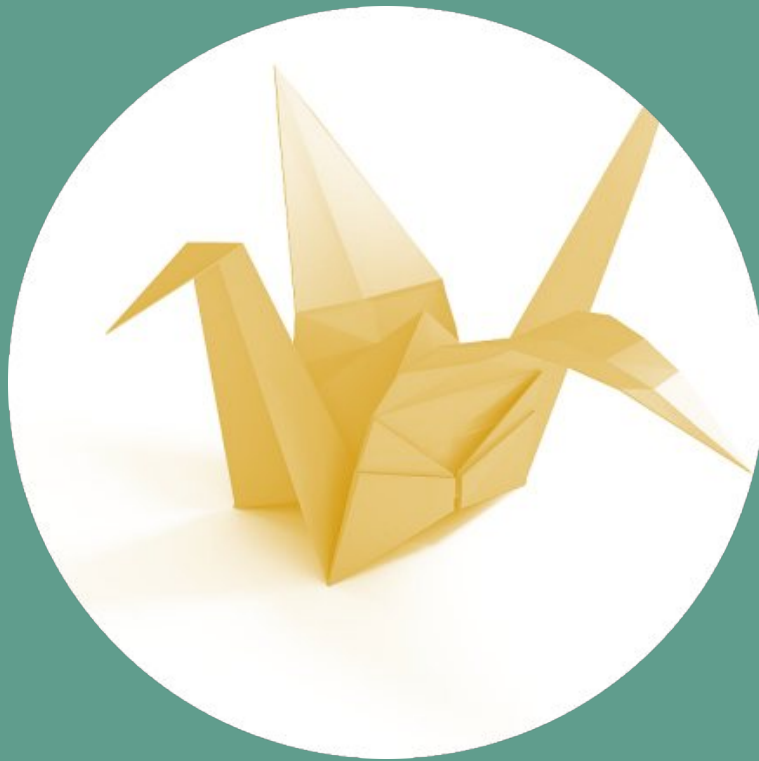




IPB

International
Peace Bureau

Newsletter



June 2019

Dear friends and colleagues,

After exciting and inspiring actions in Ramstein, Germany during the “Stopp the Airbase Ramstein Campaign” Peace Camp and the 3rd International Conference “No to Military Bases & War” we are full of impressions and motivation to continue.

In this issue, we include the declaration of this International Conference, as well as a glance of our upcoming events like the one in Berlin, which is the “IPBYN Conference – Transform! Towards a Culture of Peace” and the international workshop on “Nuclear Security in Europe after the collapse of the INF Treaty” in Brussels.

Additionally, this issue is featuring a text about Bruce Kent who turned 90 years recently. Bruce has been active in the peace movement for many, many decades and has tremendously impacted the work of many organisations, including IPB, as well as the lives of countless people. The Board of IPB has also announced that Bruce Kent will be awarded the Seán MacBride Peace Prize for this life commitment.

Last but not least, for all those of you who want to support us, please donate to IPB. We depend on any donation, regardless the amount. We hope you enjoy reading!

With our warmest wishes

Theresa Kresse



Editorial: Theresa Kresse (Coordinator)

Bruce Kent turned 90!

It is widely known that Bruce Kent is a Peace Super-hero. It cannot be coincidental that his name is a combination of Bruce Wayne (Batman) and Clark Kent (Superman) and his main super-powers are his sense of justice and love of people. If you have seen Bruce speak you will know that he has a gift for it – he can pare an issue down to its fundamental ethical questions in a way that is understandable and often tinged with humour and accompanied by one of his many stories. If you have met him you will know that he has an ability to make you feel like an old friend, even if you have never met before.



Happy 90th Birthday !

Bruce became a Chaplain to Pax Christi UK in London 1958 and joined the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in 1960. In 1967 he launched a major correspondence in The Times about the morality of nuclear deterrence. This produced a wide debate - especially within the Churches. When he took over as IPB President from Sean McBride in 1985 he had already been the General Secretary of CND for 6 years, CND Chair from 1977-1979 and Chair of War on Want from 1974-1976.

This was during the height of the Cold War, which was accompanied then by a rapid growth in the peace movement - CND national membership grew from 2,000 to 100,000 and the number of active

local groups increased from around 30 to nearly 1000. This expansion was certainly helped by Bruce's convincing appearances in the media. Bruce was also one of the founders and main organizers of the European Nuclear Disarmament Campaign in the 1980s. The number of nuclear weapons reached their peak in 1986 and Bruce remained IPB President until 1992, becoming chair of CND again from 1987- 1990 and undertaking in 1988 a 1000-mile peace walk from Warsaw to NATO HQ in Brussels to call for a united peaceful nuclear-free Europe.

