



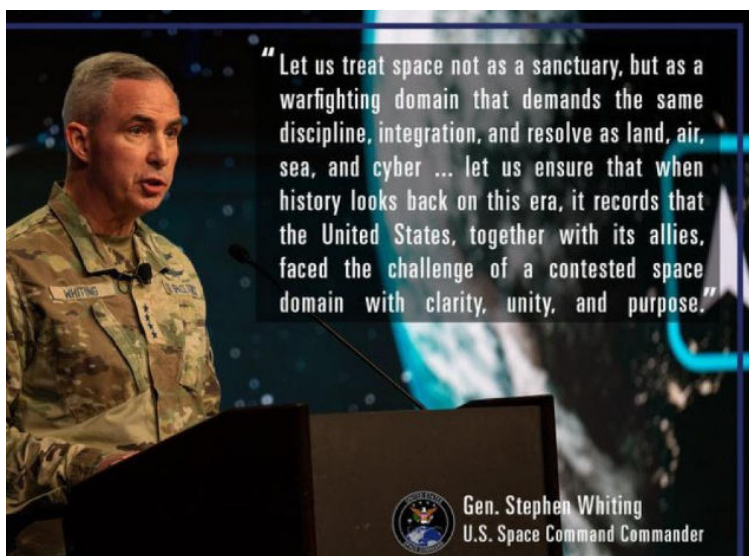
West Midlands

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mailing

May/June 2026

Military bases on the Moon



Our friends at Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space have updated us on NASA's \$20 billion project to build bases on the moon.

Bruce Gagnon, founder of Global Network and decades-long campaigner, writes:

The speaker in the video mentions RTG's - which are nuclear power sources for the base. The nuclear industry views space as a new market. ...

The US has had a plan for military base control of the Moon since the 1950's. The US (and some allies) are in a race to take control of the Moon before China & Russia can get there. In this 1989 Congressional study 'Military Space Forces' they discuss the Earth-Moon gravity well and state that whoever covers the top of the well would be able to control access on and off the planet Earth. This has relevance not only for deciding who can control the Earth below, but also who can mine the sky, etc.

Thus all of this is connected to current US mission to the Moon.

...
We need a renewed effort to create international space law that bans weapons/war in space, regulates launches into the shrinking and contested parking spaces in Lower Earth Orbit (LEO), renewed treaties for the planetary bodies and determining just who can benefit from resource extraction in space.

Find out more and watch the video here: <https://space4peace.blogspot.com/2026/04/creating-bases-on-moon.html>

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BITS FROM ABROAD

As the **United States** Defense Department spends billions to stop Iran from using enriched uranium to build a nuclear bomb, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is fast-tracking a Bill Gates nuclear power project that could trigger a race to create a new generation of near bomb-grade uranium fuel.

The Energy Mix 22nd April 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/4e2v43s>

France plans to add a further €36 billion to its defence spending between now and 2030 under an updated military planning law that expands its nuclear arsenal and boosts missile and drone stocks..

France24 8th April 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/2sefaf6j>

The war on Iran raises doubt that the **NPT** can be a central pillar of international security. If not, will more countries seek nuclear weapons, including US allies or friends? And will China and Russia be emboldened to follow the US-Israeli example to forcibly try to stop them?

Bulletin of Atomic Scientists 2nd April 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/mu3tzh9t>

A Pacific Island is sitting atop a nuclear time bomb that could pollute the oceans for centuries. Scientists have discovered that a concrete structure built to contain radioactive waste from Cold War-era testing is showing signs of deterioration. The site, known as Runit Dome, sits on Runit Island in the Enewetak atoll in the **Marshall Islands**. Although Runit itself is uninhabitable, the atoll is home to around 300.

Metro 25th March 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/52pk5w8t>

According to new research published in PNAS, a Cold War-era nuclear submarine sitting at the bottom of the **Norwegian Sea** is still leaking radioactive material. It's happening slowly, if unevenly, and it's contained just enough to avoid becoming a full-scale environmental disaster... for now. The K-278 Komsomolets sank in 1989 after an onboard fire, taking with it a nuclear reactor and two nuclear torpedoes. It now sits more than 1,600 meters below the surface, in a part of the ocean that is freezing and almost entirely out of reach.

Vice 25th March 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/2rtjhmrB>

FROM THE MEDIA

Nuclear weapons may be the sane choice for the world's maddest regime. For North Korea's Kim Jong-un, the lesson from Iran shows that if your goal is survival the more dangerous the arsenal the better.

Times 19th April 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/bdckmkxp>

Horror as Russia 'plans nuclear weapon in space' that could cause global chaos. General Stephen Whiting, head of US Space Command, said America was 'very concerned' about Russian plans to put a nuclear weapon in space that would target satellites.

Mirror 16th April 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/5ehm58n6>

(See also page 1 of this mailing)

"The Ministry of Defence has always maintained that it never rained," said Ken McGinley, founder of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA). "I'm sorry, you're liars ... I was there!"

McGinley, who was a royal engineer, gave this interview in January 2024, shortly before his death, as part of our Oral History of British Nuclear Test Veterans project. McGinley was present during the Grapple nuclear weapons test series, conducted by the UK on the central Pacific island of Kiritimati in the late 1950s. At the time, this remote atoll was inhabited by 250 villagers as well as thousands of British servicemen. For decades, many of those present during this and other above-ground British nuclear weapons tests have argued they were harmed by radioactive fallout.

The Conversation 15th April 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/35yvn3zy>

Making London councils allies in the campaign to oppose Britain's nuclear expansion.

As weapons return to Suffolk and defence spending soars, London CND is pressing local candidates to oppose nuclear expansion and support the UN ban treaty.

Morning Star 7th April 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxbvzb8>

The captain of one of Britain's nuclear-armed submarines has stepped back from his role this week after being investigated over his relationship with Joani Reid, the Labour MP whose husband has been arrested on suspicion of spying for China.

FT 31st March 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/pzwwkv8c>

TRIDENT AND RELATED NEWS

In a brief exchange during Prime Minister's Questions last month, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, Ed Davey, asked Keir Starmer about Trident replacement. 'We have to make a choice now,' Davey said: 'lease new missiles from the United States, accepting whatever terms the president gives us, or build our own here in the United Kingdom.' The prime minister replied that Davey was 'advocating a plan without knowing how much it would cost and how it would work'. *London Review of Books 23rd April 2026*
<https://tinyurl.com/y8a77xyc>

The UK has been named as the worst violator of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in the Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor 2026, a report by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). Its ranking as the worst state in terms of "non-compatibility" with the treaty is, in part, due to the UK having its own nuclear weapons, as well as being understood to have started hosting nukes for Trump's USA. *Canary 22nd April 2026*
<https://tinyurl.com/5n8hm46z>

A former British head of NATO and co-author of the 2025 Strategic Defence Review has called on Keir Starmer to cut welfare spending further to fund Britain's war drive. George Robertston, who was Tony Blair's Defence Secretary before serving as NATO General Secretary from 1999 to 2003, has stated that successive British leaders had shown "corrosive complacency" to military spending. *CND 14th April 2026*
<https://tinyurl.com/3kjw6ptn>

The UK Government is refusing to say why it is keeping nuclear safety reports secret because it is worried about "anti-nuclear arguments from the Scottish Government". The Ministry of Defence (MoD) won't give its reasons for failing to release annual assessments of the safety of nuclear weapons on the Clyde so as not to "prejudice relations between the UK and Scottish governments". The secrecy has been condemned by the Scottish Greens as "outrageous, undemocratic and frankly dangerous". It was akin to nuclear policies in Russia, China and North Korea, according to a campaigner — and it was described as "totally unacceptable" by a former nuclear submarine commander. *The Ferret 10th April 2026*
<https://tinyurl.com/bddeb846>

