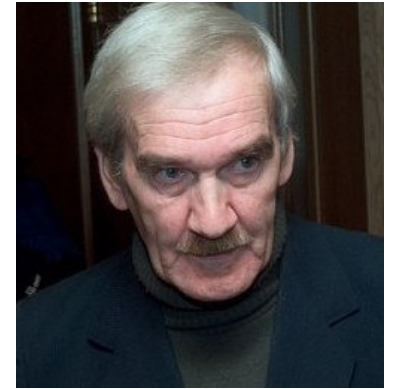




Ending the nuclear nightmare



D I G E S T



Stanislav Petrov

WORLD CITIZEN AWARD INITIATES NEW CAMPAIGN TO DE-ALERT NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND MOVE TOWARD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

On May 21 in Moscow, a special World Citizen Award was presented to a former Lt. Colonel in the Soviet Army for his action on September 26, 1983 that many arms experts credit for averting nuclear war.

"I think this is the closest we have come to accidental nuclear war." Dr. Bruce Blair, President Center for Defense Information (CDI) and a former Minuteman Missile Launch Officer.

The Award was presented by the Association of World Citizens (AWC) and extensively reported in newspaper and electronic media. On result is a documentary film being made on Petrov by a Danish film company with Jakob Staberg as producer and Peter Anthony the director. Petrov is scheduled to accompany the film crew to the U.S. in late 2004 for interviews and lectures.

Petrov's story is a reminder that conditions have not significantly changed since his heroic action in 1983. A recent study by the Rand think tank reports that thousands of U.S. and Russian nuclear warheads are on a "hair-trigger" alert, ready for launch in a few minutes notice that would destroy both countries and perhaps civilization in an hour.

The publicity on the Petrov award prompted AWC, Friends of Earth Australia (FoE) Anti-Nuclear Campaign, War and Peace Foundation to initiate new action to end this irrational condition before it is forever to late. The first result is a resolution passed on June 23 by the Australian Parliament commending Colonel Petrov and his World Citizen Award, and detailing the need to immediately de-alert nuclear weapons (see page 2).

Endorsements on a different and more detailed resolution calling for the removal of nuclear warheads from "hair-trigger" are being collected from influential individuals and organizations around the world. The resolution, with the list of endorsers, will be submitted to the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly and to all states possessing nuclear weapons. As of September 1, over 150 organizations and parliamentarians have endorsed this resolution. And still early in the endorsement process many Nobel Laureates have signed on, including peace laureates Oscar Arias, Joseph Rotblat and the Dalai Lama. More will be added in the coming weeks as the endorsement process will continue through mid-September.

Continued on page 3)

Motion passed by Australian Senate on 23 June 2004 congratulating Colonel Stanislav Petrov

FOREIGN AFFAIRS-NUCLEAR WEAPON SYSTEMS-COLONEL STANISLAV PETROV

Senator Allison amended general business notice of motion no. 895 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved-That the Senate-

(a) recalls the incident that took place in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) at Serpukhov-15 on 26 September 1983 at 12.30 pm Moscow time, and the role of Colonel Stanislav Petrov in this incident;

(b) notes:

(i) that the Serpukhov-15 incident, in which a newly installed Soviet surveillance system reported that the United States of America (US) had launched nuclear missiles at the USSR, is considered by many analysts to have been the closest the world has ever come to nuclear war,

(ii) that the mega tonnage that was likely to have been used at that time was between 30 and 60 times the amount required to produce a nuclear winter, and that the number of nuclear weapons that would have been launched would have been enough to end civilization and kill most living things,

(iii) the role played by Colonel Petrov in refraining from launching a number of thousands of warheads at the US in retaliation and in pressing his superiors to consider the report a false alarm,

(iv) that the Canberra Commission of 1996 recommended that strategic nuclear weapons be taken off 'Launch on Warning' status, and

(v) the resolution of the European Parliament of 11 November 1999, and the Senate's own resolutions as well as repeated calls to lower the alert status of strategic nuclear weapons made by the Non-Aligned Movement and the New Agenda Coalition that have been passed year after year by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly;

(b) offers its congratulations to Colonel Petrov for being presented with the World Citizen Award on Friday, 21 May 2004, in recognition of his actions; and

(c) urges the Government to give support to measures aimed at lowering the readiness to launch nuclear weapon systems and to support such measures on the floor of the UN General Assembly.

