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For the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network

www.ipan.org.au

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Date Claimer!!!

Australia at the crossroads:

Time for an independent foreign policy

National IPAN Conference

Darwin, August 2nd - 4th, 2019



Topics Addressed include:

- US/China contention risking war in the South China Sea
- Ending US Marines in Darwin & the Force Posture Agreement
- Hosting of US facilities on Australian territory such as Pine Gap and North West Cape
- Millions of refugees fleeing the wars that Australia has supported and participated in
- Environmental damage from war and military activities
- Asia Pacific regional struggles against foreign bases
- Costs of war and military spending versus socially useful spending
- Militarisation of society, universities and manufacturing

Booking details to be announced

For more information contact IPAN at ipan.australia@gmail.com or Annette on 0431597256 or Bevan 0418697528

Join us in Darwin- Australian and International speakers-workshops for action

An independent and self-reliant Australian foreign policy IS possible

Congratulations to ICAN and all who are working for Australia's signature on the UN Treaty to ban nuclear weapons



The December, 2018 ALP National Conference passed the following resolution:

"Labor in government will sign and ratify the Treaty [on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons], after taking account of the need to:

- Ensure an effective verification and enforcement architecture;**
- Ensure the interaction of the Ban Treaty with the longstanding Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;**
- Work to achieve universal support for the Ban Treaty."**

Congratulations to ICAN and the many community, trade unions, faith groups and individuals who have worked so hard to bring the treaty into focus in the Australian community and at the ALP conference and

with it widespread demand for an Australian government to sign and ratify the treaty.

Every effort should be made to increase community support and maintain community pressure on an ALP government if elected to deliver on this conference resolution.

(IPAN Editor)



Labor's pledge to commit to nuclear disarmament puts the alternative party of government on the right side of history

- Tilman Ruff (ICAN co-founder)

"An Australian government joining the treaty would enjoy wide popular support in doing so – an Ipsos poll last month found that 79% of Australians (and 83% of Labor voters) support, and less than 8% oppose, Australia joining the treaty.....

Most importantly, joining the treaty and renouncing nuclear weapons would mean that Australia would become part of the solution rather than the problem of the acute existential peril that hangs over all of us

while nuclear weapons exist, ready to be launched within minutes. Time is not on our side. Of course this crucial humanitarian issue should be above party politics. The commitment from the alternative party of government to join the treaty and get on the right side of history when Labor next forms government is to be warmly welcomed. It is to be hoped that the 78% of federal parliamentary Labor members who have put on record their support for Australia joining the treaty by signing Ican's parliamentary pledge will help ensure Labor keeps this landmark promise."

AMA CALLS ON THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO SIGN UN TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

"The AMA today called on the Australian Government to sign the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

"Today is International Human Rights Day, and the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that 'everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person'," AMA President, Dr Tony Bartone, said today.

"It also marks one year since the Australian-led International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

"In April 2018, the World Medical Association called on all countries to sign, ratify, and implement the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, based on the devastating long-term health consequences of nuclear weapons.

"The AMA supports this call, and strongly encourages the Government to sign the Treaty."

(December, 2018)

These are the 9 nuclear-armed countries and the 31 allies they have vowed to defend with the world's most devastating weapons

Caitlin Foster Shavanne Gal Business Insider 19 November 2018



The United Nations has introduced a treaty that it believes will lead eventually to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. A recent watchdog report said that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is an historically significant effort that's gaining traction, which highlights the profound power imbalance between the few nuclear powers and many have-nots.

"The rate of adherence to the TPNW is faster than for any other weapons-of-mass-destruction (WMD) treaty," the report says. This is an overview of the nine nuclear-armed states and the 31 nuclear-weapon-endorsing states, countries that do not develop or possess nuclear weapons but rely on another nuclear-armed state for protection.

All of these countries would need to make profound changes to reach the UN goal of a nuclear weapons-free world.

READ ON

A step forward in war powers reform- ALP National Conference Resolution

Alison Broinowski reports from the ALP National Conference in
December, 2018 in Adelaide:

'Conference resolves that a Shorten Labor Government will refer the issue of how Australia makes decisions to send service personnel into international armed conflict to an inquiry to be conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. This inquiry would take submissions, hold public hearings and produce its findings during the term of the 46th Parliament'.

Dr Alison Broinowski is Vice-President of Australians for war Powers Reform and a member of the campaign committee for Be Sure On War.



Campaign Objective :

The 'Be Sure on War' campaign advocates for strengthening Australia's democracy by requiring a parliamentary debate and vote before Australian service personnel are deployed for international armed conflict.

The campaign is also raising awareness of the broader impact of war on Australian service personnel, civilians and those displaced by international armed conflict (asylum seekers and refugees).

