



Abby Martin Confronts Nancy Pelosi Over Pentagon Spending at COP26

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Nancy Pelosi (NP): Wait a minute, I want a woman, I want a woman, a woman, I want gender equality here. Maybe I don't- let's see...

Abby Martin (AM): Abby Martin with the Empire Files. Speaker Pelosi, you just presided over a large increase in the Pentagon budget. This Pentagon budget is already massive. The Pentagon is a larger polluter than 140 countries combined. How can we seriously talk about net zero if there is this bipartisan consensus to constantly expand this large contributor to climate change, which is exempt from these conferences? Military is exempt from climate talks.

Rep. Frank Pallone (FP): Well, I just want to use an example, if I can. You know, the sea level rise is an important part of, you know, what's happening to the climate. And I am not a defence person, but I've had so many talks with the Defence Department with the Navy in particular about how they have to respond to what's going on. So I really do think that there is no reason why we're putting together, you know, we build back better and other things can't respond to the Defence Department and have the same impact in terms of reducing emissions. And I do think that the Defence Department is very much aware of the fact that they have to play a major role, both from a strategic as well as, you know, for the good of the world. So I don't see what we're doing in any way or, you know, increasing the defence budget as being something that's inconsistent with climate action. I really don't.

Nancy Pelosi (NP): And may I just add that our national security advisers all tell us that the climate crisis is a national security matter. It is, of course, a health matter for our children, the water they drink, the air they breathe, et cetera. It is a jobs issue between clean, good, clean

technologies being the future of our workforce and the training for all of that. It is a national security issue because of all of the conditions that the climate crisis produces. I won't go into all of them, but they do, are cause for migration, conflict over habitat and resources. And again, a security challenge globally. And then the fourth, of course, the moral issue that we need to pass on this planet to future generations in a responsible way. Now, recognising what you said, we recognise that as well and a big user of fuel, there have been many initiatives over time more successful, with more technology to convert from fossil fuel to other sources of fuel to run the military, because it would make the biggest difference to transportation defence. These are two of the biggest- can make the biggest difference in all of that. And that is something we're very, very focussed on. As I say, the Defence Department sees this systemically that we have to stop it as a national security issue. And one way to do that is to stop our dependence on fossil fuels, which exacerbate the climate crisis. With that, I thank you all for being here. Unfortunately, they're telling us they have to clean the room. I didn't know about that.

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