

Space Alert!



Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
globalnet@mindspring.com • www.space4peace.org • (207) 443-9502

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How America & Britain Crushed Australia

by John Pilger

Across the political and media elite in Australia, a silence has descended on the memory of the great, reforming prime minister Gough Whitlam, who has died. His achievements are recognised, if grudgingly, his mistakes noted in false sorrow. But a critical reason for his extraordinary political demise will, they hope, be buried with him.

Australia briefly became an independent state during the Whitlam years, 1972-75. An American commentator wrote that no country had "reversed its posture in international affairs so totally without going through a domestic revolution." Whitlam ended his nation's colonial servility. He abolished Royal patronage, moved Australia towards the Non-Aligned Movement, supported "zones of peace" and opposed nuclear weapons testing.

Although not regarded as on the left of the Labor Party, Whitlam was a maverick social democrat of principle, pride and propriety. He believed that a foreign power should not control his country's resources and dictate its economic and foreign policies. He proposed to "buy back the farm." In drafting the first Aboriginal lands rights legislation, his government raised the ghost of the greatest land grab in human history, Britain's colonisation of Australia, and the question of who owned the island-continent's vast natural wealth.

Latin Americans will recognise the audacity and danger of this "breaking free" in a country whose establishment was welded to great, external power.

Australians had served every British imperial adventure since the Boxer rebellion was crushed in China. In the 1960s, Australia pleaded to join the US in its invasion of Vietnam, then provided "black teams" to be run by the CIA. US diplomatic cables published last year by WikiLeaks disclose the names of leading figures in both main parties, including a future prime minister and foreign minister, as Washington's informants during the Whitlam years.

Whitlam knew the risk he was taking. The day after his election, he ordered that his staff should not be "vetted or harassed" by the Australian security organisation, ASIO—then, as now, tied to Anglo-American intelligence. When his ministers publicly condemned the US bombing of Vietnam as "corrupt and barbaric", a CIA station officer in Saigon said: "We were told the Australians might as well be regarded as North Vietnamese collaborators."

Whitlam demanded to know if and why the CIA was running a spy base at Pine Gap near Alice Springs, a giant vacuum cleaner which, as Edward Snowden revealed recently, allows the US to spy on everyone. "Try to screw us or bounce us," the prime minister warned the US ambassador, "[and Pine Gap] will become a matter of contention."

Victor Marchetti, the CIA officer who had helped set up Pine Gap, later told me, "This threat to close Pine Gap caused apoplexy in the White House. ... a kind of Chile [coup] was set in motion."

Pine Gap's top-secret messages were de-coded by a CIA contractor, TRW. One



US space-tech spy base at Pine Gap in Australia.

of the de-coders was Christopher Boyce, a young man troubled by the "deception and betrayal of an ally." Boyce revealed that the CIA had infiltrated the Australian political and trade union elite and referred to the Governor-General of Australia, Sir John Kerr, as "our man Kerr."

Kerr was not only the Queen's man, he had long-standing ties to Anglo-American intelligence. He was an enthusiastic member of the Australian Association for Cultural Freedom, described by Jonathan Kwitny of the Wall Street Journal in his book, 'The Crimes of Patriots', as, "an elite, invitation-only group... exposed in Congress as being founded, funded and generally run by the CIA." The CIA "paid for Kerr's travel, built his prestige... Kerr continued to go to the CIA for money."

When Whitlam was re-elected for a second term, in 1974, the White House sent Marshall Green to Canberra as ambassador. Green was an imperious, sinister figure who worked in the shadows of America's "deep state." Known as the "coup master", he had played a central role in the 1965 coup against President Sukarno in Indonesia—which cost up to a million lives. One of his first speeches in Australia was to the Australian Institute of Directors—described by an alarmed member of the audience as

"an incitement to the country's business leaders to rise against the government."

The Americans and British worked together. In 1975, Whitlam discovered that Britain's MI6 was operating against his government. "The Brits were actually de-coding secret messages coming into my foreign affairs office," he said later. One of his ministers, Clyde Cameron, told me, "We knew MI6 was bugging Cabinet meetings for the Americans." In the 1980s, senior CIA officers revealed that the "Whitlam problem" had been discussed "with urgency" by the CIA's director, William Colby, and the head of MI6, Sir Maurice Oldfield. A deputy director of the CIA said: "Kerr did what he was told to do."

On 10 November, 1975, Whitlam was shown a top secret telex message sourced to Theodore Shackley, the notorious head of the CIA's East Asia Division, who had helped run the coup against Salvador Allende in Chile two years earlier.

Shackley's message was read to Whitlam. It said that the prime minister of Australia was a security risk in his own country. The day before, Kerr had visited the headquarters of the Defence Signals Directorate, Australia's NSA where he was briefed on the "security crisis."

On 11 November—the day Whitlam

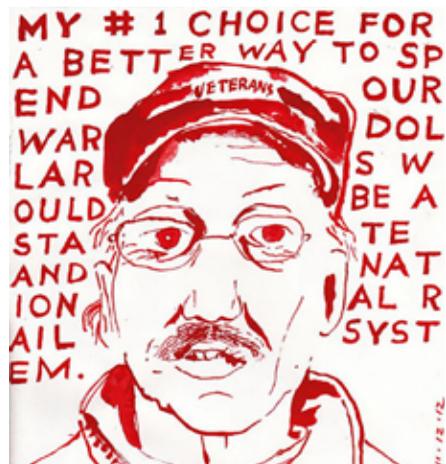
(See Crushed P. 10)



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Don't Shoot!



by Bruce Gagnon

I went to Missouri for six days with other members of Veterans For Peace following the Grand Jury refusal to indict the cop who killed Michael Brown. Then came the Eric Garner tragedy in New York City when a Grand Jury again refused to indict cops for choking the innocent black man to death.

Around the nation, an African American person is killed every 28 hours by police, security guards, or vigilantes. An African American is 22 times more likely to be killed by the police than a white person.

Weapons systems are being brought home from Iraq and Afghanistan and turned over to local police along with military tactics and an occupation men-

tality. Many US local police leaders are being sent to Israel for training by the IDF in how to suppress protests. Is there a direct connection between growing income disparity across the US and this mounting militarization of our local police forces—particularly in communities of color where huge numbers of people are out of work due to the mechanization, computerization, robotization and outsourcing of jobs?

The endless war overseas has come back home to the US with a vengeance. The collapsing working class and the growing numbers of people living in poverty are now the enemy of the corporate state. The vast resources of our militarized culture are being turned against the superfluous populations. But the people are standing up—losing their fear—and are nonviolently organizing creative and determined resistance across the nation.

Instead of using the vast wealth of the west for human betterment, the US and its NATO lackeys are rolling the dice and going for total world domination using the strategy of Full Spectrum Dominance. Through NSA surveillance, satellite drone warfare, cancerous NATO expansion (even into the Asia-Pacific), growing 'missile defense' deployments, and new generations of nuclear weapons the corporate forces seem determined to

take down the remaining obstacles to global capitalist control. Russia, China, Venezuela (and even Cuba) are being destabilized left and right by the CIA, the National Endowment for Democracy (which spent \$100 million or more on the Ukraine coup d'état project), and generous donations to the "color revolutions" in the former Soviet Union and China from private investors like George Soros.

Many international experts, including Professor Stephen Cohen, are warning that NATO, led by the US, has dragged us back into a new Cold War, except this time there is no "equivalent force" like the Soviet Union to restrain the arrogant power of the western bloc. Sadly, many progressives still are not able to clearly see that Barack Obama has matched, and in many respects gone beyond, the provocative and dangerous foreign and military policies of George W. Bush. As a result, our peace movement is still weak and unable to provide a counterweight to these aggressive policies.

My reading of US history, though, has led me to believe that many of our great progressive leaps forward have come following the mobilization of the black community. In the early days of the civil rights movement it was the black community, up against the wall, that rose up and created the political space for the anti-war, women's liberation, environmental, and other popular movements. Today we see our progressive movements, which in recent years were beaten and battered (particularly following the White House-directed

shutdown of Occupy), surging, largely under black leadership.

While I was standing with predominantly young black activists in Ferguson and St. Louis I was moved to tears by their skill and creativity in dealing with the harsh local police tactics and attitudes. I was also impressed by the numbers of young white activists joining these protests without trying to take them over—they were happily following black leadership. These were magical moments for me to experience.

I hope it goes without saying that all these issues are indeed intimately connected. I hope readers of Space Alert will understand the great need for our movements to support one another now more than ever. From the point of view of corporate capital we are all expendable. We are not going to defeat these corporate forces by remaining isolated inside our single-issue silos; those days are gone forever.

