By Diana Johnstone

NATO leaders are currently acting out a deliberate charade in Europe, designed to reconstruct an Iron Curtain between Russia and the West. With astonishing unanimity, NATO leaders feign surprise at events they planned months in advance. Events that they deliberately triggered are being misrepresented as sudden, astonishing, unjustified “Russian aggression.” The US and the EU undertook an aggressive provocation in Ukraine that they knew would force Russia to react defensively, one way or another.

They could not be sure exactly how Russian president Vladimir Putin would react when he saw that the US was manipulating political conflict in Ukraine to install a pro-Western government intent on joining NATO. This was not a mere matter of a “sphere of influence” in Russia’s “near abroad”, but a matter of life and death to the Russian Navy, as well as a grave national security threat on Russia’s border.

A trap was thereby set for Putin. He was damned if he did, and damned if he didn’t. He could underreact, and betray Russia’s basic national interests, allowing NATO to advance its hostile forces to an ideal attack position.

Or he could overreact, by sending Russian forces to invade Ukraine. The West was ready for this, prepared to scream that Putin was “the new Hitler”, poised to overrun poor, helpless Europe, which could only be saved (again) by the generous Americans.

In reality, the Russian defensive move was a very reasonable middle course. Thanks to the fact that the overwhelming majority of Crimeans felt Russian, having been Russian citizens until Khrushchev frivolously bestowed the territory on Ukraine in 1954, a peaceful democratic solution was found. Crimeans voted for their return to Russia in a referendum which was perfectly legal according to international law, although in violation of the Ukrainian constitution, which was by then in tatters having just been violated by the overthrow of the country’s duly elected president, Viktor Yanukovych, facilitated by violent militias. The change of status of Crimea was achieved without bloodshed, by the ballot box.

Nevertheless, the cries of indignation from the West were every bit as hysterically hostile as if Putin had overreacted and subjected Ukraine to a US-style bombing campaign, or invaded the country outright – which they may have expected him to do.

It Was All Planned at Yalta

In September 2013, one of Ukraine’s richest oligarchs, Viktor Pinchuk, paid for an elite strategic conference on Ukraine’s future that was held in the same Palace in Yalta, Crimea, where Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill met to decide the future of Europe in 1945. The Economist, one of the elite media reporting on what it called a “display of fierce diplomacy”, stated that: “The future of Ukraine, a country of 48 million people, and of Europe was being decided in real time.” The participants included Bill and Hillary Clinton, former CIA head General David Petraeus, former US Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers, former World Bank head Robert Zoellick, Swedish foreign minister Carl Bildt, Shimon Peres, Tony Blair, Gerhard Schroeder, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Mario Monti, Lithuanian president Dalia Grybauskaite, and Poland’s influential foreign minister Radek Sikorski. Both President Viktor Yanukovych, deposed five months later, and his recently elected successor Petro Poroshenko were present. Former US energy secretary Bill Richardson was there to talk about the shale-gas revolution which the US hopes to use to weaken Russia by substituting fracking for Russia’s natural gas reserves.

The center of discussion was the “Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement” (DCFTA) between Ukraine and the European Union, and the prospect of Ukraine’s integration with the West. The general tone was euphoria over the prospect of breaking Ukraine’s ties with Russia in favor of the West.

Facing a dozen or so American VIPs and a large sampling of the European political elite was a Putin adviser named Sergei Glazyev, who made Russia’s position perfectly clear.

Glazyev injected a note of political and economic realism into the conference. Forbes reported at the time [9/23/13] on the “stark difference” between the Russian and Western views “not over the advisability of Ukraine’s integration with the EU but over its likely impact.” In contrast to Western euphoria, the Russian view was based on “very specific and pointed economic criticisms” about the Trade Agreement’s impact on Ukraine’s economy, noting that Ukraine was running an enormous foreign accounts deficit, funded with foreign borrowing, and that the resulting substantial increase in Western imports could only swell the deficit. Ukraine “will either default on its debts or require a sizable bailout.”

In short, while planning to incorporate Ukraine into the Western sphere, Western leaders were perfectly aware that this move would entail serious problems with Russian-speaking Ukrainians, and with Russia itself. Rather than seeking to work out a compromise, Western leaders decided to forge ahead and to blame Russia for whatever would go wrong. What went wrong first was that Yanukovych got cold feet faced with the economic
Do it together ...

It’s a jungle out there

The cracks in the road
widen
as the grass
and weeds
pop their heads up
nature has its ways

Even in our darkest
moments
we should look to nature
for answers
about how to live life
but we forget...

Our connection to the
sacred
has been severed
like a lost arm
or a broken heart
by ‘modern’ life

we are taught to
‘go it alone’
and many of us
have tried
but come up searching
for something
real
and of value

life can be so hard
it gets lonely
at times
we often give up
because we are so
isolated
and weak
all by ourselves

The weeds pop thru
human made obstacles
in bunches
nature knows
that power comes from unity

the only way to defeat
the dark forces
against nature
is to do it
together

Bruce K. Gagnon is coordinator of
the Global Network and lives in Bath,
Maine.

Never underestimate
the power of persistence.

Local Maine activists carried this banner under the theme of climate change/conversion during the July 4 parade in Bath. This parade is the largest in the state and gave the chance to reach beyond the “choir” with our message for a sustainable and peaceful economy.
Call to Boycott Divest from Honeywell

Honeywell International Inc., through its manufacturing of the engine and certain navigational, guidance and targeting equipment for the MQ-9 Reaper drone, is deeply complicit in, and profits from, US drone surveillance and drone attacks that have resulted in the deaths of more than 4,000 children, women and men in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and the Philippines.

These killings are war crimes because they violate provisions of international law that require commitment to due process, the protection of life and rights to privacy, freedom of assembly and freedom of association, among other obligations.

They also violate the US Constitution and the US War Crimes Act in a variety of ways, including violating prohibitions against assassination. They also violate the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), to which the United States is a signatory.

Continuous drone surveillance by the US, on which drone attacks are based, also violates international law and the UDHR.

In addition, Honeywell manufactures, and profits from the T-Hawk surveillance drone intended for use by the US military and law enforcement agencies, a weapon that threatens life, privacy, freedom of assembly and free speech.

Finally, Honeywell’s support of drone killing and spying contribute significantly to US military actions that are intended to support a global system of corporate exploitation that is highly dependent on the plundering of global nonrenewable resources, especially fossil fuels. This plundering is bringing environmental destruction and massively contributing to climate change.

For example, the US is conducting intensive drone attacks in Afghanistan where corporations such as ExxonMobil are exploring oil reserves and covet minerals including iron, copper, cobalt, gold and lithium. Indeed, former US Army General David Petraeus spoke on Meet the Press in 2010 about “trillions, with an ‘s’ on the end, trillions of dollars worth of minerals” in Afghanistan that can be exploited only if there is “security” in place.

In wars for fossil fuels, Honeywell seeks to profit not only from its military hardware business but its technical support of the oil and gas industry. For instance, a 2011 Honeywell press release says the company provides “best-in-class technology as well as training the Iraqi oil and gas industry and workforce.”

Consequently until Honeywell disengages from all its business related to weaponized drones and drone surveillance we urge the public to not purchase any product of Honeywell, or that of its subsidiaries, and divest of any Honeywell stock and urge all institutions in which you participate to sell any and all Honeywell stock that they may own.

More information about this campaign can be found at www.KnowDrones.com.

Drone Resister One Year in Prison

Base’s Order of Protection Begs Judgment

On July 10, Mary Anne Grady Flores, grandmother of three, was sentenced to one year in prison for being found guilty of violating an order of protection. A packed courtroom of over 100 supporters was stunned as she was led away, and vowed to continue the resistance.

These orders of protection, typically used in domestic violence situations or to protect a victim or witness to a crime, have been issued to people participating in nonviolent resistance actions at Hancock Air Base since late 2012. The base, near Syracuse, New York, pilots unmanned Reaper drones over Afghanistan, and trains drone pilots, sensor operators and maintenance technicians. The orders had been issued to “protect” Colonel Earl Evans, Hancock’s mission support commander, who wanted to keep protesters “out of his driveway.”

Mary Anne began her sentencing statement with, “Your honor, a series of judicial perversions brings me here before you tonight.” She concluded that the “final perversion is the reversal of who is the real victim here: the commander of a military base whose drones kill innocent people halfway around the world, or those innocent people themselves who are the real ones in need of protection from the terror of US drone attacks?”

The orders of protection are being challenged on many legal grounds.

Mary Anne had been issued a temporary order in 2012. The next year, she photographed a nonviolent witness at the base, not participating herself because she did not want to violate the order. The irony is that those who actually participated in the action were acquitted, while Mary Anne was charged with violating the order.

Even though the pre-sentencing report recommended no jail time, Judge Gideon sentenced Mary Anne to the maximum of a year in prison. As he imposed his sentence, the judge referred to his previous Hancock decision. He had stated then and insinuated now, “This has got to stop.”

In addition, Mary Anne was fined $1000 plus a $205 court surcharge and a $50 fee to have her DNA collected.

Her verdict is being appealed. [As we were preparing to go to print Mary Anne was released on appeal with a bond of $5,000.]

The Hellfire Self Guided SchoolBus

what if we spent our money on our communities instead of the military?

