

Moving Beyond Missile Defense and Space Weapons (MBMDS)

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

May 1, 2017

Introduction

In the summer of 2016 INES organized an International working group to study the serious consequences for international peace and security that have resulted from the ongoing development and deployment of missile defense systems as well as programs to develop weapons in space, primarily under the auspices of the US government.

We would like to thank Abolition 2000 for providing us with a small amount of seed funding for this effort.

Below is a summary of activities to date and an outline of the planned effort to complete our work.

It took quite a bit of time and effort to put together an international working group consisting of mostly scientists, but also non-scientists with knowledge and expertise in the issues involved. Subrata Ghoshroy agreed to serve as the coordinator. The members, listed alphabetically, are as follows:

Christian ALWARDT, Germany
Subrata GHOSHROY, USA/India
Masako IKEGAMI, Japan
Timur KADYSHEV, Russia
Claus MONTONEN, Finland
Juergen SCHEFFRAN, Germany
Alice SLATER, USA
Dave WEBB, U.K.
Tong ZHAO, China
Monica ZOPPE, Italy

In addition to the above, the working group contacted a number of other people for advice and possible future contribution. They are:

Bruce Gagnon, USA
Regina Hagen, Germany
David Krieger, USA
Andrew Lichterman, USA
Zia Mian, USA/Pakistan
Goetz Neuneck, Germany
M.V. Ramana, USA/India
Ali Soltanieh, Iran

Significant Activities

The group had several limited bilateral calls and many e-mail exchanges before setting the agenda for a conference call on September 16, 2016, which was attended by all members. The group also decided on a name for itself, which is “**Moving Beyond Missile Defense and Space Weapons**” (MBMDS). (Please see Addendum 1 for details of the conference call)

The most significant activity of the group was a half-day workshop held on the sidelines of the IPB Congress in Berlin on September 30, 2016. A majority of the group’s members were in attendance. We employed a student from Hamburg University to take notes and produce a transcript after the meeting, (the transcript will be made available to individuals upon request for their own personal use but not for publication).

The agenda of the Berlin workshop is shown in Addendum 2 below.

In addition to the workshop above, group members Dave, Juergen, Monica, and Subrata held a public meeting for the attendees of the IPB Congress to discuss BMD and weapons in space. This meeting was very well attended and a spirited discussion followed.

The group’s activities were seriously hampered since November due to the illness of Subrata. He is not fully recovered yet and his future prognosis is still uncertain. However, we did manage to hold another meeting at the end of March in New York at the time of the Ban Treaty negotiations at the UN. M. V. Ramana from Princeton University joined us and we had hoped that Alex Glaser and Zia Mian would also be available but unfortunately they couldn’t make it. Even so, we were able to have some useful discussions about possible directions.

Since then Subrata has resumed his activities on a limited scale - he was able to give an excellent presentation on the problems of missile defense, via skype, to the Global Network conference in Huntsville Alabama in early April. Currently, he is waiting for further surgery, which has been tentatively scheduled for the end of May. We wish him well.

Plan for Completion of the Report

In the next several weeks, Subrata will draft an outline for the group’s report inviting individual members to comment on the draft and to suggest sections that they would like to contribute to. Members and advisors will be invited to also suggest any new topic for the report, which the draft did not include. It would most desirable if suggestions of a new topic were accompanied by the names of contributor/contributors. The group will consider any such request and make a decision.

Our hope is to finalize first the report outline and then the draft report itself by the end of October 2017. During this time, while the draft report is in the final stages, we hope to present our preliminary findings, and conclusion at the UNGA session in September.

Schedule and Funding

In our concept proposal to A2000 we requested \$12,000 for activities planned over a 12-month period. We wrote at that time that we expected to complete our work by July/August 2017 with the publication of our report. We received \$7,000

Under the circumstances explained above we will miss this target by about six months. As described above, 5 to 7 months work remains with the end of January 2018 being the new target for work completion.

As of date, we have expended \$2,717 toward the Berlin workshop, which included some member travel and lodging, student assistance, and admin support to INES, Berlin.

We have approximately \$3480 on hand.

We request that A2000 provide us with the remainder of our request (\$5,000) to complete our work and publish our report in this particularly precarious international situation.

You will note that we have been extremely careful with our spending, only making those that were essential and unavoidable. We plan to continue to operate this way in the future.

ADDENDUM - 1

Minutes of the Conference Call 16 September 2016

International Working Group Moving Beyond Missile Defense and Space Weapons (MBMDS)

START: 10 AM U.S. Eastern END: 11:15 AM

MINUTES

10 – 10:05 Welcome: Subrata GHOSHROY, USA/India, Coordinator

10:05-10:20 Introduction of Members:

Christian ALWARDT, Germany

Regina HAGEN, Germany

Masako IKEGAMI, Japan (present for the last 20 minutes)

Timur KADYSHEV, Russia

Zia MIAN, USA/Pakistan (Not present)

Claus MONTONEN, Finland

Goetz NEUNECK, Germany (Not present)

M.V. RAMANA, USA/India

Juergen SCHEFFRAN, Germany

Alice SLATER, USA

Dave WEBB, U.K.

Tong ZHAO, China

Monica ZOPPE, Italy

Alice SLATER moderated the rest of the meeting. Subrata agreed to take notes and circulate the minutes afterwards.

