



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peace Foundation Announces New Briefing Booklet On Resolving Critical Nuclear Proliferation Issues

New York, NY (April 29, 2005) – The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is pleased to announce a new resource entitled “*Back to Basics: Reviving Nuclear Disarmament in the Non-Proliferation Regime.*” The briefing booklet offers history and analysis of the non-proliferation and disarmament regimes; current proliferation trends; and recommendations to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Co-authored by Foundation President Dr. David Krieger, and Advocacy and Research Director Carah Ong, the briefing booklet has been published on the occasion of the Seventh Review Conference of the NPT, which is being held at the United Nations in New York from May 2-27, 2005. The briefing will be presented at a panel discussion for delegates to the Review Conference on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at 1:15 pm in Conference Room 4 of the United Nations.

Foundation President Dr. David Krieger states, “The 2005 NPT Review Conference provides a decisive opportunity to respond to the growing dangers of nuclear proliferation. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s briefing booklet offers substantive recommendations within the context of NPT goals that promote both short-term and long term solutions to the nuclear proliferation challenges the world faces today.”

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was built on a basic bargain: the non-nuclear weapons states agreed to forego developing or otherwise acquiring nuclear weapons in exchange for a commitment on the part of the nuclear weapons states to end the nuclear arms race at an early date and to engage in “good faith” negotiations to achieve nuclear disarmament. For the treaty to succeed in its purpose, both sides of the bargain must be fulfilled. With a few notable exceptions, the non-nuclear weapons states have kept their end of the bargain. On the other hand, the nuclear weapons states have shown scant inclination to fulfill their disarmament commitments. Both sides of the bargain are equally important and mutually reinforcing. Preventing nuclear proliferation cannot be guaranteed without nuclear disarmament, and nuclear disarmament cannot succeed without preventing nuclear proliferation.

In order to counter the perceived power of nuclear weapons states, acquiring nuclear weapons has become the goal of some countries and extremist groups. The rapid spread of and increased ability to access information, along with scientific expertise and technical capacity, has also made it easier than ever before to build a nuclear weapon. Furthermore, it has also become easier to obtain fissile material from hundreds of poorly guarded nuclear sites throughout the world. With all of these developments, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the non-proliferation and disarmament regimes in general are under severe threat of unraveling altogether.

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The five nuclear weapons states recognized under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States) have long tried to maintain exclusivity in their possession of nuclear weapons, which over time has only enhanced the perception that nuclear weapons are a source of power and prestige. In addition, their continued possession of nuclear weapons demonstrates to the world that even the most economically and militarily powerful nations rely upon nuclear weapons for security. Furthermore, the possession of nuclear weapons provides the nuclear weapons states with a psychological advantage through the tacit threat to use these weapons in a worst case conflict scenario. All of these factors provide incentives for proliferation.

In “*Back to Basics: Reviving Nuclear Disarmament in the Non-Proliferation Regime*,” the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation calls for eight interlinking commitments to be made by the nuclear weapons states at the 2005 NPT Review Conference and measured by tangible progress in a timely manner. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation calls for the nuclear weapons states to commit to: total nuclear disarmament and to good faith negotiations; a timeframe; no first use; irreversibility and verifiability; standing down nuclear forces; no new nuclear weapons; a verifiable ban on fissile materials; and accounting, transparency and reporting.

There are currently some 440 nuclear reactors in 31 countries. Every nuclear reactor has the potential to manufacture nuclear weapons material. Reprocessed plutonium (a product of the nuclear power process) and highly enriched uranium (fuel for nuclear reactors) make up the essential ingredients of nuclear weapons. There is due concern that any one of the 44 nuclear capable states could turn their “peaceful” nuclear program into a nuclear weapons program. This “loophole” under Article IV of the NPT must be addressed. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation calls for all states currently capable of producing highly enriched uranium and plutonium to commit to: a global ban on spent fuel reprocessing and reduced reliance on nuclear energy; bring uranium enrichment and plutonium separation facilities under strict international control; regulate and store spent nuclear fuel under strict international control; make the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol mandatory for all states; and highly restrict the trade of all nuclear materials and technology.

The nuclear weapons states must promptly and transparently begin the “unequivocal undertaking” to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear arsenals by making the eight commitments listed above and leading the way in closing the Article IV “loophole.” If this is not achieved, other countries and extremist groups will continue attempts to counter the perceived power of the nuclear weapons states by acquiring their own nuclear weapons capabilities. This would be a tragedy of enormous proportions

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international organization with consultative status to the United Nations. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has been committed to advancing initiatives to eliminate the nuclear weapons threat to all life, to fostering the global rule of law, and to building an enduring legacy of peace through education and advocacy. The Foundation’s headquarters are in Santa Barbara, CA and it has an office in Washington, DC.

“*Back to Basics: Reviving Disarmament in the Nonproliferation Regime*,” can be downloaded from the Foundation’s website at http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/resources/publications/2005_npt-briefing.pdf. To arrange an interview with the authors in New York from May 1-7, 2005 or to order a hard copy of briefing booklet, please contact the Foundation’s Advocacy and Research Director Carah Ong at (202) 378-3334 or by email at cong@napf.org.

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