Bruce is still amazingly active, taking up a range of local and global peace and justice issues. He and Valerie, his wife, are active in their local church and Bruce is still a Vice President of CND, Pax Christi and the Movement for the Abolition of War. He is a well-loved neighbour, a respected writer and campaigner. It is always a pleasure to be greeted by his enthusiastic welcome or to hear him speak at rallies and meetings. If you walk along the street with him or accompany him on a bus journey, there is always someone who recognises him and wants to shake his hand. One of the stories he likes to tell is when someone approaches him and remembers seeing him on TV or in the newspapers and in their excitement they say "didn't you used to be Bruce Kent?" Well, he did and still is.

Happy birthday from IPB, Lisa Clark, Reiner Braun & Dave Webb

Recipient of the Sean MacBride Peace Prize

This year, IPB Board Members decided to award Bruce Kent with the Sean MacBride Prize for his lifelong commitment to the peace movement. The Sean MacBride Prize is awarded every year by the IPB to a person or organisation that has done outstanding work for peace, disarmament and/or human rights. These were the principal concerns of Sean MacBride, the distinguished Irish statesman who was Chairman of IPB from 1968-74 and President from 1974-1985.

Upcoming event - IPBYN Conference – Transform! Towards a Culture of Peace

Date: 20th – 22nd September 2019

Location: Technical University Berlin, Building of
Mathematics, Strasse des 17. Juni 136

Organizers: IPB Youth Network, IPB in partnership
with ITUC and ITUC Youth

With the support of DFG-VK, International
Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global
Responsibility (INES), Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung,
Hans-Böckler-Stiftung (tbc)



The world youth congress is a youth-led congress, contributing to the vision of a world in peace and without war and to the vision of a more peaceful, just and sustainable future. The idea of the youth congress derives from the preparatory process of the youth gathering of the IPB World Congress “Disarm! For a Climate of Peace – Creating an Action Agenda” (www.ipb2016.berlin). Some of the discussions of this congress as well as of an international working meeting on the weekend of the international day of peace 2018 (<https://ipb-youthnetwork.org/2018/08/ipbyn-event-on-international-day-of-peace/>) will be continued at the world youth congress.

The congress will focus on transformation towards a more peaceful, just and sustainable future. This

will be achieved by informal learning to develop a sense of personal responsibility, by developing plans for concrete actions in day-to-day live as well as in societal processes. The Youth Congress will engage youth from various different backgrounds and with varying perspectives and approaches to peace, justice and sustainability as well as diverse experts and lays from different fields related to the congress’ issues.

Programme - **Saturday, 21 September 2019**

9:30 – 12:00 Exchange of experience and information in smaller groups

- Floor for meaningful exchange between the participants and floor for open discussions in the framework of the topics of the congress:
- Exchange of expectations: Why are you here? How do you see your participation in the congress, what can you bring?
- Exchange of knowledge and experience: What is your local day to day situation and work? How and in which ways are you active for peace, sustainability, and justice? What are your best practices and lessons learnt from your activism/work?

13:30 – 15:00 Panel discussions on the themes of the congress

- Transformation from militarism to non-violence
- Transformation from environmental destruction to sustainability
- Transformation from injustice to global justice

Sunday, 22 September 2019

9:30 – 11:00 Developing of strategies & actions for a transformation towards a culture of peace

- Which strategies and actions can be applied and developed?
- What can we do together?

11:30 – 13:30 Panel discussion with open mic: How do we transform our societies?

If you are interested in participating please read some more information via this [link](#) or via [Facebook](#).

Upcoming event - Nuclear Security in Europe after the collapse of the INF Treaty

Date: 14th of September 2019, 11am to 5pm

Location: Oude Graanmarkt 5, Brussels, Belgium



Organized by Abolition 2000 – Europe Nuclear Weapons Working Group www.abolition2000.org – Bertrand Russel Peace Foundation – <http://www.russfound.org/> – INES – <http://inesglobal.net/> – International Peace Bureau – www.ipb.org – IPPWN Europa – <https://www.ippnw.eu/> – ITUC – www.ituc-csi.org With the support of TRANSFORM <https://www.transform-network.net/> & Belgian Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons <https://nonukes.be/>

Tensions are growing among states possessing nuclear weapons and the collapse of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty brings Europe closer to the brink of another dangerous Cold War. Meanwhile, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) gains traction and opens new avenues for urgently needed common campaigns and actions.

