



## A crisis made in Britain

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# US stokes war fears in Europe

## Pentagon strikes deal with Poland to deploy US soldiers and missiles

**PEACE** campaigners accused the US of “aggressive provocation” and raising war tensions in Europe yesterday after a deal was reached to place US soldiers and missiles in Poland.

The Pentagon claims that the weapons are to protect Poland from attacks by “rogue states.”

But campaigners fear that the “missile defence shield” will allow the US to attack other countries without fear of retaliation and will draw European countries into more wars.

The deal was struck at a time of increased tension sparked by Georgia's attack on South Ossetia and Russia's response.

Russian General Anatoly Nogovitsyn said that placing US missiles in Poland would exacerbate already tense relations between Moscow and Washington and warned that Poland now risked being attacked.

Stop the War Coalition convener Lindsey German said: “The events in Georgia have shown how dangerous the world is becoming and the idea that the US can even think of siting missiles and soldiers in Poland without antagonising Russia is at best wishful thinking and at worst deliber-

by **PAUL HASTE**

ately provocative.”

CND chairwoman Kate Hudson added: “There could not be a worse time to escalate tensions further. Russia has been extremely concerned over the development of missile defence in central Europe, fearing that it is the target. The rejection by the US of Russian offers to co-operate with it only serves to compound this fear.”

There has been strong opposition to a US military presence in both Poland and the Czech Republic, where radar installations for the missile defence shield are being built.

Anti-war campaigners in Warsaw and Prague believe that this will put their countries on the front line in future US wars.

Ms German highlighted the angry protests across the continent against the prospect of foreign forces taking up positions in eastern Europe, saying: “If we want peace, we must stop this Western interference.

“We must also be aware of the connections between the US raising tensions, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and its ‘war on terror.’ All these are part of a strategic attempt by the US to impose its power and control over increasing parts of the world,” she said.

The US deal will see batteries of Patriot missiles stationed in Poland and manned by US soldiers as part of the Pentagon's missile shield, which is claimed to be purely defensive.

However, military analysts have pointed out that the defence shield could be used offensively and is clearly capable of shooting down Russian SS-21 missiles.

“The rapid expansion of NATO, including within the former Soviet Union, together with this missile defence expansion, has set alarm bells ringing in Moscow,” Ms Hudson pointed out.

“But, in the space of a few days, the world has not only been fully plunged into a new cold war but Europe has been involved — by the US — in an increasingly dangerous situation that is not of its own choosing.”

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**FUELLING THE FLAMES:** The US testing an interceptor missile earlier this summer.