



NEIGHBOURS AS FRIENDS, NOT ENEMIES

Nordic-Russian seminar

Oslo, 3.- 4. February 2020

REPORT

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Neighbours as friends, not enemies

Nordic-Russian seminar, PRIO, Oslo, 3.- 4. February 2020

Executive summary

A Nordic-Russian civil society seminar was organized in Oslo 3. - 4. February 2020 by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Norway, and the Norwegian Peace Association. The theme of the seminar was "Neighbours as friends, not enemies".

The seminar, which gathered some 45 participants from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden was a follow up to a Nordic peace and dialogue trip to Russia in May 2018. The seminar was held at the Peace Research Institute Oslo, PRIO, and was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its grant to the Norwegian Peace Council. The organisers are already planning a follow up seminar in Norway in 2021.

The main intention with the seminar was to strengthen relations between peace activists in the North, discuss common challenges and visions and contribute to mutual understanding and perhaps even help reduce the present tension. The tension between the West and Russia is one of the drivers behind the present militarization and arms' race, involving both conventional and nuclear weapons.

Participants had open discussions on how to promote peace, disarmament and a sound environment, and agreed to seek ways to continue with practical and strategic forward-looking initiatives and solution-oriented dialogues.

Different alternatives were discussed of how we can contribute to changing attitudes in order to reverse the nuclear and space-arms race, reduce defence spending and get us out of the dominant growth oriented, militarized, confrontational and competitive patterns. In short, how can we build common security, human security, a culture of peace, and non-violence.

The participants agreed on a final statement, see report conclusions and summing up.

Ingeborg Breines

Russian-Nordic seminar, 3.-4. February 2020, PRIO, Opening

Neighbours as friends, not enemies

Dear friends, dear everyone,

It is such a great pleasure for me to see you all here and to welcome you to this Nordic Russian seminar, taking place at the renowned Peace research institute of Oslo. Thank you PRIO for offering us both space and cooperation. We who are gathered here to-day come from Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway. Welcome to you all, not least to those who have travelled from Moscow and St. Petersburg and from the other Nordic countries!

Some of you may be aware that this seminar is a follow up to a Nordic cultural and peace journey to Russia, May 2018, under the heading *Neighbours as friends, not enemies*. We were three women who organized the trip, the eminent singer and peace activist Birgitte Grimstad, who you just heard and the late peace activist Trine Eklund, who we miss very much. It is great that several of the participants from the trip are here today, and tomorrow you will also meet more of the artists. We look forward!

But this seminar would not have taken place if it were not for the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom and the Norwegian Peace Association. They took action, got some small financial contribution from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, established a preparatory committee and here we are.

I would like, as a kind of entry to my introductory remarks, to share with you some thoughts after having listened recently to one of my favourite singers, Leonard Cohen. Cohen gave a concert in London in 2018 and greeted the audience with the words: *We are so privileged to meet like this when so much of the world is plunged in darkness and chaos*, and then he went on to sing "Anthem" a song which most of you would know, with the refrain *There is a crack in everything, that is how the light gets in*. And I was thinking that many of us are so deeply depressed and angry by the way the world is run these days, depressed and scared by the rapidly evolving environmental and climate crises and by militarization and the modernization and proliferation of nuclear weapons capable of destroying humanity and the planet many times over. In addition, the inequality gap is growing rapidly between the few who have so much and the many who live in dire need and even starve without a hope of having a decent life. It creates justified, and sometimes dangerous, anger by those who are left behind.

Yet the broad majority of major world leaders do not seem to understand, but continue to act as if military might is the answer to the challenges of the day, totally emerged as they are in the old Roman motto: *If you want peace, you have to prepare for war* (Si vis pacem, para bellum). So we need to prove that this thinking is dangerous, naive and obsolete. We need to develop the alternatives, find the cracks in the walls, literally and figuratively, to get the light in and we need to engage in creating the privileged spaces for this to happen. We, civil society, need to broaden our knowledge, strengthen our cooperation and search for the best common strategies in the hope that we can contribute to a new humanism, a new enlightenment, a new ecological, circular

economy, a common security, in other words a culture of peace. Hopefully we can manage to make this our Russian-Nordic seminar as one crack where the light gets in.

As an encouragement to us all, I would like to mention two such cracks of relevance to our meeting today. Firstly, peace professor Johan Galtung, co-founder with Ingrid Eide and Mari Holmboe Ruge of this very peace research institute, told me once that after the fall of the Berlin wall, he was visiting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow and was taken down to a room in the basement. What was he shown? A room, full of articles and books that Galtung and others in PRIO had sent to the top authorities in Moscow, as in Washington and other major capitals, without ever getting any feedback. But the books were there, and obviously their thinking had found its way into the sphere of decision-making.

In a rather similar way, I was fortunate to meet president Mikhail Gorbachev in Rome in 2008. It was at one of the Nobel Summits, this yearly meeting place for Nobel peace laureates that Gorbachev initiated with some of the money from his Nobel peace prize. I was there representing the International Peace Bureau (Nobel Peace laureate in 1910). Gorbachev spoke in particular to the international peace movement and said that he would never have dared take any initiative to cross the Atlantic and make efforts to communicate with the "dangerous" American leaders if it had not been for the strong peace movement at the time. He also said that he was aware that the peace movement is frustrated since we never or seldom hear back from the top leaders. But he underlined that they do listen and urged us to be strong and vocal again.

Before travelling to Russia in 2018, we had set up meetings with academics, peace activists, artists and journalists, mainly in Moscow and St. Petersburg; but we were uncertain. It had taken such a long time to prepare this trip. Former Russian contacts did not answer. Were they afraid that they would be labelled "foreign agents" in accordance with the law of 2012 directed at Russian civil society organisations receiving financial support from abroad? Were previous peace organisations not functioning any more? Was there a very conservative trend also in Russia? Were peace and disarmament taboo issues? It was only after a long process and after having received help from the international peace movement that our program started to shape up. Language was also a barrier. We were, however, lucky to get very valuable help from the Russian embassy in Norway and remain grateful for their generosity. The Embassy even opened its doors for a small peace concert we organized and they gave a nice reception. And, it has to be said, there has been no attempts what so ever of recruitment by any intelligence or surveillance, which otherwise has been a big issue between our two countries over the last two years (Ref. Frode Berg case).

Arriving in Russia, already at our first meeting at the Veteran house in Moscow, we started enjoying the dialogue. We were told how pleased they were that we came "with open and friendly faces", as they said. They said they felt isolated from their friends in the West. They had even feared that the Nordic peace movement was dead. Somewhat similar to what we had feared. They had invited lots of people to meet us; they offered song and music, food and food for thought and we were overwhelmed by the warm reception.

We were happy to meet inter alia the Russian branch of Physicians against Nuclear Weapons, Pugwash, the Gorbachev Foundation, the National Committee for Co-operation with the UN's Environmental Organisation UNEP, UNESCO, the Federation of

Peace and Consideration, For Saving the People, St. Petersburg Peace Council, Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg and Movement for Conscientious Objectors from Military Service.

Perhaps I am wrong, but as a Norwegian, I had the feeling that the Russians we met had a special relation to Norway, and I was wondering why? Was it a longing for something smaller and easier to handle than their huge and complex country? Was it because they saw across our common border in the north a rather well functioning democracy and a solid well fare state? Or, was it because of the Barents cooperation with a visa free zone on both sides of the 196-kilometre border (from the Treriksrøysa via the Pasvik and the Grense Jakop rivers)? Or was it because of the successful dividing line in the Barents sea, developed by a small country and a big country after long diplomatic negotiations in a period where interest in the Arctic is strongly growing because of climate change allowing for transport and traffic in the North-East Passage and for new possibilities of exploitations of natural resources like fish, oil, gas and minerals. Or have these relations roots back to the centuries long Pomor trade between the peoples of the extreme north, so important for their survival under harsh conditions? Or is there still gratefulness for the food that Norwegian schoolchildren managed to give to hungry and suffering Russian war prisoners during WWII, or the supplies of brave North-Norwegian war sailors to Murmansk and Archangels early in the last world war? Or is it, as they mentioned several times, the enormous help that Fritjov Nansen, with the assistance of Quisling, gave to Russian peasants and Russian immigrants during the famine following the Revolution in 1917? And perhaps there is pride in the fact that Russia was the first country to recognize the sovereignty of Norway in 1905, or, even more so the pride Russians rightly take in the liberation of North Norway from the Nazis 75 years ago, that was recently celebrated in Kirkenes in the presence of the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Lavrov, and the Norwegian King and Prime Minister?

Can we measure any effects of the trip? That is of course difficult, but we did get some media attention, we were invited to meet the Norwegian-Russian committee at the Parliament, in Gothenburg the peace movement has established a project with the same title *Neighbours as friends, not enemies* and we are here to-day.

So now, what are the challenges in front of us, and what can we do together? We are not here to debate, but to have a deep and open dialog on how to further peace, disarmament and a sound environment primarily in our part of the world. But since the world is so globalized and we all are interrelated and interdependent, national borders become less important in this sense. What we do here may have effects also elsewhere. We all feel inadequate in the small things we do, but if we agree on a common vision, all our small achievements may grow into something bigger and more important.

For years I have worked on and with UNESCO and the UN Program on a culture of peace. The preamble to UNESCO's Constitution always echoes somewhere in the back of my head "*Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defences for peace must be constructed*", a quite different form for defence than what we usually hear about. I therefore hope that we will agree to contribute forcefully to a transition from the culture of war and violence to a culture of peace and non-violence. As inspiration and guidelines we have the UN Plan of action made for the International Year for a Culture of Peace and the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World. We have the rather recent UN Declaration on the Right to Peace and we

have the UN Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, now only lacking the ratification by 15 countries to come into force. We have the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate. And in addition to the normative instruments of the UN, we have important regional agreements and institutions like the Arctic Council, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and all the civil society organisations.

And since we are in Norway, the country in charge of the Nobel Peace Prize, allow me to remind us all of the words of the peace activist, the baroness Bertha von Suttner, who was the one to inspire Alfred Nobel to also make a prize for champions of peace. She said in her famous book *Down with the weapons*, that we have to create "an active disgust for war". I also think we agree on such an anti-war position and it brings me back to one thing that was mentioned again and again by the Russians we met. They reminded us that the Soviet Union lost some 27 million people during WWII, or during the Great Patriotic War, as they call it, and that almost every family in Russia has lost a loved one. This is still so fresh in their minds that they insist that they would not want any new war.

So we need *peace on earth* and also *peace with the earth*. Environmental issues concerned many of the young people we met in Russia. Since then, the Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg has shaken up the world insisting that we have to act as if our house is on fire. Thousands of young people across the world are dead afraid of the climate catastrophe that is already being felt in the melting of the ice, in the burning of forests, the desertification of agricultural land, in ravaging storms and a rising sea level. In addition we shamelessly centralize, weaken our agricultural competence and cover mother earth with asphalt rendering it barren. We have to find ways of producing and consuming which ensures the well being of all and the integrity of the biosphere. We need a new kind of social contract benefitting both humanity and the planet.

