

Nuclear Experts Warn of War Danger

April 2—A group of high-level military and political leaders from Europe, the U.S., and Russia, published an op-ed in the *New York Times* today, warning of the increasing danger of nuclear war, and insisting on the urgent “Revamping of Euro-Atlantic Security.” The 30-member group, representing institutional resistance to the British Empire’s war policies, is co-chaired by former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, former Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, former German Deputy Foreign Minister (current head of the Munich Security Conference) Wolfgang Ischinger, and former British Defence Secretary Des Browne.

The same group had published, in February 2012, the results of its two-year study calling for an “effective Euro-Atlantic Security Community.” Obviously concerned that things have further deteriorated, they wrote the April 2 op-ed, which more stridently asserts the danger of war, as the following excerpts show:

“Security policies in the Euro-Atlantic region . . . are dangerously out of date and demand urgent attention. . . . Cold War-era security concepts and their associated weapons and military postures continue. Large strategic nuclear forces remain deployed on

prompt launch, ready to be fired in minutes; thousands of tactical nuclear weapons are still stockpiled in Europe; a decades-old missile defense debate remains stuck in neutral; and new security challenges associated with prompt-strike forces, cybersecurity, and space remain contentious and inadequately addressed. . . . The alarming asymmetry between military capabilities and a true Euro-Atlantic partnership is dangerous and potentially destabilizing, undermining the trust necessary for cooperative efforts to meet emerging security threats in Europe and across the world. . . .

“[T]oday’s leaders should move decisively and permanently toward a new security strategy, one that considers offensive and defensive military forces, nuclear and conventional weapons, and cybersecurity and space. Thinking together about these issues in an integrated way can lead to transformational change in Euro-Atlantic security and nuclear and conventional force postures from the persistent Cold War shadow of *Mutually Assured Destruction to Mutual Security* [emphasis added]. Issues relating to nuclear weapons and missile defense should receive the highest priority in the first five years. It should also be possible to take steps relating to conventional forces, cybersecurity and space during the initial phase. . .

“There is an historic and fleeting opportunity to act. There is no more important security issue for leaders to address.”