

Moving Beyond Missile Defense and Space Weapons (MBMDS)

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

May 13, 2020

Introduction

INES organized an International working group in the summer of 2016 to study the serious consequences for international peace and security resulting 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 once again for providing us with seed funding for this effort.

Three years ago, on May 1, 2017, we submitted an interim report for the project and laid out a plan for completing our work. However, we were unable to proceed as planned due to a serious illness suffered by Subrata Ghoshroy, who was the coordinator of the project. As no one else was available to step in, we decided to postpone our work until Subrata was able to resume his activities. We are happy that Subrata has returned to work despite his limited vision.

However, it became difficult to keep the working group alive during the long hiatus. We lost two members of the group, namely, Timur Kadyshev (Russia) and Zhao Tong (China).

About a year ago, we decided to proceed with writing a report, which would essentially be a collection of articles written by the remaining members. We also decided to ask for contributions on the relevant topics from outside. We made a particular effort to solicit papers from writers who could represent perspectives from their respective countries. This was particularly important since we lost our members from both Russia and China.

Summary Status Report:

We are pleased to report that authors from Russia, China, and India responded favorably to our request and submitted thoroughly researched and balanced articles that adequately capture the current viewpoint of their respective countries. We are also pleased to include a thoughtful paper from the Korean peninsula, which lays out a path to achieve peace from a civil society perspective. As for the other submissions, we are at about eighty percent. We are expecting to reach hundred percent by the end of this month.

Below is a list of the contributors, who have made a commitment to submit a paper. The subject area for each is included in parenthesis.

Christian ALWARDT, Germany (Status of US missile defense programs)

Subrata GHOSHROY, USA/India – Coordinator, Editor (Introduction, Executive Summary, X-37B program)

Masako IKEGAMI, Japan (Missile proliferation in Asia)

Vladimir KOZIN, Russia (Missile Defense and Space Weapons, a Russian perspective)

Taeho LEE, Republic of Korea (Key to a new era for peace in the Korean peninsula and North East Asia)

Claus MONTONEN, Finland (ABM Treaty and the nuclear arms race)

Rajaram NAGAPPA, India (Missile defense and weaponization of space, an Indian perspective)

Goetz NEUNECK, Germany (European BMD, INF treaty)

Juergen SCHEFFRAN, Germany (Summary of the earlier INES report, ASAT/BMD duality)

Dave WEBB, U.K. (Challenges in the Definition of a space weapon, status of the PAROS treaty)

Hui ZHANG, China (China's nuclear modernization)

Tong ZHAO, China (China's perception of the US deployment of THAAD missile defense system in Republic of Korea)

Monica ZOPPE, Italy (Combating public perceptions of Space as a battleground)

Plan for Completion of the Report

Our current plan is to complete the final draft by the middle of July and have it formatted. We plan to complete the report and publish it before the end of the year 2020. However, there may be an opportunity for releasing an executive summary of the report in the form of a printed brochure at an IPB event in Geneva scheduled toward the end of September. It is, of course, uncertain if any such event can take place.

The main report will be made available on-line.

Funding

In 2016, we received \$7,000 from Abolition 2000 to start the project. Our original request was for \$12,000.

In May, 2017, we reported that We had approximately \$3480 on hand.

Since then we spent \$500 as honorarium to one of the authors. We are planning to use the remainder for layout, design, and printing of the brochure, and admin support to INES, Berlin. We do not have yet a firm estimate of these costs, but anticipate that we will need additional funds.

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

We are sure that you would appreciate that we have been extremely careful with our spending, and have made only those that were absolutely necessary.

Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding.

Subrata Ghoshroy, Coordinator

MBMDS Working Group