

Deal Breaking Trump Regime Abandons Open Skies Treaty (OST)

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, May 22, 2020

Region: [Russia and FSU, USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

Throughout his time in office, Trump proved he's more a deal breaker than observer of international law, treaties and agreements.

He abandoned the landmark 1987 INF Treaty with Russia, the 2016 Security Council adopted JCPOA, the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, and the 2016 Trans-Pacific Partnership, a latter positive move unlike his other unilateral pullouts.

He also withdrew from UNESCO and the UN Human Rights Council, threatened to leave the World Trade Organization, and suspended US funding to the WHO.

New START with Russia is next on his list to abandon, the nuclear arms control treaty expiring in February 2021.

Effective January 1, 2002, 34 European states, the US, and Russia adopted the Open Skies Treaty (OST), other nations welcomed to join.

After threatening to withdraw from the OST earlier, Trump on Thursday confirmed that he's abandoning the treaty, falsely saying:

“Russia didn't adhere to the treaty (sic), so until they adhere we will pull out...”

On the same day, Trump regime assistant war secretary Jonathan Hoffman falsely accused Moscow of “flagrantly and continuously violat(ing) its obligations under Open Skies (sic),” adding:

Russia “contribute(s) to military threats against the US and our allies and partners (sic).”

Fact: Russia threatens no other nations. It pursues cooperative relations with world community member states, at war against none.

Fact: The same reality is true about all nations on the US target list for regime change.

Fact: Since Truman preemptively attacked North Korea in June 1950, the US has been at war against one nation after another, along with waging war against many more countries by other means.

On Thursday, Pompeo said the Trump regime “will submit (formal) notice of its decision to withdraw from the” OST to other treaty signatories, the move effective six months from May 22.

The OST permits unarmed aerial surveillance over the entire territory of signatory countries.

It's a confidence-building measure to promote openness, letting treaty members get information on military forces and activities for national security reasons.

The US FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) suspended funding related to OST cooperation with Russia, the measure stating:

"None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act...may be obligated or expended to carry out any activities to modify any United States aircraft for purposes of implementing the Open Skies Treaty" with Russia - until the president certifies to Congress that penalties have been imposed on the Kremlin for alleged treaty violations that don't exist.

At the time, Moscow strongly denied the false accusation, again after Thursday's Trump regime announcement. See below.

The NDAA prohibits US military cooperation with Russia indefinitely.

It falsely accused the Kremlin of annexing Crimea and failing to implement Minsk I and II — ceasefire agreements to end US-supported Ukraine aggression against its own Donbass citizens in the country's southwest.

Annual NDAA measures have nothing to do with protecting the US from threats to its security. None exist.

They have everything to do with waging endless wars by hot and other means against sovereign nations the US wants transformed into vassal states.

Abandoning OST based on Big Lies moves the US a step closer toward rupturing relations with Russia.

In response to the Trump regime's action, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the following:

"Let me draw your attention. It is the Russian side that has clear and long-formulated claims against the Americans as to (non)compliance with this agreement."

"And today, right now, we will reiterate these claims, these thorny issues."

"We described (them) in detail. In particular in February, we put together on our resources all the claims that we had, making them publicly available."

"These are far from all claims, but (are) the most evident."

"For example, we said that since 2017 the US has tightened its approaches to fulfilling this treaty in regard to Russia, and since January 2018, several restrictions have been imposed against our country."

"This (includes) the refusal to grant permission to depart from US rules of air traffic and norms of aviation security and changing special procedures for performing observation flights over the Hawaiian Islands by limiting maximum range of flights from Hickam airbase, and the refusal to allow overnight stops

on mainland US and many other things.”

The OPT “has a format of implementation. (It) has commitments of parties, which were confirmed on paper.”

“In view of this, this public debate or public commentaries, mildly speaking, are not enough to draw conclusions on US plans.”

“There are mechanisms of their implementation. Namely, there is a respective commission, where one can come and announce claims.”

“There are also diplomatic channels, upon which we expect certain clarification of the US side in order to shape our attitude to their position.”

“This is routinely and normally done by diplomats. I believe that after this we will formulate our approach.”

Separately, director of Russia’s Foreign Ministry Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Vladimir Yermakov stressed that Trump regime accusations of OST breaches by Moscow are baseless.

The treaty aims to build and maintain transparency relating to arms control agreements — in the interest of world peace and stability.

In response to the Trump regime’s Thursday announcement, Russia’s envoy to the UN in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said the following:

“It is easier to break than to build. The treaty worked for two decades and ensured transparency, a higher level of trust on military issues in the transatlantic region.”

“But the decision to leave, apparently, explains the US idea of a ‘new era’ of arms control. The ‘new era’ seems to mean no control.”

The Trump regime “decided to cut down one more multi-party treaty on arms control...”

It wants to operate unrestrained in developing and deploying weapons of mass destruction, the US perhaps intending to use them one day.

Today’s infinitely more powerful thermo-nukes make Fat Man and Little Boy atom bombs look like toys by comparison.

In December 2016, Popular Mechanics said thermo-nukes “are more than 3,000 times (more) powerful (than) the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.”

Current nukes may exceed this destructive force.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is dedicated to the elimination of these WMDs before they eliminate us and all other life forms.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Award-winning author Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG)

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2020

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.
For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca