



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 59 Spring 2016

Raising public awareness, scrutiny and accountability of US Visiting Forces and their Agencies in the UK and world-wide

Brief look at local, national and international news:

Dear friends

We apologise for the late arrival of this newsletter. The winter newsletter usually goes out in January. At the end of this January, however, some of us met at the Quaker Meeting House in Leeds to discuss possible new directions for the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases.

New Directions?

As was the case at the first Conversation, the second CAAB Conversation on 30 January was preceded by excellent vegan and vegetarian food – courtesy of Laila Packer, Lindis Percy and various others. The main business of the meeting, however, was to discuss possible ways forward for the campaign especially as Lindis had let people know she was stepping down from her co-ordinating role in its organisation – to allow herself more time for researching and challenging what's going on in the American bases. In her own words, she is moving on but has no intention of going away!

Challenged by the first question on the flipchart ('Is CAAB still viable?'), those who were at the Conversation described various reasons why they felt it was still important to maintain the campaign even if it took on a different form. These reasons included the need to show solidarity with individuals and groups opposing US bases in various other countries across the world and the desire to continue to spread CAAB's aims. People also felt it was important to maintain the tradition of peaceful protest. After all, someone said, the bases are still here – the Americans haven't gone back within their own borders.

Various people present expressed their willingness to

It's impossible to produce a newsletter of 8 pages (due to cost) giving anything but a taste of the huge and complex issues involving 'all things' to do with US hegemony, US military policy and the US military industrial complex. For more information, the CAAB website is a good resource and gives some up to date news, information, video articles and links: www.caab.org.uk. We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.

THE WEEKLY TUESDAY EVENING CAAB DEMONSTRATION

It is important to maintain the hard won progress in the policing of the demonstration at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill (MH). There are also implications for other demonstrations. CAAB have been demonstrating peacefully at the Main Gate and at Nessfield Gate at MH for over fifteen years.

The problems have been caused by drivers leaving the base. On one occasion at Nessfield Gate, a car ran over Barbara Penny's foot causing serious injuries and narrowly missed Lindis Percy (see the last newsletter, No. 58 Autumn 2015). The driver has been charged under Section 20: Causing grievous bodily harm (more about this later in this newsletter). The following week, a car coming out of the base failed to stop and nearly ran over Lindis Percy.

On Wednesday 3 March, there was a meeting at Harrogate Police Station to discuss the policing of the demonstration at MH. Lindis Percy and Sarah Swift represented CAAB. Michael Walker (Superintendent Country Commander North Yorkshire Police) chaired the meeting. Also present were Graham Drummond (Chief Inspector MDP) and Michael Finlinson (Sergeant MDP). By the end of the meeting various points had, we thought, been agreed.

However, it was immediately apparent, when we arrived for the demonstration on 8 March, that the agreements reached at the end of the meeting had not been honoured. We were informed that a Dispersal Order had been authorised and signed by the Duty Inspector, Gordon Lynch, which meant that we were to stay in a restricted area behind a barrier.

Lindis proceeded to demonstrate in the way previously agreed with NYP and the MDP and implemented over the last two years. She was arrested under section 35 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014 and later charged. Bail conditions were imposed: not to go within 50m of the Main Gate.



Lindis demonstrating just before her arrest

We are very grateful for all your support and donations and hope that we will see you at the **Declaration Day Independence from American Militarism Demonstration now planned for Saturday July 2, 2016** – read more about this later in the newsletter.

We also really need your support at the weekly Tuesday evening demonstration.

MY WONDERFUL TRIP TO KYOTO

Brigid-Mary Oates

Kyoto International Conference on Space and Peace

First, it's important for me to thank everyone who funded this; I am extremely grateful for the experience and very honoured to have represented CAAB.

On arrival into lovely Japan, after a car journey, a train journey, an overnight stay in London, two flights and a taxi bus, I was transported smoothly and efficiently to the wonderful Utano Youth Hostel, along with others from the International Conference of Space and Peace. Throughout my stay, the Hostel could not do enough to keep me in comfort; the food was excellent too.

