

LE MOUVEMENT DE LA PAIX

Move the 37 billion € over 6 years of the nuclear weapons modernization money to promote the peaceful development needs of the French population

Abstract

This poster explains what strategy French pacifists are developing to move money from the modernization of French nuclear weapons on France's civilian budgets to promote peace and development.

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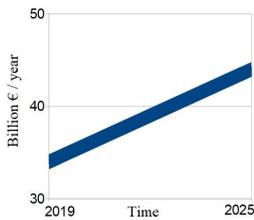
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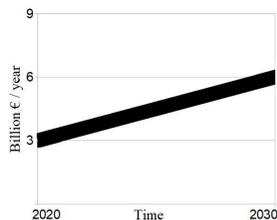
French military programming law for 2019-2025 and modernization of French nuclear weapons

French military programming law for 2019-2025 devotes €295 billion to an increase in the military budget from €34 billion to €44 billion per year, bringing it to 2% of France's GDP (which is € 2200 billion), the largest increase in military spending.

It represents an increase from 8.5% to more than 11.3% of the state budget (€386 Billion/year). In this programming law, € 37 billion are especially devoted for modernization of French nuclear weapons. We tell here about the strategy of French pacifists to move this nuclear weapons money to civil use for the country.



French annual military budget



Budget for modernization of nuclear weapons

Battle of public opinion and strategy of French pacifists

Interesting to ask the question of what the French population thinks about French nuclear weapons, are the French still attached to the force of nuclear dissuasion?

French people and defence

Do you want France to...?



The national daily "La Croix" and the French Peace Movement commissioned a survey of 1001 people, thanks to the IFOP polling institute. The results of this survey were published on July 5, 2018, pages 1 to 3 of the daily "La Croix" [1].

Main lesson from this poll is that a majority of respondents (67%) wants France to ratify the treaty to ban nuclear weapons. This result shows that there is an important base among the French, who wants France to abandon its military nuclear force. Pacifists are therefore likely to be heard and understood when they express their desire to go against this type of weaponry.

For a long time pacifists have sought to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons. This resulted in a series of agreements and treaties mainly between the United States and the USSR and then Russia. In 2017, the new strategy of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) led to the UN vote on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons known as NWBT [2]. ICAN has been awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize [3].

Rather than trying to convince the authorities of countries that have the nuclear weapon to reduce their stocks, the pacifists have changed their strategy: they are now trying to convince the countries that do not have the nuclear weapon to impose the prohibition of this type of weapon of mass destruction. In concrete terms, the pacifists' strategy of change on a global scale aims to force countries like France, which possesses nuclear weapons, to go towards the signing of the NWBT.

It is not by modernizing its nuclear weapons that France can hope to persuade states to renounce nuclear weapons. Abandoning this modernization would be a coherent symbolic and diplomatic gesture.

Introduction

We first recall the amounts of the French military programming act over the next six years. Then we discuss the strategy of the pacifists and the levers they can use.

Peace campaign against nuclear weapons and militarization of space

As the French peace movement, Mouvement de la Paix is involved in campaigns against all such weapons. It asks French government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to significantly reduce military spending. Peace campaign is to be helpful for contributing in building a world of peace and security and avoid French programmes of militarization of space [4-6].

There are strong arguments against the absurdity of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons, and the shocking increase in military budgets while, at the same time, our government attacks social welfare, social security, pensions, and education. The action for peace in France is a question of developing peaceful strategies by demonstrating, protesting, and informing. French public opinion can evolve in favor of a questioning of military nuclear and the militarization of space. France, like the other countries possessing the nuclear weapon, will be then able to go towards an abandonment of these weapons of massive destruction.

Conclusion

The NWBT is already of great value in denouncing nuclear weapons. The goal is to eradicate nuclear weapons. We aim to establish a real debate in France on the need to move nuclear weapons money for civil and peaceful use, thinking that the world can be better saved by promoting peace and disarmament. Multiplying initiatives to denounce the French military programming law for 2019-2025 is a means and is also a question of winning the battle of opinion to oppose the modernization of nuclear weapons, and through this, to advance the cause of France and Europe as a zone of peace, making France an example for other countries. It is especially urgent in the context of the suspension of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty by the USA on 1 February 2019.

To go further, what an honour if France joins the list of countries that have possessed nuclear weapons and that have renounced them, such as South Africa, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

References

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