

All Out to Oppose the Halifax War Conference!

Friday, November 20, 2:30 p.m. Picket at the opening, Halifax Westin Hotel

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009

ANTI-WAR RALLY at Cornwallis Park, Barrington & South Sts, 1-2 pm

Speakers include Malalai Joya, youngest member of the Afghan Parliament, and outspoken critic of NATO's war and occupation. Why we must end the war and let the Afghan people decide their own future.

Halifax Peace Coalition • Student Coalition Against War • NSPIRG • Canada Palestine Association • CPC(M-L) • Food Not Bombs

Canada Out of Afghanistan! Canada Out of NATO!

The Halifax International Security Forum is meeting on November 20-22 at the Halifax Westin Hotel to work out the justification for the global expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to extend the ongoing illegal occupation of Afghanistan. It is an outrageous war conference that must be condemned by everyone.

The Harper government, the Department of National Defence, and the German Marshall Fund, based in Washington, are convening this event to work out new arrangements for NATO. This military bloc has launched a process to adopt a "new strategic doctrine," as great divisions are emerging between the USA and Europe over its role.

Peter MacKay, Minister of Defence and the Atlantic Gateway, states the Halifax Forum's *inaugural* meeting "will help build a closer relationship between Canada, the United States, and Europe, centred on a new and forward-looking global security agenda." MacKay is handing \$2.5 million in taxdollars over to the neo-conservative American agency to organize this massive war conference on Canadian soil.

From the keynote speaker, US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to Gen Stanley McChrystal (Commander of the Afghan occupation) to Sen John McCain to US Admiral James Stavridis (Supreme Allied Commander, NATO Europe) to Gen Victor Renuart (US head of NORAD) and Adm Mark Fitzgerald (Cmdr, US Naval Forces Africa) on down, militarists have been summoned to Halifax from a select handful of countries; the Defence Ministers of Belgium, Poland, New Zealand and The Netherlands, and such countries with US military bases as Germany, Romania, Albania, Latvia, Estonia, Israel and Japan.

The anti-democratic war conference is packed with hand-picked generals, admirals, diplomats, media, and 300 "offi-

cial and prominent security analysts from six continents."

What does this "global security agenda" entail? The US with Canadian assistance aims to (1) extend the brutal occupation of Afghanistan; (2) consecrate NATO's right to military intervention on a world level beyond the continent of Europe in the name of "security"; (3) extend Canada's participation in US and NATO war plans outside Afghanistan – as its deployment of ships and troops to the Black Sea, Africa, Latin America and North Korea illustrates; (4) restructure NATO into the world's decision-making body in the service of the US and at the expense of the United Nations; *and* (5) promote massive disinformation to conceal its real aims and the nature of the grave problems facing humanity.

It is noteworthy that the range of the "global security agenda" of the Halifax Forum makes it apparent that the US and Canada are giving political, economic and social issues of health (pandemics), the environment (climate change, the Arctic), and the rights of peoples and nations (Middle East) a military dimension. These are pretexts to give NATO the right to intervene anywhere on the planet and in any sphere of life. The right of all peoples to self-determination and to live in peace is absent from the topics of the Halifax Forum.

It is shameful to see that Canada has also excluded the United Nations from the list of topics. The US aims to invest in NATO the moral authority and power to intervene on global issues normally the purview of the international community as represented by the UN and its associated agencies.

NATO is a remnant of the Cold War. Instead of being dissolved, it has been expanded to 28 member states with yet another 25 states tied to it through "partnership for peace" agreements (four in the Persian Gulf). Its operations now include Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea,

and Singapore. The new US Africa Command (AFRICOM) encompasses 53 countries. The disregard for the 192 members of the UN and the equality and sovereignty of all countries big and small in such a “global security agenda” is unmistakable. Collective security under the UN is being replaced – for the sake of the powerful – with the law of the jungle by the US and NATO.

In March 2008, the Harper government under the hoax of a “free vote” in the Parliament extended Canada’s mission in Afghanistan to 2011. Harper and MacKay are now making it clear that they intend to extend the mission and defy popular will. Both Harper and Liberal Foreign Affairs Critic Bob Rae foreshadow future war crimes by calling for Canada to have “a stronger position” in NATO. Harper is expanding the military budget to \$20 billion, commissioning new warships, and intensifying the recruiting of youth. The Atlantic Gateway not only involves infrastructure for a rapid transportation route from Asia to the USA going one way but also the transit of war material going the other.

This statement is issued by an ad hoc committee of Halifaxians from different anti war, youth and student groups. We oppose all attempts to extend the mission no matter what the pretext. Every public opinion poll since October 2001 shows that Canadians are opposed to the occupation of Afghanistan. Canadians have rejected attempts to call the military occupation “a civilian humanitarian development mission.” Whether military or civilian, occupation is occupation. We call on you to take up the demand to *Bring the Troops Home Now!* and work to bring into being an anti-war government, so that Canada can be a force for peace in service of its own people and the peoples of the world. This requires getting Canada out of NATO and

dismantling the aggressive alliance.

