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# Voice No 12 – Jan 2018

For the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network

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## Editorial

### Glimmer of hope early in 2018

Peace organisations including IPAN will see a glimmer of hope on the Korean Peninsula with talks between North Korea and South Korea commencing this month. Whilst these talks centre on North Korea participating in the Winter Olympics in South Korea and the teams of both countries marching together at the games, there is also talk of family reunions across the border during the Games. The South Koreans have also expressed interest in discussing with North Korea its nuclear program. These talks have side-lined the United States whose belligerence has exacerbated tensions on the peninsula. Indeed as IPAN has pointed out on several occasions, the presence of U.S. troops and their Thaad missile defence systems in South Korea together with the war exercises it carries out together with South Korean, Australian and Japanese military forces is provocative and not conducive to either peace talks or a peace treaty. The latter matter has been left unresolved since the Korean war of the 1950's.

IPAN has urged the PM, Malcom Turnbull, and Foreign Affairs Minister, Julie Bishop, to charter a foreign affairs policy which is independent of the United States and to seek talks with North Korea and possibly the re-opening of an Australian Embassy in Pyongyang.

Unfortunately, to date, the Australian Government has dutifully followed the U.S. by joining their military together with those of South Korea and Japan in these provocative war exercises on the Korean peninsula. Australian warships together with those of the U.S. are deployed in Korean waters and South Korean ports despite protests from South Koreans such as those on Jeju Island. (see article in this edition of Voice)

IPAN in 2018 will continue to urge the Australian Government to put the interests of peace and the Australian and Korean people first and seek peaceful solutions to conflict in our region, stepping away from its past blind-following of the United States' war policies.



## **SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEER PEACE WORKER NEEDED**

IPAN is seeking a volunteer peace worker who would commit to initiating and maintaining social media sites for IPAN's campaign to "Oust the US Marines from Darwin" – "Give em the boot" campaign

To respond please contact IPAN NSW representative Nick Deane via email : [homishdu@yahoo.com.au](mailto:homishdu@yahoo.com.au) or phone 0420 526 929

## **News Flash:**

### **PM Turnbull to negotiate stationing of Japanese Troops in Darwin**

The Australian reports, 13th January, 2017, that PM Turnbull is flying to Tokyo to negotiate an agreement for Japanese troops to be stationed on visitation in Darwin/NT where they will undertake exercises with Australian and US troops. The report says this is part of the U.S. containment - of - China policy.

(Editor: IPAN has a firm policy of opposing foreign troops on Australian soil).



## No War in Korea Peace Rally

Outside U.S., Consulate General, Martin Place Sydney, 8th December, 2017

Organised by the Korean Sydney Candlelight Alliance supported by IPAN



Report from Jeju Island, South Korea:

## **Steady Onslaught of Foreign Warships at the 'Island of Peace' including U.S. and Australian warships**

On Sept. 26 the USS Chief, a mine countermeasures ship, entered the Jeju Navy Base, followed by the US Aegis destroyer Mustin on Oct. 21. Then came Australian warships HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Parramatta on Nov. 3. And then nuclear submarine USS Mississippi arrived on Nov. 22 staying in the base for six days until it left on Nov. 27. None of these ships' arrivals were informed in advance to the island people. Nine foreign warships have docked in the Jeju navy base so far this year, suggesting that the base was indeed built for American use.

The USS Mississippi visit is ominous of further nuclear cooperation between the two countries, threatening not only the environment but also the prospects for the peaceful unification of Korea, as nuclear submarines are a violation of the 1992 Joint Declaration made by North and South Korea for the denuclearization of the peninsula. Jeju is preparing for the 70th anniversary of the 4-3 Uprising and the US-sponsored massacre of Jeju people by Korean troops and paramilitaries.