We presumably also agree that the big challenges today and the threats against humanity and the biosphere cannot be met by military might. The military actually makes us less safe, both economically and ecologically, by taking so much of the resources that are needed for other purposes and by the enormous greenhouse gas emissions, the radiation and pollution it provides. It is high time to understand that we cannot allow the military to be an exception to international climate agreements and continue to make very heavy boot prints on the soil, the water, the air and even the atmosphere. We must work to change attitudes in order to reverse the nuclear and space-arms race and reduce defence spending. War and militarism are human inventions; it is time for us to recognize that they now are obsolete.

Can we contribute to radically change production and consumption patterns so that we stop producing and using things we do not need? It seems obvious that we cannot continue to misuse the world's resources, both financial and intellectual, for military purposes. According to SIPRI the world spends more than 1.8 trillion dollars a year on the military, which corresponds to approximately 615 regular UN budgets. How can the UN then be able to do its work? The US alone has military expenditure that is more than 10 times that of Russia. The military expenditure of the US is growing and that of Russia has been reduced over the last two years. Already president Roosevelt was warning about the growing military industrial complex, saying: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who

hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed". Additionally, this excessive military spending cannot provide the security we want. We risk instead destroying our beautiful planet, the home to all life as we know it.

The West failed to answer positively to Gorbachev's vision of change through *glasnost* and *perestroika*. There was a dream of a common European home, a common security with peace from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Instead the West broke its promise after the closing of the Warsaw pact of not moving "an inch eastwards". Now many of the former Soviet states are members both of the EU and of NATO, and the US is encircling Russia with military bases. We have to admit that it looks like a new arms race and a race for military power also in space even though Russia expresses the intention not to get into the same situation as in the last Cold War when they spent so much on the military that it impoverished the people.

Friends, we have work to do! I do look forward to our sharing of concerns, visions and strategic and practical measures for a common, just and peaceful future.

**NORDIC-RUSSIAN SEMINAR « NEIGHBOURS AS FRIENDS » 3.-4.2.2020
PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HAUSMANNSGATE 3, OSLO**

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY

11.00 Registration; light refreshments

11.30 Opening of seminar

Welcome by Torunn Tryggestad, Deputy Director PRIO. (5 min)

Presentation of participants (15 min)

Sing-along song (5 min)

12.00 Good neighbours, aims and visions, by Ingeborg Breines (20 min)

Experiences and hopes: Prepared contributions from Russian and Nordic seminar participants (5-10 min each).

Discussion

15.00 Light lunch

16.00 Open meeting: Neighbours as friends, not enemies. Russian- Nordic Civil Society

Cooperation. Introduction by Ingeborg Breines (5 min)

Song about a Friend” by Vysotskij, Birgitte Grimstad and Jørn Simen Øverli (10 min)

Cooperation with Russia in Northern Norway by Rune Rafaelsen (20 min)

Questions

Human rights approaches to reduce the level of militarization. The example of the activity of the Human Rights organisation « Soldiers' mothers of St Petersburg » By Oksana Paramonova (15 min)

Questions

Challenges of the Baltic-Nordic regional militarization, confrontation of NATO with Russia, possible solutions and the role of civil society in this process. By Oleg Bodrov (15 min)

Questions

Militarization as a threat to the health of future generations. By Natalia Kovaleva. 15. min)

Questions

Challenges regarding Nordic-Russian cooperation for peace. By Lina Hjærtström (15 min)

Questions and discussion

18.30 End of meeting

19.00 Dinner for seminar participants

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

10.00 Peaceful cooperation: challenges and possibilities in the Arctic .**by Sverre Lodgaard (20 min)**

Questions and discussion

11.00 Panel 1: Nuclear threat and militarization

Introduction to debate

Nuclear threat and artificial intelligence by Esbjerg Peace Movement (10 min)**The North as a Platform for War - or Peace by Agneta Norberg (10 min)**

Contributions by other participants

Discussion

Cross border music by Birgitte Grimstad, Elfi Sverdrup, Tuva Færden,
Ruth Wilhelmine Meyer (10 min)**12.30 Lunch****13.30 Panel 2: Environmental challenges**

Introductions to debate

The military threat to climate and environment by Åse Møller-Hansen (10 min)**Why the environmental protests are on the rise in Russia and what they can
change? By Artem Filatov (10 min.)**

Contributions by other participants

Discussion

15.00 The Road Forward

Summary and proposals for further work by Russian and Nordic representatives

16.00 Closure

OSLO PEACE SEMINAR 3.-4.2.2020: SPEAKERS. MUSICIANS, PARTICIPANTS

Country/Name	Organisation	Email
Russia		
Oleg Bodrov	Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland	bodrov@greenworld.org.ru
Oksana Paramonova	Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg	oksana2010spb@gmail.com
Nataliia Kovaleva	St. Petersburg Society of Medical Genetics	kovalevanv2007@yandex.ru
Inna Berezkina	Moscow School of Civic Education	berezkina.edu@gmail.com
Artem Filatov	Moscow School of Civic Education	filatov.letter@gmail.com
Norway		
Torunn Tryggestad	PRIO	torunn@prio.org
Sverre Lodgaard	NUPI	sl@nupi.no
Rune Rafaelsen	Sør Varanger Municipality	rurf@svk.no
Ingeborg Breines	WILPF/ N. Peace Association	i.breines@gmail.com
Ingrid Eide	WILPF	ieid@online.no
Liss Schanke	WILPF	liss.schanke@gmail.com
Irene E.Hamborg	N. Peace Association	ie.hamborg@gmail.com
Kari Nes	WILPF	kari.nes@inn.no
Elisabeth Koren	WILPF	e-koren@online.no
Ellen Elster	WILPF	e-elster@online.no
Åse Møller Hansen	WILPF	aasemh04@yahoo.com
Lidia Kleiberg	WILPF	lidia@kleiberg.biz
Tone L. Ravnås	WILPF/N. Peace Association	toneravn@gmail.com
Siri Lill Thowsen	N. Peace Association	siri.lill@yahoo.no
Tommy Vad Flaaten	N. Peace Association	tommyvasflaaten@gmail.com
Vilde Ingeborg Holtan Håvardrud	N. Peace Association	vildeingeborg@gmail.com
Dagmar Sørbøe	WILPF	d-soerb@online.no
Ingegerd Austbø	WILPF	ingegera@online.no
Edel Havin Beukes	WILPF	edel@beukes.net
Eva Fidjestøl	WILPF	esofidje@online.no
Mari Holmboe Ruge	WILPF	mruge@online.no
Elisabeth Eide	WILPF	elisabe@oslomet.no
Bjarne Lavik	Antikrigs initiativet	bjarnelavik3@gmail.com
Mai Bente Bonnevie	WILPF	maibent@online.no
Birgitte Grimstad	WILPF/ N. Peace Association	birgittegrimstad35@gmail.com
Jørn Simen Øverli	Musician	jornsimen@jornsimen.no
Elfi Sverdrup	Musician	elfi.sverdrup1@gmail.com
Tuva Færden	Musician	tuva.farden@gmail.com

Ruth Wilhelmine Meyer	Musician	ruth@wilhelmine.no
Denmark		
Poul Eck Sørensen	Esbjerg Peace Association	poul@peaceweb.dk
Lisbet Skou	Esbjerg Peace Association	lisbet@skou.mail.dk
Knud Oluf La Cour Dragsbo	Esbjerg Peace Association	dragsbo@esenet.dk
Kis Eck Sørensen	Esbjerg Peace Association	kis_eck@hotmail.com
Ida Harslöf	WILPF	ida@harslof.dk
Solvejg Sieg Sørensen	WILPF	sieg.moerch@gmail.com
Hasse Schneidermann	Ministry of Peace	Hasse.schneidermann@gmail.com
Helge Ratzer	Ministry of Peace	helgeratzer@outlook.dk
Arne Hansen	Aldri mere Krig	post@arnehansen.net
Hjørdis Nielsen	Tid til fred - aktiv mod krig	hjoerdis@nielsen.mail.dk
Finland		
Marianne Laxen	WILPF/ F. Peace Union	mannelx@hotmail.com
Sirkku Järvelä	WILPF	sirkku.jarvela@gmail.com
Sweden		
Agneta Norberg	S. Peace Council	lappland.norberg@gmail.com
Karin Utas	House of Peace Gothenburg	karin.utas.carlsson@telia.com
Lina Hjærtström	WILPF	lina.hjartstrom@ikff.se
Desirée Sterner	WILPF	elisedesireesterner@gmail.com
Birgit Söderström	WILPF	birgit.soderstrom@svenskakyrkan.se

Torunn Tryggestad: Welcome, talking points

- Good morning everyone.
- My name is Torunn L. Tryggestad and I am the deputy director of PRIO and director of the PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security
- It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to PRIO and to this two-day Nordic-Russian seminar entitled "Neighbours as friends"
- Welcome to our guests from the Nordic countries - and a particularly warm welcome to our guest from Russia. It is not that often we have people representing Russian civil society visiting us here at PRIO.
- PRIO does not normally host events at our premises that are not our own. However, when we got the request from WILPF-Norway, we immediately decided to make an exception.
- PRIO has historically had close relations to the peace movement. And in the case of WILPF Norway the relations are somewhat special because of Ingrid Eide – who is one of the of the founding mothers of PRIO.
- As you maybe know PRIO celebrated its 60th anniversary last year – and is as such one of the oldest peace research institutes in the world – if not THE oldest.
- Over the coming two days you will discuss the role of civil society – and the prospects for a stronger Nordic-Russian civil society collaboration – in fighting militarism, the nuclear threat and the impact of military activities on the environment and the climate.
- These are all topics of great interest and relevance to PRIO – although we currently do not have any specific research projects or programs focusing specifically on issues of disarmament or the nuclear threat.
- As you maybe know, PRIO is a project funded institute, and funding for such research topics have unfortunately not been readily available in recent years.
- However, we do have researchers at PRIO who are interested in working on these topics and they are continuously developing project proposals and submitting these to relevant funding institutions.
- So hopefully we will succeed in raising funds - eventually.
- We do not give up. Because we strongly believe that both research and civil society activism are sorely needed in order to build peace.
- I have just returned from a week in New York where I attended a number of meetings at the UN.

- A central concern at the UN is of course the ongoing undermining of multilateralism and the lack of trust and cooperation between the permanent members of the UN Security Council.
- This lack of trust and cooperation are increasingly permeating the whole UN system and have a strong impact on the UN Secretary-General's reform agenda – in which conflict prevention is a key priority. He has repeatedly called on the member states to invest more on conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.
- But we seem to be moving in the wrong direction. The share of Official Development Assistance (ODA) focusing on peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected countries has stagnated from 16.8 % in 2009 to 11.2 % in 2017. Nominally, this percentage amounted to 7.5 billion USD in 2017.
- **By contrast**, global military spending rose to \$ 1822 billion in 2018, marking the highest level of military spending since 1988.
- So your seminar – focusing on issues of de-militarisation and disarmament - is timely.
- I wish you fruitful discussions over the next couple of days.
- And I encourage you to share with us any output that might come out of this seminar.
- Thank you!