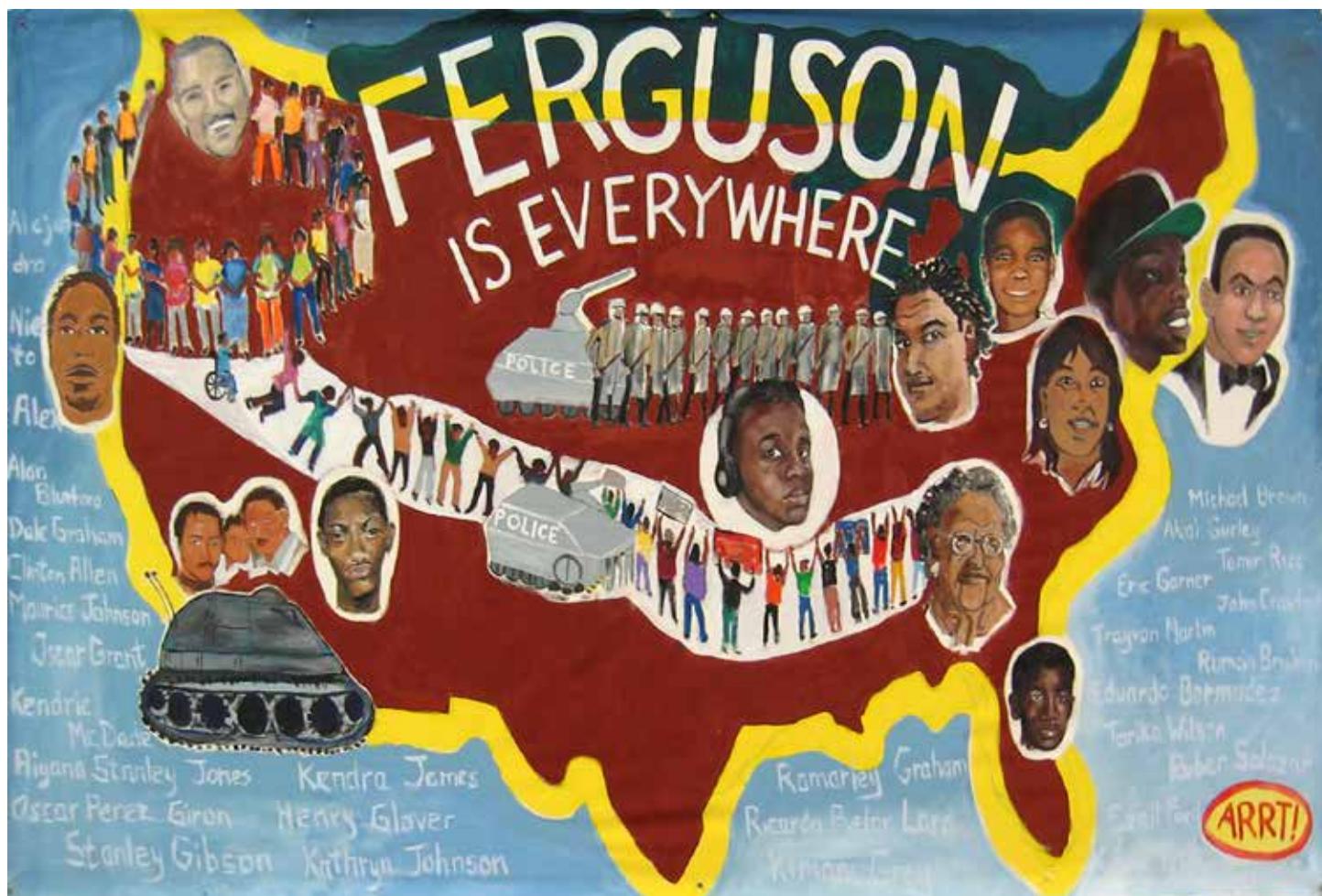
I'm not suggesting that we should all drop our work on war and peace issues and just work on civil rights issues. But I think that all of us have to be ready when the alarm bells clang. As the great people's attorney William Kunstler once said, we have "to run, walk or crawl to the barricades" to stand with one another.

There is a direct connection between the massive \$1 trillion a year Pentagon budget (when you add up all their various pots of gold) and the destruction of social progress. There is a direct connection between the military's huge carbon footprint and climate change. When we go to the barricades to support one another we should be bringing these connect-the-dot realities with us.

The chant No Justice-No Peace has real meaning for me. I began my career as a union organizer and a social justice activist. I moved into the peace movement when I realized that there would be no job training programs for the poor, no decent housing, no public transit, no affordable child care, and no health care for all as long as the Pentagon budget kept metastasizing, which I've seen it do since the early 1980's. I knew that there would be no real justice in the US (or anywhere else) unless and until we gutted the war machine and converted it to peaceful and sustainable uses.

I remain committed to those goals and clearly understand that we won't reach that good place unless we are linked to one another through strategic (planning) and operational (coordinated action) solidarity. All for one and one for all—always.

Bruce K. Gagnon coordinates the Global Network and lives in Bath Maine. He also is a member of Veterans For Peace.



Sweden: A U.S. Vassal State?

by Agneta Norberg

In December, Edward Snowden, received The Right Livelihood Award, in Stockholm, for his extraordinary courageous stand when revealing what National Security Agency (NSA) is doing. He gave his speech of thanks via a TV-screen from Russia. The ceremony was held in the Swedish Parliament. In his speech Snowden pointed out that he didn't regret anything. After the ceremony, Said Mahmoudi, professor of International Law at Stockholm University, was interviewed. He warned Snowden never to come to Sweden. The danger for being extradited to the US is obvious. Snowden shared the prize with Alan Rusbridger, *The Guardian's* chief editor. After publishing Snowden's revelations security agents came to *The Guardian's* office and forced those in the office to destroy the hard-discs containing secret material.

Sweden is, together with Israel, the third biggest 'listening post' country in the world. Listening posts Lerkil in the south of Sweden and Lovön, not far from Stockholm, have not been exposed to mass media's scrutiny. For that reason, Women for Peace, in Stockholm, invited Duncan Campbell, a journalist at BBC to visit. He has specialized in writing about personal integrity, citizen's rights and surveillance. He has for years scrutinized and revealed intelligence agencies surveillance in Great Britain and abroad. At a previous hearing in the European Parliament Campbell



specifically pointed at Sweden as a key-partner to the US and to Great Britain, when it comes to net-espionage. Sweden controls the cables through the Eastern Sea. Sweden has a third party agreement in surveillance with Five Eyes: The US, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. It was formed in 1949.

At Lovön, the Defence Radio transmitter center is located. This center listens to all data traffic which passes through Swedish borders, where the receiver or the sender is outside Swedish borders. At the listening center Lerkil, south of Gothenburg, which is a "Third-party" to "Five Eyes" global spy-agreement, the data is sent to Government Communi-

cations Headquarters (GCHQ) in Great Britain and to NSA in the US. They are part of the secret "SIGINT EXCHANGE" agreement between the Swedish Corporation and their listening partners. Lerkil is a satellite communication and spy station which, without authority, copies and analyses private, secret, personal and business communications which is sent via different international telecommunication satellites. Lerkil is also involved in processing the communications via internet. Duncan Campbell concludes that Sweden should have their own Snowden to come to grips with this scandal.

US/NATO exercises in the High North

Not far from the Russian border on

Norwegian and sometimes on Swedish soil, gigantic US/NATO war exercises are conducted. There have been called Cold Response 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 with 16,000 troops each. The media have not covered these provocative activities. But in 2012, there was an accident where five humans died when their plane collided with the mountain of Kebnekaise in Northern Sweden. Otherwise the public wouldn't know. In the South of Sweden similar war games are conducted at sea around the Island of Gotland in the Eastern Sea. The US has established military bases in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Hungary. Almost daily war training activities take place in these countries and are not reported in our media. But the 'dangerous Russia' is depicted as a big terrible threat.

In late August, 2014 before our election, the Right-Wing government signed an agreement called Host Nation Support with NATO. In the text it says: "The purpose for this Host Nation support is to make sure that Sweden will be able to give effective support for military activities on Swedish territory in connection with military exercises, crisis management operations or contributions. A deeper cooperation with Sweden creates conditions to promote Swedish Defence Forces ability to give and receive support. An agreement about host nation support will be applicable in the cases when NATO conducts activities in Sweden on invitation by Sweden."

This agreement means: In a war or crisis situation Sweden has nothing to say about how many troops and how much war material will be deployed in our country. NATO, not Sweden, has the command.

We in Sweden have formed an organization to counter these dangerous steps recently taken. We will spread information about what this agreement means. We will demand that the government abolish the host-nation-support agreement. We will work for reestablishing a nonaligned policy for neutrality in war.

Agneta Norberg is a leader of the Swedish Peace Council and serves on the Global Network Board of Directors. She lives in Stockholm.



Drones and Discrimination: Kick the Habit



by Kathy Kelly

On December 10, International Human Rights Day, federal Magistrate Matt Whitworth sentenced me to three months in prison for having crossed the line at a military base that wages drone warfare. The punishment for our attempt to speak on behalf of trapped and desperate people, abroad, will be an opportunity to speak with people trapped by prisons and impoverishment here in the US.

Our trial was based on a trespass charge incurred on June 1, 2014. Georgia Walker and I were immediately arrested when we stepped onto Missouri's Whiteman Air Force Base where pilots fly weaponized drones over Afghanistan and other countries. We carried a loaf of bread and a letter for Brig Gen. Glen D. Van Herck. In court, we testified that we hadn't acted with criminal intent but had, rather, exercised our First Amendment right (and responsibility) to assemble peaceably for redress of grievance.

A group of Afghan friends had entrusted me with a simple message, their grievance, which they couldn't personally deliver: please stop killing us.

I knew that people I've lived with, striving to end wars even as their communities were bombed by drone aircraft, would understand the symbolism of asking to break bread with the base commander.

Judge Whitworth said he understood that we oppose war, but he could recommend over 100 better ways to make our point that wouldn't be breaking the law.

The prosecution recommended the maximum six month sentence. "Ms. Kelly needs to be rehabilitated," said an earnest young military lawyer. The judge shuffled through a four page summary of past convictions and agreed that I hadn't yet learned not to break the law.

What I've learned from past experiences in prison is that the criminal justice system uses prison as a weapon against defendants who often have next to no resources to defend themselves. A prosecutor can threaten a defendant with an onerously long prison sentence along with heavy fines if the defendant doesn't agree to plea bargain.

In his article "Why Innocent People Plead Guilty," Jed S. Rakoff draws attention to the institution of plea bargaining which now ensures that less than 3% of federal cases go to trial at all. "Of the 2.2 million US people now in prison," Rakoff writes, "well over 2 million are there as a result of plea bargains dictated by the government's prosecutors, who effectively dictate the sentence as well."