**For the eventual realization of Jeju as a true Island of Peace, we demand the closing of the Jeju navy base, an end to war exercises, and for the demilitarization of Jeju.**

**Increased military exercises between Australian  
& South Korean troops on the Korean Peninsula  
heightens tensions ;**

**Report by Journalist Richard Stone**

In early October Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne announced the intention to 'increase military training exercises' with the ROK. (1) The upgraded diplomatic relations rested upon a 2015 agreement, Blueprint for Defence and Security Cooperation, for joint military exercises. (2)

The proposed Exercise Haedoli Wallaby off the Korean peninsula are due to commence next month and include two ADF warships, the Melbourne and the Parramatta, together with a P-8A submarine hunter aircraft. (3)

The military exercises form part of a US-led aggressive regional foreign policy. While it has been primarily concerned with the northern DPRK, its main purpose is an attempt to encircle and contain China as a major rising regional force. With heightening diplomatic tensions becoming commonplace, western observers have recently even stopped denying the main purpose of the militarism.

### **READ ON**

From "Pearls and Irritations ": 8th January, 2018

## **The US has a massive military presence in the Asia-Pacific.**

*We are warned about Chinese island building for military purposes in the South China Sea. But all this is quite minor compared to the US military bases that encircle China and provoke the DPRK.*

Here is a look at the size and strength of some of America's massive arsenal in the region surrounding China.

### **READ ON**





## **IPAN's response to the Foreign Affairs White Paper**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Australian government should immediately:

- give notice of the end of the deployment of US troops in Darwin;
- give notice that no information from the Pine Gap Joint Defence Facility is to be conveyed to the US to be used in the drone assassination program;
- give notice of a review of the functions of Pine Gap;
- sign the UN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons;

- **legislate to adopt war powers reform, making Australian Parliament agreement to the deployment of troops mandatory;**
  - **stop the policy of refugee boat turn-backs and bring the refugees on Manus Island and Nauru to Australia. Work with Indonesia and Sri Lanka to increase timely processing of claims and increase the number of refugees from those countries given asylum in Australia and other third countries;**
  - **adopt a rigorous program of greenhouse gas emission reductions, including halting any new coal mines and expansion of any existing coal mines, and develop a transition from fossil fuels program for the workforces affected;**
  - **adopt a rigorous program for support of renewable energy technologies;**
  - **double our international aid program and commit to moving to achieving the UN goal of 0.7% of GNI for the aid program;**
  - **double our education assistance in the aid program from \$50m to \$100m pa and increase by 20 times, the number of students supported to study in Australia from PNG as well as increasing numbers from Timor-Leste and Indonesia;**
  - **halt free-trips being provided to members of parliament or journalists by any foreign country;**
  - **commit to complying with UN conventions to which we are a signatory and criticizing human rights abuses wherever they occur.**
- For IPAN's complete response, [READ ON](#)

**From Pearls & Irritations, 2nd January, 2018**

**RICHARD BUTLER.**

**Resolution for 2018: convince our political  
leaders to work harder on establishing an**



## **independent Australian foreign policy.**

Yet the question remains: when will our political leaders shape up to telling Australians the truth about the Alliance; what it has cost us; what have been the reasons for our actions, particularly our military actions; and, above all, where will their interpretation of our so-called obligations under the Alliance lead us – war on North Korea, war with Iran?

Fifty years has been long enough. Ours is a very different society to the American and one in urgent need of an independent foreign and security policy. We should no longer be a pawn played by the US military/intelligence/industrial lobbies or the subject of US domestic political neuroses.

Our fear of abandonment, as Allan Gyngell has aptly described it, is in fact dangerous to us and needs to be put to rest.

For the complete article [READ ON](#)

### **Cocos Islands: Secret US-Australian Military Base mid-Indian Ocean**

- Richard Stone, SA Journalist



The Cocos Islands are a group of 27 small coral islands halfway between Australia and Sri Lanka Photo: ALAMY

Almost hidden in recent mainstream media coverage of publication of an Australian foreign policy White Paper and related defence commentary, references to a secret base reveal the extent of Australian involvement with US-led regional military planning.

The planning is directed toward China and have possible and likely real-life scenarios, drawing Australia into military hostilities.

