24, the bulletin of Atomic Scientists announced that the [Doomsday Clock](#) is still set at 2 minutes to midnight, ominously described as the “new abnormal”, and we will discuss this statement first. During the last month, both Russia and the US committed new blunders in this field, reneging on the INF Treaty, and launching construction of new, more “useable” nuclear weapons. We look at the treaty here as well, and consider how these new weapons escalate the danger level for the whole world.

Fortunately, the new Congress began to tackle some of the nuclear issues, and a coherent strategy is taking shape, one which we can participate in. Most of this newsletter is about that.

[The Doomsday Clock, as explained in the document linked here](#), symbolically estimates our planets’ vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear war, climate change, and exacerbating conditions in contemporary international diplomatic relations. This year’s statement that we are still in the most dangerous position since the height of the Cold War should be taken seriously. While we do not have the 60,000 + nuclear weapons that existed in the mid 1980s, the US and Russia still possess enough to extinguish life on earth, and these weapons are nowhere near as secure as we have been told. Both our nations have enabled automatic launch programs that can be triggered by mistake, emotional outbursts, or accident, and once initiated cannot be stopped. For more information, I suggest a few of the titles on our [booklist](#), in particular *The Dead Hand*, by David E Hoffman, *Nuclear Nightmares*, by Joseph Cirincione, and *The Doomsday Machine*, by Daniel Ellsberg. Another book listed there is *Command and Control*, by Eric Schlosser, detailing some of the unreported accidents that could have easily sparked a worldwide nuclear catastrophe. That one was made into a movie of the same name, and we have that too. You are welcome to borrow them.

The other existential threat considered by the Bulletin is climate change. Here again, while scientists from all nations continue to gather new evidence of the runaway buildup of energy in our atmosphere and oceans, and the devastating effects these conditions have on life at all levels, our governments and industries persevere in the very activities that are causing these conditions. More complete coverage here, <https://thebulletin.org/> I urge us all to pay attention to this issue, and these experts. They know what they are talking about.

As has been widely reported in recent months, Russia and the US are in the process of letting two of the most effective treaties to come out of the Cold War, INF and New START, both expire. INF or Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, was signed by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987. It eliminated all short, medium, and intermediate range (310 to 3400 Miles) land based nuclear missiles from Europe. Within 4 years, the two nuclear superpowers had removed and dismantled about 3000 weapons, and continued compliance was monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Now, both nations have begun to build and deploy new versions of these weapons within and against the NATO countries. This is a severely dangerous new threat to Peace in Europe, and the renewed expenditures in US and Russian “tactical nuclear” weapons production is just the beginning of both nations’ escalation of nuclear warmaking potential. [This BBC story covers the issue very well.](#) Russia is converting medium ranged ship launchers to land bases. US has restarted development of medium range missiles and “low yield” warheads for deployment in Europe. And in response, China has also started new nuclear programs to counter what it views as new threats from the US. Besides violation of an international peace treaty, the US is now leading the way in threatening the entire world. “Modernization” is the euphemism being tossed around in Congress and the press, for a \$ 1 ½ Trillion expansion of new nuclear weapons, already underway. The large weapons makers, like Boeing, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, Honeywell, Northrup Grumman, and the others, are eager to increase their share of the international economy. (We will look at their activities in coming months, and try to shed some divestment light on them.)

Similarly, New START has effectively reduced the threat of nuclear war since it was signed into force by presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev in 2010, to the current numbers of 1550 deployed warheads on each side, with estimated 4000 additional warheads and associated launchers, stored but available. The treaty is due to expire in 2021, unless Russia and US renew it by 2020. While Russia has indicated it would talk about renewal, our president has ridiculed the treaty, and it appears doomed to disappear. As covered in our [Treaties Page](#), and spelled out in the documents themselves, linked there too, these pacts were hammered out over many years of negotiations, by the leaders of both our nations, acting in good faith for their respective citizens’ survival. Now that good faith is threatened by two leaders who seem not to care for anything beyond their own selfish interests, and pride. And of course, the other 7 nuclear armed nations are watching, and considering their own escalation of forces. UK, France, India, Pakistan, Israel, China, and North Korea have among them another 1000 or so, and all are capable of building more.