"In 2012, the average sentence for feder-

al narcotics defendants who entered into any kind of plea bargain was five years and four months," Rakoff writes, "while the average sentence for defendants who went to trial was sixteen years."

It's one thing to read about the shameful racism and discrimination of the US criminal justice system. It's quite another to sit next to a woman who is facing ten or more years in prison, isolated from children she has not held in years, and to learn from her about the circumstances that led to her imprisonment.

Many women prisoners, unable to find decent jobs in the regular economy, turn to the underground economy. Distant relatives of mine knew plenty about such an economy several generations ago. They couldn't get work, as Irish immigrants, and so they got into the bootlegging business when alcohol was prohibited. But no one sent them to prison for 10 years if they were caught.

Women prisoners may feel waves of guilt, remorse, defiance, and despair. In spite of facing extremely harsh punishment, harsh emotions, and traumatic isolation, most of the women I've met in prison have shown extraordinary strength of character.

When I was in Pekin Prison, we would routinely see young men, shackled and handcuffed, shuffling off of the bus to spend their first day in their medium-high security prison next door. The median sentence there was 27 years. We knew they'd be old men, many of them grandfathers, by the time they walked out again.

The US is the undisputed world leader in incarceration, as it is the world leader in military dominance. Only one in 28 of

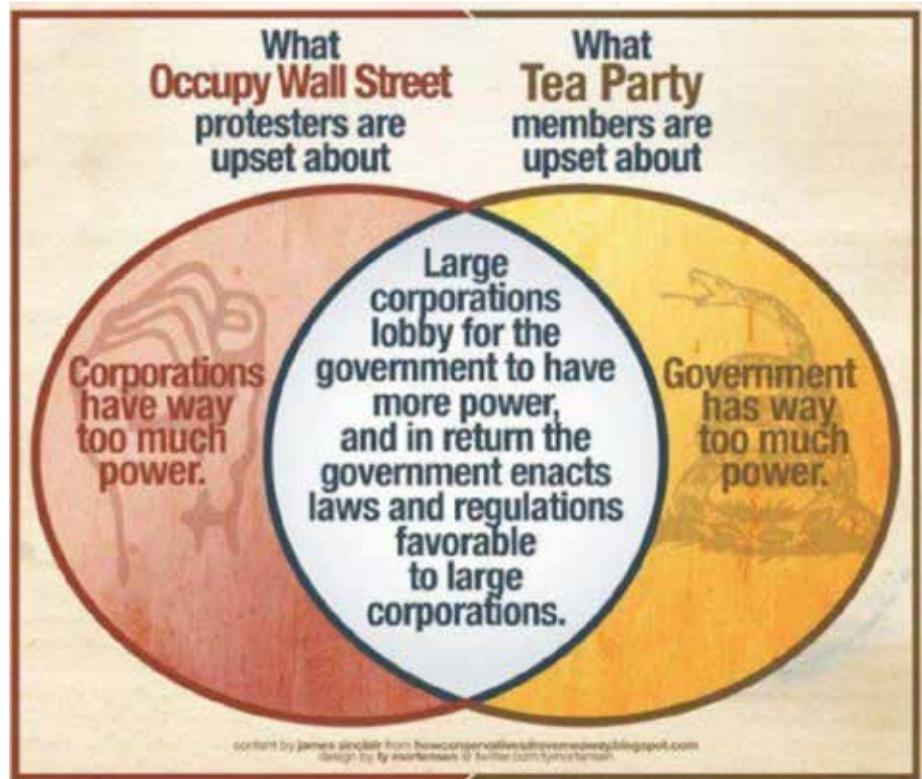
drone victims are the intended, guilty or innocent, targets. One third of women in prison worldwide, are, at this moment, in US prisons. The crimes that most threaten the safety and livelihood of people in the US of course remain the crimes of the powerful, of the corporations that taint our skies with carbon and acid rainfall, peddle weapons around an already suffering globe, shut down factories and whole economies in pursuit of quick wealth, and send our young people to war.

Chief Executive Officers of major corporations that produce products inimical to human survival will most likely never be charged much less convicted of any crime. I don't want to see them jailed. I do want to see them rehabilitated.

Each time I've left a US prison, I've felt as though I was leaving the scene of a crime. When I return to the US from sites of our war making, abroad, I feel the same way. Emerging back into the regular world seems tantamount to accepting a contract, pledging to forget the punishments we visit on impoverished people. I'm invited to forget about the people still trapped inside nightmare worlds we have made for them.

On January 23, 2015, when I report to whichever prison the Bureau of Prisons selects, I'll have a short time to reconnect with the reality endured by incarcerated people. It's not the rehabilitation the prosecutor and judge had in mind, but it will help me be a more empathic and mindful abolitionist, intent on ending all wars.

Kathy Kelly co-coordinates Voices for Creative Nonviolence based in Chicago, Illinois.



When Spaceships Explode



by Karl Grossman

Much of the US space program has become privatized in recent years and now instead of a sometimes bumbling bureaucracy doing dumb things like launching the Challenger shuttle in frigid weather when its O-rings holding in its fuel weren't flexible, there are corporations seeking to make big bucks.

The explosions in late 2014 of an Antares rocket and the Virgin Galactic SpaceShip2 were disasters and, considering the death of a SpaceShip2 pilot and serious injury to the other pilot, tragedies.

How much a part did greed play?

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, declared: "As space launch services become privatized the pressure to cut corners and save money will be enormous. The idea of launching unsuspecting tourists onboard spacecraft built for profit first and safety last is frightening."

Moreover, says Gagnon, "The plan by Elon Musk to move our civilization to Mars on rockets built, in part, by taxpayers is the first step in the aerospace corporation competition to grab the planetary bodies for resource extraction. Currently, lawyers from the aerospace industry are trying to rewrite the UN's Outer Space and Moon Treaties that say no individual, no corporation, and no country can claim ownership of the heavenly bodies. We are poised to carry the bad seed of greed, environmental destruction, and war with us into space. It's time for global public citizens to understand what the new space race is really about."

You'd think that with a \$1.9 billion contract with NASA to make deliveries to the International Space Station, Orbital Sciences Corp. would be very careful about the vehicles it was using to accomplish the task.

Instead, the Antares rocket was fitted with 1960s Soviet engines. Did the Dallas, Texas company pick them up at a rocket engine yard sale?

Elon Musk, the man behind the Tesla car and CEO of Orbital's main competitor, SpaceX (with a \$1.6 billion NASA contract for space station deliveries), told Wired in 2012 that using decades-old technology was one of the "pretty silly things going on in the market." Some aerospace companies, said Musk, were relying on parts "developed in the 1960s" rather than "better technology." As to Orbital Sciences, he said it "has a contract to resupply the International Space Station and their rocket honestly sounds like the punch line to a joke."

"It uses Russian rocket engines that were made in the '60s. I don't mean their design is from the '60s—I mean they start with engines that were literally made in the '60s and, like, packed away in Siberia somewhere," said Musk.

National Public Radio was told by Jonathan McDowell of the Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics that the engines were "in fact built in Russia, about 40 years ago and stored in plastic bags after their Moon program was cancelled."

The *New York Times* in its article on the StarShip2 crash, towards its end, raised the issue of whether there had been enough test flying. It quoted Marcos Caceras, director of space studies at the Teal Group consulting firm saying "in an age where it is very expensive to fly these vehicles, the pressure is to do the minimal amount of test flying." Caceras continued, "Everyone seems to be in need of more money to conduct more flights, so the pressure is to start operational flights too soon. Maybe we are being unreasonable here."

Unreasonable, yes, but considering the quest for the almighty buck, to be expected.

The man behind Virgin Galactic, Sir Richard Branson, of other Virgin fame, had been seeking to fly passengers on SpaceShipTwo this spring. Some 800 people, including such luminaries as Leonard DiCaprio and Justin Bieber, have signed up for \$250,000-a person tickets for a suborbital ride.

Last June, the business-focused British magazine, *The Economist*, ran a piece headlined: "Space: the next startup frontier." It was mostly about the heavy increase in recent times of small space satellites being called nanosats, and the subhead read: "Where nanosats boldly go, new business will follow—unless they are smothered with excessive regulations."

Whether having to do with loading the sky with nanosats or other space activities, space operations are far too risky, the unfettered exploitation of the heavens so in conflict with decades of international agreement, to allow money-making to ride high.

And that's the new drill despite the high-minded and visionary Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and subsequent Moon Treaty. Next year, a company called Moon Express will, as its website says, send up its MX-1 spacecraft to begin to "unlock the mysteries and resources of the Moon. Our first technology demonstration mission planned for 2015 will be the first in an ongoing series of moon missions focused on science, exploration and commerce."

As Fox News in its report on the project said, "Moon Express is just one of the many private companies planning space missions" and "no area has burgeoned more than the moon. Astrobiotic Technology also plans to mine the moon, for example. Bigelow Aerospace wants to sell property there."

Karl Grossman, professor of journalism at the State University of New York/College of New York, is the author of the book, The Wrong Stuff: The Space's Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet. He also serves on the Global Network Board of Advisers and lives in Sag Harbor, New York.

Integration of Space Warfighting Capabilities

During a meeting at the Capitol Hill Club late last year Gen. John E. Hyten, the Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) commander, explained the complexities of global space operations, and how they're a seamless and invisible part of day-to-day living.

"When you look at what we do in space, it's truly the most joint element of our military," Hyten said. "Everything we do is critical to the operations of (all services)—it's critical to our economy and to the world—it's basically embedded in everything we do."

He talked about the history behind aerospace, the integration of air and space and the fact that space is no longer a benign environment, but is becoming a domain.

"We don't ever want to go to war in space, but we need to be prepared to fight a war in that environment," he said. "You figure out how to operate through that threat environment."

His future plans for AFSPC include integrating space and cyber, the ability to command and control space assets, and increasing space situational awareness—all to prepare for that environment.

