

## **Removal of nuclear weapons from Europe**

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We recently discussed the possibility to start an action for the elimination of US nuclear weapons from the European NATO countries. There have been recent discussions about a possible withdrawal of the weapons in parliaments and in NATO itself, so that a civil campaign does not seem hopeless from the beginning and should broaden the discussion and make it more powerful. This campaign must be intense enough to break through the wall of ignorance and apathy of the public and must also arouse the press which, at the moment, only identifies nuclear weapons with Iran and North Korea.

It was suggested to put the action under the umbrella of the European Network for Peace and Human Rights, which will lead to a broad participation of European organizations. A major activity would be an international conference with the themes:

1. Withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Europe and nuclear-free zones;
2. European leadership in nuclear abolition.

In addition, there should be follow-up activities in various countries. I made this proposal to Ken Coates, chairman of the European Network. I also suggested that INES would act together with its projectgroup INESAP and would try to find other international NGOs like IPPNW, IALANA, IPB and Pugwash to participate in the action. His answer was positive (see letter hereafter) and he proposed a specific strategy for the collective editing of a general appeal, the arranging of local meetings and finally the big conference.

The proposal was further discussed at the annual conference of the European Network in Brussels on 20/21 October, where a workshop was devoted to the subject. It was agreed that we would have to go through a process of action in which a critical weight for a public campaign would be reached. During this process, contact should be made with NGOs, the Mayors for Peace and similar associations, schools and universities, the educational aspect of the action being of major importance.

A first draft for an appeal, as proposed by Ken Coates was submitted to the workshop and is shown hereafter.