READ ON

Documents reveal Australia's secret arms deals with nations fighting Yemen's bloody war



rABC News, 13th December, 2018

The Australian Government has approved the export of dozens of shipments of military items to Middle Eastern countries embroiled in the bloody Yemen war, a conflict dogged by accusations of war crimes and indiscriminate civilian killings.

Internal Defence Department documents obtained under Freedom of Information (FOI) and from parliamentary hearings reveal since the beginning of 2016, Canberra has granted at least 37 export permits for military-related items to the United Arab Emirates, and 20 to Saudi Arabia.

They are the two countries leading a coalition fighting a war against Houthi rebels in the Middle East's poorest nation, Yemen.

The four-year war in Yemen has killed tens of thousands and an air-and-sea embargo has led to more than 85,000 Yemeni children under five dying from hunger, according to one children's agency.

Australia's burgeoning exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia may be

connected to a plan announced by then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in January to drastically increase defence sales over the next decade.

Australia will spend \$200 million between now and 2028 in order to make Australia the 10th-largest arms exporter in the world. It is currently the 20th largest.

Have your say- tell the government to stop these arms sales.

[Sign the petition](#)

ABC News 23/12/18

PFAS contamination leaches into Indigenous land at Wreck Bay



Koori Elder Michael Williams has likened the PFAS contamination to nuclear waste

The Department of Defence has ruled out paying compensation for the contamination of Indigenous-owned land at Wreck Bay on the south coast of NSW.

Key points:

- PFAS chemicals from Jervis Bay Range Facility has leached into nearby Mary Creek

- The site is used by traditional custodians of the land who fear long-term contamination
- The Defence Department said they are not considering compensation for land owners there

For the past two years, the 200-strong community has been unable to drink the water or eat the fish from the nearby Mary Creek.

The creek has been closed to human use due to contamination from PFAS chemicals used in firefighting foam that have leached out from the Jervis Bay Range Facility, a navy airfield two kilometres to the north.

Indigenous elder Michael Williams, who identifies as Koori, said his people are facing the long-term loss of the use of their traditional land.

Trump withdrawing US forces from Syria and Afghanistan to save money raises questions about US reliability to its Allies

SBS News 20/12/18

The US is withdrawing all its State Department personnel from Syria with 24 hours while it has begun drawing down its troops, officials say, raising alarm.

SBS News 27/12/18

In Afghanistan, Mr Trump wants to withdraw about half of the 14,000 soldiers locked in a war against Taliban guerrillas that has long resembled a stalemate.

But Mr Trump stressed during his brief stop at Al-Asad Air Base that the United States has been fighting other countries' battles for them for too long.

The president declared that "the United States cannot continue to be the policeman of the world." "You can't have any more time. You've had enough time," he said he had told his generals. "It's not fair when the burden is all on us," he said. "We don't want to be taken advantage

of any more by countries that use us and use our incredible military to protect them. They don't pay for it and they're going to have to." "We are spread out all over the world. We are in countries most people haven't even heard about. Frankly, it's ridiculous," he added.

In his unusually forcefully worded resignation letter, Mattis appeared to chide the president when he stressed his own "strongly held" views on "treating allies with respect and also being clear-eyed about both malign actors and strategic competitors."

However, the president has made disentangling America from its wars a priority since his 2016 election and he said in Iraq that the US would no longer be treated as "suckers," CNN reported.

The Australian, 29/12/18

From article by Peter Jennings

"He (Trump) told the troops (in Iraq):' While American might can defeat terrorist armies on the battlefield, each nation in the world must decide for itself what kind of future it wants to build for its people, and what kind of sacrifices they are willing to make for their children'."

"That chilling message jettisons the US approach to global security since 1941. With defence secretary Jim Mattis's departure, Trump has rid himself of the last obstacle to redesigning a US strategy whereby allies are dispensable, dictators are admirable and deals can be cut with competitors if it saves money".

IPAN spokesperson, Nick Deane said today, 5th January, 2019

" Whilst he is on the subject of saving money on military spending, we urge President Trump to give serious consideration to saving even more money by withdrawing his US Marines stationed in Darwin and

taking them home for good .They have no business here, compromise our sovereignty and may launch military operations against our neighbours under orders from Washington at any time without regard for Australia's interests".

24/12/18 Channel 7

US Congress reassures Australia

21 members of the US congress have written a letter to Australia to confirm they are committed the US-Australia alliance.

