

Edward Corrigan talks of Israel's nuclear arsenal and US hypocrisy

Tue Jul 14, 2015 4:46PM

Press TV has interviewed Edward Corrigan, a political commentator from Ontario, to discuss the latest developments in US-Russia relations following the reports of Washington's nuclear bomb test conducted on July 4.

Following is a rough transcription.

Press TV: What about that? Russia is calling the move provocative; is it provocative or is it simply routine in the whole military scheme of things?

Corrigan: I think it is somewhat provocative. The July 4th of course is the United States' Independence Day so I think there is a symbolic statement there. But really Russia is only responding to American initiatives. Back in 2010 the Obama administration presented a budget that was, I think about \$180 billion, to upgrade their nuclear arsenal.

So I think that Russia is planning to upgrade their nuclear arsenal, but it is to match what the Americans are already doing; but, it is an estimate, the Congressional budget actually said that it was going to cost \$348 billion dollars and I repeat that, \$348 billion dollars, to upgrade the American nuclear arsenal and critics have said that this is not really an appropriate use of money because you really can't use a nuclear bomb except in total war and anybody who is breaking away from the MAD doctrine, Mutually Assured Destruction, I think is certifiably insane.

We can't use nuclear weapons except in a total nuclear war and that of course probably means the end of the planet and the end of the human race. So I think it is rather insane to invest all this money into these weapons of mass destruction. The trouble is that some people make a great deal of money out of these investments, but ultimately the American taxpayer pays for it and you know the 0.1 of the one percent makes the money on it.

It is a very dangerous game that is going on. There is actually several US Senators and Congressmen who have put forward a new initiative, it is called Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures: The SANE Act. What they are suggesting is they cut about \$100 billion out of the nuclear budget and put it to other areas, but the amount of money that is involved and quite frankly it is the Russians that are playing catch-up, but it is the Russians that are really responding to very provocative American actions; putting arms and NATO weapons right on their border, moving nuclear weapons and tanks and other things right to the Russian border.

Russian tanks and missiles are not being installed in Canada, which are direct threat to the United States, but they are in fact being deployed right on the border and the Americans are complaining about the Russians putting weapons in Kaliningrad, which is Russian territory for Pete's sake, so they have a right to do that.

We are breaking an agreement that we made with the Russians back when they dismantled the Warsaw Pact and we wouldn't bring these countries into NATO and of course we have broken that agreement now there is efforts to bring Ukraine in and of course that has led to a lot of problems, but it really is Russia responding to very aggressive actions on the part of the United States primarily, but aided and abetted by NATO allies.

Press TV: How ironic is this in general, as of course, Iran is involved in nuclear talks with the P5+1. Iran says for a peaceful nuclear program; one of the leaders of the talks of course is the United States. When they are not only maintaining but upgrading their own nuclear arsenal, have been the only country that has used WMDs as such, and yet they are leading the charge against Iran now and pointing the finger talking about nuclear weapons and of course we have seen years and years of sanctions because of that. I want to talk about that aspect of things.

Corrigan: Actually most people are not aware that in fact Iran does have nuclear reactors and it is producing nuclear power and it did so with the cooperation and help of the United States back in the 1970s, and so since 1970s, they have had nuclear power and they have not developed nuclear weapons. All the studies have shown, all the examinations of Iran's nuclear program, have provided zero evidence that they are trying develop nuclear weapons.

Ayatollah Khamenei for example said that nuclear weapons were illegal and they should not be used under any circumstances and basically imposed a ban on Iran. Of course the Russian representative said that the United States is talking about nuclear disarmament, well the United States is not going to disarm its nuclear weapons; nor is Russia and any other major powers. But it is hypocritical in that they don't say anything about Israel, which has not signed the non-proliferation pact and has an estimated 200 nuclear weapons, and it is the one nuclear power in the Middle East and it's very dangerous and has aggressively attacked its neighbors on numerous occasions, yet Iran has not attacked its neighbors or launched a war of aggression in over 300 years.

So Iran is stable, Iran is certainly within its rights to develop peaceful nuclear power and of course they want to diversify their energy sources and not just be dependent upon gas and oil. They ... are moving toward solar or other things. But it is hypocritical of the Americans to try and impose something that they are not going to impose upon themselves or upon their ally Israel in the region and it is of course hypocrisy at the highest level.