I was there a day earlier, so was very lucky to be shown around Kyoto by the wonderful Professor Atsushi Fujioka (Professor from Ritsumeikan University) a wonderful, gentle man who is very knowledgeable on peace matters. He took us around the Buddhist Temples and we were privileged to have a talk from a high priest – we were all very tired and I admit to nodding a little, but it was so peaceful and wonderful to hear his views on peace from a Buddhist perspective.

Our first day of Conference was held at Doshisha University. We were first welcomed by Makoto Hara (professor of Faculty of Theology), then by Steven Leeper (former director of Hiroshima Peace Cultural Foundation), who gave a very informative lecture "Toward a nuclear-free world at the time of the 70th anniversary of the first atomic bombings". Dave Webb, UK Convenor of GN/Chair for CND, gave a very visual presentation entitled "Truth and myths on US Missile Defense: Will Japan join the Space War?" A good introduction on the "missile defense" X-Band radar too.

The days of the seminars were exciting, meeting fellow peace dudes from all over the World who were so inspiring to me. The energy and passion of Agneta Norberg, Vice Chair of Swedish Peace Council, who refers to Sweden as the US's 51st state, "Sweden is in the Pentagon's Pocket" – Agneta told us how her one-time peaceful country was allowing the US to use their northern parts for practice. Agneta used some stunning visual aids in her presentation.

Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck from Germany was outstanding, bringing us Germany's progress in Engagement in the German Peace Movement related to Nuclear and Space. Of course our wonderful GN Co-ordinator Bruce Gagnon's presentation was interesting and charismatic, in terms I could understand, and he was extremely supportive of others who were presenting.

Another energetic presentation was Jan Tamas from the Czech Republic/chairman of the Humanist Party, who gave us a really funky presentation with lots of music and visual images of their success in rebuking the US attempt at building a base in the Czech Republic – we could learn a lot from the lovely Jan. Amongst all the presentations it would be really difficult to choose which I found most interesting, as they were all amazing.

We were fortunate to visit the Museum of Peace, a

beautiful and thoughtful place. Our guides took us around the museum and we were shown how the Japanese people were sorry for their part in any war and atrocities. One of the displays of “comfort women” was very distressing and thought provoking. Many Asian women were forced to provide “sexual services” but in real terms suffered rape and sexual abuse during the War and there has been no apology for this atrocious act of violence and abuse. Of course there were lots of images and dialogue around Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the devastation of the bombings by the US 70 years ago. The US claiming that they dropped the bombs to end the war to expedite Japan’s surrender and reduce the number of American casualties. There is some suggestion that the US did this as they wished the War to end before the Soviet Union could join in, ensuring America would gain sole control of occupied Japan.

I was humbled by the reaction of our wonderful dear journalistic documentary maker Regis Tremblay from Maine US, Regis made the amazing *Ghosts of Jeju*, a shocking documentary about the struggle of the people of Jeju Island, S. Korea. The film reveals horrible atrocities at the hands of the US Military Government of Korea after World War II. I was moved by his strong words and also by those of Jason Rawn from the US who was able to give me more insight to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I thank you guys so much.

I guess the pinnacle of the Conference was the visit to Tango City Community Centre where we lunched with the locals who are tirelessly campaigning against the X-Band radar base. After lunch GN Bruce Gagnon and Dave Webb presented the villagers with an award for their outstanding efforts to oppose the US station. A lovely gesture from Vincenzo Santiglia, who presented the villagers with a flag opposing MUOS (Mobile User Objective Systems) from Sicily, was a very emotional moment and lots of pictures were taken.



Presentation of ‘No MUOS’ flag at Kyoto International Conference on Space and Peace

We were then taken to the Ministry of Defense offices, where Bruce Gagnon, Dave Webb and Agneta read “The Final Declaration from the Kyoto International Conference on Space and Peace (August 2, 2015)” <http://warisacrime.org/content/final-declaration-kyoto-international-conference-space-and-peace-august-2-2015>. Members of the village activist group were supported as they asked questions about the safety of the base in relation to the emissions of the radar. The personnel were unable to confirm whether the emissions were safe, as tests were still taking place.

The message to the Japanese MOD was that we strongly oppose the US deployment of a “missile defense” X-Band radar system in the local prefecture that is provocatively aimed at China. We feel this endangers the people of Japan and wish it to be removed.

