

First Caribbean Peace Conference
Barbados, October 6-7th, 2017
Presentation by US Peace Council

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Trump, USA, Nuclear Threat, Caribbean

1. **This Conference is so timely.** Thank you. Coalescing and uniting the peace and justice forces in the Caribbean could not come at a more propitious moment. US President Donald Trump's **brazen speech to the UN** General Assembly sharply and directly attacked the UN Charter and International Law. Trump threatened to start a nuclear war. He threatened to invade sovereign countries. All while standing in the world's premier organization established nearly ¾ century ago to maintain peace and addressing the world audience.
2. **Trump's qualitative leap: multiple-regime change.** The USPC analyzed Trump's speech to the UN and concluded that it has qualitatively changed US policy. Even though previous US presidents led aggressions and threats - for example in this century alone the **coups** and **aggressions** against Venezuela's President Hugo **Chavez** in 2002, against Iraqi President **Hussein** in 2003, against Libyan leader **Qaddafi** in 2011, against Honduras' Manuel **Zelaya** in 2009 - were generated by Trump's two immediate predecessors, one of them a Nobel Peace Prize winner! We claim this qualitative change even though regular **nuclear war exercises** by the US and its allies against North Korea started years before Trump was inaugurated. But leaping beyond, Trump has pulled off the velvet glove utterly from the mailed fist. To the UN and the world he spoke plainly about military action against Venezuela. He clearly stated that he intends to shred the nuclear agreement with **Iran**, a move that will likely precede war. He spoke about destabilizing **Cuba**. He has openly denied the right of countries like **Venezuela** and **Cuba** to follow a **socialist** path and is thus reigniting the Cold War. Deciding which governments stay and which must go represents long-term US foreign policy. But Trump blatantly asserted it as the **right** of the United States.
3. **Two existential threats.** The two greatest existential threats to civilization are industrial civilization's **scorching** the earth's climate and global **nuclear war**. The former is incremental and is becoming obvious to billions. The latter, however, is still hardly discussed and may strike suddenly. Rather than taking action to abate these threats the USA under Trump is **exacerbating** both. After Trump's election, the **Doomsday Clock**, a representation of these two

extreme existential dangers was moved by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists a half minute closer, now 2.5 minutes, to midnight. Masses of people are resisting the environmental danger. Too few are addressing the nuclear.

4. **Climate.** On the one hand, Trump **resolutely refuses** to acknowledge that the sequential **hurricanes** that devastated so many Caribbean islands became so destructive in part because of global warming. The Trump administration not only refuses to reduce extraction and burning of fossil fuels but, steaming directly opposite to the rest of civilization, is actually accelerating their exploitation. Only the oil companies profit.
5. **Nuclear war.** On the other hand, the USA is the major force in the world **threatening** nuclear war. Not only does the US wave aside its obligation to abide by **Article 6** of the Nuclear nonProliferation Treaty, which calls for negotiating nuclear disarmament, but it is lavishing a fortune, **\$1.2 trillion**, on upgrading its nuclear arsenal and thus daring other nuclear-weapons states to participate in a nuclear arms race.
6. **DPRK.** Trump told the UN that he was prepared to suddenly, illegally, immorally, despicably **annihilate** the 25 million people of **North Korea**. Although US Secretary of State Tillerson revealed existing **diplomatic** efforts to defuse the war danger, Trump told him it's a waste of time. Without diplomacy all that remains is bluster and war. Understandably, North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un seeks nuclear weapons as the only defense against another imperialist attack to overthrow the state. Aggression against North Korea, by intention, by accident, or by mistake would devastate the Korean people, north and south, and no matter how it starts would in all probability escalate to embracing the entire world in nuclear "fire and fury."
7. **Syria.** At the UN Trump continued the verbal assault on Syrian President Assad and the Syrian people, even while the US military and CIA, along with Middle East Allies, have armed and enabled tens of thousands of terrorists to lay waste that country. Even as the US, having lost the effort to overthrow Assad, is preparing to carve part of northeast Syria as a breakaway state under US control.
8. **Seven Wars.** The US is currently fighting wars in at least seven countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Pakistan. There is no end game, no end in sight. The war profiteers cheer, everyone else weeps.

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9. **Puerto Rico, Caribbean: Racism.** Underlying the refusal to acknowledge the urgent need to quickly and massively move from fossil fuels to renewables and underlying Trump's recent insults to the colonized people of Puerto Rico in the agony of surviving two terrifying Hurricanes - is a profound **racism and white male supremacy**. Trump's campaign statements bragging of his mistreatment and disrespect of women and his unwavering support for the neoNazi and the Ku Klux Klan rally in Virginia has encouraged widespread violence of white supremacy and male domination. In the United States people of color, which includes **many immigrants and workers from the Caribbean and Latin America**, and moral people everywhere are justifiably horrified and angered by the statements and actions of this president.

10. **Cuba, Guantánamo.** US imperialism stole from Cuba and has occupied the land and sea called Guantánamo Navel Base since 1903. Everyone knows that in this base the US illegally houses and **tortures prisoners** captured since 2001 in the course of the various US aggressions against Asia and the Middle East. Since 1959, the Cuban revolutionary government has demanded that the US return this territory to sovereign Cuba. The US, as is well known, refuses.

11. **Bases in Caribbean.** Guantánamo is only one of up to 1000 US military bases on foreign soil. In the Caribbean and Central America are bases in **Honduras, El Salvador, Aruba and Curaçao, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica**. Because the US military uses bases controlled by national governments and even civilian airports, the reach of the Pentagon outside the US is far broader. These bases are hubs for the projection of US military power, intimidation of sovereign governments, spying and sabotage.

12. **Coalition to end US foreign military bases.** Recognizing that these bases endanger and destabilize the world, the **World Peace Council** at its Assembly in Brazil last November declared that it would establish a global coalition to close US foreign military bases. Within the US, the US Peace Council has brought together a wide range of peace groups, some that disagree on a number of issues but are unified against foreign military bases <<http://noforeignbases.org>>. A Unity Statement contains these words: "**the closure of U.S. foreign military bases is one of the first necessary steps toward a just, peaceful and sustainable world.**" The

coalition is organizing a conference in Baltimore, MD, January 12-14 to determine goals and actions. One of the goals of the conference will be to reach beyond the borders of the US to build an international coalition to close US foreign military bases.

13. **Wall Street and Pentagon Cabinet.** Trump's actions reflect his impeccable self aggrandizement and class greed and his reliance on the military. His cabinet is loaded with ruling class warriors from Wall Street and retired US military generals and his chief cabinet appointment, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, slipped in easily and directly from the biggest oil corporation, Exxon/Mobil. One could not better define the **Military Industrial Complex than listing Trump's cabinet**. The banks, the oil giants, the armaments manufacturers drive US imperialist policies. We, here and especially in the United States, must connect the dots and stand in the way.

14. **Where from here?** So where do we go from here. From the US Peace Council perspective we need to unify, grow and activate the global peace movement. We must not allow even significant differences on some issues prevent us from coalescing on common ground. We salute the creators of this conference for their efforts to bring together the peace movements of the English-speaking Caribbean. We urge everyone here to join in **building the global Coalition Against US Foreign Military Bases**. We have to build peace brick by brick. May this conference and its attendees lead the way.

Thank you.