END THE WARS!

www.bringourwarsoffourhomes.org
By Loring Wirbel

“Advanced drones require far more than a pilot at a base in the Horn of Africa or the Nevada desert to make them effective. They need actionable intelligence, sophisticated communications, access to satellite bandwidth, and complex systems engineering... It is no coincidence that the countries that possess advanced drones have also already mastered other complex military technologies.” from “The Next Drone Wars: Preparing for Proliferation,” Sarah Kreps and Michael Zenko, Foreign Affairs, March-April 2014.

Activists new to the world of drones often interpret the “robotic plane” concept at face value. The hundreds of drone strikes taking place in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq must be carried out with no human intervention, they assume. But veteran peace activists living near drone bases, like Jim Haber and Kathy Kelly, realize that armed drones only gain their power through dedicated targeting teams of humans located at support bases in Nevada, Yemen, Djibouti, and other locations. Kelly, founder of Voices of Creative Nonviolence, focused on this at the end of a 12-day walk from Chicago to Battle Creek, MI, where she was arrested June 14 for protesting an Air National Guard base that has no drones of its own, but controls drones both across the nation and worldwide.

Drones are on the verge of going through a massive surge in use, as law enforcement agencies at state and city levels plan surveillance drones as soon as Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules are set. Similarly, private companies like Amazon plan delivery drones for books and other goods. (The FAA announced June 10 the first approval for commercial use of drones.) It will not be long before news agencies and private photographers use drones. Unarmed drones do not need nearly the amount of ground control as do armed drones used in warfare. But their eventual ubiquity in US airspace may leave many citizens blind to the problem of drones (and robotic land and sea vehicles) that can be used as weapons.

In a recent study in Foreign Affairs, Sarah Kreps and Micah Zenko attempted to recap both US use of weaponized drones worldwide, and also the rise of new armed drones developed by other nations. When drones launched by CIA, the Joint Special Operations Command, and regular military commands like Central Command are considered as an aggregate sum, more than 1,700 drone strikes have been conducted since Obama took office, with more than 1,000 in Afghanistan, more than 400 in Pakistan, 145 in Libya, more than 100 in Yemen, and more than 50 in Iraq, as well as random strikes in Somalia, Philippines, and other locations. The British military has conducted more than 300 of its own drone strikes in Afghanistan; the Israeli military has a low-profile armed drone program and was responsible for more than 40 strikes in the 2008 Gaza invasion; and armed drones are planned by China, Iran, India, and Pakistan. Many other nations like Australia, Japan and Singapore, plan their own unarmed military surveillance drone programs.

Since the US and Iran find themselves on the same side in the current battle against ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, a Sunni Salafist group), it may be instructive to see what the Iranian military decides to do. During the week of June 16, the US increased its surveillance drone coverage of Iraq by a factor of ten, and was expected to carry out coordinated drone strikes by the end of June. Iran, meanwhile, has been working on a reverse-engineered version of the unarmed RQ-170 Sentinel drone which crashed in Iran in 2011, though insiders say an armed version is under development as well. If Obama elects to conduct drone strikes against ISIS this summer, Iran may feel emboldened to launch its own drone strikes against the group.

Several engineering factors constitute an edge that the US is likely to hold over other nations for a number of years. The US has access to advanced microprocessors that are often denied to other nations through State Department regulations. It can field swarms of drones that share intelligence and information drone to drone, thereby displaying what is called “emergent intelligence of the hive.” The US is working with the UK on self-analytical adaptive software that could give the drone the equivalent of a “conscience”—allowing a drone to make an autonomous decision to attack, but giving the drone a special restraint to determine if an assault was the “morally right thing to do.” In an April 28 drone debate with Kathy Kelly at Colorado College, Col. James Cook of the Air Force Academy said that such autonomous decision-making software for drones was likely years from being deployed, if ever. Sometimes, defensive weapons like Navy surface to surface missiles can make autonomous decisions based on short time windows, but Cook said a drone that would choose to fire on its own targets without a ground-based pilot verifying that decision “would open enormous policy and ethics issues that US policy makers are not ready to face right now.”

The biggest US advantage in drone technology, according to Kreps and Zenko, is the US reliance on space to control drones. Drones regularly use Global Positioning System satellites for location updates, but they also rely on mapping satellites from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, intelligence satellites from the National Reconnaissance Office, and communication satellites from a host of government and private sources. Drones may not be the biggest aggregate user of satellite bandwidth, but they have certainly undergone the biggest growth rate in bandwidth use over the past decade. Without the leasing of private satellite frequencies, without the use of classified NRO technologies like “Inter-Satellite-Links,” and without the use of major Defense Department communication satellites like Wideband Global Satcom and AEHF-2, US drones could not conduct assaults in “flocks,” and could not reliably linger over an area or cover a flight path that traversed several nations.

The Pentagon and intelligence agencies have standardized on a Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) that coordinates drones through satellite networks. Ground stations for DCGS are at Langley AFB, VA; Beale AFB, CA; Hickam AFB, HI; Ramstein AFB, Germany; and Osan AFB in South Korea. A sixth classified location is believed to be managed by NRO, located either at NRO headquarters in Chantilly, VA; in Djibouti, at a joint French/CIA base there, or at the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar. The DCGS feeds integrated drone intelligence information to a UK-based program for Afghanistan and Iraq analysis called Operation Crossbow.

During active combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US government spent as much as $800 million a year in leasing excess bandwidth from commercial satellite companies. This number was expected to go down as the last troops were leaving Afghanistan, but if operations against ISIS in Iraq are waged primarily by drone, the number could stay well above $500 million. Even though some satellite systems like MUOS and GBS serve foot soldiers, drones and other armed robotic systems use far more satellite bandwidth than mobile troops. Virtually all armed drones and many surveillance drones use real-time full motion video, and the only reliable means of sharing such video content worldwide is through space-based broadband links.

Private companies are following the Pentagon’s lead. Google, for example, acquired drone manufacturer Titan Aerospace in April. The company told The Wall Street Journal at the end of May that it would spend $1 to $3 billion on Internet satellites, but then surprised the space industry two weeks later by acquiring Skybox. Skybox is a startup founded by former NRO Director Jeff Harris, who wants to put hundreds of microsatellites in low-earth orbit. Google has said it would use the satellites to offer better images from space in GoogleEarth—but also for controlling its new fleet of drones from space. We can expect deals like Google-Titan-Skybox to become commonplace in the years to come.

This exclusive use of space is precisely what is going to give the US government problems in limiting drone proliferation in the future, according to Kreps and Zenko. They compared future drone arms-control talks to the history of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Missile Technology Control Regime. In both these cases, the authors say, the US disclosed the technology it uses to maintain a technical edge, and was transparent about how such technology would be used and shared in the future. The Obama administration is nowhere near such levels of openness, Kreps and Zenko said. The White House still refuses to release even a redacted version of a memo on policies for use of armed drones, and in recent
PMRF: Kaua‘i’s Biggest Bang is Out of Sight

By Jon Letman

Kaua‘i’s Garden Island newspaper recently reported that Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) is pushing forward a proposal to be renamed as the Inouye Pacific Range Facility in honor of the Senator Daniel Inouye who served in Congress for over 53 years. Over his career Inouye funneled billions in defense contracts to Hawai‘i, making it the defense, military and aerospace juggernaut it is today.

While the name change may be a show of respect for Inouye, it’s also an example of shrewd branding. Inouye is revered in Hawai‘i and will remain so for years. To replace the word “missile” with “Inouye” is, in a sense, to put the facility beyond reproach. After all, PMRF could change its name to the Inouye Pacific Missile Range and drop the superfluous word “facility.”

PMRF is “not just ballistic missile testing,” Capt. Bruce Hay, commander of the facility pointed out in an interview with the Garden Island newspaper last year, “…We’re doing big things for very important people all across the globe.”

“Big things” presumably include supporting drone testing and training for systems like the MQ-9 Reaper, MQ-1 Predator, the high-altitude capable ALTUS II as well as NASA research aircraft and other drones like the Coyote and the Cutlass V. PMRF has also seen visiting F-16s, F-18s, C-17s, P-3s, E-2s and the V-22 Osprey, a hybrid aircraft with a checkered safety record and the object of ongoing protests in Okinawa where it is deployed.

Doing “big things for very important people” also means hosting the Kaua‘i Test Facility (KTF), operated by Sandia National Laboratories. Sandia, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin, is one of the United States’ three primary nuclear weapons laboratories. KTF was established on Kaua‘i as a tenant inside the PMRF in 1962 to support the Atomic Energy Commission’s Operation Dominic which included a series of 36 high-altitude nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific.

In November 2011 KTF was the launch site of the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon (AHW), a missile that is intended to fulfill the goal of a “Prompt Global Strike,” a directive that would enable the US to bomb anywhere on earth in under 60 minutes. In the November 2011 test, the AHW was fired from Kaua‘i, arriving at the Reagan Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, about 2,500 miles away, in 30 minutes. The Army has reported another test is scheduled for August.

Since its inception in 1962, KTF has supported 437 rocket launches (as of May 2014), making it—and its host, PMRF—major players in a militarized Pacific.

This summer (June 26 through August 1) 23 nations converged on Hawai‘i for the RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) 2014 biennial maritime exercise. While the war games included countries as diverse as India, China, Singapore, Norway and Tonga and Japan, the participants page of RIMPAC’s website shows the US military is overwhelmingly represented.

Speaking on Kaua‘i’s KKCR radio recently, Capt. Hay pointed out that RIMPAC includes things “as benign as sports competitions… receptions, dialogues,” saying that RIMPAC helps ensure “we can all enjoy the giant Pacific Ocean.”