Question put and passed.

PETROV'S HEROIC DECISION (continued from page 2)

The Petrov incident occurred on September 26, 1983, with the colonel in charge of 200 men operating a Russian early warning bunker close to Moscow. This was a time of high tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. President Reagan was calling the Soviets the "Evil Empire." The Russian military shot down a Korean passenger jet just three weeks prior to this incident, and the U.S. and NATO were organizing a military exercise that centered on using tactical nuclear weapons in Europe.

Recalling that fateful day when alarms went off and the early warning computer screens were showing a nuclear attack launched by the United States, Petrov said: "I felt as if I'd been punched in my nervous system. There was a huge map of the States with a U.S. base lit up, showing that the missiles had been launched."

For several minutes Petrov held a phone in one hand and an intercom in the other as alarms continued blaring, lights blinking and the computers reporting that U.S. missiles were on their way. In the confusion of this horrific chaos and terror, with the prospect of the end of civilization itself, Petrov made an historic decision not to alert higher authorities for a retaliation attack. He believed in his gut and everything sacred that contrary to what all the sophisticated equipment was reporting, this alarm had to be an error.

"I didn't want to make a mistake," Petrov said, "I made a decision and that was it." The Daily Mail newspaper wrote: "Had Petrov cracked and triggered a response, Soviet missiles would have rained down on U.S. cities. In turn, that would have brought a devastating response from the Pentagon." As agonizing minutes passed, Petrov's decision proved correct. It was a computer error that signaled a U.S. attack. In the Daily Mail newspaper interview, Petrov said: "In principle, a nuclear war could have broken out. The whole world could have been destroyed."

Colonel Petrov was eventually dismissed from the Army on a small pension and his health destroyed by the terrible stress of the incident. His wife died of cancer and he lives in a second-floor flat in a small town about 30 miles from Moscow.

In a newspaper interview a few years ago Petrov said: "Once I would have liked to have been given some credit for what I did, but it is long ago and today everything is emotionally burned out inside me. I still have a bitter feeling inside my soul as I remember the way I was treated." This all changed with the World Citizen Award presented to Petrov on May 21 in Moscow. For the first time Petrov is known for his deed in Russia and beyond, and his action has initiated the new drive to end the daily threat of nuclear war by miscalculation or an accidental missile launch, and become a major step to the mandatory goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.



Colonel Petrov (left) receiving the award from Arseny Roginsky on behalf of the Association of World Citizens. Mr. Roginsky is with the highly respected Russian human rights organization, Moscow Memorial.

THE DARK CLOUD HANGING OVER HUMANITY

Douglas Mattern

The 59th anniversary of Hiroshima passed with slight notice leaving only a sprinkling of letters and even fewer op-ed articles. The lethargic attitude toward this critical date in history is difficult to understand, especially as our current administration is escalating the nuclear madness with plans to build a new class of nuclear weapons.

We need reminding that the fireball from Hell over Hiroshima 59 years ago, which made people who were outside at the time of the blast simply disappear, leaving only a shadow on the ground where their bodies had blocked the intense heat from scorching the ground a lighter color, forever changed our world.

I believe it was the French philosopher Albert Camus who wrote that our historical dates after Hiroshima should be changed from B.C and A.D. to B.H and A.H. Albert Einstein also understood that the bomb changed everything, except, unfortunately, our way of thinking.

How else can we explain why people continue to accept the possibility of nuclear incineration through an accident, or by miscalculation, or intent on a daily basis year after year. This threat is constant because thousands of U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear warheads, many a hundred or more times powerful than the bomb that instantly obliterated the City of Hiroshima, remain on a "hair-trigger" alert, ready for launch in a few minutes notice that would destroy both countries, and perhaps civilization, in an hour.



Many leading nuclear analysts are convinced the present situation is even more dangerous than during height of the Cold War. This is due to the deterioration of Russia's nuclear command structure, its early warning system, the increase of nuclear weapon states, and the lack of adherence to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, which increases the possibility of terrorists acquiring nuclear materials or even a small nuclear warhead.

About 20 close calls to nuclear war have been documented over the years, and we do not know how many remain undocumented. The sad indictment on the values and priorities of our civilization is that the warning made by President Kennedy before the UN General Assembly in 1961 has not changed:

"Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident or miscalculation or madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us."

