

Stockholm: We Don't Want War with Russia

It's a great pleasure for us to be here in Stockholm with you.

Let me introduce myself just a bit before I continue. I grew up in a military (Air Force) family and moved frequently living in Germany and England as well as different parts of America. In 1971 I joined the Air Force during the Vietnam war and it was there that I became a peace activist. In 1983 I began working on space issues and in 1992 was a co-founder of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space.

It's the 25th anniversary of the Global Network and we are pleased to say that all over the world groups are taking more seriously the links between US-NATO war preparations with Russia and China and the use of space technology.

In 2013 the Global Network held its annual meeting in Kiruna and we learned much about how northern Sweden is being used by the US-NATO to develop a large space technology center that is being aimed at Russia. Sadly not enough people in Sweden or other Nordic nations know much about these expensive and provocative developments.

Over the years the Global Network has traveled to many places around the world where space technology is being set up to give the US 'control and domination' of the planet on behalf of corporate interests. We've been to the Space Command headquarters in Colorado and to the headquarters of the Strategic Command in Nebraska. We've gone to Cape Canaveral in Florida right before the 1997 NASA launch of the Cassini mission that carried 72 pounds of deadly plutonium-238 into the heavens. We've been up to Menwith Hill in the Yorkshire dales of England where the US NSA spy base is located. We've been to South Korea where the Pentagon is deploying so-called 'missile defense' systems aimed at China. We even went to Bath, Maine where I live to hold a protest at the shipyard where Aegis destroyers for the Navy are built and outfitted with "missile defense" systems which are now being used to surround Russia and China. Last year we went to Japan (to a seaside community) that now has a US MD radar to help

target China. And in late 2016 several of us from the Global Network travelled to India to participate in a conference organized by our board member in that country as the US tries to try India inside in the buildup to war with China.

In April we are going to Huntsville, Alabama for our 25th annual Space Organizing Conference. Huntsville is the place where Nazi rocket scientists were brought after the end of WW II to create the US space program. Today Huntsville is the directorate for the Pentagon's 'missile defense' program.

It's never easy to go to any of these places because there are always people who would rather we did not draw attention to what is happening in their community. Better out of site and out of mind. The less attention the better. Many times friends or family work at these places and people don't want to ruffle any feathers.

Many years ago, in 1983, I was organizing protests outside the Pershing II nuclear missile factory in Orlando, Florida, while my youngest sister was inside working on the circuit boards for the rocket. That missile was deployed by Ronald Reagan in Germany and was aimed at Russia. It was during the height of the Cold War but we got through that period thanks to massive peace mobilizations around the world. Today though we are heading right back into a new Cold War and the peace movement is not so aware and active. That must change quickly.

In the US today 55% of every federal discretionary tax dollar goes to the Pentagon to fund the cancerous war machine. Our communities are increasingly becoming addicted to military spending. There is virtually no money for anything else as we witness austerity cuts in social programs like so many other nations around the globe. What does it say about the soul of America that we have to keep killing people around the world so that workers can have jobs to feed their families?

Some years ago the Pentagon said that under corporate globalization of the world economy every country would have a different role. They said we won't have traditional manufacturing jobs in the US anymore – it's cheaper to make shoes, TV's, cell phones, clothes, and even cars in other

countries with cheaper labor. The Pentagon said our role under corporate globalization would be security export. So it has come to pass that the number one industrial export product of the US is weapons. And when weapons are the top industrial export of your nation – what is the global marketing strategy for that product line?

We were very happy that the award-winning journalist Bard Wormdal, author of “The Satellite War”, was with us in Kiruna – and he is here again today. His book is very important because he reveals the truth about how the Nordic nations have become instrumental in the entire space directed war-fighting system of the US and NATO. He’s taken a story that was hidden and brought it to light for all to see. We are grateful for his determination and hard work to share this important story.

All war today on this planet is directed using space technology. The Persian Gulf War in 1991 was called the “first space war” because at that time the Space Command field tested their new space technology system.

Before the Gulf War began the Space Command pre-identified all of Iraq’s military targets using military satellites. In the first 2-3 days of the war 95% of those targets were bombed. The war was essentially over at that point but dragged on for weeks. During those remaining days the Pentagon launched 100 cruise missiles, costing \$1 million each, and used up lots more military hardware that kept production lines humming round-the-clock back at home. But most importantly, the Space Command was learning how to tie all warfare – whether ground-based, sea-based, or air-based into the Space Command system.

It was out of this field test of the program that the slogan “Full Spectrum Dominance” would emerge. The idea was that space technology would direct all warfare on the planet, at every level of conflict, and that the US would not allow any other country to achieve that capability.