Now for the positive side, as one result of the shift in political makeup of the US House of Representatives, Washington’s Adam Smith has become the Chair of the House Armed Services Committee. He has begun a bold program of nuclear weapons de-escalation, [as spelled out in this video clip](#). To summarize, the bills he has, and will be introducing this session cover the same 5 points identified by Ploughshares Fund, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Physicians for Social Responsibility, including our local chapter’s Washington Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons, and other disarmament groups.

- 1. No First Use of Nuclear Weapons**
- 2. Ending the Sole Authority of a President to Launch Nuclear Weapons, Requiring Congressional Consent**
- 3. Taking Nuclear Weapons Off Hair Trigger Alert Status**
- 4. Cancelling the \$ 1 1/2 Trillion Modernization of Nuclear Arsenal**
- 5. Joining the UN Treaty and Beginning Nuclear Disarmament**

The first steps have already been taken. These more directly stated No First Use bills have been introduced by Adam Smith in the House and Elizabeth Warren in the Senate. [S. 272 and HR. 921 are linked on our Congress and Bills page.](#)

Please urge our senators and representatives in Congress to cosponsor, publicly support, and vote for these bills. And while you are contacting them, why not encourage them to endorse the other points in this package? The time to act is now, and we need to keep these disarmament issues active until 2020, when they will have the best chance of becoming enacted by our government.

Here in our state legislature, a similar movement is taking shape. Senator Bob Hasegawa and Representative Gael Tarleton have introduced Memorial resolutions in both houses, SJM 8006 and HJM 4008. [Both bills are explained and linked here.](#) Our job is to share this information with friends and family, and contact our Washington State Senators and Representatives, and urge them to speak out for, and vote for these Joint Memorial Resolutions, so that our state can send a unified message to the other Washington, supporting the Back from the Brink proposals in Congress.

District 40: Senator Liz Lovelett, Representatives Jeff Morris and Debra Leckanoff

District 10: Senator Barbara Bailey, Representatives Dave Paul and Norma Smith

..... In case you happen to know some folks in eastern Skagit, Bellingham, or Everett.....

District 39: Senator Keith Wagoner, Representatives Robert Sutherland and Carolyn Eslick

District 42: Senator Doug Ericksen, Representatives Luanne Van Werven and Sharon Shewmake

District 44: Senator Steve Hobbs, Representatives John Lovick and Jared Mead

I don't have all their contact info, but [you can find them all here](#) Thank you.

More Resources are coming on line. Here are a few of the more useful links, for further study and opportunities to connect with other Peace Loving Folks.

<https://www.nuclearwakeupcall.earth/>

<https://www.preventnuclearwar.org/>

<https://www.wagingpeace.org/women-waging-peace/>

<https://beyondthebomb.org/>

Please let me know if you find others we can network with. And please feel free to offer your own ideas here in our little newsletter. Send me pictures, stories, opinions, whatever you wish to add to the conversation. Thank you All.

If you want to be removed from our email list, just say so, and it is done. As always, everything we gather, documents, images, graphics, slide shows, videos, are all available at www.nomorebombs.org for you to do whatever you want with. When we schedule meetings, or have other announcements, we use the same email list, in between the monthly newsletters. Please contact any of us, any time: Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, or me tracy@nomorebombs.org , 360-840-3826

Next meeting: Friday February 22, 5 to 7 PM, at Anacortes Library.

Just a little reminder of the mantra of the moment.....

BACK FROM THE BRINK: A CALL TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

Resolution text:

We call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- 1** Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first
- 2** Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack
- 3** Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
- 4** Cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons
- 5** Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals

Quote from former Defense Secretary William J Perry:

“There is only one way to win an arms race. Refuse to run.”

