

French President Macron Addresses a Joint Session of Congress

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April 25, 2018 "[Information Clearing House](#)" – WASHINGTON: French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday urged the United States to reject nationalism and stay true to global ideals of cooperation in the face of terrorism and other challenges, saying countries can still retain their own identities.

"I do not share the fascination for new strong powers, the abandonment of freedom and the illusion of nationalism," Macron told a joint meeting of Congress.

"We can choose isolationism, withdrawal and nationalism – this is an option. It can be tempting to us as a temporary remedy for our fears. But closing the door to the world, will not stop the evolution of the world," he added.

Posted April 25, 2018

French President Macron addresses
a joint session of Congress – YouTube – **ab Min. 18.30**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ERFdnqLHMg>

Macron's Dangerous Trump Bromance

By Finian Cunningham

April 25, 2018 "[Information Clearing House](#)" – **All the handshakes, hugs and smooching between Trump and Macron this week made for cringing viewing.** Not because two males were being cordial and affectionate.

No, the embarrassment stems from the French leader being such a pathetic poodle to the White House bully.

The "dandruff moment" was perhaps the most revealing. At one point in the Oval Office, the American president interrupted himself mid-sentence to lean over to his French counterpart and he began grooming his collar, [saying](#) he was removing "dandruff". Macron seemed unfazed and continued smiling.

It was what Trump said next that was revealing. "We want him to be perfect... He is perfect."

The Freudian slip from the American signified that the French president is little more than a cypher, a flunkey, a perfect little poodle for Washington. Does as he's told.

During the three-day state visit, Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron gave the appearance of best buddies, of being equals. That's certainly what the French leader was striving to achieve. To be seen as the top European ally of America, and the European politician who best understands Trump, best manages the maverick American.

In that way, Macron aims to make "France great again"; for it to be seen as a re-energized world power **on an equal footing with the US**. Since Macron was elected president last May, his stated goal has been to restore France as a great power.

That seemed to be working to plan this week. Macron is the first international leader to be hosted by Trump in an official state visit. The British "special relationship" with Washington has been eclipsed; and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel who follows Macron's visit on Friday is being only afforded a low-key, one-day working meeting in the White House.

But the optics of bonhomie and "bromance" aside, Macron's pretensions of standing alongside Trump as the "leaders of world freedom" are overblown.

The proof of that came when Macron caved-in to Trump's antagonism over the Iranian nuclear deal. Saving that deal by keeping Trump onboard was supposed to be Macron's main mission in Washington DC.

The day before Macron arrived, he gave an [interview](#) to Fox News asserting that "there was no Plan B" to the Iran nuclear accord which was signed in 2015 by the US, France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China.

Macron was billed as the European leader who would persuade Trump to stick with the nuclear agreement. But this week, despite all the glad-handing with "my friend Emmanuel", Trump maintains an aggressive disdain for the Iran deal, hinting that he is ready to scrap it next month.

And what was Macron's response ? He [said](#) that France was now working with the US to "renegotiate a new deal" with Iran.

So much for Macron standing up to Trump.

Iran says that there will be no renegotiation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as it is formally known. The JCPOA was ratified by the UN Security Council after Iran and the six world powers signed it as a done deal in July 2015.

Russia and China have also said there can be no backtracking on the accord. The Europeans were also stating this — at least up to this week before Macron's embarrassing U-turn. **It will be very interesting to see what Merkel has to say on the matter when she arrives in Washington later this week.**

What the encounter between Trump and Macron shows this week is that the French president is nothing more than a lapdog. He may have been regaled with pomp and ceremony, and with florid rhetoric about representing "America's oldest ally". **But in practice, all the show of two strong leaders standing side-by-side is corny public imaging.**

However, that's what makes Macron a particularly dangerous accessory to Trump. The French politician is evidently willing to bend over backwards to pander to Washington's demands.

Macron's presumption of leading Europe is a pernicious delusion. Some media have even [referred](#) to him as "Trump's whisperer" — intimating that the young French president has a Svengali-like influence over the older American.

In the days before the US, Britain and France carried out their illegal missile barrage against Syria on April 14, it was Macron to whom Trump turned to for advice on what action to take.

Macron [reportedly](#) briefed Trump on "French intelligence" about the alleged chemical-weapons atrocity on April 7 in Douma, near Damascus. Macron also reportedly cajoled Trump to order the military strikes a week later.

It has become clear now that the chemical-weapons incident on April 7 was a false-flag provocation staged by Western-backed militants.

