

UK Moves Toward 'War-Readiness' with Russia



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UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has announced a new Strategic Defence Review, pledging major funding for the armed forces and further entrenching Britain's path toward imperialist war.

Details. The plan is based on three fundamental principles: 1) moving the UK to war-fighting readiness, 2) strengthening NATO further, and 3) innovating and accelerating innovation at a wartime pace.

► The UK will procure up to 7,000 UK-built long-range weapons for the Armed Forces, and will invest £1.5 billion (\$2.03 billion) in building at least six new energetics and munitions factories.

► Plans were announced to build 12 new nuclear-powered attack submarines and to spend £15 billion on nuclear warheads. These submarines will replace the seven-strong Astute class from the late 2030s onwards and will be built at BAE Systems' shipyard in Govan, Glasgow.

► Starmer is also in ongoing talks about buying fighter jets capable of carrying low-yield nuclear bombs, which would signal the biggest expansion of the UK's nuclear deterrent since the Cold War.

► Taking notes from the situation in Ukraine, a Cyber and Electromagnetic Command will be established for defensive and offensive cyber capabilities, as well as electromagnetic warfare.

► A few Members of Parliament, such as Green Party MP Ellie Chowns, have expressed opposition to the government investing more money in preparations for war. But most of the debate around these plans was surrounding the funding for such a project or over the speed in which the UK will move into war-readiness — some have suggested increasing defence spending to 3% of GDP by the end of the decade. Parliament, claiming this is being done as a "deterrence", has mostly agreed on the need to prepare for war with Russia.

► Labour has presented this as a boost to the economy, creating jobs and deterring future conflict. Chancellor Rachel Reeves has said that they "are delivering both security for working people in an uncertain world and good jobs, putting more money in people's pockets as part of our Plan for Change".

► One of the largest British trade unions, Unite, has come out in support of these measures, with General Secretary Sharon Graham urging the government to commit to new orders of helicopters and fighter jets. She said, "Countries that want to do us harm won't wait, and nor can the UK."

Context. We have previously reported on the UK government's unanimous vote in favour of taking control of steel production, which is vital for war production. We have also reported on the government's intention to increase military spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027 to prepare for imperialist war.