"As we look forward in the future we have to figure out how to deal with this kind of environment," Hyten said. "We have to figure out how we're going to work with the other elements of our nation's power to fight through any kind of threat that we have to—and we will."

"The future of the United States Air Force is the integration of air, space and cyberspace," Hyten said, "to deliver singular effects on the battlefield in the most effective, efficient way possible and to allow the warfighters of today and the future to have unbeatable advantage on the battlefield."

Reprinted in part from Air Force Space Command.

No Weapons in Space Ban Remains Popular at UN

by Dr. Alexander Yakovenko

Preventing the deployment of weapons in outer space remains one of the key objectives of Russian diplomacy. We believe that space should be used solely for peaceful scientific research purposes in the interest of development and progress of the world.

That is why Russia is eager to promote initiatives that prohibit the weaponization of space and help develop international cooperation.

Among them is the Russian draft resolution on No First Placement of Arms in Outer Space presented at the UN General Assembly. Co-sponsored by 33 countries, the resolution was for the first time given overwhelming support by the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) during the current session, with 126 votes in favor and 4 against (the United States, Israel, Georgia and Ukraine). The voting has confirmed that the Russian initiative to prevent the weaponization of space is

winning growing support in the international community. The text will now be submitted to the plenary of the General Assembly for adoption.

The draft resolution provides the basis for further action to keep outer space free from any kind of weapons and to ensure that all countries have an equal opportunity for its peaceful use. One of the key provisions is the idea of early talks at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva with a view to drafting and adopting a binding international treaty to prevent the placement of arms in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects. Such a treaty was first proposed by Russia and China in 2008. An updated Russian-Chinese draft was submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in June [2014].

The draft resolution also includes an appeal to all states to adopt a political commitment on no first placement of arms in outer space. So far, 11 countries have made declarations, namely Argen-

tina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan.

Adopting a commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space by all nations with major space capabilities would greatly facilitate a legally binding ban on the placement of any kind of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects. Further efforts to spread this pledge across the globe would be a major contribution to the efforts of all the UN member countries towards equal and indivisible security and stability.

Reprinted from RT (November 26, 2014) Dr. Yakovenko was Russian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Deputy foreign minister (2005-2011). The space ban resolution was ultimately passed at the General Assembly with only the US and Israel voting no. The US refuses to enter into direct negotiations for such a space ban treaty claiming that there is currently "no problem" in space.

Long-Term Blank Check for War Spending

By Sarah Lazare

The government funding bill that narrowly passed the House of Representatives in December has been widely criticized, including from within Congress, as a give-away to Wall Street. However, its 1,600 pages raise numerous other red flags for activists and analysts, including a bloated military budget and what journalist Julia Harte calls "a long-term blank check for 'war' spending."

The bill approves \$554 billion overall in Pentagon spending—in keeping with the trajectory of a country that spends more on the military than the next 11 countries combined. As Dave Gilson points out in *Mother Jones*, this sum means that total Pentagon funding during 2015 is "close to what it got during the height of the Iraq War" and "close to its highest level since World War II."

When this sum is broken down, its sources raise further concerns, say analysts.

Buried within the budget is \$64 billion in military funding from what is called the Overseas Contingency Operations. Established in 2001 under a different title, the OCO was supposed to be for "temporary" emergencies relating to the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, it has become a permanent, and seemingly bottomless, source of funding for war. Even President Obama noticed this in 2008, when he issued the [unfulfilled] campaign promise to reign in abuse of emergency war spending.

As Harte writes for the Center for Public Integrity, "The OCO budget isn't subject to spending limits that cap the rest of the defense budget for the next seven years; it's often omitted altogether from tallies of how much the military spends each year; and as an 'emergency' fund, it's subject to much less scrutiny than other military spending requests."

Furthermore, Lindsay Koshgarian points out for National Priorities Project, included within the bill is a "spending spree for defense contractors," which includes \$479 million for F-35s and war ships. In addition, the bill green-lights \$5 billion for the expanding U.S.-led war in Iraq and Syria, despite the fact that that military operation still has not been approved—or even subject to real debate—in Congress.

Reprinted from Common Dreams (December 12, 2014).



Security for the Future – In Search of a New Vision

We are a group of people involved in peace-building work who are increasingly concerned about the future of peace and security here in the United Kingdom (UK) and worldwide. We believe that our own government is not responding effectively to the challenges of the new century, but with a marked change of course, it could be. We would like to begin a public conversation about this in the UK. We have outlined some initial thoughts on a vision for a more peaceful, less insecure world. A summary is below; the full text (8 pages) is at www.opendemocracy.net/ammerdown-invitation. These thoughts are just one contribution among many possible others; we would welcome your responses and your own ideas.

Anxiety about the future is growing. Violence is escalating in the Middle East and beyond. Consumer economies are dangerously damaging the earth's ecology, rapidly depleting natural resources, and driving rich and poor further apart. These major drivers of insecurity are disrupting societies across the world, but governments have been unwilling or unable to respond, or have made matters

worse. A number of governments, including our own, are investing heavily in their armed forces, expecting to control the global security environment by projecting power abroad.

Our political class has yet to adapt to these realities. The devastating failures of the US-led, UK-supported wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya have shown that we cannot expect overbearing superpowers to determine the security of the world through invasive military action. At home, 'counter-terrorism' strategies have curtailed hard-won rights and liberties. The

government's approach to dealing with 'radicalisation' and 'extremism' is deepening alienation and mistrust between communities.

We believe that a more peaceful, less insecure future is possible. Although the challenges are severe, they are not beyond the imaginative, intellectual, and practical resources available. But a change of course depends first on taking a different guide: the recognition that we share a common humanity with fundamentally the same needs, desires, hopes and fears, and that we can live only as part of a planetary

On what does this depend? Our future security lies not in rugged individualism and the survival of the strongest, but in recognising our common interdependence. We believe that our better future will depend on greater social, economic and ecological responsibility. Instead of using power to control and dominate, it should be used more to achieve shared goals equitably through cooperation and negotiation. This involves us all, not only governments, in responsibilities that are local, national and global.

How could we move towards this now? Since the greatest drivers of insecurity now include climate change, economic inequality, and loss of natural resources, a strategy for sustainable security would respond far more vigorously to these challenges. It would invest strongly in state and civic capacities for diplomacy and peace-building. And it would work to convert the arms industry to socially useful production, draw back the UK's heavy defence spending, and decommission its nuclear weapons. Rather than follow the lead of the world's predominant superpower, the UK's foreign policy would seek progressive alliances with like-minded governments and people's movements.

And in the longer-term? Our future security can only grow from social, political and economic arrangements that are fairer and more ecologically responsible than those we have now. We have to ask: Who makes the decisions, how, and in whose interests? Power is increasingly concentrated in international institutions and corporations that are far from our democratic reach. Ordinary citizens are disenfranchised; democratic forums nationally and globally need urgent reform and renewal.

Can it be done? We are not proposing a utopia, just a different direction of travel. Our multiple global crises gravely threaten our common security, but are also an unprecedented incentive to renew our democratic institutions and foster cooperation between peoples, leading towards a worldwide sense of humanity as a global community. From our experience of peace-building work, we believe that only a public conversation, to which people from all backgrounds contribute, is capable of ushering in the substantial changes in thinking that are needed.

We would like to begin this conversation now, and we hope you will join us to share your views.

For more information please contact: ammerdown.invitation@gmail.com.