I took our famous CAAB upside down US flag and was thrilled to share this with others. I guess we were all excited and apprehensive about visiting the X-Band site. I was shocked: the site was in the beautiful landscape of Ukawa, and is set right next to a Religious Holy Temple, how disgraceful and offensive? The noise from the radar is horrendous, a continual loud buzzing noise, how can this be good for wildlife?

We were warned not to go to the fence, however, we all made our way to the fence and some of us sang songs of peace. An American soldier inside the site began filming us. I then filmed her, I showed her CAAB’s upside down US flag and explained I was not being offensive, we really believe her nation to be in distress.

We went to visit the Peace garden belonging to a woman who refused to sell the land to the US. She dedicated it to the villagers who now grow vegetables, and we were able to get up close to some other US personnel who refused to speak to us.

I looked around at the wonderful people I was part of and felt my heart warm, against this monstrosity and disgusting blot on a beautiful landscape, I found a wonderful inner peace to know that these wonderful people really care about the welfare of others, others who – we were told – were our enemies. I’d say this was one of the most moving days of my life. I returned to Ultano YH a very different person.

I made friends on this conference that will remain with me for life. Mary Beth Sullivan and Cathleen Deppe for their humanity and gentle approach to everything. The lovely Leann Moran who travelled with Mary Beth and Bruce, we found affinity with my pink hair. Gun-Britt Makitalo who supported Agneta every step of the way. Sung-Hee Choi who shared with us the plight of Jeju. The wonderful amazing Mr Rao who is filled with love and compassion. Jo McIntire who inspired me to look into things in more depth, what a beautiful man. One young woman Phui Yi Kong, who had decided to travel Asia after her studies, blew us all away with her enthusiasm and her commitment to activism.

So thank you everyone for making this possible, I am humbled by this honour and the opportunity to see things I may never have seen otherwise.

International, National & Local News: THE US MILITARY BUDGET AFFECTS US

Our internet reporters have sent links to various accounts of **the US’s proposals to increase, dramatically, its military presence outside its borders – to quadruple its spending on US-NATO forces near Russia’s border, to ‘modernize’ its nuclear arsenal, to expand its drone programme, possibly with the establishment of a drone control centre at Lakenheath, and to develop the US intelligence centre at Croughton.**

These reports are linked to the US Department of

Defense's release of the President's Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2017 (Press Operations Release No: NR-046-16, February 9, 2016). <http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/652687/department-of-defense-dod-releases-fiscal-year-2017-presidents-budget-proposal>

REPORTERS IN THE US SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE BUDGET PROPOSALS:

'Quadrupling of US-NATO Forces Near Russia's Border'

In an article entitled '**The Obama Administration Recklessly Escalates Confrontation With Russia**' (*The Nation*, February 9, 2016), Stephen Cohen discusses the dangers inherent in the US plan to 'quadruple military spending on the US-NATO forces in countries on or near Russia's borders', a plan stated in the summary of the 2017 President's Budget Proposal. Cohen is an American scholar of Russian studies at Princeton University and New York University.

Interestingly, Cohen writes that these developments have not been widely reported in the US media or debated, including by the presidential candidates. He attributes this to the US media's desire to portray the deterioration in US-Russian relations as the fault of the "aggression" (his quotation marks) of Putin – or of Putin's Russia.

Read the whole article or other articles by Stephen Cohen on the website of *The Nation*: <http://www.thenation.com/article/the-obama-administration-recklessly-escalates-confrontation-with-russia/>

Or listen, if you can, to the podcast of Stephen F. Cohen and John Batchelor discussing the new US-Russian Cold war (3 February 2016): <http://russia-insider.com/en/military/obama-administration-has-just-recklessly-escalated-its-military-confrontation-russia>

ANOTHER US VOICE AGAINST 'REARMING FOR THE APOCALYPSE'

Stephen Kinzer, in 'Rearming for the Apocalypse' (*The Boston Globe*, January 24, 2016, viewed online 10 February), speaks out against President Obama's plan to "modernize" (Kinzer's quotation marks) the US nuclear arsenal – referred to in the section of the summary of the budget proposals entitled 'Russia'. In an article which presents arguments just as relevant to the UK, he lambasts the cost of these proposals – in monetary terms ('about \$1 trillion over the next 30 years') and in terms of increased risk: **'Terror will never reach even 1 percent of our population. Nuclear "modernization" increases the prospect of true devastation.'**

