



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Committed to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

<http://www.wagingpeace.org/>

May 27, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For more information, contact Rick Wayman, rwayman@napf.org . (805) 965 3443

Vandenberg to Launch Nuclear-Capable Missiles After Completion of Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

Santa Barbara, CA -- On June 6, 2010, 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 launch, the first of two planned for the month of June, will come just nine days after the completion of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the United Nations.

NAPF President David Krieger, who attended the NPT Review Conference earlier this month, said, “US testing so close to the end of the NPT Review Conference will make many countries doubt our sincerity in fulfilling our nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT. President Obama has said that he wants to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in US security policy, but tests such as this one suggest that we are continuing with business as usual.”

Krieger continued, “When any country tests long-range missiles and nuclear weapons, it is more than just a test. It is a message to the world and perhaps to specific countries; it says in effect, ‘This is what we can do to you.’ If the US wants to lead the way to a world free of nuclear weapons, it needs to stop sending such provocative messages. In the US we are very aware of such messages when other countries test. We seem to have a blind spot in our thinking about our own tests.”

There will be a protest at the front gate of Vandenberg on Saturday, June 5 at 1:00 pm to oppose the upcoming ICBM tests. David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and Andrew Lichterman of the Western States Legal Foundation will speak at the event. June 5 is “Nuclear Abolition Day,” with events promoting the abolition of nuclear weapons taking place in cities around the world.

Notes to Editor:

1. For further comment, including a critique of the theory of deterrence in the modern era, contact David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at dkrieger@napf.org or (805) 965-3443. Outside of regular office hours, please contact Rick Wayman at (805) 696-5159.

2. For more information on Nuclear Abolition Day, including the protest event in Los Angeles, please visit www.nuclearabolition.org

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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.