Ingeborg Breines: Introduction to open meeting

Dear guests, dear friends.

Welcome to this open part of our two-days Nordic Russian civil society seminar. The seminar, organized by the International League for Peace and Freedom and the Norwegian Peace Association, is a follow up to a Nordic peace and dialogue trip to Russia May 2018 under the heading *Neighbours as friends, not enemies* and we are already planning a new gathering in 2021. We are some 40+ participants at the seminar from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

Our intention with the journey in 2018 was to learn more about Russia, to network with the peace movement and, in a modest way, to contribute both to mutual understanding and, if possible, also help reduce the actual tension between the West and Russia. We wanted to show that not everybody in the West is suffering from Russo phobia. To us, the trip was important because Russia is presented as a threat, in the media and in mainstream political interventions. Enemy images are created, leaders are being demonized, which again creates fear and contributes to a generalized acceptance of growing military budgets and, in our country at least, also a strengthening of NATO. We who organized the trip would rather like to contribute to the new reflection that is needed to get us out of the dominant growth oriented, militarized, confrontational and competitive patterns, and instead help us concentrate our energy, creativity and empathic potential on how to cooperate, in and with dignity, to build a culture of peace and try to save humanity and our planet from the real and not the hypothetical threats to our security and our very existence.

We met with academics, peace activists, artists and journalists, mainly in Moscow and St. Petersburg, and were warmly welcomed. We enjoyed the culture, historic monuments, the beauty of Moscow and St. Petersburg, the landscape and small places along the old waterways, where also the Vikings sailed hundreds of years ago. Language was sometimes a barrier, which we also felt in the preparations, and we remain grateful for the valuable help we got from the Russian Embassy in Norway. And, let it be said, there has been no attempts what so ever of recruitment by any intelligence or surveillance, which otherwise has been a big issue between our two countries over the last two years (Ref. Frode Berg case).

Our experience increased the wish to strengthen contacts between the Nordic countries and Russia. We developed a statement on board that was sent to both parliamentarians in the Nordic countries and to the media. The Statement has seven recommendations, and I will read:

- *Stop creating images of people as enemies, using the rhetoric of the Cold War. This belongs to the past!*
- *Support Nordic-Russian people-to-people communication politically, practically and economically.*
- *Promote real and positive knowledge about Russia through visits, dialogues and exchange through the media and in political discussions.*

- *Re-evaluate the sanctions against Russia.*
- *Invite President Putin and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Lavrov, for conversations among neighbours in all the Nordic countries, like we see being done in Finland.*
- *Sign- and ratify the UN Treaty against Nuclear Weapons.*
- *Reduce the defence budgets in the Nordic countries like Russia has done. (Cfr. Report from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI, about military expenses in the world, 2017).*

I think we have started a practical and strategic dialogue that is forward-looking and solution-oriented, and we intend to continue. And, indeed, we have work to do, because the world is using abnormal and growing sums to build military might, but fails to meet the needs and concerns of people. The world's resources, financial and intellectual, are being misused for military purposes. We need to move the money and instead tackle the real security issues such as the threat to the very survival of humanity and the planet, be it by climate change, nuclear weapons or excessive inequality.

To us, it is insane when the world spends 1.8 trillion dollars a year on military expenditure and there are not enough resources to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. More than 100 billion dollars of these resources are devoured by nuclear weapons, whose production, modernization and use hopefully soon will be ruled out on military, political, legal, ecological and moral grounds.

Rich and poor states alike seem to be pressured into arms races, spending more on armament than they need and can afford. To continue a process of militarization, often outside democratic control, that mainly serves the arms producers and dealers and even brings corruption is a dangerous path that will not bring hope to young people in desperation. In order to move towards just and peaceful societies, we need to address the root-causes of conflicts, not only the symptoms.

Excessive military expenditures not only represent a theft from those who are hungry and suffer, but are also an ineffective means of obtaining human security and a culture of peace. Substantial reductions in military costs could eliminate the crushing poverty whereby nearly one third of humanity lives in insufferable conditions, a majority being women, children and young people. Since one year military spending equals about 615 years of UN annual budgets, such a reduction in military costs would also strengthen both the United Nations' and our efforts and possibilities to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Existing military forces should instead be retrained to fight the global climate and environmental change, which warrants urgent remedial actions and an holistic approach which requires changing attitudes and rethinking of unsustainable and destructive production and consumption patterns.

Finally, I would like to mention what a senior Russian researcher we met at the Peace Council in St Petersburg underlined in his speech. He said that they consider NATO/USA nuclear submarines hiding in the depths of Norwegian fjords as a major threat to their security. Coming from Northern Norway I can see how surveillance of Russian submarines is a major occupation, costing us enormous sums. This madness has to stop. It undermines the building of trust, so vital for real cooperation and for our survival. I hope not to hurt any of the sensitive and sensible men in the audience, but both missiles

15.

and submarines are symbols of a totally outdated and testosterone filled masculinity, based on muscular strength and might, which we for far too long have allowed to rule international relations.

To us, countries are not strong by their show-off of weapons, but by the caring they do for people and the planet. We want welfare – not warfare! Friends, again, we have work to do, together!

Rune Rafaelsen: Cooperation with Russia in Northern Norway

(Rune Rafaelsen did not use a manuscript. The following is based on notes taken by the organizers.)

Mayor of Sør Varanger, living in Kirkenes. Contact with Russia is part of my daily job.

Last week celebration of 25 years' cooperation between Kirkenes and with Severomorsk, a closed city, centre for the Russian Northern naval fleet. Getting into that city harder than getting into Russia. Concert by the Music Conservatory and a swimming competition,

I often go to the Russian city Nickel. Huge sulphur pollution. Big problem, for Russia, Nickel – and Norway. Biggest source of sulphur pollution in Norway – 3 times more than the rest of Norway. The Nickel oven will close in 2020

Kirkenes was once a mining town. The mine closed down, and 600 jobs disappeared.

What can we do together when 600 jobs suddenly disappear?

We lookd at other sources of income: the harbour of Kirkenes, tourism – especially Asian tourism.

« Kirkenes is a Russian town in Norway », 10% of the people speak Russian or are Russians
We have a long history of international agreements/treaties between Russia and Norway

- First treaty 1326, Novgorod Treaty, to permit reindeer in the Varanger area
- 1809 Sweden gave away Finland to Russia, the Swedish heir died and Sweden sent a delegation to France and found Jean Baptiste Bernadotte - who immediately had contact with the Russian Tsar Alexander 1.
- 1825 first border commission, ratified i 1826

Einar Gerhardsen went to Moscow in 1955 – in the middle of the cold war. The 2 countries jointly created 7 power plants along the Pasvik river, the water comes from the Finnish Enare river.

In spite of political differences the Barents secretariat was established to promote regional peace and cooperation in the North

Broad cooperation between Russia and Norway in the North. There is no organisation or company in the north that does not have any cooperation with a Russian partner institution. I want to create an atomsphere where Olga and Vladimir are part of Per's and Kari's lives.

We have a border commission. We are presently studying what happened in 2015 when 5500 people come over the border in 3 month. Probably a result of general increase of immigration, this border was the safest route into to Norway.

How to improve the Nordic-Russian dialogue? A key is the difficult Crimean situation after March 2014. I hope that France and Germany will find a solution to stabilise South East Ukraine through concrete dalogue with Russia.

Dialogue is the only solution, arms not. You will never find me screaming for more weapons and security at the border. The best security is based on a peaceful civil society cooperation.

Oksana Paramanova: Human Rights' approaches to reduce the level of militarization

Non-Governmental Human Rights Organization
«Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg»
www.soldiersmothers.ru

1

The Historical moment

www.soldiersmothers.ru

4

СОЛДАТСКИЕ МАТЕРИ Санкт-Петербурга

Since 1991 we protect the legal rights of:

- Conscripts
- Soldiers
- Conscientious objectors

Our principles:

- Human rights
- Empowerment
- Personal responsibility
- Rule of Law
- inherent dignity of the human person
- Non-violent conflict resolution
- Civilian control over the observation of law in the Russian Armed Forces
- Civil society development

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2

Militarization in numbers

Approval of the army – 82,4%

Military service is obligatory for men – 80%

The situation in the army

Participation of the Russian Army in covert operations abroad

Response	Percentage
Approve	47
Disapprove	29

Situation	Percentage
Good	7
Terrible	17
Dreadful	26
Can't answer	50

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5

At the beginning...

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3

Militarization in numbers

Approval of the army – 82,4%

Military service is obligatory for men – 80%

Men don't want to serve

Everyone must serve

Response	Percentage
Approve	61
Disapprove	24

Response	Percentage
Agree	15
Disagree	61
Can't answer	24


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6

Conscription is still going on

Main Violations for Conscripts

- Violations in conscripts' medical examination
- Criminal prosecution of conscientious objectors
- Forced conscription
- Corruption
- Restriction of access to information



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7

Seminar on the Exchange of Good Practices



www.volunteers.org.ru


10

Human Rights School

The goals of Human Rights School

1. To overcome a fear the arbitrariness of the officials;
2. To aware their human dignity;
3. To unite participants in protecting their rights;
4. To take responsibility for their rights and lives;
5. To use methods of conflict resolution with officials nonviolently;
6. To spread the successful experience.

In 2019 50 instructors attended – more than 600 conscript and their relatives took part.
More than 200 personal legal advices for conscripts.
More than 300 000 views of broadcasts of seminars in social networks.



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8



Our mobile apps for conscripts and soldiers have been downloaded about 20000 times and more than 3100 people use them regularly.
More than 35 % appeals from the army are received through the app.

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11

Themed Seminars and Workshops



www.volunteers.org.ru

9

Video materials

Video-course for the conscripts



Legal video-advices

www.volunteers.org.ru

12

Themed seminars and consultations on the rights of ACS.
Videos and Animation

www.soldiersmothers.ru

13

Lack of civilian control over the army

- ❖ The regional organizations stopped their human rights activities
- ❖ The so-called parent committees, don't work
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has become more closed
- ❖ There is no statistics on army from the authorities

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16

RESPECT and «Soldiers' Mothers» on the Right for Alternative Service and Peacemaking

www.soldiersmothers.ru

14

Hotline and Skype

- Mobile "Hotline" (two phone numbers) respond to acute situations in recruitment offices, military units and etc.

Hotline receives calls from all over Russia.

Through the "Hotline" the draftees, who have been forced conscriptions (caught in raids), received effective legal assistance.

- About 4000 calls in year.
- Permanent legal assistance via Skype for conscripts and soldiers of all regions of Russia.
- From 46 Russia's regions.
- More than 400 legal advices in year.

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17

The game "Escape from the Military Machine"

www.soldiersmothers.ru

15

Increased violence and mortality in the army

Main Human Rights Violations in the army:

- Refusing of providing medical assistance
- Deaths of soldiers in peacetime
- Tortures and abusive treatment in the army
- Extortions
- Poor sanitary conditions

In 2019 more than 1000 legal advices for soldiers and their families

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18

Fact

As an accident in barracks, soldier suffered an injury to his right leg.

