

Bitte Vatvedt Norway 10th August 2024 Åland Nordic Peace Alliance
Introduction:

US-bases in Nordic countries are a threat to our security.

Bitte Vatvedt

Dear Nordic peace-friends. Good morning!

Thank you for inviting me.

It is especially important to discuss the issue about US bases in the Nordic countries now.

I have given my introduction the title:

US-bases in Nordic countries are a threat to our security.

There are many aspects with the agreement. I will talk about the US strategy for the bases and try to focus on how we should handle this challenge.

We have seen a very important military change in our Nordic countries these last three years!

All four countries have, for the first time since the second World War, given away our sovereignty to another country for the purpose of military activity from our territory.

The US forces are allowed to do whatever they find necessary to do, from 47 bases in the four Nordic countries - to fight *their* superpower-war against Russia and China. Not to *protect* our countries, but to take care of *their own* interests as the world greatest military superpower.

It was the US who asked, or maybe we could say demanded, to get bases in the Nordic countries. The first country to accept the Supplementary Defence Cooperation (SDC) Agreement, was Norway.

Suddenly, one day in 2021, the agreement that had been negotiated secretly, was presented. Loyally, without questions and debate, the Norwegian Parliament passed the law accepting the agreement in June 2022. Denmark, Finland and Sweden followed with the same SDC-agreements during this year.

So, what is this all about?

First of all, it is important to recognize that these agreements have nothing to do with NATO.

Well, I would not be surprised if the US threatened Finland and Sweden *stating* that they would not approve your NATO-membership, if you didn't let them have the bases they wanted. Maybe that's why Finland accepted 17 bases and Sweden 15. But - this was just a threat. A threat that worked.

Finland and Sweden even accepted US nuclear weapons to be stored and deployed. I have heard the discussion with the Swedish Prime Minister, but I guess that is just for interior purpose.

In the Norwegian and Danish agreements, it says that nuclear weapons should not be brought to the US bases. But what is the consequence of that line, when it also says in the agreement

– and that is the most important line in the agreement-text;

“If the US finds it necessary to evade, put aside, whatever the agreement says, the US is free to do so”. They don't even *have to ask* the national authorities. The agreement says the US

should consult national authorities. But do you think they will bother? Nooooo. There wouldn't be time and, most certainly neither national, military nor political authorities, would understand the US-questions. SO - Forget it!

The US has, with different methods, achieved similar agreements for approximately 900 bases in more than 80 countries *in that part of the world where US has their friendly and loyal countries.*

The US started up this military strategy as early as during the presidency of Barak Obama. It is called a *parallel strategy*. It is a strategy to be able to hit two places at the same time, fast and surprising.

The US does not want the NATO-bureaucracy, the concensus principle and the hollowing debates when they are fighting to win over the two other superpowers.

Time, economic and military efficiency counts.

The US can't risk Russia and China to cooperate and thus become strong enough together to beat the US, the by far strongest military nation in the world.

The US strategy is to surprise!

– The US want to control both superpowers at the same time.

Shock and block!

No one will know from where they'll strike – and with what kind of weapons, conventional – or nuclear weapons.

That's why they must have both kinds of weapons available – in one area. Not on every base, that's too expensive, but no one knows where the nuclear weapons are. Or if they are threatening with conventional or nuclear weapons!

The area is for instance the Nordic countries.

This area is extremely important between the super-powers!

This area is crucial for the Russians with their nuclear-submarine-base at Kola – neighbor to Norway and to Finland.

From there the Russians nuclear-submarines can go out in the Atlantic and strike the US on their own continent.

That is crucial for the US – not to be hit on their own continent.

Now the US has bases from Greenland crossing the North Sea and all the way along the Russian European border to the Black Sea.

And – a new *very* important achievement for the US –

One of the new US bases in Norway is located on Andøya. From there, there is a ridge under the sea all the way towards Greenland, so that the submarines must go up and down to pass it.

Here, at Andøya is now a new drone-base and the spy-drones are able to locate and control the huge Russian nuclear submarines at the ridge on their way out in the Atlantic-ocean. A point where it is now easy to register the submarine. That gives the US information so that they can attack the Russian nuclear submarines on their way out and prevent them to attack US territory.

This is a checkmate for the US and a dangerous provocation to the Russian.

We are constantly told that the bases are for our security.

But these US-bases have nothing to do with our security. More on the contrary.

The bases are a threat to our security.