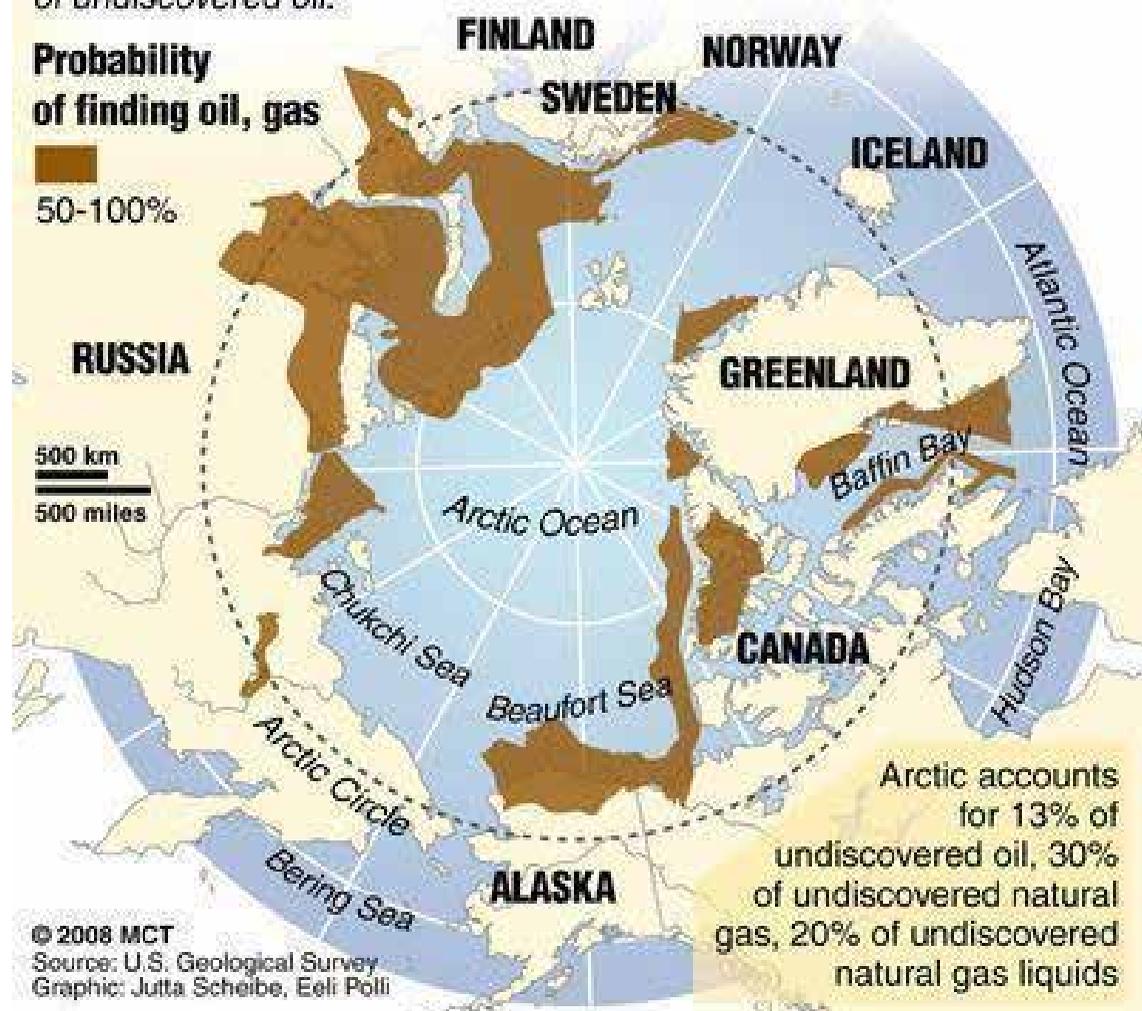


Oil and gas in the Arctic

Area north of the Arctic Circle has an estimated 90 billion barrels of undiscovered oil.

Probability of finding oil, gas

50-100%



ecology, which is now straining under our weight. Whether our world becomes more or less secure could well come to depend on the kind of future we choose to believe in.

We think that a viable, sustainable strategy for security would take account of the following points:

What does security mean? The government's strategy views security mainly in terms of military responses to perceived threats. We believe that the true meaning of security is deeper and broader: as freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity. This suggests societies in which all people have access to decent work, food, health care and education, a safe place to call home, and communities of people who support each other.

Odds & Ends

GN's 23rd Annual Conference

The 2015 Global Network space organizing conference will be held in Kyoto, Japan from July 29–August 2. 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 will discuss 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 from direct offensive military operations. Our presence in Kyoto will also give GN members a chance to share how space war fighting installations in their particular part of the world fit into the growing Pentagon space war fighting architecture. We invite others to join us in Kyoto.

Planned Gift to GN

If you are in the process of estate planning, please consider making a planned gift of a tax-deductible donation in the form of a bequest, donation of stock or other instruments to the Global Network. Your planned gift would be an important legacy for our global movement to keep war out of the heavens. Thank you for your consideration.

China Responds to US Space Dominance

The new media outlet called *Sputnik* reported last December: Igor Korotchenko, Director of the Center for the Analysis of the World Arms Trade told *Sputnik* that China's successful testing of a Hypersonic Strike Vehicle (the HGV) demonstrates the country's potential to affect US national security in a serious way. “US anxiety is centered on the fact that China is actively experimenting with weaponry that is based on hypersonic speed, which is nearly impossible to intercept using currently-available US missile defense systems,” Korotchenko told *Sputnik*. It had been reported earlier that China had conducted another test of the HGV, an ultra-high speed vehicle capable of travelling up to eight times the speed of sound. Earlier tests of the vehicle had shown it capable of carrying nuclear warheads at a speed of over Mach 10, or 12,359 kilometers per hour.

Interfaith Confab on Drone Warfare

You are invited to an interfaith conference on lethal drones, January 23-25, 2015 organized by national denominations and faith groups. The event will be held at the Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey. U.S. drone strikes continue in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq and Syria. People of faith will come

to Princeton to address the issue of drone warfare. The conference will be addressing such questions as: Why is the issue of lethal drones an urgent moral issue now? What is the experience of the Muslim community and other targets of drone strikes? Why should people of faith care about this issue? What should the response of the religious community be to lethal drones? For more info see: www.peace-coalition.org

New Secretary of War

Renowned anti-nuclear activist Jackie Cabasso in early-December wrote about Obama's new Secretary of Defense. “I am horrified that Ashton Carter has been nominated as Secretary of Defense. On June 22, 2006, Ashton Carter and William Perry co-authored an op-ed in the *Washington Post* calling for the US to threaten a pre-emptive strike to take out a planned North Korean missile test, even at the risk of igniting a war on the Korean Peninsula. This proposal was so extreme that it was rejected out of hand by then-VP Dick Cheney in favor of diplomacy! It should be noted that less than two weeks earlier, the US conducted a successful routine test of a Minuteman III ICBM from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.”

Colorado Space

Colorado boasts the nation's third-largest aerospace economy and is home to more than 400 companies and bases (including Air Force Space Command HQ at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs) that create nearly 170,000 Colorado jobs. Each spring, the Colorado-based Space Foundation hosts the annual Space Symposium—the world's largest gathering of 11,000 space decision-makers from across the globe for a weeklong orgy on the future of space policy. The local Colorado Springs peace group called Citizens for Peace in Space organizes protests each year during the space confab. The next symposium will be held on April 13–16, 2015.

General Fat Cats

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff petitioned Congress in December to retain privileges for top officers that lawmakers are seeking to trim, including fattened pensions and the number of enlisted aides serving generals and admirals, according to a letter obtained by *USA Today*. Pensions for top officers were beefed up beginning in 2007 by as much as 63%—at the Pentagon's request—to retain senior officers during the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The change allowed long-serving officers to have pensions that exceeded active-duty pay, which is capped at \$181,500. Housing allowances and other considerations can

boost their compensation by a third. In 2012, the top pension payment was \$272,892 paid to a retired four-star officer.

Pentagon Worries about Climate Change

Last fall former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel issued a call to arms to the military to confront climate change, as rising sea levels and other threats could impair the military's operations and “sow the seeds of instability... from the spread of infectious diseases to spurring armed conflicts.” Addressing the Pentagon's new report on the issue at the Conference of the Defense Ministers of the Americas in Peru, Hagel said the Defense Department and other military services must start creating plans to deal with the possible effects of climate change on more than 7,000 bases and facilities around the world. Hagel expressed concern that rising sea levels could damage the military's regional training ranges and critical equipment. “Our militaries' readiness could be tested, and our capabilities could be stressed,” he said. “The loss of glaciers will strain water supplies in several areas of our hemisphere,” he said. “Destruction and devastation from hurricanes can sow the seeds for instability. Droughts and crop failures can leave millions of people without any lifeline and trigger waves of mass migration.”

Paying for Israeli MD Testing

A US congressional conference committee between the Senate and House of Representatives reached a deal in December on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015. The NDAA is a bill passed by Congress annually to authorize and regulate US military spending. It would also authorize \$350 million for Iron Dome procurement for the defense of Israel—double the \$175 million requested by Obama in his budget, and over four times more than the additional funding for US homeland missile defense. The bill does require that 55% of these funds be spent on Iron Dome components produced in the United States. Also in late 2014 Israel and the US were the only two countries to vote against a UN General Assembly resolution calling for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The resolution was among several dealing with international disarmament passed by the General Assembly, including one calling on Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and bring its rogue nuclear program under international supervision.

Drone Near Misses Growing

A passenger plane has yet to be taken down by a drone, but insid-

ers at the San Diego-based Southern California Terminal Radar Approach Control center—reportedly the busiest air-traffic facility in the world—say the risk is growing and they have the data to prove it. This past December, Federal Aviation Administration chief Michael Huerta went public on CNN regarding 25 drone near misses reported since June of 2014. The list of national incidents was released by the government only after Freedom of Information Act requests made by the *Washington Post* and other media.

No to NATO

A NATO plan to get its members to agree to significantly boost their military spending was derailed by Canada and Germany before it was even presented to alliance leaders in September, 2014 when they met in Wales. NATO's cancerous expansion into a “global alliance” has made it necessary for the US controlled military bloc to shake down member states for more operating funds. Continued operations in Afghanistan, and the growing NATO operations in Ukraine and the Baltic region, have made it “necessary” for more funds to be pledged. The US, Estonia, the United Kingdom and Greece are the only alliance nations who have met the new donor target.

Making \$\$\$ from Endless War

Led by Lockheed Martin, the biggest U.S. defense companies are trading at record prices as shareholders reap rewards from escalating military conflicts around the world. Investors see rising sales for makers of missiles, drones and other weapons as the US attacks ISIS fighters in Syria and Iraq, said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Chicago-based BMO Private Bank. President Obama approved open-ended airstrikes in September, 2014. “As we ramp up our military muscle in the Mideast, there's a sense that demand for military equipment and weaponry will likely rise,” said Ablin, who oversees \$66 billion including Northrop Grumman and Boeing shares. “To the extent we can shift away from relying on troops and rely more heavily on equipment—that could present an opportunity.” Lockheed, the world's biggest weapons company, reached an all-time high of \$180.74 on Sept. 19, when Northrop and Raytheon also set records. General Dynamics, the parent company of Maine shipbuilder Bath Iron Works, traded at \$129.45 on that day, up from \$87.74 the year before. That quartet of companies and Chicago-based Boeing accounted for about \$105 billion in federal contract orders last year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Odds & Ends

Drones Not So Precise

A new analysis of the data available to the public about drone strikes, conducted by the human-rights group Reprieve, indicates that even when operators target specific individuals—the most focused effort of what Barack Obama calls “targeted killing”—they kill vastly more people than their targets, often needing to strike multiple times. Attempts to kill 41 men resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1,147 people, as of late November. Reprieve, sifting through reports compiled by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, examined cases in which specific people were targeted by drones multiple times. “Drone strikes have been sold to the American public on the claim that they’re ‘precise’. But they are only as precise as the intelligence that feeds them. There is nothing precise about intelligence that results in the deaths of 28 unknown people, including women and children, for every ‘bad guy’ the US goes after,” said Reprieve’s Jennifer Gibson, who spearheaded the group’s study.

