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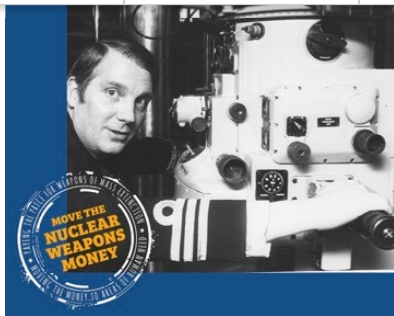
Dear friends,

Three former UK Royal Navy Commanders sent a [letter to all UK parliamentarians](#) on April 1 questioning the policy of maintaining a continuous at sea nuclear deterrent.

The commanders note that the £2 billion a year cost of maintaining this nuclear posture and readiness for war appear to be unjustifiable, especially as the economic costs of the coronavirus pandemic are mounting, and while there appears to be no threat of a '*bolt from the blue*' nuclear attack against the UK, for which the policy is intended to counter.

In addition, the letter questions the decision by parliament to invest even more substantial resources in building new nuclear warheads and the submarines to carry them.

"It is completely unacceptable that the UK continues to spend billions of pounds on deploying and modernising the Trident Nuclear Weapon System when faced with the threats to health, climate change and world economies that Coronavirus poses," said **Commander Robert Forsyth RN (Ret'd)**, a former nuclear submariner, signatory to the letter and supporter of the [Move the Nuclear Weapons Money](#) campaign.

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"Nuclear-armed States continue to **modernise** and in some cases **expand**, their **nuclear weapon capabilities**, costing **trillions**, while the world is struggling to afford the necessary measures to counter the worldwide **threat to health, climate change** and **world economies** that **Coronavirus** poses. This is **unacceptable**. Nuclear weapons powers should focus instead on **human security** for a **safe, healthy** and **sustainable** world."

- Commander **Robert Forsyth RN (Ret'd)** Former Submarine Commanding Officer

The letter was organised by the **Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation** and sent to all members of the UK House of Commons, UK House of Lords, Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales, and Northern Ireland Assembly.

"This pandemic, and the inability of the British government to either prepare for or effectively respond to such an immediate threat to life, demonstrates the twisted priorities at the heart of nuclear weapons spending," said **Tom Unterrainer**, Director of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. *"Rather than work to guarantee real security this government prioritises the acquisition and deployment of weapons of mass murder."*

The signatories to the letter hope that their efforts to question the nuclear 'Continuous At Sea Deterrent' will encourage politicians and the wider public to begin to question the morality and the feasibility of nuclear weaponry.

According to **Commander Robert Green RN (Ret'd)**, former nuclear-armed aircraft bombardier-navigator and one of the other co-signers of the letter, *'Nuclear deterrence is no more than a repulsive, unlawful protection racket used as a counterfeit currency of power, and hugely profitable to the corporate arms industry.'* (Commander Green is also a supporter of the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign).



"Nuclear deterrence is no more than a **repulsive, unlawful** protection racket used as a **counterfeit currency of power**, and hugely **profitable** to the **corporate arms industry**. The power elites of the **nuclear-armed** states are in denial that their **game of nuclear chicken** really does risk **survival** of us all. But the tide of history is at last turning towards **justice**. It is time for all of us to step up and end the **threat to humanity** and the **planet** from this irresponsible **hoax** holding us all **hostage**."

- Commander **Robert Green**, Royal Navy (retired). Former operator of British nuclear weapons

The letter was supported by a number of UK parliamentarians including **Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP (SNP Westminster Group Leader)**, **Lord Green of Deddington**, **Baroness Sue Miller of Chilthorne Domer** and **Bill Kidd (Member, Scottish Parliament)**. Baroness Miller and Mr Kidd are the UK Co-Presidents of [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND).

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*“Covid-19 is showing us that humanity’s worst threats- pandemics and climate change are shared globally,’ said **Baroness Sue Miller**. ‘We should not waste resources on renewing nuclear weapons as we should be using all resources we can in tackling these all too real issues.’*

*All of the nuclear weapons powers, and those states which are supportive of them, are wasting precious resources on the likes of Trident against the wishes of their peoples, when they should be addressing the real and deadly enemy in the form of COVID19,’ said **Bill Kidd MSP**, who also serves as the Convenor of the [Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Nuclear Disarmament](#).*

“With human beings and national economies under genuine threat, it is the duty of governments and parliamentarians to pull back from nuclear war planning and preparation, and to instead cooperate internationally on facing down this deadly pandemic,” concluded Mr Kidd.



Bill Kidd (MSP), endorser of the joint letter on UK Continuous at sea deterrence, counting \$1million nuclear-weapons-money-notes with Vanda Proskova at the Count the Nuclear Weapons Money action in New York, UN Disarmament Week, 2019.

Yours sincerely

[Move the Nuclear Weapons Money team](#)



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