10:20-10:50 Brief Presentation of Issues:

Juergen Scheffran: **Missile Defense**

Western countries are driving most missile defense systems. Russia and China are responding. Missiles alone are complex. The question for the group what can we do?

Dave Webb: **Space weapons**

In the old SDI program there were ideas for weapons in space. In the meantime the militaries of countries like The U.S. and Israel are increasingly dependent on satellites for their operations, especially for command and control. Yet satellites are vulnerable causing instability and encouraging ASAT

programs by the adversaries. BMD systems require space-based detectors, trackers, etc. Another problem in space is the problem of debris, which is making space dangerous for satellites. Russia and China have placed the PAROS treaty to ban weapons in space before the UN every year for many years. A vast majority of member states routinely vote in favor of the treaty except the U.S. and a couple other small nations.

Tong ZHAO: The **Chinese viewpoint**

China is very concerned about the U.S. missile defense program. It is carefully studying the BMD technologies that the U.S. is developing. One of particular concern is the multiple kill vehicles concept because it could overcome the challenge of decoys, which continues to bedevil the midcourse defense program. Other concerns are the renewed U.S. investments in laser weapons and offensive cyber weapons which could interfere with the guidance systems of Chinese missiles that would weaken China's nuclear deterrence.

In addition, the deployment of BMD systems in the Asia Pacific region is complicating the situation. For example, although systems like THAAD cannot intercept ICBMs, the THAAD radar is powerful, which would aid the US midcourse system to intercept Chinese ICBMs again weakening deterrence. In China, people's perception of BMD is highly problematic. Tong said that in his discussions with high-level military and civilian officials, he sensed also a reluctance to judge the capabilities of the U.S. systems on their technical merits. Instead their view is that the BMD is essentially a geopolitical issue. China is also investing heavily in these technologies.

Timur: The **Russian viewpoint**

Timur was not able to make his presentation. He will send a brief statement soon and make a longer presentation at the working group's meeting Berlin.

10:50-10:55 **Discussion and other comments**

Christian said that he and Goetz Neuneck were working on a book on European BMD and its impact on stability. There would be a summary in English that we would be able to benefit from.

In Masako's absence, Subrata said the following. Japan is buying several PAC-3 systems, which cost \$1-billion apiece. Neither THAAD, nor PAC-3 has undergone proper testing. They are big profit items for the defense contractors. Even if they do not work as advertised, they increase tensions in the region.

Alice said that the U.S. has blocked the PAROS treaty in the U.N.

Monica said she was thinking about the acceptance by people of the 'fact' that the space is a battleground, and how we can (should) change this absurd idea.

Claus said that earlier INES line of thinking about the effectiveness of the BMD systems needs to be on the agenda because, even if they don't work, nations use them as an excuse to build up their own systems and justify more spending on defense.

10:55-11:00 Subrata: Announcement about the **sessions in Berlin**:

Subrata said that he wanted to make it clear that there were two distinctly separate sessions for the working group members who will be in Berlin as follows.

Meeting 1

September 30, 1 PM – 5 PM Meeting of the working group (Location TBA)

Meeting 2

Workshop on Missile Defense and Space

Sunday, October 2 10:45 – 12:00 noon

Chair: Subrata

Presenters – Dave, Juergen, Monica, and Timur

11:00-11:15

A brief discussion of the objectives of the working group followed. All agreed that it would require more than a brief discussion on the telephone. Regina suggested that an appropriate place to have that discussion would be the meeting of the working group in Berlin. Others agreed.

Finally, Subrata announced that INES was celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a wine and cheese reception on October 2, 4 -6 PM (location TBA).

All members of the working group in Berlin were cordially invited to attend.

Action items:

1. Subrata to draft an agenda for the working group meeting in Berlin.
2. Timur to send a write-up on the Russian viewpoint.
3. Alice to send a brief status of PAROS at the U.N.

11:15 **ADJOURN**

ADDENDUM - 2

MBMDS WORKING GROUP MEETING

Berlin, Germany

30 September 2016, 1 PM – 5:30 PM

DRAFT AGENDA

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch and light conversation

2:00 Meeting starts

Subrata – Welcome and introductions

Adoption of the agenda with any changes

Presentations:

2:10 Juergen – (15-20 mins)

The problems with missile defense and linkage to abolition.

What was addressed in the earlier Beyond Missile Defense report?

**What is new, i.e. what issues we should be studying as a group?

2:30 – 2:50 Open discussion (20 mins)

2:50 Dave – (15-20 mins)

Space weapons and linkage to missile defense

How to define space weapons? Who are the aggressors and how serious and immediate is the danger?

**What are the key issues for us?

3:10 Monica: (15-20 mins)

Public acceptance of space as a battle ground

How to build up public understanding that Space is unique?

Open discussion (20 mins)

3:45 Break (15 mins)

4:00 Timur: (15-20 mins)

The Russian perspective of abolition.

Russia's response to US missile defense deployment and development of space weapons.

Is Russian military modernization mostly driven by US/NATO aggressiveness or independent?

Please comment on the recent Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) reports on missile defense that you were a part of.

4:20 Subrata (10-15 mins)

Present the Chinese and Japanese perspectives submitted by Tong and Masako, respectively.

Briefly discuss the situation in South Asia

4:30 Open discussion (15 minutes)

4:45 other topics (Please suggest)

5:00 – 5:30 Wrap-up