### **READ ON**

## **The Base: Pine Gap's role in US Warfighting**

ABC Radio National, Background Briefing, Sunday 17 December  
2017



National Security Agency documents exclusively obtained by Background Briefing reveal the extent to which Australia is assisting the United States military to fight its wars.

These documents, together with the stories of people intimately involved in

those wars, uncover the crucial role the US-Australian satellite surveillance base at Pine Gap in Central Australia has in battlefield operations around the world. **Peter Cronau** reports.

**READ ON**

## **Christians and Muslims in Lismore seek peace for all mankind during the festive season**



**MEETING OF MINDS:** Anglican Bishop Sarah Macneil (Diocese of Grafton), Muslim Scholar Dr Zuleyha Keskin (Melbourne) and Moderator: Dr Leticia Anderson (Southern Cross Uni) take part in conversation: *Mainstream meets Margin* at St Andrews in Lismore. Organised by the Northern Rivers peace group Remembering and Healing. PHOTO: RJ POOLE

## **US President stirs up conflict over Jerusalem during the festive season**





**UNITED NATIONS 21st December, 2017--** The United Nations General Assembly voted Thursday on a resolution condemning President Trump's new policy recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The General Assembly voted 128-9, with 35 abstentions, to declare Mr. Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as the capital "null and void."

Mr. Trump said he'd be watching very closely at which members of the General Assembly vote for the resolution and which vote against it.

The resolution stated that any decision to change the status of Jerusalem is null and void, has no legal effect, and that it must be rescinded. It also called on member countries not to set up diplomatic missions in Jerusalem.

(Australia took the coward's way out and was one of the abstentions)

**Making waves in Sydney and Adelaide.**



Making Waves features the powerful tales of nuclear survivors from Japan and Australia, travelling aboard Peace Boat's voyage to Australia from 24 January – 6 February 2018.

Speakers include:

Miyake Nobuo, survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima  
Hasegawa Hanako and Hasegawa Kenichi, former dairy farmers evacuated from Itate village, Fukushima  
Karina Lester, Yankunytjatjara-Anangu second-generation nuclear test survivor  
Scott Ludlam, former federal Senator and ICAN Ambassador

Hosted by Peace Boat, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Uranium Free NSW. Supported by the Sydney Hiroshima Day Committee and People for Nuclear Disarmament.

**Adelaide:**

**Monday 29 January, 6-7:30pm**

Gallery Yampu, [1 Jenkins St, Birkenhead](#)

**Sydney:**

**Monday 5 February 2018 at 6:00pm**

Redfern Community Centre

29-53 Hugo Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW

Booking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=34234>

**IPAN questions \$10.3 billion Australian tax dollars going to US arms manufacturers**

Figures released today by the Australian National Audit Office indicate that the Australian Defence Force has spent more than \$10 billion on weapons and military equipment from the United States over the past four years.

IPAN Spokesperson, Annette Brownlie, thinks that the Australian public need to consider whether that money will provide sound returns for the investment. “ Surely the money would be better spent on meeting the needs of everyday Australians or in the interests of people suffering the impacts of war, poverty and environmental consequences of climate change?”

For complete press release [READ ON](#)

## **Creeping militarisation of education**

**- Peri Coleman.**

"If you can find your way onto Facebook, I have a post about “She Flies”, a science teaching organization that is supported by the military and is “advance recruiting” amongst 12 yo girls in Australia to become military drone operators. With the help of Lisa Ling (US drone program whistleblower) and Margie Pestorius (Peace Pilgrim in Cairns) we have been able to start a conversation with a representative of “She Flies”. The settings are public so you don’t need to be a member of Facebook yourself to read the post and attached thread. Small steps, but vital if we are to stop the creeping militarization of education.

*And check out if your child’s school is involved in this awful scheme and, if so, do something about it!"*

***From: Peri Coleman [mailto:peri@deltaenvironmental.com.au***

### **Film to see:**

**Sweet Country-** a powerful film that confronts Australia's past with grace, intensity and restraint.

To be released nationally on January 25th, 2018.

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*

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to :

[lpan.australia@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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