In other words, French "intelligence" was either faulty, or more likely a [fabrication](#). But the upshot was that the US, Britain and France committed a grave war crime by attacking Syria.

This is why Emmanuel Macron should give us the creeps. He is willing to say anything to ingratiate himself with the American president in order to inflate his world standing and that of his has-been colonial nation. All the effusive body language is that of a wannabe trying to be a statesman on the world stage.

Macron, like his American "daddy", is taking it upon himself to unilaterally rip up an international treaty with Iran that other world powers and the UN have already finalized.

In order to justify this outrageous bad-faith and backsliding, Macron is giving credence to Trump's calumny about Iran being a sponsor of terrorism, destabilizing the region, and illegally developing ballistic missiles. Macron is saying that a "new

deal" with Iran will have to be made which will curb Iranian presence in Syria, allegedly in Yemen and the Middle East.

The "Trump whisperer" is not an independent, principled European leader. He is a self-aggrandizing careerist who is willing to play to Trump's worst instincts and ignorance. Even if that means inciting more war in Syria and the Middle East.

Finian Cunningham has written extensively on international affairs, with articles published in several languages. He is a Master's graduate in Agricultural Chemistry and worked as a scientific editor for the Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, England, before pursuing a career in newspaper journalism. He is also a musician and songwriter. For nearly 20 years, he worked as an editor and writer in major news media organisations, including *The Mirror*, *Irish Times* and *Independent*.

This article was originally published by "[Sputnik](#)" -

Where Is The Shame ?

By Paul Craig Roberts

April 25, 2018 "[Information Clearing House](#)" – Now that the Trump, May, and Macron regimes have proven beyond all doubt that they are lawless war criminal regimes, **what is next ?**

Will the Russian president and foreign minister continue to speak of “our Western partners” and seek common ground with proven lawless war criminals ? What would that common ground be ?

How can other governments accept the US, UK, and French governments that intentionally lied about a Russian chemical attack on the Skripals and about a Syrian chemical attack on Douma, **risking a third world war, and then themselves attacking Syria on the basis of a transparent lie unsupported by any evidence?** How exactly do you conduct diplomatic relations with war criminals ?

You don't. You put them on trial. Why aren't Trump, May, and Macron on trial ?

The reason is that the world has been conditioned, like Pavlov's dogs, to expect and accept the West's war crimes as ordinary common

features of life. The West's crimes are protected by precedents established by decades of failing to hold the West accountable. The West has squatters rights in committing unaccountable war crimes.

Stymied in the effort to overthrow Syria, Netanyahu is now focusing the Trump regime on renewing Washington's conflict with Iran. Will Washington's vassals continue to provide cover for Washington's crimes, **or are some of the Europeans beginning to understand that the risks they assume for Washington exceed the money that Washington pays them ?**

Where will Russia stand if Washington renews its assault on Iran ?

Despite the air attacks carried out on its Syrian ally by the US, NATO, and Israel, the Russian government still has not found the decisiveness to sell Syria its S-300 air defense system. Syria intercepted 70% of the US missiles in the last attack using obsolete Soviet-era air defense systems. The S-300 would allow Syria to protect itself from air attack and thus reduce the chance of war resulting from Israeli and US attacks on Syria.

Russian indecisiveness combined with the rest of the world's toleration of ongoing US war crimes suggests that more provocations will be orchestrated, that more lawless attacks will take place, and that eventually a fatal conflict will be brewed.

Think about it. The British are caught in the Skripal lie.

Washington, the British, and the French are caught in the Douma chemical attack lie,

and there are no consequences for those governments who orchestrated hoaxes and then used the hoaxes to justify their war crime.

How can it be that the American people are undisturbed by their government's 17 years of wars based entirely on blatant lies ?

How can it be that the American people and the Evangelical churches are unmoved by the millions of innocent peoples in seven countries who have been murdered, maimed, orphaned, and displaced by the profit-driven US military/security complex **and** by the neoconservative ideology in service to Israel ?

How can it be that the US media is as effective a propaganda ministry for Washington as the German press was for the Nazis ?

How can it be that the European, Canadian, and Australian governments and the citizens of these countries are not ashamed of their participation in these never-ending crimes ?

Where is India's voice ? China's ? South America's ?

Why is the world silent in the face of massive, long-term, ongoing war crimes ?

Why does the Russian government think it can have a partnership with a war criminal regime ? Why would Russia want such a shameful and demeaning association ?

Where is Russia's counterpart to NATO ?

Where is there any determination to put a halt to the West's criminality ?

Why is the world content with Washington's path to world war ?