US urges Pacific allies to boost their military presence in the South China Sea

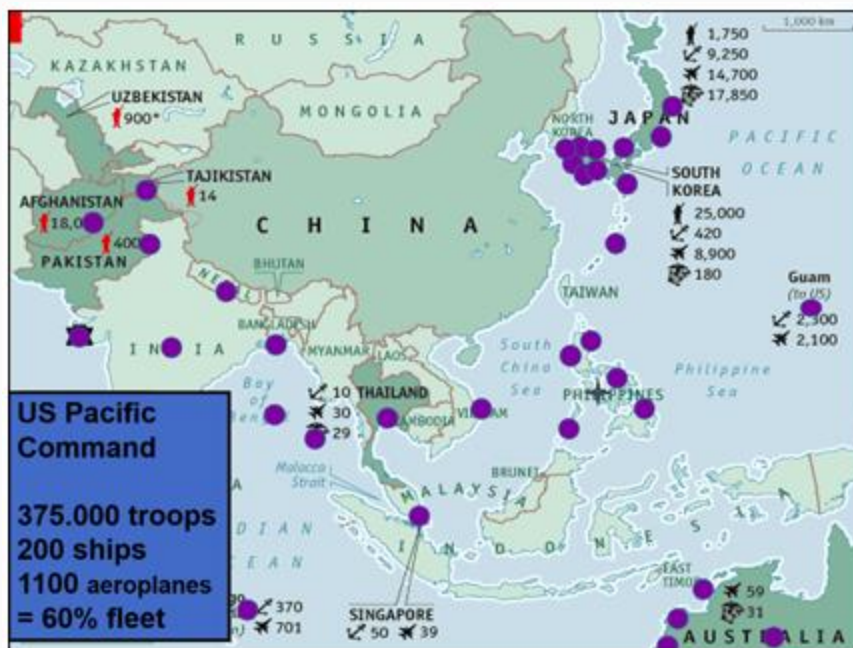
by Seth Robson-Stars & Stripes- 28/12/18

The Pentagon is urging America's Pacific allies to increase their military presence in the South China Sea in line with its own efforts to confront China.

Randy Schriver, the assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific affairs, made the call during a recent interview with The Australian newspaper. "I think what could potentially bring more pressure on the Chinese is other partners and allies joining in these activities [in the South China Sea]," he said. "If not freedom-of-navigation operations ... just joint patrols, presence operations."

U.S. allies are likely to respond favorably to the call to get tougher on China, said Paul Buchanan, an American security analyst based in Auckland, New Zealand. "[The Australians] have to walk a tightrope

with the Chinese, but, as of late, they have been a lot more forceful in pushing back,” Buchanan said, noting the recent moves to establish a military base on Manus Island, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, and the ban on Chinese telecom company Huawei participating in new 5G services in Australia and New Zealand.



US military bases and their encirclement of China

Expanded Japanese Military Spending and re-interpretation of Japan's pacifist constitution to meet US military strategies

by Richard Stone

In mid-December, the Japanese government announced a new five-year defence plan with an increased budget. The brief nature of the small media release could easily have missed the attention of readers of the Australian and other national newspapers. It, nevertheless,

provided insight into the bigger picture of US-led regional military planning.

The recent Japanese initiative forms part of wave after wave of US-led militarism sweeping the Asia-Pacific region; it has appeared increasingly likely the planning will become a future real-war scenario.

READ ON

SBS news 28/12/18

Angry Iraqi lawmakers demand US withdrawal

Iraqi lawmakers have demanded US forces leave the country following a surprise visit by President Donald Trump that politicians denounced as arrogant and a violation of Iraqi sovereignty.

Acknowledgements to Pearls and Irritations ([posted 1/1/2019])

Trump and Syria

by Richard Broinowski

President Trump has got it half right by pulling the troops out of Syria and halving them in Afghanistan. If he goes on to end the bombing of both countries, he could spend his second term pointing the US in a different direction. Consultation with Australia about what that should be is unlikely.

READ COMPLETE ARTICLE

Acknowledgements to Pearls and Irritations (posted 3/1/2019)

Pine Gap: Cabinet Papers- the secrets are out

by Mack Williams

Lost in the flurry of media comment on the Cabinet papers released on 1 January was an extremely important(if not the most) submission formerly highly classified and titled as "Establishment of a Joint Australia-United States Relay Ground Station at Pine Gap". As of

writing, seemingly only the ABC has picked up on the submission with the major print media choosing not to report it – for reasons one can only speculate about!

Aside from any discussion of the merits of the agreement, which has been shrouded in so much secrecy for so long, the release of this basic document right now is very relevant to the increasing public discussion about the extent to which Australia should allow itself to be locked in by Alliance membership. It raises a number of questions, not only about the redacted sections, including :

READ COMPLETE ARTICLE

SBS News 1/1/19

North Korea to Trump: Don't test us

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has warned that his country could seek an alternative course if the United States misjudged its patience in denuclearisation talks.

In an annual New Year's Day address cited by South Korean news agency Yonhap, Kim said he was ready to meet US President Donald Trump again at any time, renewed his commitment to denuclearisation and called on the US to take corresponding measures in denuclearisation talks.

He also called for an end to joint military drills between the US and South Korea and said no strategic military assets should be brought onto the Korean peninsula.