RIMPAC also provided a realistic setting for urban combat training, amphibious landings, under water sonar training and a host of other military exercises. A spokesman confirmed that PMRF would provide “subsurface, surface and air training capabilities. Ships, submarines and aircraft [will] train on an instrumented range … off the northwest shores of Kaua‘i.”

Kaua‘i may be only 35 square miles larger than the city of Phoenix with less than five percent of its population, but thanks to PMRF, it plays an outsized role in America’s ability to wage wars, control the seas, skies and space and ensure that the US military juggernaut can continue in its quest to maintain Full-spectrum Dominance. Like RTS in the Marshall Islands and Vandenberg Air Force Base (California), PMRF is a key spoke in the military missile testing arsenal.

At the end of the [recent] tour, Captain Hay drove us to the gate, thanked us and said that he hoped when people on Kaua‘i spoke about PMRF they wouldn’t talk about “the base” but rather “our base.”

As I drove away, passing the surrounding fields, a hard rain began to fall and I reflected. If PMRF is our base, then it is also our kuleana (responsibility) to understand what goes on inside and to make the connections between it and events around the world. Militarism and war do not take place in a vacuum. What happens here affects people around the world. It is incumbent on us to closely follow what our base is doing beyond the occasional headline rocket launch or star-spangled hoopla of Fourth of July fireworks.

We need to understand that our base impacts lives in faraway places, from the dun-colored hills of Afghanistan and the war-torn cities of Syria and Iraq to the shallow blue lagoons of Micronesia’s coral atolls and the gritty urban landscapes across the US where many veterans end up after war.

Each of us must ask ourselves if our base is pursuing our values, and on a course that is in our best long-term interests.

Kaua‘i, Hawaii-based independent journalist Jon Letman recently wrote about his visit to the PMRF. In addition to testing missiles for the Aegis Ashore program (to be deployed in Romania in 2015 and Poland in 2018), PMRF also hosts a test facility for Sandia National Laboratories and works closely with the Missile Defense Agency, NASA, DARPA and the largest military defense contractors. The full article is at http://hawaiiindependent.net/story/pmrf-kauaiis-biggest-bang-is-out-of-sight.
How I Became a Whistleblower

By Subrata Ghoshroy

Intercontinental ballistic missiles burst into the Cold War fray with the Soviet launch in 1957 of the first ever earth-orbiting satellite named Sputnik. During the 1960 presidential election campaign, Kennedy, who defeated Nixon, took a tough line on the Soviet Union blaming outgoing President Eisenhower for the “missile gap.” After taking office Kennedy increased funding for missile and space programs in a big way. Soon there was talk of Anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems.

Several ABM schemes were developed in the US with names like Nike Zeus, Nike X, Sentinel, Safeguard, etc. None of them proved feasible against an all-out attack, especially those with multiple warheads called MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle). The ABM systems were also found to be destabilizing since defense gave rise to more offense that resulted in an unprecedented arms race. The madness finally woke up both superpowers and a treaty to ban ABM systems was signed by Moscow and Washington in 1972. The ABM treaty stayed in force for four decades and was instrumental in nuclear arms control.

A section of the US military and its supporters never liked any controls on the missile defense program hoping for nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union with a first-strike capability. After staunchly anti-Communist Ronald Reagan became president in 1980, he ratcheted up the rhetoric against the Soviet Union calling it the “Evil Empire.” Reagan proposed to develop a missile shield over the US by launching a program called “Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).” It entailed deployment of sensors and interceptors based on the land, sea, and space including high power lasers to knock down Soviet missiles. Most of it had little basis in reality, which is why the program came to be known as the “Star Wars.”

Reagan tried to sell SDI as a program that would achieve nuclear disarmament because it would render nuclear weapons useless. He said that he would share the technology with the Soviet Union and any other country. Reagan had another selling point, which was that the new ABM technology was not based on nuclear interceptors. The new system came to be known as “hit-to-kill,” which is supposed to intercept by directly colliding with a warhead, not by exploding another nuclear warhead. It would make little difference in real terms since one warhead, if it exploded, would be enough to cause unspeakable damage. But, when Soviet President Gorbachev in a summit in Reykjavik, Iceland proposed eliminating nuclear weapons altogether and also banning missile defense systems, Reagan rejected it.

Over $100 billion was spent on SDI during Reagan’s eight years in office. President George H.W. Bush scaled it back drastically after the Cold War ended and after virtually none of the proposed systems worked.

Yet, the missile defense lobby consisting of scientists, their supporters in the Pentagon, and military contractors refused to give up. They kept the programs alive with the help of Congressional cheerleaders, who kept adding money for missile defense [research & development] every year in the Pentagon budget, waiting for a better political environment to relaunch the program.

The opportunity came after the Republican takeover of both Houses of Congress in 1994. Despite his initial opposition, President Clinton, facing a hostile Congress and engulfed in the Monica Lewinsky scandal, cut a deal with the Republicans by agreeing to a missile defense program called 3+3, meaning 3 years to develop and 3 years to deploy. The Republican Congress codified it by enacting language that said: The United States shall deploy a missile defense system, if technologically feasible. The floodgates for funding of missile defense opened wide.

The program became mainstream after George W. Bush was elected President in 2000 receiving about $10 billion in annual funding with bipartisan support. To this day, more than $200 billion has been spent on the system, and despite repeated test failures is being deployed as a battlefield weapon in California and Alaska and in Europe bringing no more security, while increasing tensions with Russia and China.

My journey from military-industrial complex to whistleblower

Trained as an electrical engineer in India and the US, I worked for several years at US national laboratories that conducted research in fusion energy and high-energy physics. After Reagan came to power in 1980, there were huge cut-backs in these areas. I found employment in a military research project to develop high-power lasers for the SDI, which was lavishly funded.

We were trying to develop two types of lasers – one to detect and the other to destroy incoming ballistic missiles presumably from the Soviet Union. The fantastic design goals far exceeded anything that was demonstrated even in a laboratory. In many cases, there were fundamental physics or engineering problems standing in the way. No matter, work continued as if such challenges either did not exist, or they could be overcome even defying laws of physics.

I was disturbed by these developments and attempted to bring them to the attention of higher ups in our organization without success. I did not have better luck with government program managers. Everyone was feeding from the same trough. Ultimately, I decided to leave defense research in 1996 taking a highly risky turn in my professional life.

I applied for and was awarded a one-year Congressional Fellowship with a stipend less than half my salary, and no clear career path in sight. I worked as a Fellow for Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, who was then the Senior Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. It was a most rewarding experience.

After finishing my Fellowship, I found a job on the House Armed Services Committee to work for the legendary California Rep. Ron Dellums. After he unexpectedly left Congress I moved to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) as a Senior Analyst. It is there that I became a whistleblower earning the dubious distinction of being the first whistleblower in the 90-year history of GAO. My story follows.

In early 2000, the GAO received a request from former Rep. Howard Berman of California to review certain allegations of fraud in the missile defense program. Dr. Nira Schwartz, an Israeli-born scientist made the allegations while working at TRW—a defense contractor based in Los Angeles. TRW was a subcontractor to the defense behemoth Boeing Company. She was promptly fired from her job after she made the allegations.

She alleged that a key component in the missile defense system – software to process signals collected by an infrared sensor—did not perform as advertised by TRW and Boeing. She was intimately involved in the development of the software, which was used in a crucial test of the missile defense program in 1997 at a cost of $100 million. The contractors Boeing and TRW falsely claimed it was a total success.

GAO chose me as the technical leader of the review because of my background. We interviewed many government and contractor scientists, program managers, and test evaluators in the course of our investigation. I spent numerous hours poring over classified reports and test data.

We found that the infrared sensor had failed to reach its operating temperature during the test because of a malfunction in the cooling system. Consequently, it failed to collect any useful information at all. The test was a complete failure contrary to the claims of the contractors and the Pentagon managers who oversaw the program. Dr. Schwartz was vindicated.


In a Press Release on April 2, 2006, Mr. Berman said: “The many revelations in Mr. Ghoshroy’s letter speak directly to the integrity of the General Accounting Office as well as the efficacy of the missile defense program and they must be further investigated.” He continued, “Toward that end I am sending Mr. Ghoshroy’s letter to the Armed Services Committee and the Government Reform Committee and urging them to launch an investigation.”

The New York Times published a story about my letter http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/02/washington/02missile.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0. Unfortunately, Congress failed to take any action and GAO made my life rather uncomfortable so that I decided to leave. I am, however, continuing to do research on the military-industrial complex focusing on the chummy relationship between the Pentagon and our universities and also exposing defense boondoggles. See for example http://thebulletin.org/2011/november/coming-not-so-soon-theater-near-you-laser-weapons-missile-defense

Subrata Ghoshroy teaches at MIT and lives in Boston.
Ukraine Cont. from P. 1
collapse implied by the Trade Agreement with the European Union. He postponed signing, hoping for a better deal. Since none of this was explained clearly to the Ukrainian public, outraged protests ensued, which were rapidly exploited by the US… against Russia.
The Forbes report cited above pointed out that: “For most of the past five years, Ukraine was basically playing a double game, telling the EU that it was interested in signing the DCFTA while telling the Russians that it was interested in joining the customs union.” Either Yanukovych could not make up his mind, or was trying to squeeze the best deal out of both sides, or was seeking the highest bidder. In any case, he was never “Moscow’s man,” and his downfall owes a lot no doubt to his own role in playing both ends against the middle. His was a dangerous game of pitting greater powers against each other.