Protesting in Car Culture Land

Jo First reports: “Six activists were at Rest Area 10 along I-90/94, south of Mauston, Wisconsin on October 9. We had a model drone and a stack of flyers ‘6 Things You Should Know about Drones’ to help reach the public about what is going on just up the road at Volk Field Air National Guard Base as well as in the drone wars overseas. We were there in solidarity with others around the world as part of ‘Keep Space for Peace Week’ and Global Day of Actions Against Drones. Leafletting at the rest area turned out to be an excellent opportunity for public education. We were able to connect with a real cross-section of Middle America. Shortly after we arrived at the rest area and began setting up the drone, the manager of the rest area came out and told us we would have to pack up and leave. We said we were on public property and that we planned to stay. She left in a huff. The police were called but acknowledged that the peace activists had the right to be there. How do we get the public to wake up and join the fight, to be able to admit to and take responsibility for the horrors that our government, and we, are perpetrating around the world? It is impossible to know what kind of impact we may have had, but we are hopeful that we touched a few people. Please consider rest areas near you as a possible place for demonstrations. We no longer have town squares. It is illegal, at least in Wisconsin, to protest at shopping malls because they are privately owned. All I know for sure is that we will be back.”

We Can Do What We Want

New NATO secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg said in October that the Western alliance could deploy its forces wherever it wants. At the September summit in Wales NATO leaders agreed to set up a “spearhead” rapid reaction force that could be sent to a hotspot within days, and to pre-position equipment and supplies in eastern European countries (along Russia’s border) to receive the force if needed. “Next year, at the ministerial meeting, we will take decisions regarding the so-called spearhead but, even before it is established, NATO has a strong army after all. We can deploy it wherever we want to,” Stoltenberg told the state broadcaster *TVP Info*.

Kodiak Launch ‘Anomaly’

Seconds after a rocket carrying a test weapon was launched from the Kodiak Launch Complex in Alaska last August, the rocket self-destructed, causing an unknown amount of damage on the complex grounds, officials from the Department of Defense said. The rocket was carrying the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon, a glider that, once launched from a rocket, flies a non-ballistic missile trajectory toward its target—in this case in the Kwajalein Atoll in the South Pacific. According to a Defense Department release, the test was aborted in the interest of safety: “Due to an anomaly, the test was terminated near the launch pad shortly after liftoff to ensure public safety. There were no injuries to any personnel,” the release said. The people of Alaska were promised that the Kodiak Launch Complex would only launch civilian payloads. As it turns out only military missions have ever been launched at the facility.

Expensive Space Junkyard

Right now, millions of objects are whizzing around Earth faster than speeding bullets. Much of this is celestial garbage—remnants of past missions and space collisions that have taken place over half a century. Dead satellites. Spent rocket stages. Astronauts’ long-lost equipment. To keep watch over this vast orbiting junkyard, the Air Force has awarded a \$914.7 million contract to Lockheed Martin Corp. to develop a surveillance system that will provide a continuous watch over what’s up there. Currently, every launch—whether it’s of astronauts, spy satellites or digital television satellites—needs to be carefully synchronized so it isn’t swiftly obliterated by the growing minefield of orbiting debris.

X-37 Returns

Vandenberg AFB in California was the landing place for the Pentagon’s

new military space plane in October after a 22-month mission orbiting the Earth. Its part of Strategic Command’s “prompt global strike” program reminding Russia and China that they could be quickly hit from space. After the shuttle was retired we were told that the X-37 (and other similar programs now under development) would be the successor to the shuttle. But the X-37 has nothing to do with peaceful space exploration or NASA. It’s being developed for surveillance and to give the US first-strike capability. The Air Force has remained notably quiet about its space plane program, saying only that the flights are “designed to demonstrate reusable spacecraft technologies for America’s future in space.” The missions test guidance controls, thermal protection systems, and autonomous flight, re-entry, and landing, military officials say. Boeing’s Phantom Works division built the two mini-shuttles. The Air Force and NASA have finalized a lease agreement to relocate the X-37B program from California to Florida’s Kennedy Space Center.

Joint Base Cape Cod

The *Boston Globe* reports: The escalating air war ordered by Obama in Iraq and Syria has increased the flow of surveillance data and images sent back to the US for analysis—prompting Air National Guard teams, working in a darkened operations center at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), Massachusetts to work around the clock to help interpret the images of war. “Whatever they are looking at, we help them find, whether a house or a village,” says Colonel James LeFavor, commander of the 102d Intelligence Wing. US Rep. William Keating, a Democrat whose district includes the Cape Cod base,

said he anticipates the intelligence unit’s mission will only grow. “None of them are on the ground, and none of them are in the theater of operations, but they are contributing from here, conducting essential frontline functions.” The intelligence analysts are linked to the battlefield by a classified global satellite information network that shares surveillance data from a variety of aircraft, including the U-2, as well the Predator, Reaper, and long-endurance Global Hawk spy drones. In addition, the 6th Space Warning Squadron at JBCC operates the Phased Array Warning System, named PAVE PAWS. The radar operates around the clock and has a 3,000-mile reach down the east coast and over the Atlantic Ocean. PAVE PAWS tracks satellites in low-Earth orbit and plays a key role in the Pentagon ‘missile defense’ program.

Cyber Wild West

The 39th Information Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida, is Air Force Force’s premier information operations and formal cyber training unit. Operated by Air Force Space Command’s 24th Air Force, the squadron conducts qualification and advanced training to provide mission-ready information operations and cyber warfare operators for all Air Force major commands. “The demand for trained cyber operators has significantly increased over the past three to five years,” said Maj. Mark Dieujuste, director of operations. “We don’t see this going away,” he said. “Cyber is the new wild, wild west,” said Gen. John E. Hyten, Air Force Space Command commander.

(See Odds & Ends P 12)



The Enlarged NATO partners

by Manlio Dinucci

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO has turned into a global tool of U.S imperialism. The Arab countries of the Persian Gulf (except Oman and Yemen) are already integrated into the Alliance, alongside Israel. Accordingly, Qatar provided a screen for the mercenaries used by NATO against Libya.

It's the anniversary season at NATO. The 20th anniversary of the "Mediterranean Dialogue" was celebrated in Amman (Jordan) on 9 and 10 December. It was attended by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and the 28 representatives of the North Atlantic Council, plus the ambassadors of the seven partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. Three years ago, Stoltenberg recalled, "during our NATO-led operation to protect the people of Libya, both Jordan and Morocco made important military contributions."

Indeed, the "Mediterranean Dialogue" provides for the training of officers from partner countries in NATO military academies, including the "Defense College" in Rome, and for that of Special Forces by the "Mobile Training Teams" dispatched by NATO on the spot. These activities are complemented by those included in NATO's "individual cooperation programs" with each of the seven partners.

The most important is the one with Israel, ratified by NATO in December 2008, three weeks before Israel launched Operation "Cast Lead" against Gaza. It paved the way for Israel's electronic

link to the NATO system, increased joint military exercises and development of weapons systems, and even the expansion of their "anti-nuclear proliferation cooperation" (ignoring that Israel, the only nuclear power in the region, will not hear of signing the non-Proliferation Treaty and has rejected the proposed UN conference on the denuclearization of the "Middle East"). "With the rise of ISIL and the spread of violence and hatred throughout North Africa and the Middle East - underscored Stoltenberg - that synergy between us is more necessary than ever." And, with reference to Jordan, he defined it as "an island of stability in a sea of turbulence" by praising "the contributions that Jordan is delivering both to stability in the region but also to the partnership with all NATO Allies."

A well deserved praise: Jordan helped to create the "turbulent sea" by first participating in the NATO war that obliterated the Libyan state, and then, surreptitiously, in the NATO-led war in Syria. Jordan, like Turkey, constitutes the forward base of this operation, carried out in synergy with Israel, with the aim not to destroy the Islamic State (instrumental to this strategy), but the State of Syria. By virtue of their merits, said Stoltenberg, the Jordanian armed forces will now be part of the "NATO Response Force."

After celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the "Mediterranean Dialogue," the secretary general of NATO and the 28 representatives of the North Atlantic Council headed to Doha (Qatar)



to celebrate, on December 11, the tenth anniversary of the "Istanbul Cooperation Initiative", the partnership between NATO and the four monarchies of the Gulf: Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait and Qatar. Stoltenberg cited the "Libya campaign as an example of how NATO and Gulf partners can work together." In the war against Libya, Qatar played a distinguished role, as acknowledged by the Chief of Staff himself, by infiltrating into Libya thousands of commandos on the orders of the Pentagon. It is this same Qatar which, according to an investigation by the *Financial Times*, is currently spending billions of dollars to fund and arm the Islamist groups fighting in Syria, including IS, which is also sponsored by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Is it a mere coincidence that, in Doha, the secretary general of NATO never mentioned the IS?

—Reprinted from *Voltairenet.org*

Waihopai Spybase

2014 has seen further explosive revelations about the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB). Not only does it systematically spy on New Zealanders (NZ)—but, as the ongoing revelations from US whistleblower Edward Snowden show, it is routinely privy to American spying on other countries (e.g. on the President of Brazil) by the US National Security Agency (NSA). The NSA spies on everyone. It is essential that more pressure is put on the government to put an end to the anti-democratic and destructive activities of this NZ spy agency.

New Zealand's role as an American ally is being steadily reconstituted. But our most significant contribution to Washington's global effort to manipulate world business and diplomacy is, and has been for more than 25 years, the Waihopai electronic intelligence gathering base, located in the Waihopai Valley, near Blenheim. It is controlled by the US, with NZ (including Parliament and the Prime Minister) having little or no idea what goes on there, nor any control.