Kinzer claims that the nuclear threat seems remote in the US as 'no nuclear weapon has been used since 1945'. Like Cohen, he suggests that warning voices have been drowned out, in this case by campaign speeches hyping up notions of 'crazed Muslims'. He cites, specifically, the warning voice of William Perry, a director of the development of air-launched nuclear cruise missiles in the 1970s and 1980s who later became Secretary of Defense. Interestingly, Perry is now campaigning against Obama's proposals, although in the past he argued that it was necessary for the US to compensate for 'NATO's relatively weak conventional power in countries around

the Soviet Union'.

Like Cohen again, Kinzer is concerned about the effects of the US's proposals on Russia, already under 'increasing American threat as a result of our military maneuvers on its borders and the fact that many of our missiles are positioned in Germany, Turkey, and other countries near its territory'. He reports an announcement by the Russian defence minister in response – that Russia will "'bring five new strategic nuclear missile regiments into service'" and suggests other countries – China, India and then Pakistan – will follow suit.

Kinzer emphasises the increased dangers of accidental nuclear war – as the cruise missiles can carry conventional or nuclear payloads; of terrorism involving a nuclear bomb (apparently Perry's fear); and of national bankruptcy for the US. He quotes Admiral Mike Mullen, former chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, as describing the consequent increase in the US national debt as "the most significant threat to our national security".

Like Cohen, Kinzer stresses the need to act urgently to stop the programme: once it is launched, 'rich procurement contracts will be portioned out to the districts of influential members of congress' and the process will be unstoppable.

Finally, he reminds his readers that **Obama, from whom the proposal for this investment comes, 'campaigned on a pledge to reduce and seek to eliminate nuclear weapons – and ... won a Nobel Peace Prize for his apparent sincerity'**. Read the whole article at: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2016/01/24/beware-obama-nuclear-weapons-plan/IJP9E48w3cjLPtqMhZdFL/story.html>

OTHER NATO COUNTRIES FOLLOW THE US LEAD ...

An article from *The Washington Post* by Thomas Gibbons-Neff, included in *The Guardian Weekly* for February 19-25 discusses NATO's corresponding increases in military spending:

'NATO Boosts East Europe Force: Increased US presence intended to contain Russian security threat'

The article starts: 'In a move sure to anger Russia, NATO announced last Wednesday firm plans to introduce a significant number of troops into eastern Europe' and refers to the announcement by Ashton Carter 'that the Pentagon would pump \$3.4bn into forces stationed in Europe'.

At the time of this announcement, Carter 'touted ... NATO's new "deterrent" posture', Gibbons-Neff claims. A video of Carter speaking at a NATO News Conference in Brussels on February 11 certainly supports this as he describes meetings with other NATO defence ministers (<http://www.defense.gov/Video?videoid=449598>).

And even closer to home –

'US DRONE OPERATIONS CENTRE TO OPEN IN THE UK?' AT LAKENHEATH POSSIBLY?

Chris Cole (in an article published on the website of Drone Wars UK on February 10 2016) reports yet

another increase in US military activity: 'In December 2015 the US announced plans to vastly expand its drone programme including increasing the number of drones to be purchased, doubling the number of drone operators and opening new drone bases.' He refers to a report in the LA Times which claims that a drone operations centre at RAF Lakenheath – which, as we know, has been used by the USAF for a long time – is being considered. The MP for Oxford, Andrew Smith, has been asking the MoD questions about this but has received no clear response. Cole explains the UK's existing involvement with the US drone programme but, obviously, a US drone operations centre in the UK would be a 'real step-up'.

Read the article in full on the Drone Wars UK website: <http://dronewars.net/>

But, certainly, there is to be expansion at Croughton:

“MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT AT USAF CROUGHTON (near Oxford) CONFIRMED”

Lindis posted this on Facebook on February 15, referring to the detail of the US Defense Budget:

The US Defense Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 has just been released. Amongst the details is confirmation that USAF Croughton has got funding for phase II development of the intelligence center (US spelling). They are also asking for an additional \$70M in 2017 for the final phase of the intelligence center consolidation – and about the same for the replacement of the school facilities for civilians on-site.