Plan A and Plan B
US policy, already evident at the September 2013 Yalta meeting, was carried out on the ground by Victoria Nuland, former ambassador to Dick Cheney, deputy spokesperson for Hillary Clinton, and wife of neocon theorist Robert Kagan. Her leading role in the Ukraine events proves that the neocon influence in the State Department, established under Bush II, was retained by Obama. Like most other recent presidents, Obama is there as a temporary salesman for policies made and executed by others.

As Victoria Nuland boasted in Washington, since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US has spent five billion dollars to gain political influence in Ukraine (this is called “promoting democracy”). The primary motives are geopolitical, because Ukraine is Russia’s Achilles’ heel, the territory with the greatest potential for causing trouble to the US. What called public attention to Victoria Nuland’s role in the Ukrainian crisis was her use of a naughty word, when she told the US ambassador, “F*** the EU.” But the fuss over her bad language veiled her use of a naughty word, when she told Nuland’s role in the Ukrainian crisis was her bad intentions. The issue was who should take power away from the elected president Viktor Yanukovych. German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s party was promoting former boxer Vitaly Klitschko as its candidate. Nuland’s rude rebuff of Obama was there as a temporary salesman for policies made and executed by others.

But first of all, the US needs Russia as an enemy in order to “save Europe”, which is another way to say, in order to continue to dominate Europe. Washington policy-makers seemed to be worried that Obama’s swing to Asia and neglect of Europe might weaken US control of its NATO allies. The May 25 European Parliament elections revealed a large measure of disaffection with the European Union. This disaffection, notably in France, is linked to a growing realization that the EU, far from being a potential alternative to the US, is in reality a mechanism that locks European countries into US-defined globalization, economic decline and US foreign policy, wars and all.

Russia is no threat. But to vociferous Russophobes in the Baltic States, Western Ukraine and Poland, the very existence of Russia is a threat. Encouraged by the US and NATO, this endemic hostility is the political basis for the new “iron curtain” that the US needs an enemy to save the world from.

The Protection Racket Returns
But Putin is widely credited as being “the best chess player”, who won the first round of the Ukrainian crisis. He has no doubt done the best he could, faced with the crisis foisted on him. But the US has whole ranks of pawns which Putin does not have. And this is not only a chess game, but chess combined with poker combined with Russian roulette. The US is ready to take risks that the more prudent Russian leaders prefer to avoid... as long as possible.
**Odds & Ends**

**GN’s 23rd Annual Conference**
The 2015 Global Network space organizing conference will be held in Kyoto, Japan likely in July. The US is preparing to deploy a “missile defense” radar system near Kyoto and local peace organizations have invited the GN to hold our annual event there. We would learn more about how a new Pentagon radar system would destabilize peace with China, particularly now that Japan has renounced Article 9 of its constitution that prevented their nation form direct offensive military operations. Our presence in Kyoto will also give GN members a chance to share how installations in their particular part of the world fits into the growing Pentagon space warfighting architecture. We invite others to join us in Kyoto.

**Japan Renounces Peace Constitution**
Bloody Sora’s Joseph Gerson wrote on July 1: “After decades of pressure from the US for the Japanese government to revise Japan’s peace constitution, the lack of truly democratic political systems, and the steadfast pursuit of a ‘salami’ strategy on many fronts by Japanese conservatives, most recently played out with the Abe government’s bait and switch campaign (campaign saying that your priority is economic revitalization, and keeping his head down on his aggressive nationalism until he had a 2/3 majority in Japan’s upper house) today Prime Minister Abe imposed the new and dangerous interpretation of Japan’s constitution. Black is now officially white. A constitution that clearly forever renounces war and preparations for war, now means that the Japanese military (already the world’s sixth biggest military spender) can join the US in its wars for oil in the Middle East, join the US—or maybe just the Philippines in war fighting under the guise of protecting the flow of its oil and natural gas, or joining in US first-strike warfare in Asia.”

**Putin on MD**
During a marathon news conference on April 17, Russia’s Vladimir Putin was quite direct in articulating Russia’s concerns about US-NATO “missile defense” deployments in Eastern Europe: “I’ll use this opportunity to say a few words about our talks on missile defense. It is a complex subject, and probably even more important than NATO’s eastward expansion. Incidentally, our decision on Crimea was partially prompted by this.... We followed certain logic: If we don’t do anything, then we’ll be more or less... NATO... and NATO ships would dock in Sevastopol.... [Key elements of the US missile defense system are ship-based interceptors] Regarding the deployment of US missile defense elements, this is not a defensive system, but part of offensive potential deployed far away from home. ... At the expert level, everyone understands very well that if these systems are deployed closer to our borders, our ground-based strategic missiles will be within their striking range.” In Washington the Pentagon plans to ask Congress for $4.5 billion in extra missile defense funding over the next five years as part of the fiscal 2015 budget request. Nearly $1 billion of that sum would pay for a new radar to be placed in Alaska.

**Planned Gift to GN**
If you are in the process of estate planning, please consider making a planned gift of a tax-deductible donation of stock or other instruments to the Global Network. Your planned gift is an important legacy for the global movement to keep war out of the heavens.

**New Drone Film**
A new film called DRONES follows two Nevada desert-based drone operators as they pilot an unmanned craft over Afghanistan. Surveilling a possible terrorist hideout, the pilots face a range of complicated moral dilemmas when they are ordered to kill a suspected terrorist and, consequently, innocent bystanders — including children. DRONES explores the complex moral issues facing a US military that relies more and more heavily on the remote use of unmanned drones to execute its strategies. Learn more at www.dronesthefilm.com and show this film in your community.

**Space Week Video**
The Global Network has a new short video about Keep Space for Peace Week (Oct 4-11) made by Dave Webb in Leeds, England. Dave manages the web site for the Global Network and is our board convener. He also is Vice-Chair of CND in Great Britain. Space week this year begins with a global day of actions against drones on October 4. It should be a busy week of local events all over the world. Be sure to let us know if you organize anything in your community. The art work on the space week poster was done by Will Park in Florida. You can see the video and poster at www.space4peace.org

**Supporting Israeli MD**
 Defense Daily reported in June that in a budget season where so many programs saw cuts from Congress to free up funds for higher priorities, one area that saw significant support from lawmakers has been the US missile defense programs with Israel. The Pentagon had requested $176 million for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system and another $96.8 million for other Israeli cooperative programs: $107.4 million for the Israeli Arrow program, $54.4 million for the Arrow 3 program, and $31.7 million for the Israeli Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense program, also known as David’s Sling.

**Taiwan Radars Aim at China**
In June, Global Security Newsweekly report that Taiwan said it was coming under strong lobbying from Washington to expand its radar capabilities to allow for deeper peering into China. Dale Wen-Chieh Jieh, who leads the Taiwanese foreign affairs ministry’s policy planning office, said there are currently four “long-range early-warning radars” in place along Taiwan’s western coastline. The particular radar the US is interested in is an early warning radar deployed not far from Hsinchu City on the island nation’s west coast facing China. The Raytheon-manufactured radar has the ability to simultaneously monitor up to 1,000 targets, including ballistic and cruise missiles as well as fighter planes. The radar was activated last year. Jieh told the Times there was strong local opposition to erecting additional radar installations that are seen to be more beneficial to the US than to Taiwan. “President Ma [Ying-jeou] has been enduring much domestic pressure questioning, ‘Why do you need these long-range radar towers detecting the long-range missiles of mainland China that won’t target Taiwan but target some other countries?’” the diplomat said.

**Bath Residents Resist Corporate Welfare**
In late 2013 a group of Bath, Maine residents successfully objected to a proposed $6 million tax rebate for a project. The subsidy was corporate welfare and that BIW is certain to expand regardless of whether it gets a tax break. Officials at BIW, a subsidiary of the Virginia-based defense and aerospace firm General Dynamics, said it was possible that if the proposed tax break was denied, they might not be able to expand the facility at all and might even be forced to move operations to another more generous location. Local residents went door-to-door throughout the financially strapped city of about 10,000 and in the end the city council cut the request by half. Since 1997 BIW has received $197 million in local and state tax breaks. This was the first time that such a tax break was successfully opposed.

**Not Enough $5 for Pentagon**
The Pentagon does not have enough money to cover the escalating costs of the many high-tech weapons programs they want to build. “Unsustainable.” That’s the Navy’s own official assessment of the spending rates required to keep the fleet large and modern enough to do its missions. Senior admirals and officials have been increasingly candid in recent months about the mismatch between the ships they want to build and the money they’ll have to build them. Virtually all of these programs, they noted, are massive budget overruns. The world’s largest satellite programs, meanwhile, received less money than the president requested for 2014. Together these five programs — Space Based Infrared System, GPS 3, Advanced Extremely High Frequency, Wideband Global Satcom and Mobile User Objective System — will get some $376 million less than their combined budgets for 2013.

**ESA Launches more Sats**
Europe will expand its space presence this year—notably the Galileo constellation of navigation satellites, the European Space Agency (ESA) said in early 2014. Six Galileo satellites should be launched this year, the 50th anniversary of Europe’s space exploration programme. After delays in 2013, the constellation would be increased to 10 orbiters, paving the way for initial services to start by year-end. Four satellites for Galileo, the rival to the US Global Positioning System (GPS), are already in orbit, and four more were to have been launched last year.