The officers did not take any measures to help the soldier.

Mother agreed with the officer and took her son in her car to the traumatology station, where a broken leg was diagnosed.

In the military unite the soldier was locked in a separate room, where 3 times a day they brought him food.

The mother has been pressured and threatened that her son will be convicted of self-harming.

After the intervention of the organization, soldiers was placed in a hospital, and after recovery in another unite.

The officer was convicted.

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19

Legal support

ECHR
4 complains to the ECHR for the protection of conscientious objectors

Regional courts
The access to personal files of military commissariats with the possibility of photofixing them

The protection of conscientious objectors from criminal prosecution – 4 cases in 2019

Military courts
To protect soldiers and their families rights – 9 cases of violence in the army in 2019

Legal opinions on bills – since 2018 more than 10 independent legal opinions






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22

ALTERNATIVE CIVIL SERVICE
Conscientious objection

Main reasons of a low interest in ACS in the society

- High level of militarization
- Negative image of alternative servicemen
- Negative image of alternative service
- Lack of information about ACS, or the presence of unreliable (distorted) information
- Criminal prosecution




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20

Our peacemaking initiatives

www.alterservice.life

Everyone can find information about, how military and alternative service is organized in 18 countries and also news, stories about alternative service and anti-militarist library.



www.soldiersmothers.ru

23

Fact

Young man was on ACS in "Bernard's regional gerontological center".

In July 2019, he needed to see a doctor because felt worse.

He asked his employer for medical leave.

He went home (other town) and applied to clinic for treatment.

After he found out that his application for leave had not been satisfied.

He was on sick leave because of his illness.

When he returned to work, he discovered that an investigator was calling him in for questioning.

He was accused.

- He evaded his work duties within 2 weeks
- He had left the place where he was going through an ACS without the permission of his employer.

The organization's lawyers prepared a legal position that made it possible to terminate the investigation.

The man was prematurely dismissed from alternative service for health reasons.

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21

International peacemaking projects

- **Women's peacemaking initiative**, aimed at settling the military conflict in the south-east of Ukraine by peaceful means.
- **International coalition Human Rights defenders** working on the development of the peace process in Syrian Arab Republic.

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24



25



26

* Oleg Bodrov : NATO and Russia Confrontation in the Baltic-Nordic Region – Challenges and Possible Solutions

NATO & Russia Confrontation in the Baltic-Nordic Region. Challenges & Possible Solutions

Oleg Bodrov
Oslo, February 3, 2020

1

Current Russian Reality

- Russia could be the first to use nuclear weapons.
- MFA of RF: "The prohibition of nuclear weapons is contrary to the national interests of Russia".
- President of RF, Supreme Commander in Chief personally launched the Russian "nuclear triad", + trans-continental missiles were launched from submarines, air and ground-based facilities capable of carrying nuclear weapons. It was demonstration of psychological readiness to use nuclear weapons.
- Russian NGOs cooperated with foreign NGOs became "Foreign Agents".
- There are No Peace Movement in Russia initiated from grassroots level.

4

Baltic Nordic Region

- 100 millions residents in 11 countries;
- Inland sea, water exchange 27 years;
- One of the most traffic & contaminated sea;
- Confrontation between NATO and Russia.

2

Security in the Eastern Baltic, 2019 Scenario 1.

Conditional name "Brest Peace", 90% probability.

Neither war nor peace. Controlled confrontation.

It is based on the strategy to involve Finland and Sweden in the military-political cooperation with NATO.

The goal is a final consolidation of their associative status in NATO, the rejection of the confidence-building measures proposed by Russia, and the information war.

5

NATO & Russia in Baltic Sea

- Increasing number of permanent troops.
- Number of war exercises has increased rapidly.
- Number of participants and participating countries has also increased (decades of thousands).
- Nature of the exercises has also changed. Before, mainly crisis-management was exercised. **Now** - very well equipped troops are **simulated using nuclear weapons**.
- number of airspace violations and dangerous close by flights escalated.

3

Security in the Eastern Baltic, 2019 Scenario 2.

"Doomsday War", probability 8%.

Local military conflict.

It can be provoked, or de jure not provoked by one or the other side.

This may be like a result of extreme limitations of geographical of the theater of operations and the lack of negotiations.

6

Security in the Eastern Baltic, 2019 Scenario 3.

Conditional name "Helsinki", probability 2%.

"Beginning of difficult and potentially effective negotiations on security and confidence-building measures in the region".

Probability of NATO-Russia military conflict in the Baltic Region in 4 times more probability of negotiations!!!!!!

7

Paradoxes of cooperation - confrontation

Sweden	12	-4	.....	= 8
Germany	6	-4	.....	= 2
Latvia	2	-2	.....	= 0
Russia	8	+1+1+2	.....	= 8
Finland	4	+1+1	.....	= 6
Belarus	0	+2	.....	= 2
Total	32	-13	+4+3-2	= 24

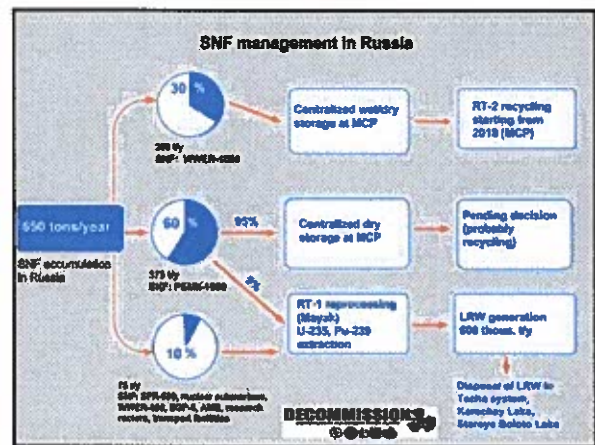
Russian NPP in Finland with the VVER-1200 reactor, exclusive deliveries of fresh nuclear fuel from uranium extracted during the processing of spent nuclear fuel from Russian nuclear submarines are planned.

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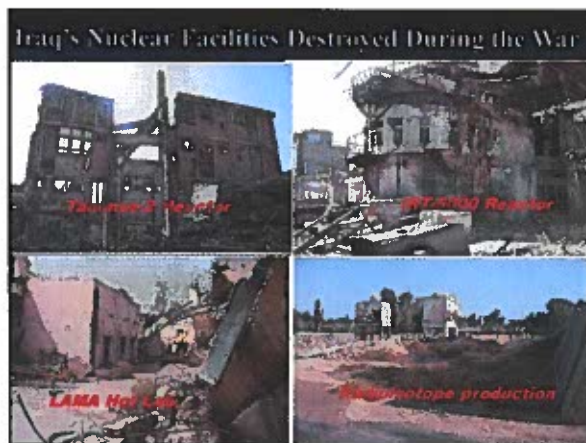
Nuclear Baltic-Nordic

Sweden	12	-4	= 8
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Belarus	0	+2	= 2
Total	32	-13	+4+3-2	= 24

8



11



9

Global Consequences of NPPs export

- Radioactive contamination from MAYAK (Ural) and Mining & Chemical Plant (Siberia) will migrate with Ob' and Yenisei Rivers to the Polar Ocean...
- Consumers of nuclear electricity from NPPs with VVER-1200 reactors in Europe, Central Asia, Asia and Africa have chance to be investors to the Russian nuclear military programs.
- Russian Ural and Siberian regions will get risks of radioactive contamination

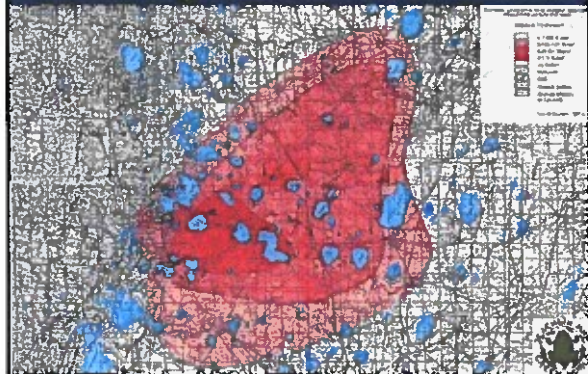
12

Russian – Baltic-Nordic NGO Cooperation

- Antinuclear all to the President, Government and Parliament of Finland, 2019, more 160 NGOs signed, presented in Parliament, STUK, Ministry environment by Baltic NGOs activists.
- "CALL FOR THE BALTIC SEA - A SEA OF PEACE, Peace amongst people and protection for with the environment!" presented in Parliament, MFA of Finland, Ministry of Environment, Finnish Ministry of Environment.

13

Plutonium registered 100 km from "MAYAK"



16

Conclusions

- To create a Baltic – Nordic Coalition (network) of NGOs for promotion of the the demilitarization and denuclearization of the Baltic Nordic region;
- To lobby the equal environmental and public participation standards in Russia and Baltic Nordic Countries for the export-import operations of nuclear electricity and technologies from Russia.
- To organize international conference Baltic-Nordic Region – Our Common Habitat.
- To develop Baltic-Nordic cooperation between NGOs, regional authorities and local governments.

14

RosAtom Country



17

*Baltic-Nordic Dialogue YES!
Confrontation – NO!*

THANKS!

Oleg Bodrov,

physicist, ecologist,

Chairman of Public Council of the Gulf of Finland, Russia
member of the Council of International Peace Bureau

www.decommission.org

www.decom-atom.org

+7 921 74 52 631

15


Russian Nuclear Cities

- 10 NPPs cities: 774 000 residents,
nuclear city salary = **3 salary** of the NPPs region-
location.
- 10 close nuclear cities (ZATO) = 634 000 residents
Close nuclear city (ZATO) salary = **2 salary** of the
ZATO region location.
- Population of 20 Russian nuclear cities = **1%** of
Russia

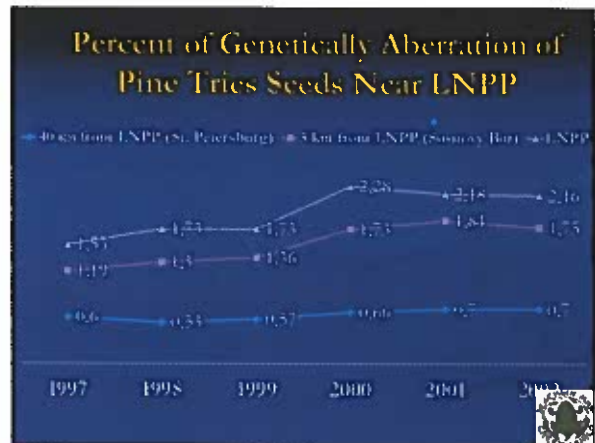
18

Health Condition Near MAYAK reprocessing facility

- 22 000 km² contaminated by Sr-90, Cs-137, Pu-239;
- More 500 000 victims;
- Cancer cases doubled over the past twenty years and reached 400 cases per 100 thousand people (40% more than in Europe);
- The number of congenital anomalies of children has reached 52,3 per 1 000 births in 2010. It is 55% more than in all Russia.