In his recent article "Cloud Over Civilization" the economist and former ambassador John Kenneth Gailbraith wrote: "Civilization has made great strides over centuries in science, healthcare, the arts and, if not for all, economic well-being. But it has also given a privileged position to the development of weapons and the threat and reality of war. Mass slaughter has become the ultimate civilized achievement."

Continued on page 6

Nuclear weapons are the ultimate tool of mass slaughter, conceivably of the human race. Chemical and biological weapons can cause terrible casualties, but their effect is limited, whereas a single hydrogen bomb could kill a million or more people and make the area a radioactive hell for years.

The playwright Anton Chekhov wrote that if a gun hung on the wall in the first act of a play it would be fired by the third act. We're in the third act of the nuclear nightmare and the gun on the wall is loaded with 30,000 nuclear weapons that are stockpiled worldwide.

General George Lee Butler, former commander of the Strategic Air Command, says that nuclear weapons are a "fools game" and our only security is their total elimination. Ending this game of fools begins with removing all nuclear warheads from "hair-trigger" alert to avoid a nuclear war starting by an accidental missile launch, or computer error. A study for the United Nations by MIT concluded that all the warheads could be de-alerted and removed from the delivery systems in a week. Why are we so lacking in political leadership that this most logical step has not been taken?

It's Hiroshima 59 and we are running out of time and running out of luck. It's imperative that we join in a common struggle to ensure the nuclear nightmare is ended before it ends us all.

**THE NEXT THOUSAND DAYS:
HOW A COALITION BETWEEN THE
WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
AND THE IAEWP PLANS TO
ADVANCE THE RATIFICATION OF
THE NPT**

By: Professor Terrence Edward Paupp

**National Chancellor of the United State for, The
International Association of Educators for World
Peace (IAEWP)**

In November 2003, the President of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace, the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Tadatoshi Akiba, already planned a three-year program ("*The Campaign of the Cities for Nuclear Disarmament*", from May 2004 to December 2005), designed to lead to the ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In my capacity as the National Chancellor of the United States branch of the IAEWP, I authored our own document to not only augment this effort, but also to expand the educational and political outreach of this effort. It is designed to attract as many other NGOs as possible to broaden the outreach and increase pressure on governments.

The IAEWP document is entitled, "*The Next Thousand Days: Building A Global Network of Peacemakers Between Campuses, Citizens, Cities, and World Capitals.*"(It may be downloaded in PDF form at: www.IAEWP.US). Our time frame is from April 4, 2004 through April 4, 2007.

Briefly, the program of "*The Next Thousand Days*" provides all of the aforementioned constituencies with a defined time in which to act. Further, the program promotes the practical organizational idea that each of the 590 members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace can and should assign a member of their current staff to head a "**peace commission**" or "**peace panel**" in their respective cities. As each city decides how to best organize their educational communities with community leaders, their faith-based groups, with peace activists and with other NGOs, it will be possible for all of these previously excluded individuals and groups to begin the process of working with other cities and "**peace commissions**" within an emerging global network.

Eventually, by the force of this grassroots movement of global civil society, it is hope that

World Capitals from Russia to the United States, from Asia to Africa, from Latin America to Europe, will be motivated to take progressive steps toward the restoration of the integrity of a workable and working Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Such a move toward realizing an effective NPT regime would constitute a necessary first step toward dealing with the larger challenge of renouncing violence in all of its forms.

It is clear that a global culture of violence, whether state-sponsored or not, should be understood as being totally antithetical to building an effective strategy of peace. As President Kennedy declared on June 10, 1963, at American University: "*Peace need not be impracticable and war need not be inevitable. By defining our goal more clearly, by making it seem more manageable and less remote, we can all help peoples to see it, to draw hope from it, and to move irresistibly toward it.*" Therefore, it is incumbent upon all of us to act in accord with multilateral norms and values, practices and policies that promote a global culture of non-violence.

This will require imagination and determination. It will have to involve the grassroots, the local, the regional, and the international community as never before. It is for that reason that a campaign to create "peace commissions" or "peace panels" in every mayor's office throughout the United States (which as of August 2004 does not have even one), is so desperately needed to bring pressure to bear upon Washington. A new definition of what constitutes "human security" needs to be set forth and institutionalized, either through existing mechanisms or the creation of new ones.