**Global Hawks in Japan**
Stars & Stripes reported in early 2014 that Global Hawks, America’s largest unmanned surveillance aircraft, will fly out of Japan for the first time this summer. Two of them, along with 40 personnel, will deploy to Misawa Air Base “The plan to deploy more advanced capabilities in Japan, such as the Global Hawks, has strategic significance and further contributes to the security of Japan and the region,” said a public affairs officer at the base. The aircraft and personnel will travel from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, where Global Hawks are controlled by remote operators in California and have been based for three years.
Poland’s Growing Role in NATO

Poland was a partner with the US in both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The US has been twisting the arms of NATO members to modernize their armed forces (by buying more US made weapons) and making them “interoperable” with Pentagon war-fighting systems. Poland has responded to this request by asking its citizens for even more money for the military. The US points to growing US-Polish military cooperation, especially in missile defense. “The US is firmly committed to deploying a missile defense system to Poland. We look forward to this system coming online in 2018 as part of phase three of the European Phased Adaptive Approach,” Secretary of War Chuck Hagel said during a 2014 visit to Warsaw. There have been several reports that Poland has been sending outdated military equipment to the US-EU installers of the Thaad system. Ukraine had stopped their war against self-defense forces in the eastern part of the country, along Russia’s border.

NATO War Spending

The combined defense expenditures of all NATO nations in 2013 amounted to $1.02 trillion. This figure includes research and development expenditures related to purchase of major equipment and pensions. By comparison, the total of military budgets for all countries in the world was $1.745 trillion in 2012, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden. In 2012, China’s expenditures amounted to $166 billion and Russia’s were $90 billion. Iran trailed with just under $7 billion, according to SIPRI.

Over and Out

Russia said it does not plan to use the International Space Station beyond 2020, casting a shadow on US plans to continue cooperation with the country and extend the life of the orbiting laboratory until at least 2024. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin told reporters in May that Russia is looking to redirect its attention to other projects after 2020. His comments come as tensions mount over US sanctions on Russia for its role in the crisis in Ukraine. One Russian leader suggested the US might try using a trampoline to get to the space station since the US no longer has the capability to get astronauts there.

US Back in Philippines

Last spring BAYAN-USA condemned the outcomes of the latest round of negotiations on increased US military presence in the Philippines. The provision allowing the US to build its own military facilities within existing Philippine bases signals a de facto US military bases to the country, in direct violation of the Philippine Constitution. If this new military agreement with the US is enacted, the Philippines will reap absolutely no benefits. Instead, the Philippines will reap the exact opposite: numerous losses. This agreement will guarantee the loss of human rights, environmental integrity, economic independence, and ultimately the country’s sovereignty. BAYAN-USA is an alliance of 18 progressive Filipino organizations in the US representing youth, students, women, workers, artists, and human rights advocates.

Melting Arctic Ice

Last March the Navy took a nuclear submarine under the melting Arctic ice. Along for the ride were New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman and Sen. Angus King (I-ME) among other bigwigs. When he returned to dry land Friedman wrote a piece for the Times about the trip that included the following: “In our lifetime, what was [in effect] land and prohibitive to navigate or explore, is becoming an ocean, and we’d better understand it,” noted Adm. Jonathan Greenert, the chief of naval operations. “We need to be sure that our sensors, weapons and people are proficient in this part of the world,” so that we can “own the undersea domain and get anywhere there.” Notice on a map which nations border the Arctic region.

Vigiling at Wisconsin Drone Base

Wisconsin citizens, organizing under the Wisconsin Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, have been vigiling monthly since December 2011 at Volk Field, an Air National Guard base near Camp Douglas, WI. Volk Field plays an important role in the killer drone program by training pilots to fly the Shadow Drone used for surveillance and target acquisition. During recent protests they read a criminal complaint against President Obama, Volk Field Commander Colonel Dave Romualda and others at the base who are involved in the training of drone pilots. They will continue to gather signatures on the complaint and then it will be brought to the US Attorney’s office in Madison, WI where they will request an investigation into war crimes taking place on the base.

Russia & China Space Partners

RiaNovosti reported in June that Russia is ready to work with China to explore the Moon and Mars. “If we talk about manned space flights and exploitation of outer space, as well as joint exploration of the solar system, primarily it is the Moon and Mars, we are ready to go forth with our Chinese friends, hand in hand,” Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said during the First Russia-China Expo. Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) and its Chinese counterparts also signed a memorandum of understanding “on cooperation in global navigation satellite systems.” Rogozin said that the Russian navigation system GLONASS and the Chinese Beidou will very well complement each other.

Most Oppose More War

Americans mostly oppose direct US military action to help the Iraqi government fight Islamic migrants (ISIS) threatening to take control of that country. A June 20-21 Gallup poll finds 54% of Americans opposed to and 39% in favor of taking such action, lower than the level of support for other potential US military actions in recent decades. A majority still approve of the 2011 decision to withdraw US troops from Iraq, and most continue to regard the 2003 invasion as “mistake.” Recent reports indicate that the US-NATO have been funding, arming, and training ISIS for years in Jordan in their attempt to take down the government in Syria. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) was photographed meeting with ISIS leaders in 2013. The American people are slowly putting all the puzzle pieces together. Another poll in July conducted by the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy found that 61 percent of Americans favor the US cooperating with Iran over Iraq.

Pentagon Prepares for Civil Unrest

The UK’s Guardian reported in June that social science is being militarised to develop ‘operational tools’ to target peaceful activists and protest movements. A Pentagon (DoD) research programme is funding universities to model the dynamics, risks and tipping points for large-scale civil unrest across the world, under the supervision of various US military agencies. The multi-million dollar programme is designed to develop immediate and long-term “warfighter-relevant insights” for senior officials and decision makers in “the defense policy community,” and to inform policy implemented by "combatant commands." Launched in 2008—the year of the global banking crisis—the DoD ‘Minerva Research Initiative’ partners with universities “to improve DoD’s basic understanding of the social, cultural, behavioral, and political forces that shape the future of the world.” DoD’s basic understanding of the social, cultural, behavioral, and political forces that shape the future of the world is seen by many as a high-altitude defense shield over the US.

BRICS Multi-Polar World

In a clear rejection of western IMF and World Bank economic supremacy the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) have created not only a new $100 billion Development Bank, but also a $100 billion foreign currency reserves pool. BRICS has long chaged that the IMF and World Bank impose austerity policies in exchange for loans while giving recipients little say in deciding terms. Shanghai won the bid to host the BRICS Bank while India will get the presidency of the Bank for the first six years. The Bank will have a rotating chair. The Bank will also have a regional office in Johannesburg, South Africa. All the five countries will have equal shareholding in the BRICS Bank. BRICS also welcomed the introduction by China and Russia of the updated draft treaty on the need to prevent weaponization of outer space. The US and Israel have repeatedly voted against UN resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

India Space

India’s Department of Space will receive 72 billion rupees ($1.2 billion) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, a sum that includes funding to procure a large communications satellite from a foreign company, budget documents revealed in July. According to the budget documents, launch vehicles command the largest share of the budget, at 26 billion rupees. The total includes 1.8 billion rupees for development of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark 3, which will be capable of launching satellites weighing 4 metric tons, and 3.9 billion rupees for the current Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, ISRO budget documents show. ISRO’s satellite budget is 10 billion rupees, a figure that includes 1.64 billion rupees to develop an advanced communications satellite dubbed Gsat-11, as well as funds for work on several remote sensing craft. According to the budget documents, ISRO will procure “a heavier class of regional office in Johannesburg, South Africa. All the five countries will have equal shareholding in the BRICS Bank. BRICS also welcomed the introduction by China and Russia of the updated draft treaty on the need to prevent weaponization of outer space. The US and Israel have repeatedly voted against UN resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

South Korean First-Strike ‘Kill Chain’

South Korea’s Defense Minister nominee Han Min-koo says he has no plans to adopt a US-designed missile defense system. At his confirmation hearing in mid-July, Han said South Korea currently deploys the US Patriot-3 system as a high-altitude defense shield over
By Rob Mulford

Destined possibly to challenge the dreaded ‘Dear John’ letter that has driven many a soldier to despair, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Department of Community Planning has perfected its own instrument of angst. They call it ‘Dear Property Owner’. Last month property owners in the Salcha, Alaska area received such a letter. This time the behind-the-scene miscreant is the Military Industrial Complex.

The letter stated, “The FNSB Department of Community Planning is considering an amendment to the Land Use Map of the Borough’s Regional Comprehensive Plan. This amendment will redesignate approximately twenty-five square miles from Open Space Natural Area, Preferred Agricultural Land, and Preferred Forest Land to Heavy Industrial… You are being notified because your property is within a two-mile radius of the project and may be directly or indirectly affected.” The letter went on to invite the property owner to “a public meeting… to provide information and obtain public comments on the proposed map change.”

Vagueness and misrepresentation prevailed throughout Mayor Luke Hopkins’s and Jae Hill’s (Borough Deputy Director of Community Planning) presentation to the Salcha property owners. Hill revealed the administration’s disdain for the Salcha residents when he said, “Regardless what the final decisions ever end up being, we wanted to be able to say that we had gone out to the community and heard what people had to say and what their concerns were.” After mentioning the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) December 31 decision to declare Alaska and the University of Alaska Fairbanks one of six test sites for integrating Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, drones) into civil airspace, Mayor Hopkins said, “The Borough, I signed on to that because there’s an economic opportunity to have jobs and have research continued in this area… the Legislature had already given $5,000,000 toward developing this idea.”