19




22

Yenisei River contamination

(V. Khiznyak, nuclear regulatory inspection, Krasnoyarsk, 1994)

- Contamination of the Yenisei River man-made radionuclides from ZATO Zheleznogorsk above natural background can be detected on 1.500 km.
- Pu content is 140 times above background levels.
- "It is possible that some areas of Yenisei have contamination that may be classified as radioactive waste".



20

Nuclear Site 40 km West from SPb.

21

Natalia Kovaleva : Militarization as a threat to future generations

Militarization as a threat to the health of future generations

Natalia V. Kovaleva
St. Petersburg Society of Medical Genetics
Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland

1

Chromosomes associated with advanced pregnancy in mothers of healthy children

Chromosome 1	75%	45%	p < 0.05
Chromosome 2	20%	15%	
Chromosome 3	30%	17%	
Chromosome 4	60%	55%	

4

Militarization affects population in multiple aspects

- Economic and social: lack of funds for the population wellness and social development
- Institutional: reduction of the of civic institutions' ability to influence the decisions of authorities, including regarding hazardous facilities
- Mental and psychological: living with "enemies around", increasing in both aggression and frustration
- Demographic:

2

Chromosomes associated with advanced pregnancy in mothers of Down syndrome children

Chromosome 1	52%	53%	
Chromosome 2	4%	4%	
Chromosome 3	42%	35%	p < 0.05
Chromosome 4	22%	43%	

5

Demographic as the worse consequence of militarization

Quantitative demographic changes: depopulation

- due to emigration
- due to decrease in childbearing

The under population of a huge territory can provide militarists to use the most dangerous remote weapon, i.e. nuclear weapon

Qualitative demographic changes: gene pool deterioration

- due to emigration of the most educated and successful
- due to accumulation of genetic mutations as the outcome of chronic psychological stress

3

Reproductive system's disorders in young mothers of children with DS vs mothers of healthy children

Reproductive system disorders	30%	50%	10%
Chromosomal disorders	20%	10%	10%

6

Distant effects of low doses radiation

Exposure to female infant → Hormonal dysfunction → Baby with genetic anomaly

Exposure to female → Hormonal dysfunction → Pregnancy deficiency in females → Errors in the fetus' oogenesis → Grandchild with genetic anomaly

Exposure to pregnant female → Errors in the fetus' oogenesis → Grandchild with genetic anomaly

7

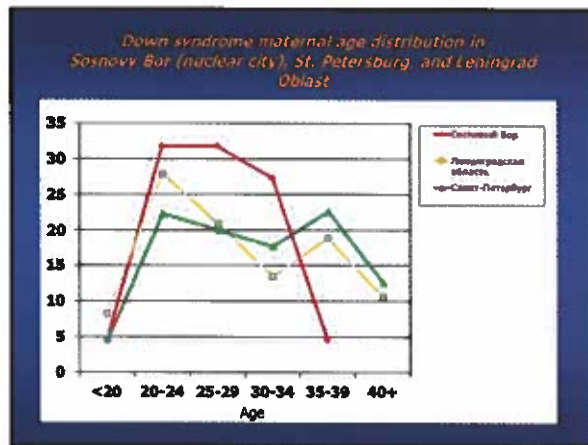
What can be done now for reducing existing tensions ?

Apparently, Scandinavian region and Baltic Russia, need to communicate with each other, be interested in each other and look for common

Starting with a sociological survey that identifies fears and hopes on both sides, merits consideration as the first step

This survey will not only give definite answers, but will demonstrate the concerns of both parties and may be an incentive to act together.

10



8

Thank you for your attention!

11

Low doses radiation: Evidence of genetic effects

Mutations in somatic cells (non-transmitted)

Mutations in germ cells (transmitted)

Affected offspring (chromosome and gene diseases, danger of malformations, miscarriages, skeletal toxicity)

Affected offspring

9

Sverre Lodgaard: PEACEFUL COOPERATION - CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES. 1)

- 1) This summary is based on notes taken during the speaker's oral presentation, as well as two articles he recently published and referred to, on the same topic in Norwegian newspapers, Klassekampen and Dagsavisen.

There are changes in the international order, a movement from order to something unpredictable. We are in for a long transition, reminding us of the cold war, with new technologies, including military technology.

There is limited space for cooperation, with some exception for the Arctic. New routes for East-West transport and trade in the North is a welcome effect of climate change. The environmental agenda is pushed by small nations. The United States (US) is not concerned.

At this point we must remember Jens Evensen, Norwegian ambassador and member of government. He defined and got international acceptance for a 200 nautical miles economic zone with reference to the continuity of the shallow continental shelves. Beyond that all resources: minerals and bioprospecting should benefit humankind. 7 out of the 8 Arctic states agreed, the US signed, but never ratified. Norway has claims beyond Svalbard, in practice taxing for administration. Now the big powers grab what they can: India Kashmir, Russia Crimea, China defines itself as a "near Arctic state". China and Russia appear in tandem on gas issues. Russia and Germany have interests in the Baltic. The US supports international law when convenient, others are "wedded" to international cooperation. Multilateralism is a priority for Europe, the US prefers bilateralism.

China sees a "Silk Road" also in the Arctic, is this a win-win-situation, or China wins? China has a formula: rejuvenation. Accept China where China belongs! Common security cannot be obtained unilaterally, so meet China's invitation. But the US sees enemies and confronts. China also seems preparing for the use of force in the South Eastern area, but will China really project militarily?

Russia also rejuvenates its military arsenals, but let us remember some facts: Russia has 25% of the world's land mass, and the new sea routes are common to Russia and China- and of interest to the US. Let us emphasize and demand: keep the Arctic demilitarized! The Arctic regime must be for safe traffic, not for military power. In 2018 we reached a fisheries' agreement, proactively, for the Arctic.

Russia is a military power with a military budget less than 10% of the US military budget. The fear on the Russian side should be understood and respected. During the cold war Norway's policy was one of deterrence balanced with detention. In times of peace, military bases were staffed by Norwegians only, and particularly where we had the common frontier with Russia. This policy of restraint has now been abandoned, also by the Labour party! The US military, and NATO are now stationed even in the far North. We are involved in the missile defence system, and relations with Russia are only "business-like". Norway is of course concerned about relations within Russia, repressive policies are a fact, but also a response to the changes in Western policies. We used to refer to the "likeminded" states, but who are they – today? Which are the values shared? The US, particularly its President, is now against liberal values and multilateralism. There is a collision of values, we are no longer likeminded. The near future is unpredictable. President Trump considers NATO obsolete, "bilateral agreements are better". Logically, he is also not in favour of The European Union or the United Nations. Where are we if he is re-elected? There is apparently a rupture in NATO, Norway stands for continuation. Norway has realized its dependence on the US, other European states try to reduce it. The first Stoltenberg government emphasized people to people cooperation, we should put maximum pressure behind it, and practice it.

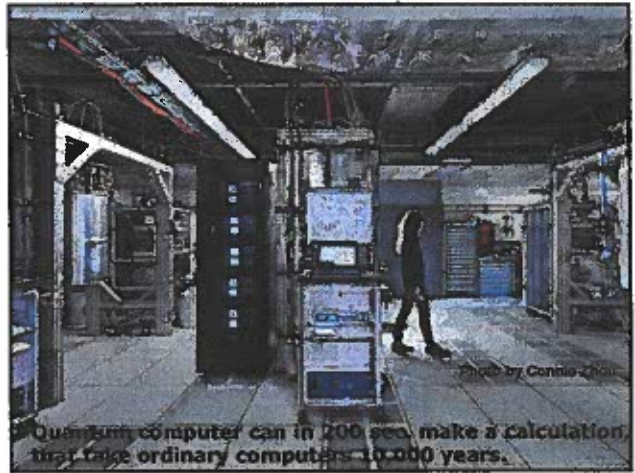
Poul Eck Sørensen : Artificial intelligence

Oluf la Cour Dragsbo : Atomic winter

Lisbet Skou : Nuclear weapons



1



4

Contents:

- 1) Artificial Intelligence
v/ Poul Eck Sørensen
- 2) Atomic winter
v/ Oluf la Cour Dragsbo
- 3) Nuclear weapons
v/ Lisbet Skou

Proofreading
v/ Kís Eck Sørensen

2

Stephen Hawking:

We will have machines that surpass human intelligence more than our intelligence surpasses a snail.

If we do not relate to AI, it will be humanity's biggest mistake.

Foto: NASA - flickr

5

Artificial Intelligence

3

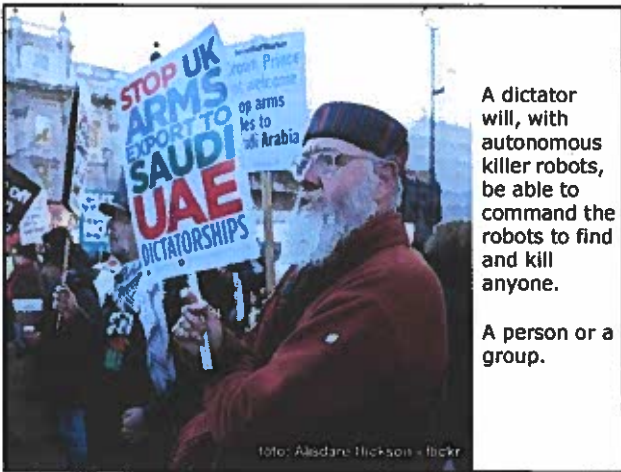
Elon Musk:

We don't know if AI is going to be evil or good, but we know, that we can't control it.

foto: [Thomas Hawk](#) - flickr

6

30.

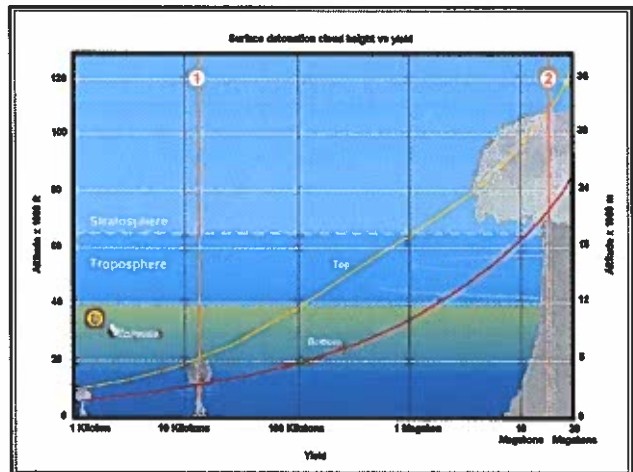


A dictator will, with autonomous killer robots, be able to command the robots to find and kill anyone.