We call on you to immediately take the matter of opposing this dangerous war conference into your own hands as a practical matter. Discuss and organize with your work mates and union brothers and sisters, families, fellow youth and students, congregations, and neighbours. Photocopy and widely popularize this statement or issue your own. Poster your neighbourhood. Bring your friends, your placards, your banners, your conscience, your concerns, your voice.

Today, our challenges are clearer. No one will give us peace. Our only security is to struggle against these imperial practices and the preparations for war. The fact that the US, Canada and NATO still has to hold such forums to work out new arrangements shows that this battle is still necessary and possible, and that if people use their strength, which is considerable when united, we will be able to win.

Oppose the Halifax International Security Forum!

No Harbour for War!

Canada Out of Afghanistan! End the Occupation and Bring the Troops Home Now!

Not a Single Youth for Imperialist War!

Canada Out of NATO! Dismantle NATO!

For further information: (902) 477-0470

**ALSO ATTEND THE PUBLIC MEETING
Malalai Joya Speaks Out Against War**

November 21, Rosaria Bldg, Mt St Vincent University, 166 Bedford Hwy, 7-9 p.m. (Buses are: 16, 18, 35, 80, 81, 82, 86)

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The Halifax International Security Forum

Participants include

Robert Gates (US Defense Secretary & former chief of the CIA); Sen John McCain (Senate Armed Forces Committee); Gen Stanley McChrystal (Commander of ISAF); Stephen Hadley, George W. Bush National Security Advisor; Gen Victor Renuart (US head of NORAD); Adm Mark Fitzgerald (Cmdr, US Naval Forces Africa); Defence Ministers of Belgium, Poland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Brazil, France; Gen Walter Natynczyk (Chief of Canadian Defence Staff); Peter MacKay (Minister of National Defence and the Atlantic Gateway); Darrell Dexter (NS premier).

NATO: US Admiral James Stavridis (Supreme Allied Commander, Europe); James Appathurai (spokesman); Stefanie Babst (Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy); Jamie Shea (Director of Policy Planning). NATO ambassadors from Canada, Romania, Albania, Latvia, Estonia, Serbia and Germany.

Gen. Keith Dayton (US Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority); Amos Gilead, Director, Political- Military Bureau, Ministry of Defense, Israel.

Organizers

Department of National Defence and the German Marshall Fund (GMF), Washington. This neo-conservative agency is deeply involved in NATO’s attempts to reconfigure itself and expand its global reach, especially in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

The conference website describes the role of the fund as follows: “GMF is known for its innovative convening, including Brussels Forum, its annual flagship event, and its NATO Summit Conferences at Istanbul, Riga, and Bucharest. Brussels Forum [...] brings together top North American and European policymakers and opinion-makers from politics, industry, and the media to discuss the most pressing challenges currently facing both sides of the Atlantic. The NATO Conferences bring together leading figures from the Alliance to debate its current agenda.”

According to Wikipedia references, the Fund – an agency of big American and German capital with close links to the CIA and the National Endowment for Democracy – was involved in inciting the “colour-coded revolutions” in Europe and the Balkans under what they call “trans-Atlantic values” (i.e., US hegemony). The Fund has expanded into Eastern Europe through the establishment together with USAID of a program worth \$25 million, the Balkan Trust for Democracy. It has offices

in Washington, Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Bratislava, Belgrade, Ankara and Bucharest.

Topics of agenda include

The “forum” includes many closed sessions (“off the record”) and excludes the public. Why do they have to hide? The topics take up the precise agenda defined by NATO’s “new strategic doctrine.” The scope is global: to justify giving this military bloc the “right” to intervene anywhere on the planet and in any sphere of life. The language of conflict, tension and war is evident:

Global Transatlanticism – Where the Allies Are; Afghanistan – Transition to What?; Pakistan: Who Can Help and How?; Protecting Ports – Threatening Trade?; Securing the Seas; Law v Power – Who Rules? Who makes the Rules?; Arctic – New Great Game; Laws of War: Do They Work?; States v. Non-State Actors; Engagement with Bad Actors; Partners and Problems: North Korea / Middle East; Iraq: Still Work to Do; A Conversation on Iran; Space Security; Pandemics – Public and Private Preparedness: What Ideas Are Worth Defending?; Cyber Security; Space Security; Security and Climate Change; Geopolitical Consequences of the Economic Crisis; Ukraine Before the Elections; Made in China: Challenges and Opportunities; Terrorism: What’s Next?; What Should NATO Stand For?