Further, the profit-motive has created a narrowly defined notion of security, premised primarily upon military solutions and perceptions, as well as a worldwide armaments culture that must be dismantled. To effectively dismantle the global nuclear armaments edifice, it will be necessary to not only negate it by identifying its dangers, but at the same time to offer affirmative and positive alternatives to it. To that end, we urge that the following initial steps be taken immediately:

1. All mayors should set up "**peace commissions**" or "**peace panels**" in their office;
2. Renounce all forms of violence as antithetical to an effective strategy of peace and the potential growth of more human and inclusionary forms of

governance (SEE: Terrence E. Paupp, *Achieving Inclusionary Governance: Advancing Peace and Development in First and Third World Nations*, Transnational Publishers, Inc, New York, c. 2000).

3. We demand of global capitals and national governments that they channel taxes, wealth, research and development, and all further funding away from nuclear weapons production and research. Instead, this wealth should be directed into the priorities outlined by the United Nations in its millennium goals.

4. *The United States Should:* Halt all efforts aimed at "improving" its nuclear arsenal including research and development for the "mini" nukes and the "robust nuclear earth penetrator";

5. Halt plans for upgrades to existing weapons research and production facilities and forgo production building new facilities, including those for plutonium pit manufacturing and tritium (radioactive hydrogen) production;

6. Undertake with Russia a concerted effort to take all nuclear weapons off hair trigger alert;

7. Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and close the Nevada test site;

8. Initiate sweeping, verifiable, real reduction in strategic and tactical nuclear weapons and their delivery systems;

9. Initiate multilateral negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons worldwide;

10. Halt development and deployment of ballistic missile defense (NMD), including theater missile defenses (TMD);

11. Initiate multilateral negotiations to eliminate ballistic missiles, with a flight test ban as a first step;

12. Support the Russian-Chinese Initiative to ban weapons in outer space;

13. Support the strengthening of verification and inspection protocols of the Biological and Chemical Weapons Convention to foster primary prevention of the possible use of such WMD, and oppose WMD "counter-proliferation" strategies, especially

those employing nuclear weapons.

Our collective commitment over "*The Next Thousand Days*" is to make history. We intend to make history by building a cooperative organizational network that links global civil society to every statehouse and mayor's office on the globe through "peace commissions". No national government will be exempt from having to answer this global call to nuclear disarmament. Every element of civil society, at the local level, will then be moving toward a global experiment in inclusionary governance---giving voice to the previously unheard voices of the entire human community.

THE DARK CLOUD (Continued from page 4)

Nuclear weapons are the ultimate tool of mass slaughter, conceivably of the human race. Chemical and biological weapons can cause terrible casualties, but their effect is limited, whereas a single hydrogen bomb could kill a million or more people and make the area a radioactive hell for years.

The playwright Anton Chekhov wrote that if a gun hung on the wall in the first act of a play it would be fired by the third act. We're in the third act of the nuclear nightmare and the gun on the wall is loaded with 30,000 nuclear weapons that are stockpiled worldwide.

General George Lee Butler, former commander of the Strategic Air Command, says that nuclear weapons are a "fools game" and our only security is their total elimination. Ending this game of fools begins with removing all nuclear warheads from "hair-trigger" alert to avoid a nuclear war starting by an accidental missile launch, or computer error. A study for the United Nations by MIT concluded that all the warheads could be de-alerted and removed from the delivery systems in a week. Why are we so lacking in political leadership that this most logical step has not been taken?

It's Hiroshima 59 and we are running out of time and running out of luck. It's imperative that we join in a common struggle to ensure the nuclear nightmare is ended before it ends us all.

It's Hiroshima 59 and we are running out of time and running out of luck. It's imperative that we join in a common struggle to ensure the nuclear nightmare is ended before it ends us all.

THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES

This is the title of a speech by Bill Moyers at New York University June 3 2004. The following are sections from this speech:

The middle class and working poor are told that what's happening to them is the consequence of Adam Smith's 'Invisible Hand.' This is a lie. What's happening to them is the direct consequence of corporate activism, intellectual propaganda, the rise of a religious orthodoxy that in its hunger for government subsidies has made an idol of power, and a string of political decisions favoring the powerful and the privileged who bought the political system right out the basis for thinking we are by nature kin.

