

UK, France unite on Nukes, migration, and security cooperation



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LONDON, July 10 – British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a landmark agreement Thursday, committing to coordinate their nuclear deterrents for the first time in history under the newly signed Northwood Declaration.

Speaking at a joint press conference at Northwood military base, Starmer emphasized that the

deal ensures any attack on either country would prompt a combined response. A Downing Street statement warned adversaries that threatening either nation's vital interests could trigger a joint nuclear retaliation.

Macron, concluding a three-day state visit the first by a French president since 2008 called for a renewed defense partnership, citing heightened threats in Europe. He underscored the strategic role of Britain and France as Europe's only nuclear powers amid ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

As part of broader defense coordination, the two nations agreed to procure more Storm Shadow cruise missiles and accelerate arms replenishment. A new coalition headquarters in Paris will also be established to support Ukraine, following a virtual meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky.

On migration, Starmer and Macron launched a controversial "one in, one out" pilot scheme.

Migrants arriving via small boats will be detained and swiftly returned to France, while eligible individuals who have not previously attempted illegal crossings will be admitted to Britain under strict security protocols. Macron confirmed the plan will take effect within weeks.

Despite joint efforts, illegal Channel crossings surpassed 20,000 this year a 50% rise from 2024—fueling political pressure on both leaders.

Beyond defense and migration, the summit signaled a broader "reset" in UK-France ties. Starmer

highlighted renewed cooperation in trade, AI, supercomputing, and civilian nuclear power.

Macron noted that post-Brexit trade has now exceeded pre-Brexit levels.

He also reiterated France's support for a two-state solution in Gaza, calling recognition of Palestine "the only path to peace."