A person or a group.

foto: Aladane Tickson - flickr

7

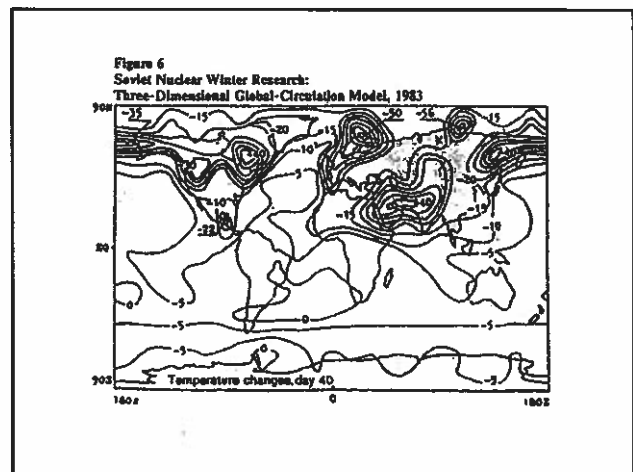


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Foto: Global Panorama - flickr

8



11

Atomic Winter

9

Nuclear weapons

12

31.

Is the threat of a nuclear war real ?

- The terror balance, MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction)
- Some disarmaments of nuclear weapons
- About 2000 USA: NUT (Nuclear Use Theory) bomb shell

13



16

- Embassies don't work with diplomacy
- Agreements about disarmament are broken
- Nuclear weapons are modernized into "little handy ones"
- 2018: USA declare a new Nuclear Doctrine

14

The Doomsday Clock can be turned back! Let's do it again!

- 1982 Mayors for Peace were started by the mayors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today they exist in 7.861 cities in 163 countries and areas (Sweden 26 cities, Finland 4, Norway 106, Denmark 12, USA 218 and Russia 67).
- 2017 UN Ban on Nuclear Weapons, 122 countries voted for- (Sweden for, Finland abstained, Norway and Denmark voted no. USA and Russia voted no)
- The military pollution from conventional weapons in peacetime and wars

17

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in military the biggest mistake for mankind
- An Atomic winter small or big, contributes to exacerbate the climate crisis
- Who can press the button ??
Not a few ...
- 1947: worried atomic scientists made The Doomsday Clock

15



**All countries in the world
must sign and ratify
the UN ban on nuclear weapons!**

18

Neighbours as Friends - not as Enemies !!

Palme Commission: "States can no longer seek security at each other's expense; it can be obtained only through cooperative undertakings".



**Thanks for your attention
Esbjerg Peace-Movement**

Sweden- platform for drones, satellite warfare and spying.

Agneta Norberg, chair Swedish Peace Council, www.frednu.se

In the Board of Directors in Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. www.space4peace.org

North European Aerospace Testrange-NEAT.

NEAT, in Northern Sweden, is the largest war training area in Europe, (In Swedish: Vidsel provområde). NEAT is large as Belgium in size and a frequently used training area for Nato-countries to develop and exercise war equipments and war vehicles; drones and war-wings. The decision to open up this area in the neutral country of Sweden was taken by the Swedish Parliament, in December 15th, 2004. All kinds of long reaching weapons have been tested. One of the most horrifying and damaging in the Middle East Wars is the space guided-EXCALIBUR- "with unbelievable precision" described in advertisements. EXCALIBUR is developed by Raytheon and is a GPS -guided missile. More than 1000 EXCALIBURS have been used by the US in the Middle East wars.

NEAT has, among other countries, been allowed by Israel for testing their murderous arms before bombing Gaza. The U.S. has used this area for training before bombing Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. NEAT is open for testing of different kind of weapons day and night the whole year around. Villages are built here in realistic sizes which are similar to villages in Afghanistan and Iraq. Those who are able to pay are invited. "The costumers decide what they want. If the customer will train to shoot at a house or an aeroplane we can fix it. If the customer wants to destroy a bridge, we build a bridge". The satellite station, Esrange, is within NEAT. The area is ideal for testing of war -vehicles guided by positioning data from satellites. One example is the space rocket AMRAAM, air-to air-missile-"the world's most sophisticated weapon -to maintain US' edge in all combats". AMRAAM has been used in the wars in Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Esrange-the world's biggest downloading station.

Sweden has, in comparison with other countries of the same size, an impressive space technology industry and plays a central role in European Space Agency, ESA, which headquarter is situated in Darmstadt, Germany. ESA stays in close contact with Esrange. Today Swedish Space Corporation controls or monitors 24 satellites from Esrange. Which means 92 satellite passages every 24 hours. Esrange was from the beginning presented as a civil project but today it has close cooperation with US' Vandenberg Air Force Base, in California.

According to Bruce Gagnon, founder of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, all civil space programmes are covered for broad spy-satellite programmes. Swedish space contacts are the US, South Korea, India, Taiwan and Israel. RUAG Space AB, earlier known as Saab Space, is delivering advanced space equipments for satellites and launching pads.

Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space, PAROS, is a declaration in the UN. This agreement, is confirmed by all countries in the UN, except the US and Israel.

Espace is expanding.

The US' Space Industry has close contact with Swedish Space Corporation. Last August 2019, president Trump, inaugurating a Space Command. It is about strategic space attacks on satellites which all countries gradually have become dependent on. To launch an attack and damage important space systems is an effective and dangerous way to weaken or totally paralyze an entire country. In this context it was alarming to read a note in the regional paper, Norrländska Socialdemokraten, 2019, about the state giving Espace million kronor for expanding. One of their new planned activities will be launching mini-satellites. These mini-satellites will most probably be used to destroy China's and Russia's satellites. The mini-satellites has been developed at Angstrom Laboratories, in Uppsala, Sweden.

The Swedish Kings of Cyberwar.

"Sweden is the third biggest spybase after the US and Britain", said Edward Snowden, in an article published in The New York Review of Books, 2017.

In the middle of Mälaren lake close to Stockholm, there is an island, Lovön, where Sweden's National Defence Radio Establishment, known as FRA, is situated. In 2013, just weeks before Edward Snowden went public with what he knew about NSA's mass surveillance, the head of the NSA, General Keith B. Alexander, welcomed a group of Swedish intelligence officials to a secret meeting at NSA's headquarter, in Fort Meade, Maryland. The subject of the meeting was to discuss Sweden's growing importance to the NSA. In 2008, under the rightwing leadership of Carl Bildt, FRA had been given expansive power by the Swedish government. The FRA was now officially allowed to vacuum up all communications traveling over fiber optic networks into and out of Sweden...." including emails, text messages, and telephone calls". This was of great interest to the NSA because the large part of Russian communications travelling through Sweden. After the meeting with the Swedes, NSA officials declared: "We will get a unique collection of communications data on high priority Russian targets such as leadership,

internal politics, and energy". FRA was viewed as an ideal partner and collaborator in NSAs hacking and cyberwarfare project, called QUANTUM. One of these operations was called WINTERLIGHT. This was aimed at secretly hacking into high foreign computers network to obtain information stored on the hard drives and servers in question. Targets were administrators of foreign computers networks, government ministries, oil, defence and other big corporations. QUANTUM operations have a.o. targeted OPEC headquarters in Vienna, and Belgacom whose clients include European Commission and European Parliament. According to NSA, WINTERLIGHT, was using a complex attack strategy to secretly implant a malware program on the targeted computer or network. interesting is that winterlight was a cooperation project between NSA, GCHQ and FRA the hacking attacks on computers seem to have been initiated by the SWEDEN. the fra was setting up the implants on targeted computers. After the alleged suspicion that the Russian government had sought to influence the, 2016, presidential election, cybersecurity has become an urgent national priority. Less noted however has been the extent to which the US itself has coordinated with Sweden and allies to develop hacking and surveillance tools that are far more advanced than the e-mail "phishing" strategies used in the suspected Russian examples. A major target of NSAs technology is Russia itself.

I will end up this piece by noting another dangerous development: In July 2016, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Germany, Italy and the UK signed a memorandum agreeing upon establishing a Stratcom of Excellence in Riga, Latvia. StratCom is short for The United States Strategic Command. It is a combat command run by Pentagon, responsible for information about warfare and other Operations. Sweden joined in 2016.

Åse Møller-Hansen : The military threat to climate and environment

The military threat to climate and environment

Åse Møller-Hansen, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Norway




www.wilpf.no www.wilpf.org

1

In addition comes emissions from:


- all other countries military activity
- the global war industry
- extraction of metals, minerals, oil, coal
- transport
- war and military exercises



4

Military activity in times of peace and war

Military activity from fossil fuel emissions to radioactive waste is the single greatest contributor to the worldwide environmental crisis.




Air, water, soil

2

In order to reach the climate targets, it is absolutely necessary to disarm


- Kyoto negotiations: the military explicitly exempted
- Paris Agreement: encourages the countries to report all emissions as part of the national climate targets. Acceptance for military secrecy.



5

The U.S. military consumes 17 billion liters of fossil fuel a year

In 2017 Pentagon released 59 million metric tons of carbon dioxide and other warming gases.



3



6

37.

The existencial threats are global

- Climate emergency
- 15 000 nuclear weapons
- Military is supposed to take care of national security, but threatens global security and thereforealso the national security.



7

Other paths to peace and disarmament: Long-term strategies

- Alliance building: peace and environmental movement
- Departments of peace
- New economic thinking
- Art, film, music, creativity.



10

Alternative security strategies

- Human security. Environmental security
- Peace, environment and climate must be a part of the security thinking.
- Military resources must be redirected to create a greener, more just and peaceful world
- There are alternatives to war and violent conflict.



8

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed

- UN – resolutions
- Commitment to a culture of peace
- S/RES 1325 on women, peace, and security
- Stronger international cooperations on all levels. «Enemy» states must cooperate



9

Artem Filatov: Ecological protests are on the rise i Russia. What can they change?

Ecological protests in Russia are on the rise. What they can change?

by Artem Filatov
Oslo 04/02/2020

1

Russian people wrote to the king of Norway

Шиес подает сигнал SOS

"We no longer believe that our leaders will hear us and provide our constitutional right to live in a proper and safe conditions"

Summer 2019

4

Small town in Russia. Why they protest?



December 2019, Kotlas
10 000 out of 80 000 local people are on the street, according to the media

2

People in the regions reject waste from Moscow

РАЗЛИЧНЫЙ СБОР МУСОРА В МОСКВЕ

Waste collection and disposal is a problem for major Russian cities

Moscow government wants to send it to other regions

All waste to be send by trains for hundreds and thousands of kilometers

2 million tons of waste from Moscow was expected to be transported this way



5

ШИЕС/SHIES

Proper noun.

Small train station in Arkhangelsk region, 1170 km from Moscow to the North

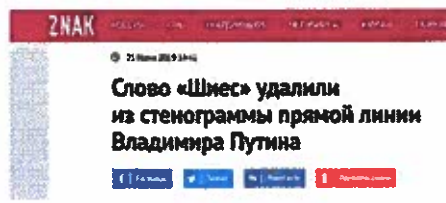
3

How the Russian authorities react?

ЗНАК

25 March 2019 13:41

Слово «Шиес» удалили из стенограммы прямой линии Владимира Путина



6

How the Russian authorities react?



