



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Committed to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

US Nuclear Missile Launch “A Glaring Double Standard”

Santa Barbara, California – In the early morning hours of November 18, 2009, the United States plans to launch a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The missile will likely carry one or more “unarmed” warheads to the Ronald Reagan Test Site in the Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) will hold a press conference on Tuesday, November 17 at 2:30 pm to discuss the local, national and international implications of this test. The press conference will take place at the Foundation’s office: 1622 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara.

Speakers at the press conference include: **David Krieger**, NAPF President; **Rick Wayman**, NAPF Director of Programs; and **MacGregor Eddy**, a long-time activist against the nuclear missile tests at Vandenberg.

Krieger and Wayman will outline the double standards, extraordinary costs and international consequences of this missile launch. Eddy will focus on the First Amendment protections that have been lacking at the gates of Vandenberg Air Force Base.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said, “Continued testing of nuclear missiles by the United States represents a glaring double standard. World leaders, including President Obama, rightly condemn nations such as North Korea and Iran for their provocative missile tests. But tests by the U.S. are also provocative and destabilizing. They reflect a Cold War mentality that is conducive to nuclear proliferation and to arms races.”

Notes to Editor:

1. For further comment and interviews, contact:

David Krieger: (805) 965-3443

Rick Wayman: (805) 965-3443 or (805) 696-5159

MacGregor Eddy: (831) 206-5043

2. A rally to protest the Minuteman III missile launch will take place at the front gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base starting at 11:45 PM on November 17. The rally is sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and is supported by many groups, including NAPF, Western States Legal Foundation, War Resisters League, Tri-Valley CAREs, Nevada Desert Experience and Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space.

3. Additional quotes from the speakers at the press conference and U.S. politicians are available below or by emailing rwayman@napf.org.

Supporting Quotes – Vandenberg Minuteman Missile Launch

““North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs pose a grave threat to the peace and security of the world, and I strongly condemn their reckless action. Now, the United States and the international community must take action in response.”

-- US President **Barack Obama**. May 2009.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,521930,00.html>

“North Korea’s launch of a Taepo Dong missile is a provocative act that calls for a stern, unified response from the members of the Six Party Talks on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

-- Sen. **John Kerry** (D-MA), Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. April 2009. <http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=311390>

“Continued testing of nuclear missiles by the United States represents a glaring double standard. World leaders, including President Obama, rightly condemn nations such as North Korea and Iran for their provocative missile tests. But tests by the U.S. are also provocative and destabilizing. They reflect a Cold War mentality that is conducive to nuclear proliferation and to arms races.”

-- **David Krieger**, President, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

“‘Do as I say, not as I do’ does not make effective foreign policy in the 21st century. The United States rightly wants other countries to eliminate their reliance upon nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. However, this will never work as long as the U.S. maintains nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert, tests its long-range delivery systems and ignores its obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to disarm.”

-- **Rick Wayman**, Director of Programs, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

“For years, officials at Vandenberg Air Force Base have intimidated protesters from exercising constitutionally protected activities. They have engaged in arrests with an excessive display of force and then do not take the matter to court where it can be

contested. Protestors should be able to lawfully express themselves without fear of detainment and intimidation by Military Police.”

-- **MacGregor Eddy**

“There can be no differentiation between testing nuclear weapons and testing the vehicles which carry them. In principle, they are both unacceptable. The cost to society, inherent in the displacement of indigenous peoples, the loss of identity and cultural skills, and the repugnant artificiality of "temporary resettlement," is immeasurable. Missile tests today contribute to the intolerable hardship and despair borne by the Marshallese people of Kwajalein in the same manner that nuclear tests did to their neighbors during the nuclear testing program. If one were to ask if being at the target end of a Vandenberg missile was an acceptable life form for thousands of men, women and children living in shanty town conditions, replete with cardboard and plywood shacks, what would the answer be?”

-- **Tony de Brum**, Member of Parliament, Marshall Islands

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The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, and to inspire and empower a new generation of peace leaders. Founded in 1982, the Foundation is comprised of individuals and organizations worldwide who realize the imperative for peace in the Nuclear Age. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international education and advocacy organization. It has consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.