First announced in 1987, Waihopai is operated by the GCSB in the interests of the foreign powers grouped together in the super-secret Five Eyes Agreement (which shares global electronic and signals intelligence among the intelligence agencies of the US, UK, Canada, Australia and NZ). Its satellite interception dishes download a huge volume of civilian telephone calls, e-mail and computer data communications, including Twitter, Facebook and the like.

Five Eyes is the reason for the existence of both the GCSB and Waihopai; it is much more important than ANZUS ever was; it is, in reality, the secret ANZUS. This global spying network is accountable only to its own constituent agencies, not governments, and certainly not citizens. Getting out of Five Eyes is vital to NZ becoming a truly independent nation.

Anti-Bases Campaign is based in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Crushed (from p. 1)

was to inform Parliament about the secret CIA presence in Australia—he was summoned by Kerr. Invoking archaic "reserve powers" as the Queen's representative, Kerr sacked the democratically elected prime minister. The "Whitlam problem" was solved, and Australian politics never recovered, nor the nation its true independence.

John Pilger is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker from Australia. His articles appear in newspapers worldwide. www.johnpilger.com.



Activists in the Tucson, Arizona desert vigiled during Keep Space for Peace Week. Raytheon makes the "missile defense" hit-to-kill mechanism.

Indian National Student Conference



Global Network board member Tamara Lorincz (front row center) represented our organization at the national student conference in Nagpur, India during Keep Space for Peace Week.

J. Narayana Rao is a member of the Global Network Board of Directors and lives in Nagpur, India. He lives on a meager railway worker pension and works hard to organize students across India.

by J. Narayana Rao

The National Youth Conference came to an end during Keep Space for Peace Week (October 4-11). I would like to state how correct the decision was to send Global Network board member Tamara Lorincz (Halifax, Canada) to our conference. She won the

hearts of the young people here. Her narration of facts on several issues was amazing. Many students want that this sort of meeting be held in their colleges and university. She and Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat have succeeded to ponder over the issues of imperialist wars, disarmament, and prevention of an arms race

in the outer space. The students have also assured me that if in the year 2016 or 2017 the annual Global Network conference is held in India, they are ready to host it at Hyderabad. I feel that the purpose for which this conference is held has been achieved.

South Korean MD: U.S. Presses Interoperability

US Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work says he wants South Korea's missile defense (MD) system to be 'extremely interoperable' with the US system.

"We want the Korean Air Missile and Defense (KAMD) to be independent and strong," he told a news conference at the Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek late

last summer. "What we hope is to have an extremely interoperable system between the United States' theater missile defense and the KAMD."

The US government has said in the past that it is considering the deployment of exo-atmospheric Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors in South Korea to protect US forces there. South Korea, however, has said it prefers to develop its own national KAMD system, and so far has not agreed to be part of a joint system with the United States and Japan.

THAAD deployment in South Korea has become a hot-button issue in recent US-South Korea diplomatic relations.

Although Work's statement seems to imply that the United States will respect South Korea's independent MD system, 'interoperability' really means it will become integrated into the US system, according to Defense Plus 21 Editor Kim Jong-dae.

"The only way the two systems can be 'extremely interoperable,'" says Kim, "is through the deployment of the THAAD C2 (command and control) system in Korea." For all intents and purposes, according to Kim, "it would mean the deployment of THAAD in South Korea."

The South Korean Defense Ministry says that THAAD deployment in Korea does not automatically mean South Korea is participating in the US MD system. Furthermore, it says, "If THAAD is deployed in Korea, its operation will be confined to the Korean peninsula and has nothing to do with China."

Solidarity for Peace and Reunification in Korea (SPARK) analyst Ko Young-dae is unconvinced. "The

AN/TPY-2 X-band radar that's part of the THAAD battery can track ballistic missiles launched in northeast China – Shanghai, Beijing, or Dalian, for example – towards continental United States, or US bases in Hawaii, Guam, South Korea or Okinawa, and provide early warning to the United States and Japan," he says. This will incapacitate China's deterrence capability against the United States and Japan, he argues, and inevitably worsen South Korea-China relations.

Furthermore, says Ko, "If THAAD is deployed in Korea, even if it is operated by US forces and not South Korean forces, South Korea becomes an outpost for information-gathering and operation of the US MD system."

Reprinted in part from www.zoominkorea.org.





Veterans For Peace organized a 10-day walk across Maine in October to highlight the state's growing dependence on military production. The walk began in the Rangeley mountains where the Pentagon is considering putting a 'missile defense' base and ended at the Pratt-Whitney plant where hugely expensive F-35 fighter engines are made.

Odds & Ends (from p. 9)

US Dominance in Space

The Air Force's dominance in the skies, space and cyberspace is the backbone of the military's global reach and US commitments around the world, a senior Defense Department official said in September. Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, delivered the keynote address at the Air Force Association's 2014 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington. "The United States and the US Air Force do not fight alone," Kendall noted. "In space, the Air Force is operating a military satellite program with Australia, Canada, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and New Zealand."

Shutdown Creech!

On March 4-6, 2015 at Creech Drone Base, Nevada a national mobilization will be organized to shut down assassin drone operations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen. Sponsored by CODEPINK: Women for Peace, Nevada Desert Experience, Veterans for Peace and Voices for Creative Non-violence. In 2005, Creech Air Force Base was home to the first MQ-1 Predator drone squadron in the Air Force Special Operations Command, followed a year later by the first Reaper squadron. In 2013 it was revealed that the CIA drone assassination program, officially a separate operation from the Air Force's, has been piloted by military personnel from Creech's super-secret Squadron 17 all along. Since 2009, the drone program has proliferated to bases around the U.S. and abroad and the base at Creech has also mushroomed along with its mission. Creech is where the killer drone program started—it is where we will end it.

Snowden on Torture Report

NSA whistle-blower Edward Snowden, the former US National Security Agency contractor, commented on the US Senate's CIA torture report that was released in part last December. "If we can run a rendition, a kidnapping, a detention program, a torture program, keep it secret for years, and then when it is revealed, hold no one to account, what does this mean for the future direction of our society?" Snowden made his comments during an Amnesty International event in Paris via Skype from his home in Russia.

EU, US pledge to strengthen EU energy security

The Eastern Partnership program of the European Union (and the US) intends to integrate all former Soviet republics in Europe and the South Caucasus, except Russia and the Baltic States, into Western economic, political and military structures. (The Baltic States are already members of both the EU and NATO—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.) The ultimate goal is to isolate and quarantine Russia and bring about the destruction of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. The failure of the now overthrown Viktor Yanukovich government in Ukraine to immediately sign an Association Agreement with the European Union under the auspices of the Eastern Partnership in November of 2013 led to the coup d'état in that country and the subsequent war and related showdown between NATO and Russia.

Poland Buys US Missiles

Polish Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak recently said that long-range missiles Warsaw is buying from the US are especially needed by Poland because of "unprecedented" recent activity by Russia's navy and air force in the Baltic Sea region—which involved Russian operations in international waters. Siemoniak, speaking in December at a signing ceremony

for the \$250 million deal, said the new US missiles are the most modern military equipment Poland has ever purchased. The purchase includes 40 joint air-to-surface missiles that are to be integrated into the Polish Air Force's three tactical squadrons of F-16 fighter jets. The US State Department approved the deal in October. Delivery is to start in 2015 with the missile systems being operational in 2017.

Sony Hack Inside Job

As we go to print stories are circulating in alternative and some mainstream media suggesting that North Korea did not do the hack job on Sony. One such article is called "No, North Korea Didn't Hack Sony" written by Marc Rogers (principal security researcher for CloudFlare, the website optimization and security company that's looking to save the Internet. He has worked in the security industry for almost 20 years, including a decade managing security in the U.K. operator Vodafone and five years as CSO for a real estate and asset management conglomerate in South Korea. Marc sees himself as a security evangelist who has a positive outlook on how security should be implemented in today's global organizations. It's this outlook that Marc used when he helped put together the award winning BBC series *The Real Hustle*. He is also the head of security at DEF CON, the world's largest hacker conference.) So Rogers wrote in part: "All the evidence leads me to believe that the great Sony Pictures hack of 2014 is far more likely to be the work of one disgruntled employee facing a pink slip. I may be biased, but, as the director of security operations for DEF CON, the world's largest hacker conference, and the principal security researcher for the world's leading mobile security company, Cloudflare, I think I am worth hearing out. The evidence used to attribute a nation state in such a case should be solid enough that it would be both admissible and effective in a court of law. As it stands, I do not believe we are anywhere close to meeting that standard."

Global Network 23rd Annual Conference International Seminar on Space and Peace Kyoto, Japan, July 29-Aug 2, 2015

by Atsushi Fujioka

John F. Kennedy gave a speech at Rice University, Austin Texas in September 12, 1962, warning that man was facing the watershed to "decide if this new ocean of space will be a sea of peace or a new terrifying theater of war." Even though his daughter Caroline is US Ambassador to Japan, we are facing more terrifying version of such watershed.

Controlling drones, US is carrying out a new mode of "war from space—Space Based Network Centric Warfare." In order to defend military satellite constellations, US has developed new hardened satellite which can survive even in the nuclear space war.

Following US model, the Abe Administration of Japan is now drafting a new version of "Principal Plan of Space Policy", proposing the hardening of military satellites of Japan to survive under the harsh condition of space war.

Since 2013, in order to detect the launching of missile from North Korea or China, US selected an X-band radar base at Kyougamisaki, Kyoto Prefecture, which is located on a beautiful seashore and is a part of precious geo-park. Suppressing the concern of majority people of affected communities, the base will be activated by January 2015.