Pyongyang also warned last month that a fresh round of sanctions imposed by the US could "block the path to denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula forever," and accused the US State Department of having an "ulterior motive."



Call to defend the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty

President Trump's threatened U.S. withdrawal from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty marks a dangerous escalation on the path to a 21st century U.S.-Russian Cold War.

The INF Treaty, for which millions of people around the world had fought, was negotiated in 1987 and marked the end of the Cold War. It provides for elimination and permanent renunciation of future deployments of all US and Russian nuclear and conventional ground-launched cruise and ballistic missiles, reducing the danger of Europe becoming the primary theater for nuclear war.

Abandoning the Treaty, combined with the possible expiration of the New START Treaty, will eliminate all nuclear arms agreements between the countries that possess 90% of the current nuclear arsenal, opening the way for an unrestrained and dangerous nuclear arms race.

Mr. Trump's threat to abandon the Treaty is an expression of his commitment to U.S. world dominance, including weakening and containing China. It builds on the recent history of NATO expansion and plans to deploy "more usable" nuclear weapons to Europe, the withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, and the commitment to develop and deploy a new generation of U.S. nuclear weapons, their delivery systems and missile defences.

We call on all people and nations around the world to use all political and diplomatic means to defend the INF treaty and to work for a nuclear-free world.

Support the people of Okinawa in their fight to stop US military base extension on their island



70,000 Okinawans protest against US military base extension on their island

"President Trump: Please STOP the landfill work in Okinawa until a democratic referendum can be held. Earlier this year the Okinawan people overwhelmingly elected Gov. Denny Tamaki on the premise of STOPPING the construction at Henoko / Oura Bay. The Bay is a CRUCIAL part of the Okinawan ecosystem. However the Japanese government & U.S. military have so far IGNORED the democratic will of Gov. Tamaki & the Okinawan people. The irreversible part of the construction is set to begin on Dec. 14 (JST). If this is allowed it will surely incur strong anti-U.S. sentiment among Okinawans & will forever strain U.S.-Okinawa relations. Please order a HALT to the construction & ensure that democracy prevails. Please show

Okinawans that America is indeed an honorable and GREAT nation."
Sign their petition



**Action alert:
Militarisation of
Universities**

The armaments industry pervades many areas of political and economic/social life today. This Brief looks at the implications for teaching and research at our universities, and suggests questions that need to be raised with those higher education institutions.

READ ON

**Another defeat for US-led western diplomacy in
the Asia-Pacific region**

by Richard Stone

Recent municipal elections in Taiwan have seen the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) of President Tsai Ing-wen losing support with a significant defeat for the pro-US government.

While the US have pushed Taiwan into the forefront of their major diplomatic stand-off with China, ordinary Taiwanese voters have

rejected the policies of their government. In favour of the opposition Kuomintang (KMT).

Taiwan, nevertheless, retains vital, strategic significance for US regional military planning.

The US, therefore, have kept a diplomatic silence about the municipal elections marked by extremely limited coverage. They have also continued military operations in the Taiwan Straits, adding to the rising tide of US-led militarism sweeping the region.

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Pax Christi
Scholarships
to Cover Conference
Registration Fee for
A Just and
Ecologically
Sustainable Peace,
Melbourne, 23-24 April
2019

For details of eligibility for a scholarship

READ ON

For application form

CLICK



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“If these men must die, would it not be better to die in their own country fighting for the freedom of their class, and for the abolition of war, than to go forth to strange countries and die slaughtering and slaughtered by their brothers that tyrants and profiteers might live?”

James Connolly, 15 August 1914

COMING EVENTS SUMMARY:

Brisbane: IPAN meeting for affiliates, associates and friends, Kelvin Grove, 19 January 2019, 1.00pm to 3.00 pm AEST. You are invited to meet and discuss the year ahead for planning action around our shared vision for a kore peaceful., just and secure future. For details phone Annette on 0431 597 256

All states and territories: PLAN NOW:

**IPAN National Conference: Darwin, Charles Darwin University,
Casuarina Campus, 2-4th August 2019**

**"Australia at the cross-roads- time for an independent foreign
policy"**

For more events see the IPAN website; www.ipan.org.au

Voice is produced and edited by the Media Group of the IPAN co-ordinating committee. It is produced for IPAN affiliates to:

**provide a medium for communication of their campaigns and activities*

**provide a medium for discussion of issues central to IPAN's objectives*

**provide affiliates with details of co-ordinating committee activities, media releases, lobbying activities and other actions taken on behalf of IPAN*

** provide information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives*

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ipan.australia@gmail.com and limited, if possible to 200 words.

The Media Group takes editorial responsibility for choice of content and is responsible to the IPAN co-ordinating committee. **Disclaimer:** Voice publishes a range of articles which reflect the broad movement for an independent and peaceful Australia but not all articles will necessarily reflect IPAN's position."

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