The UK nuclear enterprise is expected to absorb between 20 and 25 percent of the Ministry of Defence budget in the coming years, as spending rises across a growing portfolio of submarine, warhead, infrastructure and fuel programmes. Giving evidence to the Public Accounts Committee, Permanent Secretary Jeremy Pocklington said defence nuclear spending totalled about £10.9 billion in 2024-25, equivalent to 18% of the department's budget, and is expected to rise to around 20% in the current financial year. He told MPs that the share would continue to grow, saying the Defence Nuclear Enterprise was on course to account for "between about 20% and 25% of the MOD's overall budget." That growth, he said, reflects both inflation and a broader expansion in the nuclear portfolio. Pocklington said the increase was not being driven primarily by the core Dreadnought submarine build, which he said remains within the range previously set out to Parliament.

UK Defence Journal 26th March 2026
<https://tinyurl.com/yhbcjv3s>

The Royal Navy said two suspects "unsuccessfully attempted to enter HM Naval Base Clyde on Thursday 19 March". The two people have now been charged in connection. A statement from Police Scotland said: "Around 5pm on Thursday, 19 March, 2026, we were made aware of two people attempting to enter HM Naval Base Clyde. "A 34-year-old Iranian man and a 31-year-old Romanian woman have been arrested and charged in connection with the incident. They are due to appear at Dumbarton Sheriff Court on Monday, 23 March. *Herald 21st March 2026*
<https://tinyurl.com/4nt9j98s>

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Aerial images show the scale of a £38bn power plant dubbed "the biggest nuclear building programme in a generation". Sizewell C, near Leiston, on the Suffolk Coast, is planned to power the equivalent of 6m homes, create 10,000 jobs and could generate 3.2 gigawatts of electricity. The photos, taken 4,000ft above the site, show work is underway to construct the new nuclear power station due to be operational by the mid-to-late 2030s. The infrastructure will cover 915 acres onshore - and a further 1,581 acres offshore - with a new road link and rail line due to be built *SWNS 8th April 2026*
<https://tinyurl.com/5ejwpcyc>

What's On

May/June 2026

The next **Mailing** is due to be sent out at the beginning of July 2026.

The next meeting will be online on **Tuesday 2nd June, 19.30**, on zoom. Please e-mail wmcndall@gmail.com for the zoom link.

Hereford Peace Council – Meetings at 10 – 11.30 on the second Monday of the months of January, April, June and September, at Friends Meeting House, King Street, Hereford.

Malvern Churches Justice and Peace group Prayers for Peace, 12 noon on 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays), Lyttleton Well Prayer Room, Church Street, Great Malvern.

Upcoming events

Saturday 13th June

Stall at Leamington Peace Festival stall

Saturday 4th July

Stall at Co-CoMad in Cotteridge

Please contact

wmcndall@gmail.com if you can help at either or both of those events.

Saturday 1st August – Hiroshima

commemoration in St Philip's Cathedral churchyard – please note the date, more details will follow.

Noticeboard

Peace posters: Hereford Peace Council produces monthly posters on peace topics, to be displayed as widely as possible. The posters are not dated.

The current posters are:

May: **As long as nuclear weapons remain, they are bound one day to be used.**

Global Elders

June: **At the start of the 20th century, 10% of those killed in war were civilians. Today, 90% of those killed in war are**

civilians. *Layered Memories of Conflict, Alison Lochhead*

Please contact jennywmcnd@gp.apc.org if you would like to use these posters.

ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons)

ICAN has produced an interactive map where you can toggle through and get



updates on the cities, parliamentarians, national positions and countries championing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. You can find it here: https://www.icanw.org/mapping-ican?utm_campaign=interactive_web_map_launch_an&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ican

Investing in the Arms Race



“Investing in the Arms Race: The companies building nuclear weapons and their financiers” is a joint publication of PAX and ICAN. The report shows that between January 2023 and September 2025, 301 financial institutions had significant financing or investment relations with nuclear weapon producers, up from 260 institutions in previously published results. The latest report is available at

<https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/investing-in-the-arms-race/>