**PANA Stall at Security Conference**

19/2/2020

**Update on Events**

Friends,

A **'National Security Summit Ireland', Slándáil 2020** takes place on the Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February at the Helix, Dublin organised by Dr Gerry Waldron…venue is near DCU Collins Avenue. The bus routes to here would include those going to Whitehall or Ballymun.

This is a massively important event and represents huge agenda-setting and confirmation on the part of our now burgeoning military-industrial complex. There's an enormous list of speakers, with only a few dissenters from The Programme.

Roger who is a speaker here, has arranged for us to have a PANA stall on both days, so we need volunteers to cover the stall for a morning or afternoon to allow people take a break…you do not have to register (this is expensive), but it starts 8am till 6pm…We may need names in advance possibly for security reasons, so contact Roger if available.

Click here to see details of speakers; …… <https://nvite.com/slandail/ede85>

More information; <https://people.ie/news/PN-211.pdf>

**World War III’s Arctic Battlefield**

In early March, an estimated 7,500 American combat troops will travel to Norway to join thousands of soldiers from other NATO countries in a massive mock battle with imagined invading forces from Russia. This futuristic simulated engagement goes by the name of Exercise Cold Response 2020. It takes place near the port of Murmansk on the Kola Peninsula, the headquarters for Russia’s Northern Fleet and regarded as their most sensitive military region…For more details.

<https://consortiumnews.com/2020/02/10/world-war-iiis-newest-battlefield/>

**Interview with US peace activist.**

Some 2.7 billion dollars per day. That’s how much the US government will spend next year to prop up the military and the more than 800 bases it maintains in over 70 countries. All in the name of national security. Mint Press News interviews peace activist Cindy Sheehan.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJXps6JQaxA>

**Concerns that the EU plans to fund, equip and train military forces in Africa**

Our FG/FF government told us the PESCO Agreement will provide a necessary structure for “security and defence” against outside threats and had nothing to do with Franco/German plans for an EU army or increased military spending. Now the European Union in true Orwellian speak is developing a European Peace Facility (EPF), that has nothing to do with conflict resolution, but is in fact a structure to fund, train and equip foreign government armies operating in fragile states. Peace groups are concerned that the EPF €10.5 billion off-budget could be used to assist governments in areas like Mali, South Sudan and the DR Congo who are brutally supressing all opposition, whilst NATO backed western corporate interests plunder their resources. Click here to see their open letter to all MEPs…

<https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-eu-unit-stateless/2019/09/a2c38406-190902-letter-to-eu-parliament_eu-peace-project-under-threat.pdf>

**Congratulation to the Union of Students in Ireland (USI)** who passed the following motion last week as interim policy until their Congress in April. Proposed by the Deputy President and Vice President for Campaigns. The motion was passed by a majority.

National Council notes: That Ireland is considered to be a neutral country. However, the Irish government allows the US military to stop and refuel on Irish soil in Shannon Airport.

National Council believes: The pace of development of EU militarisation (and Ireland’s involvement) and the threat to world peace has accelerated in the last year.

National Council acknowledges: The work being done by the Anti-War Movement, the Peace and Neutrality Alliance (PANA) and other organisations.

National Council mandates: USI to take a stance that Ireland should remain a neutral country and support the work of organisations working towards peace and neutrality.

**John Jefferies RIP**

John was active with CND and then PANA for many years, and from his home in Cobh kept Ed Horgan and Shannonwatch informed on the arrival of any NATO ship to Cork. Following the NATO bombardment of Serbia in 1999 he was part of a peace delegation to Belgrade and again in 2008 he travelled to Caracas in Venezuela. We deeply regret the loss of a great fighter for the truth, and send our condolences to his comrades, friends and family.

**The next meeting of PANA NEC will take place on Saturday 29th February at 11.30am in Connolly Books Dublin. All PANA members are also invited to attend these meetings as we discuss a range of issues including our hopes for a more progressive government on Irish foreign policy.**

Best Wishes,

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