The plans will make USAF Croughton into an intelligence hub as important as NSA/NRO Menwith Hill near Harrogate North Yorkshire. More details to follow. <http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/652687/department-of-defense-dod-releases-fiscal-year-2017-presidents-budget-proposal>

Declaration Day

After careful consideration we have decided to mark our
INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICAN MILITARISM
on Saturday 2nd July

We believe that the Saturday will be a perfectly reasonable way of marking the 4th July anniversary and will prove more convenient for supporters in full time work or with long journeys

We look forward to meeting as many of you as are able to go to the main gate at Menwith Hill between 3pm and 9pm.

Further details will be available on the CAAB website and in our next newsletter

Christine Dean and Hazel Lisker

STOP PRESS

Articles in the week starting 20 March reporting the Pentagon's imminent announcement of the £200 million expansion at USAF Croughton:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pentagon-to-open-major-200m-intelligence-centre-in-britain-a6942856.html>

<https://www.rt.com/uk/336431-pentagon-spy-base-britain/>

GLOBAL PROTESTS AGAINST EXPANDING AMERICAN BASES

Space Alert! 33 – the winter/spring newsletter of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space – contains many accounts of resistance to American bases:

‘Guam: The Tip of America’s Spear’

The first article – by Dr Michael Lujan Bevacqua of the University of Guam – describes how the people of this island, and of the more northerly islands of Tinian, Pagan and Guahan in the Marianas group in the western Pacific, feel strongly about proposals to construct even more extensive and environmentally destructive US bases. Guam is only 212 square miles but 29% of that land mass is covered by US Air Force and Navy bases.

The UN ‘requires the US and other “administering powers” to support the decolonization of ... occupied states’ like the Marianas. Instead the US is planning increased militarisation.

Read in more detail about the history of the bases and the destruction their expansion will cause at <http://space4peace.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/latest-global-network-newsletter-at.html> (p. 1)

PROTESTS IN GERMANY

‘Close Ramstein Air Base in Germany’

Reiner Braun of the network StoppRamstein reported on the biggest protest action against US bases in Germany in the last twenty years.

<http://space4peace.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/latest-global-network-newsletter-at.html> (p. 4)

AND IN SICILY ... AND OKINAWA ...

We quote some paragraphs from **‘Will We Ever Stop Our War-Hungry Government?’** by Bruce Gagnon

Sicily: ‘the US Navy has constructed a space warfare communications base inside a protected oak nature preserve. Called MUOS (Mobile User Objective System) the satellite ground station is located just outside the town of Niscemi and will be used to beam communications to unmanned drones and US soldiers in real time while simultaneously linked to similar ground stations in Australia, Hawaii, and Virginia. Activists from all over Sicily have been protesting against the base for six years. In addition to their refusal to have their community used as a base for war making they also have grave concern over the health effects of the electromagnetic radiation emitted from the three massive satellite dishes.’

Okinawa: ‘the proposal is to build ‘twin military runways

out into a pristine bay among the beautiful coral reefs and endangered sea mammals (dugong) feeding grounds' with '3.5 million 10-ton dump truck loads of landfill being dumped into the bay to build the runways.'

'This story is real, and the plan is to do this on Okinawa at Oura Bay in order to build a new US Marine airfield. Few have heard about this calamity, but for more than 500 days people in Okinawa have been protesting by blocking the gates of the US Marine base called Camp Schwab.'

<http://space4peace.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/latest-global-network-newsletter-at.html> (p.8)

UPDATE ON SICILY:

The persistent efforts of the No MUOS movement in fighting against militarization, against the devastation of the protected cork oak reserve and to raise awareness of the risks linked to electromagnetic pollution are showing extraordinary results. In January the Supreme Court in Sicily rejected an appeal and upheld a ruling made in March last year which ordered the sequestration of the facility in order to protect the health of the local population and the environment. The satellites and antennae have been turned off since April last year. There are ongoing investigations into building permit violations and violation of environmental laws. The first court date is set for 20th May.

