Another Close Call?

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi talked with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the head of our military establishment, to discuss precautions for preventing an unstable president (Trump) from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes and ordering a nuclear strike.

The U.S. policy should not give a single person the sole authority to fire a nuclear missile with a bomb that can kill millions. Neither should the U.S. keep its policy to be the first to fire nuclear weapons.

President Joe Biden has previously stated his opposition to the “first use” U.S. nuclear warfighting policy that could lead to miscalculations or accidentally starting a devastating nuclear war. We need a “No First Use” policy of our nuclear weapons for every president.

We hope that Senator Debbie Stabenow will again co-sponsor “No First Use.” Contact her at www.stabenow.senate.gov. It is time for Senator Gary Peters to also support “No First Use.” Contact him at www.peters.senate.gov.

Charlie King Concert!

Join us on Zoom
Saturday, April 10
7:00 to 8:30 pm
Be sure you get a Zoom invitation for the concert by our longtime friend Charlie King.

Charlie King is a New England master musical storyteller and satirist extraordinaire who will give us a spirited lift. The concert is free but you can always contribute and stay up-to-date at our website: www.peaceactionmich.org

Congress is Crucial, Call DC!

When our Senators and Representatives think about and vote on our endless wars, enormous Pentagon spending, and upgrading our nuclear arsenal, it is critical that they hear from Michigan’s voters. Call DC and don’t let the congressional staffers just sit by their phones.

Sen. Gary Peters, 202-224-6221
Sen. Debbie Stabenow, 202-224-4822

Call Your U.S. Representatives
For Congressional Districts:

1 – Jack Bergman, 202-225-4735
2 – Bill Huizenga, 202-225-4401
3 – Peter Meijer, 202-225-3831
4 – John Moolenaar, 202-225-3561
5 – Daniel Kildee, 202-225-3611
6 – Frederick Upton, 202-225-3761
7 – Tim Walberg, 202-225-6276
8 – Elissa Slotkin, 202-225-4872
9 – Andy Levin, 202-225-4961
10 – Lisa McClain, 202-225-2106
11 – Haley Stevens, 202-225-8171
12 – Debbie Dingell, 202-225-4071
13 – Rashida Tlaib, 202-225-5126
14 – Brenda Lawrence, 202-225-5802
What President Biden Needs to Do

After surveying our members, PAMI endorsed Joe Biden. Now we need to communicate with President Biden the actions he needs to do to make this world more peaceable. Here is a beginning checklist to move the money from Pentagon waste to a new, green economy.

1. Extend the New START Treaty with Russia to limit the deployed nuclear weapons and delivery systems to 1,550 and 700 respectively. President Biden and Russian President Putin reached an agreement to unconditionally extend the treaty for the full five years. Now the presidents can negotiate reductions.

2. President Biden’s announcement to end U.S. support the Saudi Arabia-United Arab Emirates war on Yemen opens a door for relief aid to get to the millions suffering from cholera and on the brink of starvation. All arms sales to countries that violate human rights should be cancelled.

3. Re-enter the Iran Nuclear Deal. It was working before Trump abandoned it.

4. Scrap plans for a new generation of nuclear weapons at an unaffordable cost of $1.7 trillion.

5. Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first. Congress should pass “No First Use” (NFU) legislation. Senator Debbie Stabenow should continue her co-sponsorship of NFU.

6. Declare that he does not have the authority to launch nuclear weapons because only Congress can declare war.

7. Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert to avoid human mistakes and political miscalculations.


9. Withdraw our troops from the Middle East forever wars.

10. Reduce Pentagon spending by at least 10% and fund the Green New Deal to provide much needed employment and reverse climate destruction.

Membership for 2021

Make a financial contribution of any amount, and you will be a member of Peace Action of Michigan (PAMI) for 2021. You will receive the FLASH! Newsletter and emails inviting you to events and asking you to advocate for peace. Gifts to PAMI are not tax-deductible. Gifts to PAMI Education Fund are tax-deductible. There are two ways to contribute.

1. Go to our website: www.peaceactionmich.org

2. Find your Response Envelope in this FLASH!, make a check payable to PAMI or PAMI Education Fund, and mail it to PAMI, P.O. Box 555, Washington Twp., MI 48094.

One Minute Activist

Contact your elected representatives and insist they scrap plans for a $1.7 trillion upgrade and expansion of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Use those taxpayer funds to relieve COVID-19 pandemic and economic crises caused by the covid pandemic.