- Police detained and arrested activists
- Several activists were beaten and injured by private guards
- Police has not investigated attacks on activists
- Arkhangelsk activist Andrey Borovikov faced criminal charges
- Activist Nikita Baryshnokov was accused of beating unnamed person at the future Shies waste facility

7

The impact of these protests

July 2018 - first preliminary works at the station

August 2018 - the plan to bring the first train with waste to the area

August 2018 - first protest against those plans

January 2020 - the court rules out that new buildings built by investor at Shies are illegal

February 2020 - the investor doesn't want to stop the project of the giant landfill, protestors doesn't want to stop as well.

8

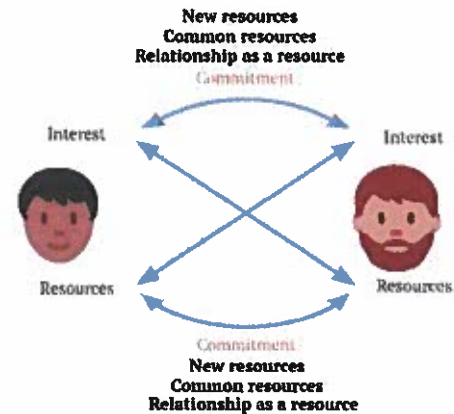


9

Building relationships for collaboration with the environmental movement, Lina Hjärtström, Sweden

To work and get organised together, you need to create a working relationship. When organising for change we ask ourselves: Who are my people and what is their problem? How can we use our resources in an effective way? What is the change we seek?

In the case of the peace movement joining forces with the climate and environmental movement, the climate and environmental movement are our people and we must learn their needs, what resources they have and find what change we both seek.



Professional relationships are long-term and built on common values, similarities *and* differences, common experience and common engagement. A first conversation in order to build a relationship should be intentional, purposeful, curious, probing and end with a clear “ask”.

1. Get their attention by exploring something you have in common. Have you met, do you have friends in common, do you have similar goals stated on your website?
2. Why are you interested in building this relationship? Why do you need the other person, and what resources do they have that you are interested in? Vice versa?
3. Explore and go deeper: What is the source of your engagement, what are some current challenges, what gives you hope? Follow up on the responses you get: Tell me more about that, why did you choose that, what do you think that says about you/your movement?
4. Based on your conversation, how will the relationship progress? What are your combined values, goals and resources? This is a mutual exchange where both parties contribute what they can.
5. Commitment – the hard ask. By asking something from the other we provide a clear next step and ask for their commitment to the relationship. A good ask is a) personal, b) specific, c) time bound. Make the question short and do not apologize for asking – instead emphasise the importance of the action you’re asking them to take. “Can you come to *this strategy meeting at 7pm next Wednesday?*” Some people will say no. Then ask them what kind of no: Not now, not that, or not at all, to see what has to change for them to be able to make the commitment you are asking for.



A phone call is preferable to email – they allow for more curiosity, probing and to read the other persons state of mind. Read up on the organisation, the person you are choosing to call, and ask if they have a few minutes to talk to you. If no, ask when would be a good time for you to call again.

Some suggestions on how to begin: Tell who you are and why you are calling. Tell Is your organisation working with the harm that the military is doing to the environment? If yes, ask them about it and continue from there to find common ground and learn. If no, tell about military’s impact on environment, and national security prioritising borders over people and nature. Ask if they think this perspective could add anything to the work that they do. Ask what they would need from you to work with this perspective. Ask about their members, activities and resources. End with an ask; perhaps a meeting for a longer conversation soon.

.Hjørdis Nielsen : NATO threatens Russia with war

In the year of the 80th anniversary of the beginning of World War II and the 75th anniversary of the liberation from fascism, NATO has picked out Germany's Bundeswehr to be the "führer" in a gigantic military exercise along the borders of Russia from north to west – from Finland to Georgia.

This military exercise is called DEFENDER EUROPE 2020.

During 2019, NATO has intensified its military activities in Poland, in the Baltics and in the Baltic Sea region. In 2019 50 NATO-vessels and 3.000 marine soldiers from 18 countries participated in the military maneuver Northern Coasts under German command in the western part of the Baltic Sea-

The scenario was a fictional Baltic Sea country – read Russia – which is making claims on Bornholm.

NATO now continues its preparations for war against Russia with the biggest buildup of military forces in Europe in 25 years.

Armed forces from 17 NATO-countries are going to accomplish a gigantic military exercise from February 2020 to June 2020 – named Defender Europe 2020.

37.000 soldiers are participating and around 20.000 of them will be brought across the Atlantic Ocean from USA with tanks and military equipment.

The logistic "brain" of the military exercise is the German Bundeswehr, where special units trained in coordinating NATO's troop transport and stock have been picked out.

The purpose is to train a speedy turn-out of larger units across the Atlantic and through Europe to the Russian border.

The American Military Command has in its publications compared this maneuver to the D-day Invasion of Europe during World War II.

The first movements of troops across Germany heading east have started.

Another 7 military exercises will be incorporated into Defender Europe 2020, where US-soldiers, accompanied by European military will rehearse "warm" war against Russia in Poland and the Baltics. The script of the "warm" war exercise is a comprehensive scenario of conflict, called the Battlefield Network.

In the 75th year of the liberation from fascism the armies of the imperialist powers march again in Eastern Europe.

To fend off the danger of a third World War the working classes must unite internationally in the struggle for peace against war and barbarism. The peace movement is everywhere in the world. No matter how fragile and suppressed it is, it is alive – and a human voice which must be fed more power and strength.

42.

The rulers of the world, who look upon war and military buildup as the source of vast profits, seek to paralyze the international Peace Movement by concealments and anti-communist propaganda. It is the duty of every peace-loving human being to seek information and put the question of peace on the agenda, wherever it is possible – in assemblies and “in the streets”.

Music as part of a culture of peace, by Birgitte Grimstad

In between lectures and discussions there were musical performances by highly experienced Norwegian artists, who had all performed in Russia on various occasions.

Day 1.

JØRN SIMEN ØVERLI, singer and gitarist, leader of the popular JOSEFINE FOLK CLUB in Oslo. He has worked on various projects involving slavic music. He has travelled widely in Russia and Siberia and not least, he has translated and recorded numerous songs by Russian poet Vladimir Vysotskij. He performed among others Vysotskij's : SONG OF A FRIEND together with

BIRGITTE GRIMSTAD, one of the leading folksingers of Scandinavia since the 1960's.

She has a wide repertoire of children's songs, medieval ballads, antiwar songs, Bach's geistliche lieder and religious folk tunes.

She took part in the 2018 Peace- and dialogue-trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg: «NEIGHBOURS AS FRIENDS, - NOT ENEMIES»

Day 2.

On the second day there was a performance by

RUTH WILHELMINE MEYER, ELFI SVERDRUP, TUVFA FAERDEN and BIRGITTE GRIMSTAD.

All four entered to the luscious sound of Tuva Faerden's HARDANGER FIDDLE, the unique Norwegian folk instrument.

Ruth Wilhelmine Meyer and Elfi Sverdrup have both studied vocal techniques of indigenous peoples all over the world,- Mongolian overtone chanting, inuit throat singing, and other indigenous song forms. They have worked together for many years and recorded two CD's. They gave a brilliant demonstration of their unique vocal skills.

RUTH WILHELMINE has travelled widely in Europe and Russia and performed with Symphony Orchestras several places. She is also a highly respected teacher of vocal techniques.

ELFI SVERDRUP is a visual artist as well, creating beautiful jewellery of thin strips of coloured leather, a.o. and she does performance-art projects and story-telling projects and many other artistic forms.

TUVA FAERDEN is also a dancer, and gave a unique, almost acrobatic performance together with her fiddle, - almost like a dance of worship. She also teaches Yoga!





Hasse Schneidermann : Ministry of Peace, experiences and hopes

fredsministerium.dk



Experiences and Hopes after Oslo Seminar with neighbors and friends.

Fredsministerium, the Danish Ministry of Peace, is an umbrella organization or network of a number of Danish peace organizations and peace activists.

Our leading wish since 2012 have been the establishment of a Ministry of Peace for Denmark as an integral part of the national government. Being the Danish branch of the Global Alliance for Ministries & Infrastructures for Peace, GAMIP, we are day by day trying to persuade the public and members of the Danish Parliament of the need of such a ministry, and for international infrastructures for Peace.

We argue that a Peace Minister should be the cornerstone in changing Danish security policy from a policy of war to a policy of peace. It should be a ministry of peace which encompasses all negotiations and all peaceful conflict resolution. Peace issues should have a parliamentary ministry just like defense and the environment.

We believe that the Peace organizations still should rally, protest and campaign, whenever our government chooses to go to war or decides to spend billions on armament and buying offensive weapons, such as new combat aircrafts! But most of all we believe, that during the long period of Danish warfare, the military systems, have gained lots of competences while our country has lost its former peace capacity: Nonmilitary conflict resolution, peacebuilding negotiation skills, diplomacy and mediation. We think that peace researchers, peace organizations and peace activists should naturally be consulted on relevant issues, be initiators and a popular base for parliamentary peace initiatives and activities

We will participate in this by increasing the peace movements own capacity of peace by means of a yet closer corporation with peace-researchers and to use this capacity to build stronger bridges between the movement, the population and the politicians. In the future we hope to be able to attract more organizations, and to become more offensive by establishing of a "shadow cabinet", that will enable us to advocate even stronger about realistic alternatives to the policy of war.

In our own annual and continual events; a small stand and pop-up events at the Folkemøde on the island of Bornholm in June and on our conferences, dialogue-meetings or concerts on the UN Peace Day in September we gather peace researchers –organizations, –activist and –artist.

Over the years we have strived for an alternative, comprehensive Danish and Nordic security policy and specific Baltic co-operation to keep the Baltic Sea as a Sea of Peace on both occasions.

However, as linguist and writer, Noam Chomsky points out, there are two menaces for our species survival: One is a nuclear war which on one hand requires active action but also could be launched by mistakes and the other is the global environmental catastrophe which is defined by willful *inaction* to response to the human-induced climate change.

As we agree we have recently focused on the greenhouse gas emission, radiation and pollution that the military power provides and argued that efficient climate policy is an important part of security policy, and that money spend on meeting the 17 UN Social Development Goals provides more global security than building up armaments.

To raise awareness on these matters we have a fairly new, but splendid corporation with a number of Danish climate organizations i.e. by planning a joint Easter Climate & Peace March in April and again this year establishing a joint stand at the June Folkemøde.

From April to October we plan to launch a Citizen Proposal to the Danish Parliament and to drive a six months information campaign to persuade the Danish Government to sign the UN treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We already had conversations with a few Nordic peace organizations on the ban issue, and after the Oslo Seminar we hope to be able to even better coordinate our national effort with more Nordic and Russian friends

On the UN Peace Day 21st of September we plan to organize an inspirational conference at the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen to put the Ministry of Peace for Denmark on the political agenda in our country.

We already had some few, but important Nordic partners to maybe join this project and was overwhelmed by the interest that the issue of peace ministries and departments had amongst many of You at the Oslo Seminar.

We now hope that the Conference in Copenhagen could be seen as only one of the cornerstones in a joint and coordinated campaign to put the question on the political agenda in all Nordic countries.