Despite these successes there were recent disappointing developments earlier this month when, regardless of massive protests, the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) was turned on for three days in order for measurements of the electromagnetic emissions to be taken, to prove whether or not they pose a health risk. Complete measurements were not taken as had been ordered. Instead, the satellites were turned on one at a time to a power of 200W (instead 1.600W as per the original plan) and the helical antennas to a power of 50W instead of 200W; the results were then added together. The results of measurements taken in this farcical way will undoubtedly show that the level of emissions is perfectly safe and legal.

Back in January the Italian authorities agreed to allow the Americans to operate armed drones from the Sigonella air base in Sicily, with officials at the time indicating that these missions would be to protect US forces on the ground in Libya that might be under threat. (**'Two and a Half Front War' is well under way**, Jonathan Marcus, BBC Diplomatic correspondent, 4 March 2016 from the section Middle East, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-35714955>)

Read more about developments in the South China Sea: <https://www.rt.com/op-edge/333746-america-south-china-sea/> <http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/03/04/beware-of-bears-and-dragons-in-their-own-backyards/>

NEWS FROM GUANTANAMO

'Cuba Conference Opposes Foreign Bases' by Dennis Apel and Lindis Percy

Dennis Apel works with the Guadalupe Catholic Worker and organises protests at Vandenberg AFB in California. Lindis Percy has, for a long time, organised protests at

the US NSA spy base at Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, England. They both serve on Global Network boards. We reproduce the full article:

The Symposium for the Closure of Foreign Military Bases is a gathering of concerned citizens from around the world and is held in Guantanamo, Cuba. The fourth annual gathering was held this year from November 23 through 25. The conference was attended by well over 200 people from 33 countries. The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space sent two representatives; Lindis Percy from the United Kingdom and Dennis Apel from the United States, both of whom presented at the conference.

Throughout the conference it was clear that Cuba is taking the lead in the movement to eliminate military bases belonging to the US, the United Kingdom and France which are located in countries other than their own. The United States leads the three with over 800 military installations on foreign soil (even the Pentagon does not know how many US bases there are!). The US Naval Base at Guantanamo is possibly the most notorious detention centre in modern times which still holds 170 people, many of whom have been victims of torture and indefinite detention without charges.

When Obama took office, the prison held 242 detainees, down from a peak of about 680 in 2003. Today, with little more than a year remaining in his presidency, it still holds 107 detainees.

Dennis's presentation gave an overview of the mission of the Global Network as well as the impact of the US Army base on Kwajalein Island in the Marshall Islands, including the history of above-ground nuclear testing after World War II and the continued testing of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles whose warheads land in the lagoon at Kwajalein Atoll after launch from Vandenberg AFB in California.

Lindis gave a presentation which included the activities and local impact of the significant US military base at Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, UK. Menwith Hill is a ground relay station for 33 satellites which are operated by the US National Reconnaissance Office, on behalf of the National Security Agency. The base has many roles including intelligence gathering and surveillance, intelligence led warfare (drones) and an important component of the US Missile Defense system (offensive system).

After the formal presentations, the microphone was open to other voices and Dennis's daughter Rozella (at 16 years old, the youngest participant at the conference) gave a moving and impromptu appeal for using non-divisive rhetoric in our discussions, especially with our opponents. Her comments were well-received.

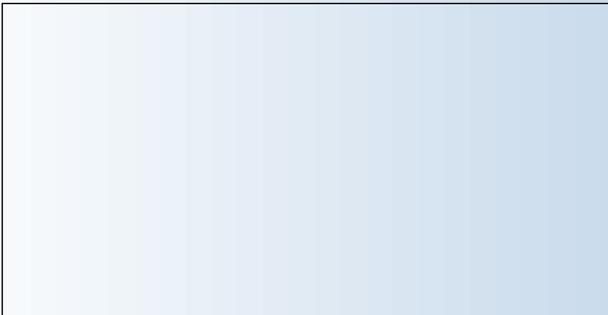
Other presenters included Silvio Andrés Platero Yrola, President of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, María Do Socorro Gomes, President of the World Peace Council and Dr. Nancy Acosta Hernández, President of the Provincial Assembly of People's Power.