- Call the Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121
- Email your Senators: www.senate.gov
- Email your Representative: www.house.gov
Nukes are Illegal – Celebrate!

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force on January 22 as 52 countries have signed it. Now nuclear weapons are illegal under international law, and nations who have them, develop them, use them, or even threaten to use them are breaking the law. Sadly, none of the nine nuclear powers are on board with the TPNW.

But the TPNW will eventually lead to the elimination of all nuclear weapons. There is no greater, immediate threat to our very existence than nuclear weapons. And now they are banned. The Treaty puts nuclear weapons in the same forbidden category as land mines, chemical weapons, and poison gas.

Nuclear bombs are the most destructive, inhumane, and indiscriminate weapons ever made. A single bomb dropped on Detroit could kill millions of people. Even a small nuclear war would disrupt the earth’s climate and cause widespread famine, a nuclear winter.

Peace Action will promote the Treaty to urge the U.S. to seriously pursue nuclear disarmament. The Pentagon’s investments in fighting and foolishly trying to win a nuclear war should be halted. The U.S. should actively negotiate with the other nuclear-armed states for a verifiable, enforceable agreement to dismantle the almost 14,000 nuclear warheads that still remain.

Peace Action invites you to join us in lobbying Congress to embrace the Treaty, stop the “modernization” of our entire nuclear arsenal, and take the initiative in dismantling our weapons.

These are not new ideas. In 1970, all of the then five nuclear powers agreed to eliminate their nuclear arms in exchange for other nations forgoing the development of such weapons. But the nuclear powers refused to give up their omnicidal power and bowed to their military-industrial-political powers. The “good faith” negotiations have never occurred.

Although there are nine nuclear-armed powers today, the rest of the world has said, “Enough! Enough of this terror!”

Your Wake-Up Call

On January 27, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists re-set the Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight — the closest it has ever been — because the threats to our existence today call for quick and comprehensive action to deal with nuclear weapons, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Humanity is still 100 seconds away from annihilation.

The pandemic serves as a wake-up call, a vivid illustration that national governments and international organizations are unprepared to manage nuclear weapons and climate change.

The development of hypersonic glide vehicles, ballistic missile defenses, and missiles that can deliver conventional or nuclear warheads raised the risk of miscalculation in 2020. The U.S. and Russian leaders appear to consider nuclear weapons more-and-more usable, increasing the risk of actual bombings.

Check out the video and “This is your COVID wake-up call: It is 100 seconds to midnight” 2021 Doomsday Clock Announcement at www.thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock.

This issue of FLASH names a number of actions you can take to decrease the danger of nuclear nightmares. Now that you are awake, what will you do today?

Get Out the Vote Successes

Peace Action of Michigan made a large investment of $6,600 to increase voter turnout in Detroit in 2020. We funded the efforts of Students Demand Action (to reduce gun violence) at Wayne State University. Megan Dombrowski and her team trained 27 students to reach out on their personal networks to encourage registration and voting. One creative initiative was enclosing stamps for mailing their absentee ballot applications since students rarely have stamps. We plan to do more initiatives with college students to support and encourage their peace efforts.

We funded a Digital Media Advertising campaign through Insyght, which is headed by the renowned pollster Ed Sarpolus. Over the last 2½ weeks of the campaign season, Detroiters saw our Digital Ads an average of 35,814 times daily. We played a part in increasing the number of voters in Detroit over 2016 and 2018.
ICBMs Are Obsolete

The U.S. Air Force wants to replace their midwestern land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) at a price tag of $100 billion. The ICBMs are obsolete because today’s submarine nuclear-bombing missiles are now accurate, and the submarines are hard to find. The ICBMs are not necessary for any deterrence doctrine. Besides, the goal is nuclear disarmament.

The ICBMs are on “trigger alert” because they are so vulnerable to attack. This fact makes them extremely dangerous since on several occasions it was thought a foreign attack was coming, and they were mistakenly readied for launch. A president is liable to “fire them before losing them.”

The Air Force wants to retain all legs of the Triad — ICBMs, submarines, and bombers. The ICBMs bring in money to the Air Force, are seen as job creators in several states, and the defense contractors relish the income.

There is $44.5 billion in the 2021 defense budget for nuclear weapons, a 19% increase over 2020. Last year, Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA) proposed a two-thirds cut to ICBM research and development. Peace Action hopes he presses on with such legislation this year.

Will the Biden Administration reduce the budgeting for the obsolete ICBMs? Peace Action wants the ICBMs dismantled and not replaced. Stay tuned for Action Alerts.

—Dr. Linda Darga

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