For Peace groups, International peace networks, Social and environmental movements, Churches,

Trade unions and everyone who wants to make the planet safer!

All are welcome to discuss this challenging situation and the way forward to a nuclear-weapons-free Europe.

Signed in 1987 by the United States and the Soviet Union, the INF Treaty bans a complete class of nuclear weapons – land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500km. The Treaty signaled a victory on the part of millions of Europeans who, during the 1980s, demonstrated against the “Euromissiles”. As the United States and Russia again spend enormous sums on modernizing their nuclear arsenals, tensions between both countries are widely recognized as being at their worst since the end of the Cold War.

How do we stop this nuclear arms race? How best to promote and implement the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? What alternatives are there for peace and common/human security in Europe? How can we achieve European Nuclear Disarmament?

A detailed agenda will be published in July. Please save the date and if you are interested in attending, please send a note to info@ipb-office.berlin. Feel free to share this invitation!

Upcoming event - Triennial Meeting

Date: 19th of October 2019

Location: Trades Union Congress (TUC), Congress House

The International Peace Bureau’s Triennial Meeting is scheduled for Saturday the 19th of October 2019 in London.

The Triennial Meeting, also called the Assembly, is the highest policy-making body of the IPB. It is also

a forum for the exchange of ideas, information and resources among civil society movements, scholars and activists. It is open to Council members, plus individuals belonging to IPB member organisations, individual IPB members and observers. It meets at least once every three years.

More information on the schedule and how to participate will be shared with the eligible participants in a timely manner. All information about our constitution and structure can be found via this link: <https://www.ipb.org/ipb-constitution/>

Declaration of the 3rd International Conference “No to Military Bases & War”

Our stand against war is irrevocable! For this reason, we personally and politically oppose, using solely peaceful and non-violent methods, the intended war of the USA and some of its NATO allies against Iran and Venezuela!

The infrastructure, logistics and command structures of the Ramstein Air Base play a central role in the potential war against Iran.

There should be no support for an illegal war against Iran coming from Ramstein.

At this conference, we reiterate our rejection of the US Air Base Ramstein. We call on the Federal Government and the German Bundestag to terminate the Treaty on the stationing of foreign armed forces in Germany - the “Troop Stationing Treaty”, to remove all US/NATO Bases and nuclear weapons. This would enable the closure of the

Ramstein Air Base within 24 months. Nevertheless, the jobs of the civilian population must be secured through a comprehensive conversion plan, which must meet the trade union demands of “good work.”

The US-Air Base in Ramstein is a central foreign military base, but only one out of about 1,000 worldwide. Our goal is to realize the closure of all of these bases. This would be a significant contribution to world peace, but also to the protection of our environment and climate. It is a political scandal that no international climate agreements emphasize the destructive role the military is playing in threatening and destroying our environment. The military is a main climate killer.

Disarmament and the dismantling of all military bases signifies active climate protection. There are

almost 1,000 military bases worldwide. With arms spending at well over a trillion euros and a confrontation with Russia, NATO states stand at the center of militarism and represent the central threat to peace in today’s world. Peace and global justice are incompatible with the global military alliance of NATO. For these reasons, we strongly support the activities of the international network “No to war - no to NATO.” Since 2009, this network is working to delegitimize NATO. Together with the British peace movement, the international network is organizing counteractions against the next NATO summit taking place in London in December: a counter-summit, demonstrations and further protest actions are currently being planned.

We reiterate the central demand of the network for the dissolution of NATO in accordance with



Declaration of the 3rd International Conference “No to Military Bases & Wars”

national conditions and call on the governments of NATO member states to withdraw from NATO.

We will continue our activities against all foreign military bases, following in the tradition of meetings in Ramstein, Baltimore, Dublin and Florence. We will also continue to strengthen our networking.

This is why we will meet again in Ramstein 2020.

Until then, let's prepare an international day of action against foreign military bases in April/May 2020. And let's try to involve more anti-military base groups.

Supported by the foreign speakers: Pat Elder, USA, John Lannon, Ireland, Alain Rouy, France, Vincenzo Santiglia, Italy, Dave Webb, UK and Ann Wright, USA

A report and some photos of the Peace Camp of the "Stopp the Airbase Ramstein Campaign" will be shared in the next newsletter.