The Mayor continued, “There are many companies that now operate out of, say Grand Forks, North Dakota, at that test center… They’re already coming and talking to both the University of Alaska, and talking in my office. They want to know, so what’s in it”—Hopkins broke off and salvaged his sentence with, “what opportunities are here. The best advantage for companies to come here and put people to work… to develop sensors, to develop batteries that fly in cold weather… the companies say what we want is a tech park” with a small airstrip to fly directly into the restricted airspace of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC).

As far as ‘putting people to work’ is concerned, the number of jobs created by the project was revealed in a latter discussion concerning the expected traffic load on Johnson Road. According to Hill, “We don’t have any estimates of how many employees are going to be at this facility, but we do know that it is probably not going to be huge. There was a report done by the McDowell Group that basically said ‘State wide there’s a possibility of 141 jobs… That’s including over at the University itself, this possible Tech Park, and other locations across the state.’”

The overwhelming view of the Salcha residents was one of steadfast opposition to the land use re-designation. The tech companies involved with JPARC will by necessity be working on projects considered secret for national security purposes. The propensity for UAVs to fall out of the sky is much greater than that of [standard] military aircraft.

The “sensors”, mentioned by Mayor Hopkins in his presentation, would not be limited to “see and avoid” as called for by the FAA for civil airspace integration. The JPARC UAVs that this Military Industrial Zone “directly supports” are tools for assassination, go beyond the pale of legitimate military application, and are threats to our liberty as well. Emergency services can utilize UAVs with procedures already in existence. The need to integrate these machines into civil airspace is not so important and immediate that it overcomes the negative impacts of their police state applications. Demand a moratorium on their proliferation until mechanisms are in place that prohibits their nefarious use or we may see the day when the dreaded “Dear Property Owner” letter is delivered by a winged version of Robocop.

Rob Mulford is a member of Veterans for Peace and lives in Fairbanks, Alaska.
Five Countries in Five Weeks for Peace

By Tamara Lorincz

Over the past five weeks, I have visited five countries in Europe to attend peace conferences and meetings. I have learned so much and have met so many inspiring activists whose stories must be shared.

SPANIA: Barcelona, the attractive and artistic Mediterranean city, hosts an annual peace conference, La Trobada. I attended the 21st conference organized by two prominent peace organizations, FundiPau and Justicia I Pau. This year’s theme was “1914 – 2014: A hundred years of peace and war.”

The last speaker was Arcadi Oliveres, the President of Justicia I Pau (Peace and Justice). He is well-known professor of economics. Many people told me how much they admire his tireless commitment and his tenacity to find and tell the truth. At the age of 69, Oliveres continues to write, speak and travel extensively throughout Spain to promote peace, disarmament, human rights, and economic justice. He helped mobilize citizens during the recent economic crisis against austerity known as Movimiento 15-M and for tax resistance to the military. On the closing panel at La Trobada, Oliveres said to the audience, “A man is not a hero when he enlists and serves in the military; he is hero when he chooses not to.”

BELGIUM: the country upon whose land thousands of soldiers died in WWI and WWII, is now headquarters of the European Union (EU) and NATO. In the capital, Brussels, there is a peace house that I visited where a variety of progressive community organizations have their offices.

In the main hallway is a large, faded picture taken in 1960 of the famous Belgian conscientious objector Jean van Lierde celebrating the victory of Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the Congo who was later assassinated with the connivance of the Governments of Belgium and the US. Until shortly before his death in 2006 at the age of 80 years old, Jean van Lierde worked at the peace house on many anti-militarist campaigns. Today, his organization, Agir pour la Paix (Act for Peace) is run by activists who employ satire, art and social media to challenge NATO, the corporatization of the EU, nuclear weapons, and the arms trade. Their current campaign is to stop the Belgian government from wasting billions of tax dollars on the F-16 replacement. They are worried that the government will buy the Lockheed Martin F-35 stealth fighters.

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA: Sarajevo is a city still healing from the wounds of war. As I walked through the Bosnian capital, I could see the bomb marks on the sidewalks and the bullet holes in the buildings from the siege of 1992-1995. One hundred years ago, it was in Sarajevo where the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated triggering events that led to the First World War.

I was there to attend Peace Event 2014, the largest international conference to mark the 100th anniversary of the tragic war and to call for a new century of peace and non-violence. The keynote speaker in the opening ceremony was Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire, who co-founded the Peace People in Northern Ireland in 1976. She gave a beautiful and bold speech and said, “If our common dream is a world without weapons and militarism, why don’t we say so? Why be silent about it? It would make a world of difference if we refused to be ambivalent about the violence of militarism.”

The US maintains a huge, heavily guarded and high-fenced embassy in the middle of Sarajevo. As I was crossing the street in front of the embassy, I turned back to take a picture of it. The guards started to angrily whistle at me. A pedestrian, who was a young law student, came up to me and explained that I was not supposed to take pictures of the embassy. I asked him what he thought about the American influence in his country. He answered, “The US controls everything here. They say who gets elected and who goes to prison. After the war, the US got rid of the Bosnian Army and forced everyone to retire including my father who was a general. Then they made a new Bosnian army that they could control.”

ENGLAND: I was part of a women’s delegation from the University of Bradford Peace Studies program at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict held in London, England. There was an amazing program of lectures, films, and theatrical performances telling women’s stories of struggle for security, equality and democracy. The Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom hosted a panel of Syrian women activists to talk about the terrible ongoing civil war. Laila Alodaat, a Syrian human rights lawyer, and Majed Chourbaji, a Syrian activist and co-founder of Free Syrian Women of Dariya, spoke passionately about the need for a non-violent resolution to the war in their country and organizations. The 26th Session of the UNHRC was in session and a historic and exciting resolution was passed. Ecuador introduced a motion for a legally binding treaty to hold transnational corporations accountable for their human rights and environmental violations. Indigenous leaders from Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Nigeria and Palestine told delegates about their struggle for justice against Western companies like Chevron, Shell, Coca-Cola, Hidro Santo, and Mekorot. The resolution was supported by Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, and South Africa. With the tremendous lobbying effort of the people’s international Treaty Movement, the poor countries overcame the objections of the rich countries to pass the resolution and establish a working group to draft a treaty to end the impunity of transnational corporations.

The Working Group for the Right to Peace also held their second second-week-long meeting chaired by Costa Rica. The state delegations debated the draft text for the Right to Peace. I was impressed with the many peace lawyers from around the world who pushed the delegates to establish a meaningful and substantive right. The UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable World Order, Alfred de Zayas, ardently supported as well civil society’s call for a comprehensive right.

At the UN, I was so pleased to bump into the great American peace activist and co-founder of Codepink, Medea Benjamin. While she was in Geneva, she dropped by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) for a visit. She was asked by staff what her main campaign priority was and without hesitation she said, “military spending.” She applauded the IPB’s Global Day of Action against Military Spending held every April and said that we have to do more to mobilize groups from all sectors to move the money from the military to urgent environmental and social needs.

Finally, I am grateful for the kindness and solidarity shown to me by the activists whom I met in these five countries and was happy to share with them copies of the Global Network’s Space Alert newsletter. At the events in Spain and Bosnia, I was pleased to meet up with GN member Dave Webb, another world traveler for peace!

Tamara Lorincz is on the board of directors of the GN and the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. She is currently doing the Rotary International World Peace Fellowship at the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom.
Dagger Exposed in Darmstadt

By Regina Hagen

Dagger Complex is located among dusty strawberry and potato fields between Darmstadt and Griesheim, some 20 miles from Frankfurt, Germany. The centre is run by the US Army Intelligence and Security Command on behalf of the National Security Agency (NSA). According to DER SPIEGEL, the centre “although largely used by the military, […] has become the NSA’s most important outpost in Europe - with a mandate that goes far beyond providing support for the US military.” The complex houses the European Centre for Cryptology with a focus on signal intelligence, the European Security Operations Centre including the Information Dominance Centre and a Tailored Access Operations unit, and the NSA’s Threat Operations Centre. According to US military historian Matthew M. Aid, about 1,100 Intelligence Professionals and Special Security Officers work at Dagger Complex.

The Darmstadt installation is part of the excessive surveillance system the US maintains in Germany. More installations are located within 30 miles in Mainz, Wiesbaden, and Frankfurt. In 2015, some of these, including Dagger Complex, are slated to be relocated to the Consolidated Intelligence Centre that is currently being built in Wiesbaden for $124 million and will be less accessible for “unauthorized” persons.

“Hidden in plain sight” is a correct description for Dagger Complex. Its history as a US military installation dates back to 1951, but it has never been in the focus of peace and other groups. The one-story buildings looked unsuspicious; for many years, the place was used as an elementary school for children of US military staff based in Darmstadt and Griesheim.

From 2003 to 2007, the local Darmstadt Peace Forum, with the support of the Global Network, staged several protests within sight of Dagger Complex, at the former Euler airfield where five huge radoms had been deployed and run by the US Navy. We thought Dagger Complex was run just to process the data received and transmitted there. And we thought the problem had gone when the radoms disappeared. But we were wrong! The Dagger Complex, reaching six floors underground, has been maintained and expanded over the years and become what DER SPIEGEL calls “[the NSA’s European Headquarters.”

We owe knowledge about the activities here to Edward Snowden. The whistleblower’s documents disclosed the extent of US spying in Germany—which ranges from intercepting Chancellor Merkel’s high-security mobile phone to providing information that is used for targeted drone killings in the Pentagon “war on terror.”