Trump Faked Whole Thing:

OPCW Finds No Chemical Weapons at Syrian Facilities Bombed by US

By [Sputnik News - Russia](#)

VT, April 25, 2018

Last week, the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) visited a site in the Damascus suburb of Douma to collect samples in connection with the alleged April 7 chemical attack.

Chief of the Main Operational Directorate of the Russian General Staff Col. Gen. Sergey Rudskoy has announced that the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) had confirmed that there were no chemical weapons found at the Barzeh research center in Damascus **despite the US officials' claims.**

The official further noted that thousands of people could have died if there was any chemical weapon on the sites that were attacked by the US-led coalition.

“Immediately after the attacks, many people who worked at these destroyed facilities and just bystanders without any protective equipment visited them. None of them got poisoned with toxic agents,” Rudskoy said.

He said the logic of strikes on alleged facilities with toxic agents in Syria was unclear, because if toxic agents had theoretically been stored there, tens of thousands of people would have died after the cruise missile strikes.

On US Airstrikes in Syria

Intelligence data shows that Osa, Kvadrat, Buk, Strela-10, Pantsir and S-125 air defense systems destroyed 46 cruise missiles during the recent US-led strikes on Syria, Rudskoy said, adding that only 13 of 76 reported Western airstrikes hit targets near the Barzah research center in Syria.

“Obtained intelligence data, objective control from air defense systems, work on the ground and the questioning of witnesses show that Pantsir, Osa, Strela-10, Buk, Kvadrat and S-125... destroyed 46 cruise missiles [in Syria],” Rudskoy said.

According to Rudskoy, most of the precision weapons were destroyed by the Soviet-era air defense systems developed 40 years ago, with S-125, Osa and Kvadrat among them.

[READ MORE: Qatar Obligated to Send Troops to Syria to Keep Being Protected by US — Riyadh](#)

According to the military official, Russian specialists are examining missiles of the US-led coalition, including Tomahawk, which were captured in Syria to improve Russian weapons.

“Two [missiles] including Tomahawk cruise missile and a high-precision aviation missile were delivered to Moscow... They are now being examined by our experts. The results of this work will be used to improve Russian weapons,” he told a briefing.

At the same time, air defense expert of the Russian Defense Ministry Sergei Beznogih said that the Russian General Staff showed remains of cruise missiles downed by Syrian air defense systems to journalists.

“Elements of the sea-based US-made Tomahawk [missiles] and air-based UK-made and French-made SCALP and Storm Shadow [missiles] were displayed,” Beznogih said.

Meanwhile, Col. Gen. Sergey Rudskoy noted that only seven western missiles struck the Syrian Han Shinshar facility, which allegedly housed chemical weapons, not 22 as the Pentagon claims.

[READ MORE: US House Passes Bill Banning Aid for Assad-Controlled Syrian Territories](#)

The senior official stressed that chemical weapons were never developed or stored in Han Shinshar, located in the province of Homs, adding that the storage was struck twice, not seven times, as the US side claims.

“According to the statements of the Pentagon’s representatives, 22 missiles hit the above-ground facilities. We registered no more than seven hits, which is shown in the space image,” he told a briefing.

Speaking further, Rudskoy noted that expensive “smart” US missiles only hit outbuildings in Syria which had nothing to do with the army.

“The expensive and so-called ‘smart’ missiles inflicted the greatest damage on outbuildings which had nothing to do with military activity,” he told a briefing.

At the same time, according to the senior military official, Russia will supply new air defense systems to Syria in the near future.

“Russian specialists will continue training Syrian military personnel, and will assist in mastering new air defense systems, which will be supplied in the near future,” Rudskoy said.

Earlier, reports have emerged about an alleged chemical weapons attack in Syria, published by an online Syrian opposition news portals on April 7, claiming that a chemical attack took place in Syria in the city of Douma near Damascus.

[READ MORE: Moscow Ready to Accept Results of OPCW’s ‘Qualified’ Probe into Douma Incident](#)

Reacting to the reports, the United States and the European Union said the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad was behind the attack.



[Syrian Army Possesses Both Soviet Air Defenses and Modern Russia-Made Pantsir Systems – Source](#)

Moscow has called the news reports about the attack “hoaxes” and warned against military attacks against Syrian areas where Russian troops are deployed. The Russian Reconciliation Center for Syria representatives inspected the location of the alleged attack and questioned local doctors, who said that they had not received individuals with symptoms of any chemical poisoning.

However, despite the lack of evidence, the US, alongside France and the UK, launched a massive missile attack against Syria on April 14 [in response](#) to the alleged chemical attack in the city of Douma.