Both when it comes to cornerstone conference in September, the joint and coordinated campaigns on the issue of Peace Ministries and the UN treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we are more than willing to put some efforts and energy into that, hoping that some of you, who attended the Oslo seminar, will be willing to do likewise.

fredsministerium.dk



How can a Ministry of Peace promote Danish policy of Peace?

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These days we advocate that climate policy is global security and strive for an alternative, comprehensive Danish and Nordic security policy and specific Baltic co-operation to keep the Baltic Sea as a Sea of Peace. We are launching a national campaign to persuade the Danish government to sign the UN ban on nuclear weapons.

The Danish branch of the Global Alliance for Ministries & Infrastructures for Peace, GAMIP.

www.gamip.org

2020-02-03, PRIO, Oslo

Dear everyone,

I have been awarded the pleasure and pressure to say some concluding remarks about our day together, and about the challenges for a peaceful cooperation between Russia and the Nordic countries.

I have listened with great interest to all of you today and decided that I want to talk to you about feelings. There have been a lot of feelings in what we have talked about today, so I want to come back to them and talk about how we could work with those feelings.

I'll start right with the title of the seminar – Neighbours as friends, not as enemies. The neighbour is itself a tricky figure that can invoke feelings in us. The neighbour is not a friend or an enemy. It is someone who you have to interact with but still do not really know, and it can create a sense of unease in many people, we can feel exposed when getting to know our neighbours and also letting our neighbours get to know us.

I'll speak from my own perspective as based in Sweden and I would suggest that the Nordic countries are not viewed as neighbours but rather as family, as the same as us, making Russia the neighbour, someone who it is scary to open up to.

There is not much talk about Russia at home, that I have noticed. There is a constant failure to separate the Russian government from the Russian people, and there is little talk of Russian democratic civil society and peaceful resistance to the violent acts of the Russian government. Instead when we hear about Russia, in the media or from politicians, we usually hear about the all-purpose Russian submarines. These submarines can take all shapes and forms and they always seem to turn up in the Stockholm archipelago whenever there are discussions about the defence budget. Nearly all the sightings are later debunked and corrected as being something else. Still this continues, and the government keeps showering the armed forces with money.

This ties in to an old and deep fear of Russia. More than being highly instrumental in how it's kept alive, this fear is considered legitimate. While in other cases it would be considered xenophobic or racist to maintain such a narrow view of a whole other country and people, with Russia and Russian people, it is considered a rational truth and not an irrational fear.

Fear clouds our judgement. It is a feeling and it does not go away by encountering valid arguments about the reasons behind it. When the fear is there, very little is needed to keep it there. It is much harder to let go of the fear, because to do so is also to admit that you were scared without reason.

Many in here brought up memories and collaborations that happened during the cold war during our earlier session. During the cold war it was obvious to talk about ideology. We seem to have left ideology as a phenomenon as something that only happened during the cold war, that ideology only means capitalism or communism. I would like to bring ideology back into the discussion. Ideology is about what we think and how we act, and what results we expect from those actions.

In the Swedish relationship with Russia, Russia is treated as the sole actor responsible for the hostilities in our relationship. Russia is perceived to be immune and immutable regardless of how many military exercises Sweden invited Nato to do along the shore of the Baltic sea. Our behaviour in this mutual relationship is presented as a reaction to Russian behaviour. Russian behaviour is never presented as a reaction to Swedish behaviour.

There are two takes on ideology as directing our beliefs and behaviours. Either we do not know what we are doing, and doing it anyway, or we do know what we are doing, and doing it anyway. The difference is in whether those who nurture our fear of Russia and the constant armament do it because they do not realise that this in fact creates the hostilities it is meant to protect from, or if they do realise this but are too afraid to try any other way. Too afraid perhaps that any change in this behaviour would mean losing their privilege and their resources and the ones calling the shots in a society of national security and militarism.

The next question of course is – does it matter? I would say that it does. It matters for how we try to change things. I feel that we can sometimes get stuck in explaining to people how their actions are detrimental to peace, or justice, or equality, and fail to realise that they know this, they just don't care to change it. Which brings the question of how we can work to make the change.

This also brings me to the question that I, as a feminist peace activist, always ask. Where are the women in this? A question that also shows us where the men are in this.

Women in our society as it is now constructed, are in the public sectors, suffering the austerities and budget cuts made to accommodate the military's request for more money. Women are picking up the slack and doing the unpaid care work that the public sector can no longer manage to provide. Women are in the civil society, where we have organised ourselves and build power with each other when we were not listed to by those in power and not allowed to *be* those in power.

When those in power try to scare us of Russia, they are trying to make us afraid. They are taking away our time and energy and isolate us from each other by dismantling the structures that we have built to share the work historically done by women, such as care and household work. They tell us that our views and actions do not matter, because in a world divided into protector and protected, the protector will always stand in between the protected and the rest of the world and claim that because he keeps the world at a distance by threatening to shoot it, he knows the world better. They tell us it has always been this way and always will be.

The feelings they try to give us are those of fear, inertia, isolation, apathy and self-doubt. All these feelings are action inhibitors. I think we have all had that feeling when you doubt that your actions matter, you feel it doesn't matter anyway, you feel alone and you don't know what to do. When you are scared you want to hide under your bed and hope that it all goes away on its own.

When I have that feeling, what keeps me going and gets me back on my feet and back into the streets is knowing that you all are feeling this with me and that you are fighting this with me. You have faced setbacks and defeats and fatigue and you have kept going, and now you keep me going.

We need to change our feelings. We need to change inertia to urgency, change apathy into anger, change fear into hope, change isolation into solidarity and change self-doubt into self-confidence, into a feeling that our actions affect the world around us. We need to have hope, we need to get angry (not violent, but angry) and we need to do it together.

You all make me feel that we can change the world, and so we will.

NORDIC-RUSSIAN SEMINAR “NEIGHBOURS AS FRIENDS”: SUMMING UP

Marianne Laxen, Finland

The seminar has covered a huge range of topics, and she hopes to bring them back to her own organizations. There has been a lot of talk about problems, not so much about solutions and actions.

- The Nordic WILPF will cooperate with NGOs in St Petersburg, and apply for financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- There's a need to look into the development on gender equality, social economy, peace and nonviolence across the countries.
- An important question is how we can work on the local level with the Nordic and Russian cooperation? Many cities have established friendship towns across the borders. This is a good method. We could encourage more cities to establish friendship-cities and to support NGO cooperation. The ICAN-city appeal could be used.
- A new seminar is planned for next year. There we should narrow the focus. We should also have politicians present, to ensure that they are informed about the peace movements goals and activities.

Oleg Bodrov, Russia

There is no initiative from grassroot level for a Russian peace movement, with a program, strategy, and cooperation with colleagues from other countries. Therefore, it is important to promote the cooperation of the peace movement of the Baltic-Nordic countries with Russian socially active groups. The purpose of such cooperation can be the creation of new and preservation of common historical, cultural, and environmental values, like an alternative of the political confrontation.

The organization of cycling Russian-Nordic conferences can be a tool to engage the new generation in the peace movement in our countries.

Ingrid Eide, Norway

We have to expand the people in the peace-movement, not forgetting that we are the people. At this meeting we have been informed by each other, and we need to work towards a common understanding, to use Lodgaard's terminology, to have arguments for multiple dialogues.

There's a good tradition in Norway to have a strong loyalty with the UN. A fear is that new generations don't have the same commitment.

We have a lot of divisions in spite of our traditionally homogeneous country, it is becoming more heterogeneous. We must act globally. Our disgust for war must remain. But I see we have a problem that many from the younger generation now see war as entertainment. We must show what effects wars really have.

Artem Filatov, Russia, comment to Oleg's input

There might not be a peace-movement in Russia, but there was a big opposition against the invasion of Ukrain and there were successful demonstrations in Moscow. Later there were demonstrations in front of the President's palace and the Human Rights Commission to free arrested people in Ukrain, both Russians and Ukrainian people.

Ingeborg Breines and Irene Hamborg, Norway, closed the meeting by underlining the importance of learning from each other.

Statement

Neighbours as friends, not enemies

Nordic-Russian seminar, PRIO, Oslo, 3.- 4. February 2020

A Nordic-Russian civil society seminar was organized in Oslo 3. - 4. February 2020 by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Norway, and the Norwegian Peace Association. The theme of the seminar was "Neighbours as friends, not enemies". The seminar, which gathered some 45 participants from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden was a follow up to a Nordic peace and dialogue trip to Russia in May 2018. The seminar was held at the Peace Research Institute Oslo, PRIO, and was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The organisers are already planning a follow up seminar in Norway in 2021.

The main intention with the seminar was to strengthen relations between peace activists in the North, discuss common challenges and visions and contribute to mutual understanding and perhaps even help reduce the present tension. The tension between the West and Russia is one of the drivers behind the present militarization and arms' race, involving both conventional and nuclear weapons.

Participants had open discussions on how to promote peace, disarmament and a sound environment, and agreed to seek ways to continue with practical and strategic forward-looking initiatives and solution-oriented dialogues. Many echoed the words of the Mayor of the border city of Kirkenes that our security lies in the strengthening of people to people cooperation across borders.

The use of enemy images and the demonization of leaders both in mainstream political discourse and media is dangerous as it installs fear and also is meant to influence peoples acceptance of rising military budgets.

Participants agreed that we should not accept that the world's resources, natural, financial and intellectual, are being misused for military purposes, and that we need to prove that this thinking is dangerous, naive and obsolete. The military actually makes us less safe, both economically and ecologically, by taking so much of the resources that are needed for other purposes and by the enormous greenhouse gas emissions, the radiation and pollution it provides. We cannot allow the military to be an exception to international climate agreements. Instead we must move the money to be able to tackle the real security issues such as the threat to the very survival of humanity and the planet, be it by climate change, environmental degradation, excessive inequality or nuclear weapons.

Different alternatives were discussed of how we can contribute to changing attitudes in order to reverse the nuclear and space-arms race, reduce defence spending and get us out of the dominant growth oriented, militarized, confrontational and competitive patterns. In short, how can we build common security, human security, a culture of peace, and non-violence.

Among the concrete suggestions were to:

- . continue the sharing of knowledge and ideas,
- . get inspiration from each other's culture and art,
- . work for the strengthening of civil society and democratic practices,
- . seek ways of producing and consuming which ensures the well being of all and the integrity of the biosphere.
- . establish permanent structures for peace, such as ministries and departments for peace to promote peace at all levels,
- . cherish and use the UN, diplomacy and multilateral cooperation,
- . help implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate,
- . strive for a non militarized and nuclear free Arctic and Baltic Sea basin,
- . maintain the Arctic Council non-militarized and operational,
- . gather individual signatures and cities in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,
- . continue to warn against nuclear and other hazardous waste and make waste management safer,
- . seek closer cooperation between the peace movement and environmental organizations,
- . actively learn to work across generations and share knowledge and priorities,
- . cross borders and seek new partnerships with "sister" groups and organisations.

Finally, it was considered most vital to build trust between peoples, so essential for real cooperation, and for our survival.