Daniel Bangert, a young man who had not formerly been politically active, was so upset by Snowden’s information that he organized protests against Dagger Complex a year ago. He proposed to observe “the endangered habitat of the NSA Spies” and has kept a very ironic tone in his weekly protests. He founded the “NSA Spion Schutzbund” (Union to protect NSA spies) - and has been harassed by US secret services from the first day. His fun actions evolved into a closely knit political network that demands “Democracy instead of Surveillance.” It’s due to Daniel’s creative activities that we became aware of the Dagger Complex’s role and that German media now cover the local activities. Although the Dagger Complex tasks will move to Wiesbaden in 2019, the problem posed by unruly spying and violation of our civil rights will not go away. The participation of German government and secret services in US spying is still covered in the mists of denial.

Odds & Ends (cont from p. 9)

the peninsula. The nominee vowed to install the country’s indigenous missile defense system as soon as possible to counter any North Korean threats. He said the defense ministry will push for early establishment of the Korea Air and Missile Defense system—or KAMD—and the so-called ‘Kill Chain’, a pre-emptive missile destruction system. The KAMD is aimed at countering low-flying missiles coming from the North and the Kill Chain will detect and strike the regime’s missile and nuclear facilities. The kill chain lingo originally comes from the US Space Command.

US & UK Drone Ops

Drone Wars UK wrote in April that a map in the US- AF’s new ‘RPA Vector Report’ released on April 4 2014 confirms that ‘Project Crossbow’ based at RAF Marham in Norfolk, England is part of the intelligence backbone guiding the growing use of US and UK drones. While British Reaper drones based in Afghanistan are being remotely controlled from RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, RAF Marham near Kings Lynn is home to Crossbow, a joint UK-UK intelligence analysis project. Operated by the RAF’s Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing (TIW) but “under the tactical control” of a USAF Squadron, Crossbow receives and feeds information into the US Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS). The Distributed Common Ground System is the US military’s key tool for collecting, analysing and distributing information and intelligence collected from U-2, Global Hawk, Predator, Reaper, MC-12 and what the USAF discreetly calls “other ISR platforms” (i.e. the Sentinel). Other, more traditional manned aircraft also feed intelligence from various electronic sensors into the DCGS.

Space Mining

Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL) announced in July that he was introducing a bill called the ‘American Space Technology for Exploring Resource Opportunities in Deep Space (ASTEROIDS) Act of 2014’. The act is designed to protect the private property rights claims for corporations wishing to mine asteroids. The bill is in apparent reaction to efforts by companies like Planetary Resources and Deep Space Industries to locate and mine Earth approaching asteroids for their resources. The key part of the legislation states that the resources mined from an asteroid would be the property of the entity undertaking the operation. This language undercuts the UN’s Outer Space Treaty that states persons/corporations/nations are forbidden to claim or establish sovereignty over celestial bodies.

International Video Contest

The Global Network is launching its first international video contest for amateur film makers with a deadline of January 15, 2015. Videos should be short—three to five minutes or so in length and should address the theme “Keep Space for Peace”. First prize is an all expenses paid trip to the Global Network Conference in Japan in 2015—full details on our website: www.space4peace.org.

Regina Hagen is a member of the Darmstadt Peace Forum and serves on the board of the Global Network.
We Want a Peaceful Gureombi Not a Jeju War Base!

By Joyakgol

I have been actively involved in Gangjeong village’s peace movement against the construction of a massive Jeju naval base since 2011. I was a peace activist from the mainland of Korea and knew what was going down on Jeju Island. But it wasn’t my struggle. There were many social struggles I had to deal with in Seoul and other areas. Jeju was far away. But then in April of 2011, I got to hear that Professor Yang Yoon-mo started his life-risking hunger strike in prison that lasted nearly 90 days. Sung-hee Choi was also asking for our help from the prison where she was locked up. It was hard for me to ignore the appeal. I decided to go down to the tiny village on the tourist island and see for myself on the first day of July, 2011.

At the time, the sacred Gureombi rock was still accessible. The moment I set foot on the rock, I realized that I was never going to leave there. The rock had some mysterious energy that made people feel comfortable. Fresh spring water was all over on the coastal rock. It was pure and cold in the summer. I didn’t have to buy bottled water to quench my thirst. The Halmangmul kitchen was there. The villagers would catch octopus, sea urchin and sea weed for hungry activists. I spent the whole summer on the rock while successfully halting the construction. It was like the lost paradise.

Little did I know Jeju Island was a habitat for Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, a locally endangered species that left about only 100 populations in Korea and the number is decreasing. I still clearly remember the first time I saw wild dolphins swim in the sea from the Gureombi rock. I was just sitting there looking at the wide open sea and all of a sudden, about 20-30 dolphins were swimming, from the east to west, about 100 yards from the coast. At first I froze there, totally overwhelmed. As they swim away, I made a firm promise to myself to do my best to protect their habitat from the threat of the naval base construction. Sung-hee was released from prison, came back to Gureombi rock and said this fight was not just for human beings but for all the animals who don’t speak human languages but cry for help, too.

Obviously, these rare dolphins and nine other endangered species couldn’t coexist with aircraft carriers, Aegis warships and nuclear submarines that will be stationed at the base. Everywhere around the world, a naval base contaminates and eventually kills the rich marine environment.

The South Korean government says that a new naval base is needed to protect Southern waters and transportation routes, but the Third Navy Fleet whose headquarters is in Mokpo port has already been assigned this job in 2007. Moreover, the Jeju Coast Guard was recently established and this maritime police force is using exclusively the new Hwasun harbor that is being built, which gives South Korea enough fighting power to protect Southern waters.

We don’t need another naval base that will devour trillions of taxpayers’ money. South Korea is already spending too much budget for the job; 35 billion dollars a year for the military. The reason for the Jeju naval base construction project is greed that the Korean Navy wants a bigger size and more warships. And military industry corporations such as Samsung can rake in huge profit in making this useless base. I was far from convinced by the rationale for the base. Gangjeong villagers didn’t buy it either.

Recently, I met a navy officer at the National Assembly building hosting the international symposium on naval base’s impact on soft corals. I asked the Lieutenant Colonel Song an outright question; why the Korean Navy needs another base? He didn’t hesitate to answer that a bigger, exposed naval base is necessary to ensure the free and easier maneuver of aircraft carriers. Wow. Whose aircraft carriers? Is the American navy going to use the Jeju base then? I told him that I am very concerned that this new military installation can bring more threat to stability in the region. Because the US can use any military base in Korea at its will in emergency according to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between South Korea and USA.

I know that Jeju naval base is being built in a location where the US Navy can order its war ships to move immediately to China-Taiwan conflicted region when necessary. I argued that a new naval base on Jeju can instigate arms race in East Asia and cause more conflict, possibly inciting China to develop more weapons and thus not good for Korean security. The Jeju-native sailor guy kept saying the same thing; the military is not for offence but for defence of the nation. But I am not stupid. Offence is defence and defence is offence. It’s military strategy 101. The thin line between offence and defence does not exist anymore in present-day warfare.

I learned that in a very hard way when I was conscripted into the army boot camp 23 years ago. I was only 19 back then. They made me take up arms when I was under 20. The new recruits were reeled in as the summer order its war ships to move immediately to the Gangjeong port. These days, there are hundreds of media reports that Washington is pressing Seoul to adopt THAAD missile defense system. With more Aegis destroyers and cruisers, South Korea will be officially included in the US missile defense system in East Asia if it allows THAAD to be deployed in the region. Lockheed Martin and the Pentagon would love to see their high altitude missiles ready to shoot down China’s ICBMs on the foremost front before you know it. Geopolitically, Jeju would be the perfect place. And China wouldn’t be too happy to see potential threats in their neck of the woods. After all, we don’t want to get caught in the middle of the imperialist power play. I can tell Jeju islanders know and feel this instinctively. The people of Jeju share the historical sufferings of
US Continues to Block Space Ban Treaty

By Alice Slater

What is it about the rule of law that the US government doesn’t like? The US is still holding out on signing the treaty to Ban Land Mines Ban, adopted in 1997, and has managed to avoid joining the Law of the Seas Treaty which was negotiated in 1982. Isn’t it time for Civil Society to mobilize for putting a treaty to ban weapons in space on the negotiating table if we’re to have any hope of truly banning the bomb? After all, the Non-Proliferation Treaty calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons “and their delivery systems.” Aren’t we leaving a lot out when we don’t address this issue? And will any country be willing to negotiate for nuclear disarmament when the US blatantly proclaims its intention for full spectrum dominance and global strike capacity?

China and Russia have been proposing a joint draft treaty for the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT) since 2008, at the UN’s Conference on Disarmament. The US has repeatedly blocked consensus in the CD to move forward on negotiating a treaty to ban weapons in space, saying, at one point, that the proposal was “a diplomatic ploy by the two nations to gain a military advantage.”

In June 2014, Russia and China submitted an updated draft treaty, with an accompanying paper explaining what changes they had made since the 2008 draft. Both the Chinese and Russian Ambassadors invited further comment and feedback. The US objected again, stating that the new draft “does not address the significant flaws” in the older version such as including provisions for effective verification or for dealing with land-based anti-satellite systems. As to a legally binding treaty, the US stated that while it would consider proposals that are “equitable, effectively reliable, and enhance the national security of international participants”, the US has yet to see “any legally binding proposals that meet these criteria” and wants to focus on non-legally binding efforts such as the Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, and some other recent UN initiatives for transparency and confidence building that will not have the force of law.