Today drones buzzing over Afghanistan, Pakistan, Niger or Yemen are “flown” by pilots back in the US at bases like Creech AFB, Nevada or Hancock Air Field, New York. This is possible because the military satellites in orbit link the pilot to the drone in “real time” - split-second time.

Space Command downlink ground stations spread around the globe help relay those signals. The US base in Ramstein, Germany plays a key role in this process. The Pentagon brags that this space-directed warfare increases “the kill chain”.

In a way you could call the military satellites the “triggers” that make the drone kills possible. These satellites allow the military to see everything, hear everything, and to target every place on the planet.

The Space Command appears to have three primary missions. First, to provide global surveillance (the eyes and ears of corporate control); secondly Pentagon power projection using space technologies; and thirdly to create the capability to control the pathway to and from Earth.

NASA, with our tax dollars, continues to develop the necessary technologies to successfully “mine the sky” for precious resources. We’ve already seen Obama privatize some aspects of the space program as the technology matures. The plan is ultimately for full privatization of space mining operations with the Space Command ensuring control of the pathway to outer space on behalf of particular corporate interests.

All of this will be very expensive to build. For years the Pentagon has been saying that Star Wars, this military space technology program, will be the largest industrial project in the history of our planet. Even after the US government, now under control of the corporations, cuts what little social programs we have left, the Pentagon still needs more money.

The US and NATO member nations are today working hard to integrate their space technology systems (called interoperability) because the Pentagon needs the allies the help pay for this very expensive program. But have no doubt – even though NATO partners help pay for these military space programs the US intends to stay in control of the ‘tip of the spear’.

Recent US-NATO war games in Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Norway are contributing to a new arms race in space. The 2014 US supported and directed coup d’état in Ukraine indicates that the current strategy is to destabilize the regions along the Russian border with the ultimate goal being regime change in Moscow.

In 2016 the US built a new missile defense base in Romania and this year a similar missile defense base will be constructed in Poland. The radar to help direct these interceptor missiles has already been deployed in Turkey. Russia rightly contends that these systems can be used to intercept their retaliatory capability after a US first-strike attack or the missile launchers in Romania or Poland could fire offensive cruise missiles.

Under the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty between the US and Russia these kinds of missile defense systems were not allowed because they would give one side an advantage over the other. But in 2001, soon after moving into the White House, George W. Bush pulled the US out of that treaty and since that time US missile defense deployments have been on steroids.

The Republican controlled government in the US is now talking about putting orbiting battle stations in space that could fire projectiles down to Earth in a first-strike attack. The US Space Command each year holds such a first-strike computer war game aimed at Russia and China. How are Russia and China to respond when they see the US military expansion right up to their borders and hear of plans to put offensive weapons into space?

Under the Trump government more money will be directed at protecting US satellites from attack — potentially including systems that can ram into or otherwise disable another country's satellites. Rep. Trent Franks, an Arizona Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, recently said “In every area of warfare, within the Geneva Conventions, America should be second to none. That includes satellite warfare, if it's necessary. We cannot be victims of our own decency here.”

Russia and China have been trying for years to get the US to agree to negotiate a new treaty called Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) but all US administrations since Reagan have blocked the process at the United Nations.

It would be wise for the people living in the Nordic region to refuse to follow the US war machine over the cliff. Sadly many governments and citizens in this part of the world are falling for the anti-Russian rhetoric coming from Washington and the corporate controlled media.

Why does the US want regime change in Moscow? Could it be because Russia has the largest supply of natural gas on our planet? Could it be because of climate change, and the melting Arctic Sea? The fossil fuel industry is excited about drilling for oil where ice once existed year around. What nation on Earth has the largest land border with the Arctic?

The militarization of everything around us is a spiritual sickness. Native American holy man Lame Deer often talked about how the white man was blinded by his love for the dollar – the paper money. His spiritual connection to the Mother Earth is broken.

We do have a big common problem in the world today and it is called climate change. Instead of wasting our resources on building expensive weapons systems for endless war, that only benefit the corporations, all nations should be working together to deal with climate change.

As we in the Global Network talk about these space issues we always call for the conversion of the military industrial complex so that we can have an internationally coordinated response to the coming harsh reality of global warming. This will not happen unless we repeatedly demand and organize globally to make it happen. We've all had enough war. It's time for us to move toward sanity, peace, and sustainability.

Earth is a tiny satellite flying through space. Our challenge is to develop the necessary consciousness and peaceful culture to survive this journey. Viewing our Mother Earth and the vastness of space as sacred will help us to plant a good seed that will flourish in time.

Thank you very much for inviting us to speak with you today.

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