

**Comments (26 Feb. 2019) by Giles Raymond DeMourot
on Graham/Granoff Newsweek 2-25-19 op-ed**

Giles Raymond DeMourot

1st degree connection

Retired Independent Consultant, Author

Geneva, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland

There are statements I cannot agree with. This article is dishonest, not something one would expect from Ambassador Thomas Graham or Jr. Jonathan Granoff. "5. US withdrawal from the INF Treaty has put unity and confidence in the Atlantic alliance in doubt, with important NATO allies expressing consternation over US actions." No NATO ally has expressed "consternation". This is simply false. See the last North Atlantic Council on the subject: "Statement on Russia's failure to comply with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty "Issued by the North Atlantic Council, Brussels, 1 February 2019 "3. As a result, the United States is suspending its obligations under the INF Treaty in response to Russia's material breach, and is providing the requisite six-month written notice to Treaty Parties of its withdrawal under Article XV of the INF Treaty. The United States is taking this action in response to the significant risks to Euro-Atlantic security posed by Russia's covert testing, production, and fielding of 9M729 ground-launched cruise missile systems. ALLIES FULLY SUPPORT THIS ACTION." (continued)

"7. Trust in and reliance on US respect for treaties and the rule of law has diminished around the world. "8. The manner of US withdrawal from INF dramatically lowers the standard for withdrawing from other treaties." False again. The North Atlantic Council: "Unless Russia honours its INF Treaty obligations through the verifiable destruction of all of its 9M729 systems, thereby returning to full and verifiable compliance before the U.S. withdrawal takes effect in six months, Russia will bear sole responsibility for the end of the Treaty." <https://goo.gl/pExiWK> The authors are fully entitled to condemn the US move, but not to claim it is not supported by allies. The North Atlantic Council has expressed its views forcefully. Have they misgivings? Yes, but after so many years of Russia's covert testing, production, and now fielding of 9M729 ground-launched cruise missile systems, and of Moscow stalling any talks, what was there to do? On February 1, the NATO Council urged "Russia to use the remaining six months to return to full and verifiable compliance to preserve the INF Treaty." (edited)