The US has been participating since 2008 with a European Union initiative proposing a “Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities to provide a non-binding set of rules of the road for a safer environment in space. But it recently threw up new roadblocks against even that toothless effort. The US now insists that the Codes’ voluntary promise to “refrain from any action which brings about, directly or indirectly, damage, or to destruction, of space objects”, be qualified with the language “unless such action is justified.” One justification given for destructive action is the UN Charter’s right to individual or collective self-defense, thus lending legitimacy and codifying the possibility for warfare in space as part of the Code’s established norm. Although the UN Charter prohibits aggressive action by any nation without Security Council approval, it makes an exception when a nation acts in self-defense. There have been numerous occasions where nations by-passed the Security Council to take aggressive action in the name of self-defense. Instead of banning anti-satellite weapons development and space warfare, this US proposal for the Code would justify such warfare as long as it’s done, individually and collectively, under the guise of “self-defense.” Thus despite lacking the force of law that would be established with a legally binding treaty, this new US proposal for the Code would create the possibility for space warfare rather than its prohibition. Because of these new blocks, the negotiations on the Code are now stalled while at the same time the US puts up new resistance to a reasonable proposal from Russia and China to legally ban weapons in space. In the words of Pogo, a popular US comic strip, published in the 1970s by Walt Kelly, and satirized by many, “We have met the enemy and he is us!”

Alice Slater lives in New York City and serves on the Global Network board of advisers
Russia & US: New Space Arms Race

By Dmitry Litovkin

Moscow is concerned not only about the deployment of NATO offensive missiles in Eastern Europe, euphemistically called “missile defense shield”, but in particular about the new US hypersonic drones. Both systems could indeed neutralize Russia’s nuclear defense, which explains why the Putin administration has been investing to upgrade its air and space defense. However, this is not, strictly speaking, another “Star Wars” since the armament of the United States is offensive, while Russia’s is defensive.

Hypersonic pilotless aircraft are set to become the next phase in the military technical standoff between Moscow and Washington. In response to the advent of America’s Doctrine of Pre-Emptive Strikes, Russia is preparing to unveil a space shield with no less of a global reach, that of her Aerospace Defence Forces.

This development represents the revival of one of the central themes of the Cold War era—the possibility of ‘Star Wars.’

Unlike director George Lucas, [former] President Ronald Reagan knew very well that a war in space was no longer a distant prospect. In the last century the only thing that prevented him from realizing the idea of total American supremacy over the Soviets during the 1980s was the absence of the required technology.

America acquired this technology 25 years later. Last December, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Putin during a visit to an air defence missile manufacturing plant in June 2013. “No other country, with the exception of the US, is capable of threatening the survivability of Russia’s Strategic Nuclear Forces and no other country is in possession of space strike threats.”

Military expert Igor Korotchenko is certain that the task in hand requires an understanding of contemporary military threats that Russia could face in the course of the next 15-20 years. They lie in the fact that a series of countries, first and foremost the US, are actively carrying out research into producing hypersonic military strike threats.

These will operate not only in the air but also in adjacent space. This gives rise to a requirement to enrich the existing Aerospace Defence System with advanced anti-aircraft and anti-missile defense systems.

In March, a Scientific Research Institute for Aerospace Defense was set up in Russia. This institute is tasked with developing a surveillance and warning system for an aerospace attack, and for striking and jamming aerospace threats, as well as developing control and maintenance systems for the existing Aerospace Defence Forces.

The Strategic Aerospace Defense Systems concern, which brings missile and radar developers together, is to work on the practical side of this project. Of the 22 trillion rubles ($616 billion) allocated to the entire program of rearmament of the Russian Army by 2020, Moscow is to spend around 20 percent of this allocation on its ‘Zvyozdnye Voiny’ (Star Wars) program. This amounts to around 3-4 trillion rubles ($106 billion).

Given this funding, work has already begun on global reinstatement of a unified radar field to provide early warning of missile launches. The latest Voronezh-DM radar system is being deployed along Russia’s borders. This system is capable of seeing anything happening up to a distance of 3,000 km from the country’s borders.

These radar stations have already been installed in the Leningrad, Kaliningrad, and Irkutsk regions, as well as in the Altai and Krasnodar territories. It is proposed that they be located at a distance of around 1,000 km from one another. According to Deputy Defence Minister Yury Borisov, by 2018 they will form a defensive radar system encircling Russia. Aside from developing an early warning system for aerospace threats, Moscow is actively developing a strike threat of its own. Recent years have seen a large-scale modernization of Russia’s A-135 anti-missile defense system deployed around Moscow.

In addition to this, deployment of the Pantsir-S1 close-range anti-aircraft system is planned, as well as 28 anti-aircraft missile regiments equipped with the S-400 Triumph, (which amounts to around 450-670 launch sites) and also 38 batteries of the advanced S-500 Vityaz system (this amounts to around 300-460 launch sites).

According to Borisov, several new manufacturing plants are under construction in the Kirov and Nizhny Novgorod regions to produce these defense assets. The cost of these new plants is estimated to be more than 36 billion rubles ($1 billion).

Work on a similar scale is underway to raise the combat potential of Russia’s strategic armaments. Since the US pulled out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM), Moscow has tested six new types of intercontinental ballistic missile and introduced these into service with army and navy nuclear deterrent forces. All of them, in contrast to those that come under Russo-American limitations treaties, are fitted not with a single warhead but several nuclear warheads each.

Moscow is certain that plans to develop its aerospace defence will not lead to a new Cold War. The discrepancy between Russian and American defence spending on these outcomes is vast.

Dmitry Litovkin writes for Voltairenet.org and lives in Moscow, Russia.
Outrage to Destruction of Article 9 in Japan’s Constitution

The National Executive Board Meeting of the Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo) was held on July 2, 2014 the day after the Abe Cabinet authorized to change the interpretation of Article 9 of the Constitution to promote the exercise of the right to collective self-defense.

In defiance of the opposition of the majority of the people of the nation, the Abe Cabinet has decided to change its interpretation of Japan’s Constitution into approving the right of collective self-defense. We firmly protest against this act.

The use of force in foreign lands itself, whether as an exercise of collective self-defense or in the name of the “collective security,” is an act specifically prohibited by Article 9 of the Constitution, which bans the use of force as means of settling international disputes and denies the right of belligerency. Yesterday’s Cabinet decision is downright destruction of the very foundation of the Constitution of Japan.

For many years, Prime Minister Abe has repeatedly expressed his wish to join in the military operation of the US and its allies against Afghanistan or Iraq, hoping to play a part of US junior partner. Making the best use of the rising tension in East Asia, he has pressed for the move to destroy the Constitution, whether by its explicit revision or through reinterpretation.

However, all attempts to solve the conflicts by force have not only aggravated the situations, but created enormous number of inhuman deaths, including those of young soldiers of the countries that intervened in these military interventions. The use of force in foreign lands itself, whether as an exercise of collective self-defense or in the name of the “collective security,” is an act specifically prohibited by Article 9 of the Constitution, which bans the use of force as means of settling international disputes and denies the right of belligerency. Yesterday’s Cabinet decision is downright destruction of the very foundation of the Constitution of Japan.

The Abe Cabinet must immediately reverse its decision, comply with and implement all the provisions of the Constitution of Japan and commit itself to securing international peace and security, peaceful settlement of conflicts and achieving a total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons. We hereby submit our demand.

PHOTO AT RIGHT: Japanese right-wing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe recently climbed into a military airplane marked with the number 731 and sparked considerable controversy across the Asia-Pacific. The number 731 evokes the name of Imperial Japan’s notorious biological and chemical warfare research unit in China between 1932 and 1945. During the Japanese occupation of China Unit 731 held captive and infected thousands of men, women and children with virulent strains of anthrax, plague, cholera, and other epidemic and viral diseases. Soon entire Chinese villagers were being hit with biological bombs. In total, more than 250,000 were infected and the vast majority died. Shinzo Abe idolizes his maternal grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, a key military leader during World War II. Kishi served as part of General Tojo’s circle of advisers in the Japanese imperial army. China charges that Abe’s grandfather was “a Class-A war criminal.” China has accused Mr. Abe, who took office in December 2012, of attempting to rewrite history and downplay Japan’s atrocities against China during WWII.

With the 2015 NPT Review Conference and the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki coming less than a year, we are witnessing that the world is moving in earnest toward peaceful settlement of international conflicts, revelation of the catastrophic humanitarian consequence of the use of nuclear weapons, and achieving a total ban on nuclear weapons.

We hereby submit our demand. The Abe Cabinet must immediately reverse its decision, comply with and implement all the provisions of the Constitution of Japan and commit itself to securing international peace and security, peaceful settlement of conflicts and achieving a total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons. We hereby submit our demand.

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Peaceful (cont. from p 4.)

foreign domination, from the Mongolians in the 13th and 14th centuries to the Japanese colonial rule and the continuing American military influence in the present.

In conclusion, the naval base construction project on Jeju Island must be scrapped. It will increase military tension, waste massive budget and dolphin’s habitats will be gone. We don’t need another military base on this ‘Island of International Peace’. If we can stop this devastating military project, then we can transform the construction area into a peaceful Gureombi conservation park where endangered species coexist with us and maritime environment will be preserved. This will be a precious gift that we can pass down to the next generation. With this peaceful hope, we will have the annual grand peace march, and the peace camp for the sea in July and August. Please join hands and stand together with the people of Jeju as we will continue the fight for peace and justice.

Joyakgol is a peace activist on Jeju Island, South Korea.