All 47 bases in our countries are bomb-targets. The strategy for winning a nuclear war is to attack first. The first strike. Since the Russian no longer can reach the US continent. They'll be stopped in the North Sea. So who are threatening the Russian just outside their border? The 47 US bases in the Nordic countries! And who knows where the nuclear weapons are stored? Probably in more than on one place.

The Nordic countries are not a big area for a nuclear strike.

So – Who's gonna' be the big loser?

The bases in our countries are for the US security – to keep up their position as the world strongest military nation.

They don't care if the Nordic countries are left in a nuclear battlefield as long as the US keep their position as the strongest nation in the world.

This US strategy is very dangerous! Not only because it is a strategy to fight a super-power battle that is not in our interest for defending our countries, but

also because this strategy is very vulnerable when it comes to mistakes, misunderstandings and technical errors.

And because the actors now, with the US-bases on our territories are geographical very close to the Russian border, the time from firing to hitting is just extremely short.

We'll be in between – in the inferno – with conventional OR nuclear-weapons!

Our position is much worse than under the Cuba-crisis in 1962.

My sources for the information about the US-bases, are open US sources worked out with help from professor Tormod Heier, from the Norwegian Military Academy.

We gave away our sovereignty for a lie – not security.

These bases are a threat to our humanity, environment, democracy and sovereignty.

So, I hope I have made myself very clear now; From now on there will be nuclear weapons somewhere, probably on a number of places in the Nordic area.

Our area's virginity for nuclear weapons is over.

NATO have no plan for storing nuclear weapons in the Nordic countries, as far as I know, but the bases will bring nuclear weapons to our countries.

Politicians in our countries for this period, gave US this gift at the expense of our security and future, the future of our people and for our future children.

All the US bases are located on national military bases. As you know, either the people nor the local authorities have access to the US-bases in our countries.

I have been asking the Norwegian authorities, in vain if the US-bases will displace our national, and NATO for that matter, -military interests on our bases. Which are the same areas, you know.

And will the US take our military facilities as air-fighters or marine ships – bought in the US and exercise with the US today, fitting in with their facilities?

Our countries are now increasing military budgets enormously. Buying US military equipment for billions of US dollars. To protect whom?

It seems like our politicians have *no ideas* what so ever, that US interests can be different from our interests to defend ourselves.

I don't trust either Donald Trump nor Kamela Harris to be chief in command for my country.

So – What do we do?

How can we fight the world largest military power in the world?

What a question!

When the questions is too complex, we have to separate the different issues and give them preference.

First of all we have to learn as much possible of the facts what this is all about.

Then we must, in different ways, inform the population.

We must disclose that our politicians are not telling the truth about the US-bases.

We must tell the truth that the bases given to the US, has nothing to do with NATO, nor our security.

Our politicians are consistently mixing the bases into the NATO-story. They do that because most people – around 90 % of the population in our countries are positive to NATO and that's the way they hope to cover the fact that they have given away our sovereignty to the world's most aggressive military superpower state to fight their war, including using nuclear weapons, from our territory.

The politicians are using a language to propogandize so that we cannot recognize their government's actions.

As a journalist myself, I'm so sorry to say that more or less the whole press are doing the same, not telling the truth! If they are covering the issue at all.

The authorities are not telling the truth that with this SDC-agreement, they have allowed the US to store and use nuclear weapons from our countries if the US *find it necessary to do so*.

We have to inform the population about the truth and rise the discussion loud about nuclear weapons in the Nordic countries, knowing that polls tell us that approximately 90% of the population (little less in Finland) are against nuclear-weapons – stored, deployed and used from our countries.

I think we, the peace movement, have to focus on the fact that without consulting the population, the US has been allowed to plan for a nuclear war from our countries.

Even if we know that the SDC-agreement cannot be terminated in 10 years,

We'll have to demand:

*No to nuclear weapons in the Nordic countries.

*We must campaign to make our governments sign up the UN-treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

*For getting the discussion on a ground level in our countries, we have to keep campaigning for the ICAN Cities' Appeal.

We have to discuss how to meet people these days saying:

- Do you want the Russians to take us?"

In this time of war in Europe, we have to talk for peace – against war – for disarmament.

It is in our national interests to downscale tension and conflicts with our Russian neighbor. Not the contrary!

War, rearmament and armaments-race are killing our environment and future nature, our economy and increase the danger for making our areas and the hole world, a battlefield.

I look forward to a good and important discussion with you how we are gonna work together for a peaceful and better Nordic region and for a better world.

Thank you for your attention!