Since 1992, Global Network Against Weapon and Nuclear Power in Space has held an annual conference in the various "hot place" of Militarization of Space. It is our honor to be able to hold the 23rd conference in the historical capital city of Kyoto. Kyoto had been the capital of Japan for more than 1,000 years, which is 300 miles west from the disaster of Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.

Kyoto Conference will conclude just four days before of the 70th Anniversary Day of first US atomic bombing over Hiroshima, which is 150 miles west from Kyoto.

Please come to marvelous city of Kyoto, and let's share the truth of Space Warfare and find a way to implement genuine peace on earth.

Atsushi Fujioka is an economics professor at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and serves on the Global Network Board of Directors.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

July 29 (Wednesday)

Evening: Registration, welcome party

July 30 (Thursday)

Morning: visit Buddhist Temple and Shrine by bus

Afternoon: International Seminar on "Missile Defense" and its evaluation, followed by local reports from Korea, Okinawa and other part of the world.

Venue: Doshisha University, Kyoto

July 31 (Friday)

Bus tour to X-band Rader Kyoto Base of US Army at Kyogamisaki, Northern Kyoto, discussion with local people of the affected communities

Aug 1 (Saturday)

Morning: Visit Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University, and Screening of Youth Film Award Winners

Afternoon: Wrap up Seminar: Let's connect everything---Imagine the nuclear space war, blast of nuclear power plant, global warming, and economic degradation. Search the alternative path to nuclear disarmament, converting

base, and happier future of all life sharing this beautiful planet of Earth.

Saturday Night Fever: Farewell Party

Aug 2 (Sunday)

Annual Membership Meeting of the Global Network will end at noon.

Lodging Place:

Kyoto Utano Youth Hostel, one of the best YH in Japan

Nakayamacho 29, Ukyouku, Kyoto City, Japan

<http://yh-kyoto.or.jp/utano/index.html>

Suggested donation:

Oversea participant: Sliding scale \$50-\$200 (USD) including breakfast, supper and bedroom for four nights, bus transportation. Participant has to pay individually for lunch and other personal needs.

Organizing Committee hopes to receive \$50-\$100 from friends of developing countries, \$100-\$200 from friends of advanced countries.

Extra Optional Tour Plans

July 26 -July 29: Okinawa Tour, including construction site of US Marine Base Henoko.

Aug 2 -Aug 9: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Tour, attending World Conference against A&H bomb, held by Gensuikyo, as well as 70th anniversary Ceremony of 1st and 2nd atomic bombing.

If you have interest on these extra tour plans, contact Organizing Committee.

We are happy to serve you as an agent. Probably you will be requested to afford the essential cost by yourself. Cost of each plan is estimated around \$400-500 US. If financial assistance plan is available, we are happy to let you know.

Organizing Committee: International Seminar on Space and Peace in Kyoto, Japan.

Contact Prof. Atsushi Fujioka of Ritsumeikan University

E-mail: fujioka@ec.ritsume.ac.jp

Deadline of Final Booking:
June 30, 2015

Selling a Human Colony on Mars



It is Mars One's goal to establish a human settlement on Mars.

Human settlement of Mars is the next giant leap for humankind. Exploring the solar system as a united humanity will bring us all closer together.

Mars is the stepping stone of the human race on its voyage into the universe. Human settlement on Mars will aid our understanding of the origins of the solar system, the origins of life and our place in the universe. As with the Apollo Moon landings, a human mission to Mars will inspire generations to believe that all things are possible, anything can be achieved.

Several rocket launches will be needed to take payloads into Earth orbit and then onto Mars. Payload may be satellites, rovers, cargo or humans. Mars One anticipates using Space X Falcon Heavy, an upgraded version of the Falcon 9, which is in use by Space X currently.

Human crew will travel through space for around seven months. The transit vehicle will consist of two

propellant stages-- a landing module and transit habitat. On reaching Mars the crew in their Marsuits will descend to the Mars surface in the landing module, leaving their living quarters behind, which is too heavy to land.

Two Rovers will be sent to Mars to set up the outpost before the humans arrive. One of them will explore the surface of Mars in search of the most suitable location for the settlement, for transport of large hardware components and then general assembly. It will be accompanied by the second rover, a trailer used for transporting the landing capsules.

A one way trip has obvious technical advantages, but what does this mean for the astronauts themselves? That depends on who you ask. You could say that most people would rather lose a leg than live the rest of their life on a cold, hostile planet, having said goodbye to friends and family forever, the best possible video call suffering from a seven minute delay—one way.

However, there are individuals for whom traveling

to Mars has been a dream for their entire life. They relish the challenge. Not unlike the ancient Chinese, Micronesians, and untold Africans, the Vikings and famed explorers of Old World Europe, who left everything behind to spend the majority of their lives at sea, a one-way mission to Mars is about exploring a new world and the opportunity to conduct the most revolutionary research ever conceived, to build a new home for humans on another planet.

Mars One will offer everyone who dreams the way the ancient explorers dreamed the opportunity to apply for a position in a Mars One Mission. Are you

one for whom this is a dream?

Before they leave the Earth's atmosphere to travel to Mars, each astronaut will be put through the required eight years of training. They will be isolated from the world for a few months every two years in groups of four in simulation facilities, to learn how they respond to living in close quarters while isolated from all humans except for the three crew members.

The flight will take between seven to eight months (depending upon the relative positions of the Earth and Mars). The astronauts will spend those seven months together in a very small space—much smaller than the home base at the settlement on Mars—devoid of luxury or frills.

There will be a great deal of research conducted on Mars. The astronauts will research how their bodies respond and change when living in a 38% gravitational field, and how food crops and other plants grow in hydroponic plant production units. Research will include extra-settlement exploration to learn about the ancient and current geology on Mars [for eventual resource mining operations]. Of course, much research will be dedicated to the determination if life was once present or now exists on Mars.

The astronauts will not only submit routine reports, but will also share all that they enjoy and find challenging. It will give the people on Earth a unique and personal insight view of life on Mars. [Plans include a reality TV show.]

A new group of four astronauts will land on Mars every two years, steadily increasing the settlement's size. Eventually, a living unit will be built from local materials, large enough to grow trees. As more astronauts arrive, the creativity applied to settlement expansion will certainly give way to ideas and innovation that we cannot conceive now. But we can expect the human spirit to continue to persevere, to even thrive in this challenging environment.

Corporate sponsors for Mars One range from Lockheed Martin to SpaceX.

This information is reprinted from the web site of Mars One and is included only to show the thinking and planning behind the corporate selling of space colonization.



Jeju Aerospace Museum Protest

by Sung-Hee Choi

As a part of the Keep Space for Peace Week actions this year, on October 12, some activists in Jeju had an action in the Jeju Aerospace museum which opened in April, 2014. The Jeju Aerospace museum is built amid a large green tea leaves farming field. It brags that it is the largest Aerospace museum in Asia, modeled after the Smithsonian museum in the United States.

Behind its seducing public relations to introduce itself as so called 'edu-tainment' institute, what makes one be shocked in the museum is a war game training facilities for children in the name of entertainment. Children who look even 4-5 years old enjoy war games with joy stick in front of about 10 computers, under direction of museum staffs. On the screen of computers, appeared is a vast desert with a combat plane flying high to target points. 'Abandoned village,' in English is one phrase that suddenly appears on the screens and makes one like me frozen in shock.

However, most parents who encourage their children to play with such joy sticks are also excited to have them wear baby military costumes hung in the exhibition site. The exhibition staff encourage the children in military uniforms to take photos in front of old fighter planes displayed in the site.

Such promotion of war entertainment can be also seen in front of the shop on the first floor where a robot model welcomes visitors and inside the vast store that sells various kinds of war plane toys, with multiple family restaurants next to it.

On the second floor, exhibited is the history of space exploration calling upon children to be the frontiers of new space exploration. The exhibit shows no shame to openly talk on making colonies of stars and the Moon.



Given that South Korea desires to build a vehicle to land on the Moon by 2025 and boasts that the country has already the seventh nation regarding UAV drone technology in the world, such provoking exhibitions reveal an aggressive plan to shape children's idea on a future as exploiters through exploration.

In 2008, it was the South Korean Air Force that sought a partnership with the Jeju Free International City Development Center to realize the idea to build such museum on the Jeju Island. However, the role of the Air Force in the building of this monster facility of war-training and space-exploration seems to be made not so obvious in the eyes of public.

The museum must be questioned in our effort to realize Jeju as a true Peace Island that is already being threatened with the currently built Jeju naval base in the Gangjeong village. While many people are concerned about the southern half of the Island being militarized with the start of the navy base, the opening of the museum is nothing but a threatening omen of Jeju as an aerospace 'War Island' in the future.

What we did on October 12 was a small but meaningful step to warn people on the danger of such war education. We walked inside the war game entertainment facility and distributed a sheet of leaflet to parents and small pinwheels to children. The title of the leaflet read: "War is not a Game: What the Jeju Aerospace museum does not display..." The leaflet also showed a big photo of a killed child in Central Asia, hit by a drone. We gently appealed to children's parents to reject such war game facilities in the museum, reminding about the deaths and sufferings of the victims in other poorer countries by the US-made drones and to have their children play instead with peace kites or pinwheels. We were not so sure whether our small and humble action would move young parents but we found that many of them read our leaflet with concern. It was a just a small step and we don't think our action can change them immediately. But at least some of them will remember and hesitate to encourage their children to 'entertain' such war game facilities.

Sung-Hee Choi is a leader of the international team in Gangjeong village on Jeju Island, South Korea where they resist the construction of a Navy base for US warships. She also serves on the Global Network Board of Directors.

Space Alert! is the educational publication of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. GN's Coordinator, Bruce Gagnon is editor and compiler of this publication. Layout design by Nancy E. Randolph. Please send email or street address corrections to the address below.

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