I know, I know: this sounds very much like a call for class war. But the class war was declared a generation ago, in a powerful paperback polemic by William Simon, who was soon to be Secretary of the Treasury. He called on the financial and business class, in effect, to take back the power and privileges they had lost in the depression and new deal.

They got the message, and soon they began a stealthy class war against the rest of society and the principles of our democracy. They set out to trash the social contract, to cut their workforces and wages, to scour the globe in search of cheap labor, and to shred the social safety net that was supposed to protect people from hardships beyond their control. Business Week put it bluntly at the time: "Some people will obviously have to do with less....it will be a bitter pill for many Americans to swallow the idea of doing with less so that big business can have more."

The middle class and working poor are told that what's happening to them is the consequence of Adam Smith's "Invisible Hand." This is a lie. What's happening to them is the direct consequence of corporate activism, intellectual propaganda, the rise of a religious orthodoxy that in its government subsidies has made an idol of power.

To create the intellectual framework for this takeover of public policy they funded conservative think tanks -- The Heritage Foundation, the Hoover Institution, and the American Enterprise Institute -- that churned out study after study advocating their agenda.

Over the past three years, they've pushed through \$2 trillion dollars in tax cuts -- almost all tilted towards the wealthiest people in the country.

- *Cuts in taxes on the largest incomes.
- *Cuts in taxes on investment income.
- *And cuts in taxes on huge inheritances.

More than half of the benefits are going to the wealthiest one percent. You could call it trickle-down economics, except that the only thing that trickled down was a sea of red ink in our state and local governments, forcing them to cut services for and raise taxes on middle class working America. Now the Congressional Budget Office forecasts deficits totaling \$2.75 trillion over the next ten years.

There's no question about it: The corporate conservatives and their allies in the political and religious right are achieving a vast transformation of American life that only they understand because they are its advocates, its architects, and its beneficiaries. And they are proud of what they have done to our economy and our society.

Let's face the reality: If ripping off the public trust; if distributing tax breaks to the wealthy at the expense of the poor; if driving the country into deficits deliberately to starve social benefits; if requiring states to balance their budgets on the backs of the poor; if squeezing the wages of workers until the labor force resembles a nation of serfs -- if this isn't class war, what is? It's un-American. It's unpatriotic. And it's wrong.

What we need is a mass movement of people like you. Get mad, yes -- there's plenty to be mad about. Then get organized and get busy. This is the fight of our lives.

NUCLEAR FACTS – Compiled by Abram Paley (War & Peace Intern)

- * 10,455 is the number of total warheads in the U.S. stockpile while 7,000 is the approximate number of operational strategic U.S. nuclear weapons
- * 8,400 is the total number of operational nuclear warheads in Russian arsenal.
10,000 is the number of warheads the United States will retain in 2012 (essentially the same number as today)
- * All but 2 percent of these nuclear warheads have been built by the United States and Russia
- * 30,000 is the number of intact nuclear warheads throughout the world today. 17,500 of these are considered operational.
- * The Trident submarine fleet alone still carries over three thousand warheads. A single warhead could destroy a city with a million people.
- * Only a small fraction of the more than twenty thousand nuclear weapons still active worldwide would be needed to end all of civilization forever.
- * 12 nations have nuclear weapons programs while as 28 nations have ballistic missiles.
- * Were New Mexico to secede from the United States it would automatically be the 3rd largest nuclear weapons power in the world. There are an estimated 2,500 (exact number classified) stored warheads at the Kirtland Air Force base just a few miles east of the Albuquerque International Airport runway.
- * There are approximately four thousand American and Russian nuclear bombs on continuing hair trigger alert.
- * An MIT study reported to the United Nations that all the American and Russian nuclear weapons could be de-alerted and de-coupled in less than a week.
- * Annually, United States spends \$27 billion to prepare to fight a nuclear war
- * The world spends over one trillion dollars on armaments yearly—over \$30,000 each second
- * Priority number one is the liberation of humanity from the threat of nuclear weapons

The War & Peace Foundation
Executive Offices
20 East 9th Street
New York, N.Y. 10003
Tel: 212-228-5836
Email: Info@warpeace.org
Director: Selma Brackman
Editor: Douglas Mattern
Subscription: \$15.00 per year

Non-Profit Rate
U.S. Postage PD
New York, N.Y.
Permit #4505