

CND Press Digest: Thursday 30th March 2023

War In Ukraine/NATO

- [Reuters looks](#) at EU sanctions on Russia and notes that **trade is still flowing between Moscow and the bloc - including in the nuclear industry.**
- [Opinion piece](#) for Al Jazeera likening **Putin's invasion of Ukraine to George Bush's invasion of Iraq.**
- [Declassified UK](#): **'Significant portion' of £4.8 billion UK lethal aid for Ukraine will remain secret.** Meanwhile, earlier this month **CAAT compiled a [list](#) of UK arms being shipped to Ukraine.**
- Fred Kaplan [writes](#) for Slate on the announcement that **Russia will station nuclear weapons in Belarus.**
- **The UN's nuclear watchdog chief [said](#) fighting near the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant is 'intensifying' and that a nuclear accident there would spare no one.** Rafael Grossi made the comments during a trip to the plant - where the IAEA have a permanent monitoring team.

Nuclear Weapons

- [A report](#) from Norwegian People's Aid found that **the number of useable nuclear warheads increased by 130 in 2022.**

Space

- **Virgin Orbit has [extended](#) its unpaid furlough for workers,** as the company scrambles to find financial backers. The company has been teetering on the verge of bankruptcy after a failed rocket launch in January.
- **The MoD has [ordered](#) a study on the possibility of building a deep-space radar site in Pembrokeshire, Wales.** The proposal is **part of United States Space Force (USSF)-led plans to develop a worldwide network of sensors called the Deep Space Advanced Radar Concept (DARC) to track active satellites some 22,000 miles above the Earth.**

Trident

- [From The Times](#): **A Royal Navy inquiry into reports of misogyny onboard its nuclear submarines has been thrown into disarray,** after the main whistleblower withdrew her support from the probe. **Sophie Brook said the Navy was trying to "scapegoat" one senior officer** in order to protect the reputation of the wider submarine service.

UK Nuclear Energy

- **The Highlands Against Nuclear Power (HANP) group [said](#) it will strengthen its links with campaigners across Britain and Ireland to**

oppose plans to build new nuclear power stations on the green freeport in the Moray Firth.

- **Divers have [entered](#) the nuclear fuel storage pond at Sellafield** for the first time in 65 years.
- The government has [announced](#) that **its Great British Nuclear quango will be based around the Greater Manchester Area** with competitions to build small modular reactors expected to be announced in the Autumn.
- [Great British Nuclear](#) **will be headed by Magnox CEO Gwen Parry-Jones.**

Nuclear Energy

- [The BBC](#) on the first nuclear plant build by the Philippines in the 1980s but never used - and **the plan by the current president to use it to generate electricity.**

Best,

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