Much was discussed during the conference regarding the US Naval Base at Guantanamo which is the oldest foreign military base belonging to the US government, having been established in 1903. Since the Cuban Revolution in

1959, the Cuban Government has consistently protested the occupation of this 45–square-mile US Base on their soil and have initiated annual votes in the United Nations for its closure. 2015 was the first year that every member country in the United Nations (except the United States and Israel) voted to call for the closure of the Base.

A comprehensive Declaration from the Conference was read at the end—see <http://www.wpc-in.org/?q=node/132> for a more detailed report of some of the speeches given. Other groups represented at the conference included Code Pink and Witness Against Torture who along with the Global Network comprised about 80 of the more than 200 delegates. It was a wonderful conference with so many excellent speeches. We met many interesting people. It was so good to be with people from different countries with shared concerns.

We were entertained by dancers and musicians, comprehensively informed about Cuba by two excellent tour guides on our coach journeys to Guantanamo Province; including the history, culture, resources, friends of Cuba, the blockade by the US, the way of life and future with regards to the tentative thawing of relations with the US. We visited several museums and learned about Fidel Castro, the Revolution, as well as Raoul Castro and the future of Cuba. It gave us a fascinating insight into the politics, philosophy and aims of this society. It was a privilege to represent GN — thank you. We have much work to do.



Lindis Percy at the conference, with her trademark flag

FURTHER ALERTS FROM OTHER SOURCES:

'The US extends its drone war deeper into Africa with secretive base'

An article by Joshua Hammer on the website of The Intercept (February 25 2016) describes a drone base opened in mid-October 2015 on the other side of the international airport at Garoua in northern Cameroon near the Nigerian border – where Boko Haram is most active.

This development was signalled by President Obama in an announcement to Congress in October 2014. A White House official stated that the forces would not be used for combat but to oversee intelligence gathering and surveillance.

Hammer writes: 'Garoua represents the newest expansion of America's stealth war against jihad in Africa. Piloted and unmanned aircraft have flown from bases in Djibouti — the center of US drone operations on the continent — as well as Ethiopia and Kenya, in addition to ships off the coast of East Africa. Predator MQ-1 drones and their larger

cousins, MQ-9 Reapers, have been based in Niamey in Niger, N'Djamena in Chad, and Seychelles International Airport. There is plenty more to come. The National Defense Authorization Act for 2016 appropriated \$50 million for construction of an "Airfield and Base Camp at Agadez, Niger ... to support operations in western Africa."

<https://theintercept.com/2016/02/25/us-extends-drone-war-deeper-into-africa-with-secretive-base/>

See also, The Drone Papers, Article 5, '**Manhunting in the Hindu Kush**', Ryan Devereaux, October 15 2015 – for more details of how the reporting of 'enemy' casualties works: <https://theintercept.com/drone-papers/manhunting-in-the-hindu-kush/>

For more about civilian casualties from drone strikes see also '**One Year On, No Justice for Italian Hostage Killed in US Drone Strike**', Cora Currier, The Intercept, 15 March 2016: <https://theintercept.com/2016/03/15/one-year-on-no-justice-for-giovanni-lo-porto-italian-hostage-killed-in-us-drone-strike/>

WHAT MAY LIE BEHIND THIS APPARENTLY ENDLESS US EXPANSION?

Martin Schweiger writes about the US policy of 'Full Spectrum Superiority':

Resources required by the US military to meet its intended objectives are vast. The demand for resources drives a great deal of other US policy. The US Department of Defense seeks "Full Spectrum Superiority" which it defines as "The cumulative effect of dominance in the air, land, maritime, and space domains and information environment, which includes cyberspace, that permits the conduct of joint operations without effective opposition or prohibitive interference." (Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms).

If you want to dominate potential battlespace on land and sea, in the air and in space you will need human and financial resources to do so. It is easy to see a vicious circle developing whereby the demand for resources drives foreign policy, so that critical resources of oil and minerals are available and effectively under US control. In order to do that the military has to ensure its might is recognised on land, the seas and in the air in the vicinity of the resources that need to be controlled. The US military doctrine determines the investment demand in resources and justifies the global distribution of US military bases.

RAF/NSA Menwith Hill is just one tangible part of the implementation of "Full Spectrum Superiority". How much does it cost to run and maintain? I do not know, but I suspect much social benefit could be obtained by redeploying those resources to the poor in the US and decreasing the consequent burden on other countries with unaccountable US military bases.

OTLEY GREEN FAIR: 23 APRIL 2016

Otley Courthouse, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 3AN
A CAAB stall will be selling all kinds of CAAB goods to raising money for the organisation.

• 10am to 4pm • Free Entry •

Campaigns, charities, local environmental groups, crafts, children's activities, entertainment, lovely veggie and vegan food.

EDITORS' END NOTE ON INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Following on from these accounts of increasing US militarism, we would like to express our concern about the reporting of the so-called migrant crisis. **Victims of imperialism who come to Europe do not destabilise: imperialism does.**

To say that refugees (whose presence will enrich Europe) are causing a crisis for Europe, when it is the refugees who are in crisis, diverts attention from the causes of migration – that their countries have been destroyed and their lives devastated; most want nothing more than to be able to return home. We benefit and have always benefited from the devastation and exploitation of other countries.

BARBARA PENNY: AMERICAN DRIVER CHARGED

The last newsletter (No 58 Autumn 2015) reported how Barbara Penny was knocked down by an American driver on August 11 2015, during the Tuesday evening weekly

demonstration. Barbara sustained serious injuries. Lindis Percy was also present and was lucky to escape serious injury.

We are pleased to report that, after a long recovery period, Barbara is doing better. She has been up to the Menwith Hill base for the Quaker Meeting for Worship on the first Saturday of every other month. She has not, however, felt up to coming to the Tuesday evening demonstration – hardly surprising.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have asked the police to charge the American driver who deliberately drove at Barbara Penny and Lindis Percy. On March 2, 2016 – almost seven months after the incident – the driver was charged, under Section 20: for causing grievous bodily harm. He was in court on Monday 14th March. He pleaded NOT GUILTY. It will be heard in York Crown Court and the next hearing is on 11 April for a plea (new court) and any preliminary issues to be sorted out. He is on unconditional bail.

We will keep you up to date with the outcome of the case and, in the meantime, send Barbara our very best wishes.

And here at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill: SOME LOCAL NEWS

Martin Schweiger

As well as writing for the newsletter ...

Lindis posted: We had a lovely surprise at the Tuesday pm demo February 24 at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill. Martin Schweiger (who has come regularly for about 7 years – straight from work as a Public Health doctor in Leeds) came for the first time since August last year. He and Liz his wife were on holiday in France when he suffered an aortic aneurysm (as reported in the last newsletter). It is an extremely serious event and 80% of people don't survive. Amazingly and thankfully Martin did survive. This was the first time that he was able to come to the demonstration.

It was so good to see him and his wife Liz. Martin and Liz stayed for about 20 mins (very cold night). How good was that?!

Sarah and I were there too. So the demonstration is continued after over 15 years – at MH every Tuesday pm (6.00–7.30pm) except 5 times. We intend to go on and on until the base is closed – THEN we will have a huge party! Please come and join us and be part of this historic event.

Photo shows (L–R): Martin Schweiger, Sarah Swift and Liz Schweiger on the day that Barack Obama says he will close Guantanamo Torture Center – (see post above) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-35643961>

MONEY MATTERS: There are several ways of supporting CAAB financially (CAAB website). Postage is going up again. It would be really helpful if more people would consider getting the e-version of this newsletter.

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WHO'S WHO AT CAAB?

As we explained, CAAB is now under new management. We hope to give you more names and information after our next meeting on **9 April (the Quaker Meeting House in Leeds, at 2.00pm).**

Hon Treasurer: Judith Rushy, 31 Blossomgate Ripon, HG4 2AJ. (Bank signatories Judith Rusby and Martin Schweiger)

Webmaster: Ray Middleton

Mailing list organiser: Melanie Ndzinga

Fundraiser: Christine Dean

Graphic Designer: Paul Wood

Designer of CAAB Merchandise: Sarah McEvoy

CAAB Facilitator: Martin Schweiger

Monitoring Planning Applications:

Steve Hill

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